

LOYALIST HALL OF HONOUR: GEORGE TAYLOR RICHARDSON, CM, OB, B.Comm, LL.D, UE

George Taylor Richardson was born in Winnipeg on September 22, 1924 to James Richardson and Muriel Sprague. He attended St. John's Ravenscourt School and later the University of Manitoba, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1946. That same year, he joined James Richardson & Sons, Limited and was assigned to Richardson Terminals in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where he had worked the previous two summers. While at the Terminal, he gained valuable experience which would prove greatly beneficial to him throughout his career. In 1954, George became Vice-President of James Richardson & Sons, Limited and in 1966, he was appointed President, a position he would hold for 27 years.



His most significant contributions to external organizations were to the Hudson's Bay Company and Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. In 1970, he was appointed Deputy Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company and in 1972 he became its first Canadian-born Governor in the 300-year history of the company. During his tenure, Hudson's Bay Company moved its headquarters and archives from London, England to Winnipeg, and transferred ownership from Britain to Canada.

He made an outstanding contribution to the development of the family firm during his time in office, most notably the expansion of Pioneer Grain, the completion of Lombard Place which included Richardson Centre and The Fairmont Winnipeg, and the growing of Richardson Securities of Canada into an international brokerage firm. In 1993, he was appointed Chairman and Managing Director of James Richardson & Sons, Limited. He officially retired from the firm in 2000, although he remained Honorary Chairman and Director Emeritus until his passing.

George also contributed greatly to companies outside the HBC and Richardson companies. He served as a Director of CIBC, Inco, Dupont Canada, The Great West Life Assurance Company and Ducks Unlimited Canada. He was a founding member of several community organizations including Junior Achievement of Manitoba, United Way of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Museum. He was instrumental in bringing a replica of the 53-foot ketch the Nonsuch (originally built in 1668) to the Museum in 1970, in recognition of both Manitoba's 100th Anniversary and the 300th Anniversary of the Hudson's Bay Company.. In 2010, his biography "*Just Common Sense – The Life & Times of George Taylor Richardson*" was published. He was a Member of the Order of Canada, Order of Manitoba, Honorary Director of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame, Honorary Patron of Western Canada Aviation Museum, Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Manitoba (1969) and University of Winnipeg (1990), and Honorary Colonel, City of Winnipeg 402 Squadron. George also held numerous corporate Board appointments and volunteer leadership positions. As an outdoor enthusiast, he loved spending time at Delta Marsh, Lakewood Lodge, and at the family cottage at Lake of the Woods.

George was married on October 30, 1948 to Tannis Thorlaksen, and they had four children. He died in Winnipeg on May 14, 2014 and was buried in St. John's Anglican Cathedral Cemetery in Winnipeg. The George T. Richardson building in Brandon University was named in his honour. George Taylor Richardson had many Bay of Quinte ancestors and was a descendant of loyalists Captain Michael Grass UE, Barnabus Day UE, Peter Wartman UE, Nazareth Hill UE, Paul Huff UE, Peter Stoneburg UE, Harmanus Nix UE.

He was inducted into our Loyalist Hall of Honour by Brian Tackaberry on September 14, 2024