

MEMBER PROFILE



Bernie Gunn, CPA, CGA President, Gunn's Bakery

Founded in 1937, Gunn's Bakery is one of the oldest family-run bakeries in Western Canada. Bernard Gunn, CPA, CGA and his brother Arthur have been working in the bakery for as long as they can remember. The bakery was founded by their father, Morris Gunn, who immigrated to Canada from Poland in the 1930's.

Bernard "Bernie" Gunn has been a businessman for most of his career. While his brother Arthur followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career as a baker, Bernie wanted to find another meaningful way to contribute to the family business.

"I became interested in accounting when I was around 20 years old," Bernie says. "I knew that if I was going to have a future with the bakery and make it a success, I was going to need to contribute in some way. My accounting designation allowed me to do that."

Early on in his career, Bernie articulated for a few Winnipeg firms and eventually landed a role with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature as a business administrator. After four years with the museum, he decided it was time to get back to the family business.

"I was still working at the bakery in the evenings and every weekend. Although I had a lot of wonderful experiences working for firms and in public practice, the bakery has always been a huge part of my identity. I always knew I was going to go back to the family business."

In the mid-1970's Bernie returned to co-manage the bakery with Arthur. The brothers decided to turn their focus to developing wholesale accounts. After a few years, the business began to flourish.

"Business was really picking up and we realized that the bakery needed to expand," Bernie explains. "In the beginning, the bakery was a small retail operation with about 15 employees. Today, about 65% of our business is wholesale, 35% is retail and we have a staff of around 60 people. We had to make some big renovations to the original building to accommodate our growing business."

While Bernie was helping grow the family business, he was also a key contributor to the advancement of the CGA designation. In fact, he was elected the fifth president of the association in 1975.



*Bernie & his brother Arthur
photo courtesy of the Winnipeg Free Press*

“It was a great accomplishment to achieve the professional certification as a CGA,” Bernie explains, “At that time, CGA in our province was a small group of members and students. The group of us worked really hard to improve the situation for CGAs. We were rewarded in 1973 when CGA Manitoba was officially established by an Act of the Manitoba legislature. It was an exciting time for the profession in Manitoba.”

In recognition of Bernie’s contributions to CGA and the accounting profession, he was recognized with a lifetime membership shortly after his term as the CGA Board President. Today, Bernie and Arthur still co-manage the iconic Gunn’s Bakery on Selkirk Avenue.

“We’ve had a great career and take pride in knowing that Gunn’s is highly regarded in the baking industry. People know when they buy from us that they are getting the best quality possible,” Bernie says.

“That emphasis on quality has been a major factor in our growth.”

Bernie’s career is a testament to the career diversity, and rewards that come with obtaining a professional accounting designation.

“There are so many great jobs that are just waiting for people to fill them,” he says. “There will always be a need for accounting professionals. The market in Manitoba holds so many opportunities for a fulfilling career of prosperity.”

Learn more about Bernie and Gunn’s Bakery by [visiting their website](#).

