



# Holstein Canada

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## MediaRelease

### For Immediate Release

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## Relive the Magic of Tom Byers at the 2013 AGM

Brantford, ON April 26, 2013— For Holstein Canada members across Canada who were unable to attend the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Niagara Falls, ON they now have the opportunity to relive the entertainment and education that Tom Byers delivered as Guest Speaker at the AGM!

Tom Byers, Head Classifier at Holstein Canada, shared his presentation ‘*Old Stories, New Beginnings*’ with a large 400-person audience who were fully-engaged by Tom’s talk. An additional 330 people tuned in to watch Tom’s presentation via the live stream, which was a new feature added to this year’s AGM. During his presentation, Tom touched on the evolution of the Classification program and how it has changed over time in his 30-year career with the Association. While cows have been classified in Canada for many years, computerized technology for Holstein Canada Classifiers was not introduced until 1988 and it fundamentally changed the way cows are now scored in Canada. This technology is being used to now classify all-breeds of dairy animals in Canada as the All-Breeds Classification system was introduced in 2005. Many countries worldwide also make use of the Canadian classification system and its efficient tools.

Tom provided great entertainment and many laughs throughout his presentation, but also provided the audience with significant facts and thoughts on the classification program in Canada. Highlights from Tom’s presentation included sharing how classification trait weights have also evolved over time; the cows Tom has been proud to have classified in his career including Canada’s first EX-97 point cow, Davidsons Raider Bronze; and how classification is the best management tool to help produce functional cows and to help in animal welfare, which is becoming a growing concern with the Canadian public. The Canadian classification system is rivaled around the world and is truly a system to be proud of!

For anyone interested in viewing Tom’s presentation, they can watch the full presentation [here](#).

The touching speech of Certificate of Superior Accomplishment award winner Patty Jones can also be viewed online [here](#) and the recognition presentation for the Holstein Journal’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

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