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The News Leader
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Many thanks to the News Leader for giving the Cowichan Valley a chance to bring the names of local icons before the public.

It is impossible and probably unfair to identify a single person as "the most outstanding Cowichanian of the past century" – many are deserving of the title. But there certainly is one person that comes to my mind after more than a third of a century of living and working in this valley – Herb Doman. The man was a giant in the forest industry for much of the last half of the twentieth century - a legend of "boot strap" success and a person respected by leaders from every stripe and level of business, workers and the general public.

During the halcyon days of B.C's forest industry virtually all large forest products companies established their headquarters in downtown Vancouver. But not Herb – his loyalty to the Cowichan Valley remained unbending and the Doman headquarters stayed in Duncan. And so too did his loyalty to his workforce stand out among employers in B.C. industry. When others were laying-off workers because of a downturn in prices Doman's employees stayed on the job to the benefit of the Valley and the people who live here. That was and is the measure of the man and his commitment to this community.

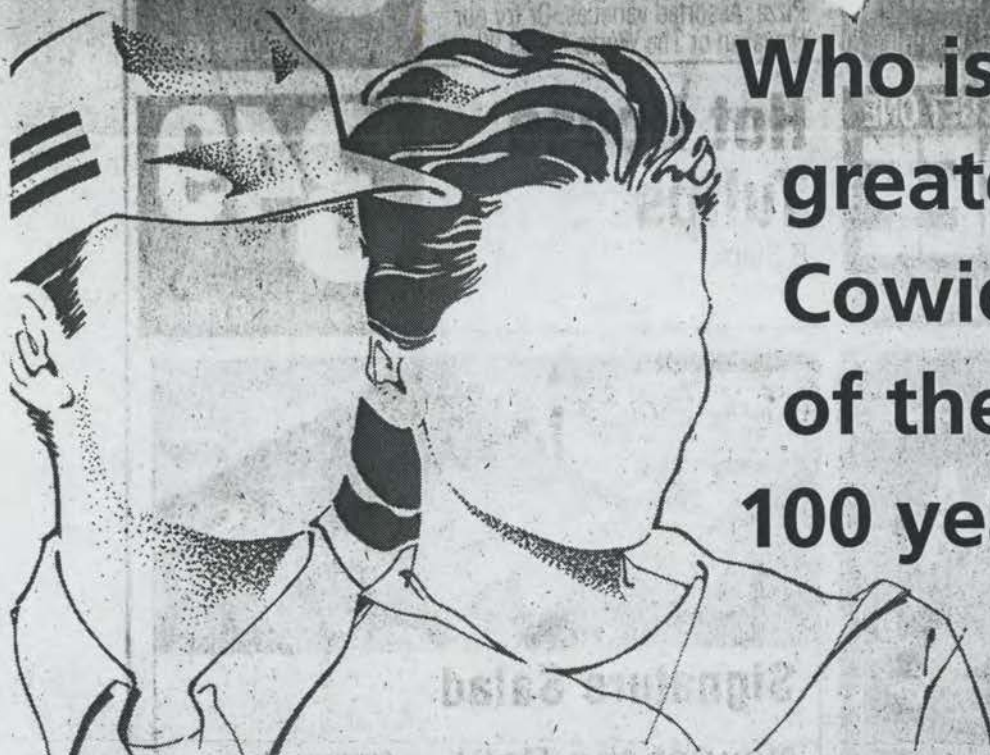
Herb Doman's commitment to his community and to British Columbia is also demonstrated in his generous support of educational and health care facilities both in the Valley and throughout B.C. He has given generously to Malaspina University College, Simon Fraser University and the Cowichan and District Hospital to name a few and he has been instrumental in securing the protection of substantial forest areas in the Central B.C. Coastal Region.

I believe the time has come for our Valley to recognize the true greatness of this man. One of the ways we can begin to accomplish that recognition will be to name him "the Greatest Cowichanian of the Past Century" as part of The News Leaders celebration of one hundred years of dedicated service to the people of the Cowichan Valley.

Thanks again for the opportunity to put Herb Doman's name forward for this honour.

Yours sincerely,

George Robbins



Who is the greatest Cowichanian of the past 100 years?

Send us a brief letter stating who you think is the Cowichan Valley's greatest citizen of the past 100 years, along with your reason why. Other than that, there are no guidelines but your own.

It's a simple question.
But we need YOUR
help to answer it.

Everyone who participates is automatically entered into a draw for a chance to win a new 27-inch Sony TV. Send entries to nlpedit@vinewsgroup.com or The News Leader, 5380 Trans Canada Highway, Duncan, B.C., V9L 6W4 by April 8, 2005.

Results will be published later in the year as part of the News Leader's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

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