

JOHN WESLEY BEAVER AND THE HISTORY OF THE AWARD

John Wesley Beaver (1920 to 1980), descended from generations of Chiefs of the Mississauga band of the Ojibway people, was Chief of the Alderville First Nation in the early 1950's. Jack, as he was known, was a fighter pilot in the Second World War, and used his veteran's allowance to attend Queen's University. He graduated as an electrical engineer, and joined Ontario Hydro (the predecessor to Ontario Power Generation) as a junior engineering in 1949.

Jack held many engineering and management positions in Ontario Hydro. In 1960, he was selected as a member of the team commissioning and operating the Nuclear Power Demonstration station, Ontario Hydro's initial venture into nuclear energy. Jack was production superintendent at the station prior to taking over the duties of operations engineer for Northeastern Ontario.

In 1972, Jack decided to leave Ontario Hydro to accept the challenge of being General Manager – Operations of the Churchill Falls hydro-electric project in Labrador. He also worked as a consultant in the electrical power industry and with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

By his sensitive but "no nonsense" approach to leadership, by his concern for his family, his people and those he worked with and by his involvement in the community, Jack Beaver exemplified all the qualities of leadership that Canadians hold to be important.

John Wesley Beaver was one Hydro's most notable native engineers, rising rapidly in the organization to eventually become operations engineer for Northeastern Ontario. In recognition of John Wesley Beaver and his contribution, Ontario Hydro established an education awards program that promoted native students' entry into colleges and universities.

"It is important that we recognize the significant but largely unrecognized contributions of native employees to the history of Hydro in Ontario," said Larry Doran, Vice President, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. "By his sensitive but no-nonsense approach to leadership, by his concern for his family, his people and those he worked with, and by his involvement in the community, John Wesley Beaver exemplified all the qualities of leadership that Canadians hold to be important."

The John Wesley Beaver Award, valued at \$4,000, is available to one male and one female student of native ancestry (status, non-status, Métis or Inuit) enrolled in targeted post-secondary programs.

To qualify, students must meet several criteria, including enrolment in an environmental, engineering, or technology program, demonstrated community involvement, demonstrated commitment to the environment, and demonstrated oral and written skills. Preference will be given to non-funded students.

The Ontario Power Generation Native Circle will choose the recipients. Interested students can obtain more information through the office of Student Awards at their university or community college.