

SOUTH DUFFERIN JUNIOR FARMERS

The Junior Farmers of Ontario was organized to interest farm young people from teens to early adults. Their motto being 'Self Help and Community Betterment' helps to explain the wide scope of activities that it involves. Young folk can use their talents in many ways while learning many new things and meeting many new people. Usually each county has several clubs and a County Club which is set up for inter-club competitions and large social functions like church services and formal dances.

South Dufferin Junior Farmers organized in 1953 at Orangeville High School. The first President was Robert Curtis, followed by Harold Dodds and Don Rennick in 1954 and Barbara Durkin in 1955, then Wm. Young in 1956. Around this time new clubs in East Dufferin and West Dufferin were being organized to accommodate new members.

Because the membership for the next few years was mainly around Waldemar, it is of particular interest to our Tweedsmuir History. In 1957 Marion Wolfe (Taylor) was President, followed by Mervin McPherson in 1958, John Black in 1959, Gordon Hunter in 1960, Williamene Black (McGuire) in 1961, Marlene Ferns (Black) in 1962 and Ken Bryan in 1963. The President in 1964 Barry Everson, in 1965 Harold Black and in 1966 Ellen Bryan (Black). At this time the club's centre shifted away from the Waldemar area.

The club is active in Field Days which involves all kinds of sports, Drama Festivals, Oratorical Contests and Debating, Choral Groups as well as bus trips, dances and other social functions.

In 1958 South Dufferin presented a Music and Drama Program in Waldemar and in other communities.

Perhaps, in the seventies 'Junior Farmers' in Dufferin County is not one of the leading youth organizations due to the decline in rural farm youth and the increasing proximity to their urban friends.

Written by Mrs. Mervin McPherson, 1977.



Bus trip to Niagara Area in Aug. 1957.