

Biography - Owen Roberts



Owen Roberts is the director of research communications for the University of Guelph and an adjunct professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science. He founded the University's student research-writing program called SPARK, an acronym for Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge, whose participants write stories for the University of Guelph *Research* magazine and other commercial publications, and are also involved in video production.

In the 1980s, Owen was a reporter and editor in Ontario and Alberta. Today, besides his teaching, research and administrative work at the University of Guelph, Owen is active as a journalist, most notably as the agri-food columnist for the Guelph *Mercury* daily newspaper. You can follow his blog at www.urbancowboy.ca. He is also the secretary general of the 3,000-member International Federation of Agricultural Journalists, and in 2005, he was named an honorary professional agrologist by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists.

Owen holds a Bachelor of Arts (communications) from the University of Windsor, a Master of Science (rural extension studies) from the University of Guelph, and a Doctorate of Education (agricultural education and communications) from Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University. His dissertation title was "A model for student learning in knowledge translation and transfer in Ontario."

Owen is a native of Mitchell's Bay (pop. 300), Ontario.

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