

McKinnon is honoured

Ken McKinnon of Port Elgin, long-time chairman of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, was honoured by dairy producers and friends Friday at a special evening held in Walkerton.

Mr. McKinnon this summer took a position as vice-chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission, after 25 years with the Ontario board.

Ken Underwood presented Mr. McKinnon, and his wife, Freda, with a grandfather clock, which he said was for two people who have given so much of their time over the years.

Kent Lamont of Saugeen Township, a life-long friend of Mr. McKinnon's was master of ceremonies for the evening, held at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Among the special guests at the meeting was Jack Riddell, Ontario Minister of Agriculture.

Among accolades received were letters of praise from federal Agriculture Minister John Wise and former minister Eugene Whelan.

McKinnon's service on

the milk board goes back to when it was first formed in 1965. He was praised for his leadership that helped establish the most efficient marketing organization in the world.

Wednesday, July 23, 1986

Commission

McKinnon named to Canadian Dairy

A chapter in the history of local dairy farming ended recently with the announced resignation of Ontario Milk Marketing Board Chairman Ken McKinnon of Port Elgin.

However, the record of Mr. McKinnon's years of work on behalf of milk producers is far from complete, as he will continue working for the dairy industry as Vice Chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission.

When a new OMMB Member is elected, it will mark the first time since the Board was formed that Ken McKinnon will not represent the dairy farmers of Huron, Bruce and Grey Counties. Appointed to the original Board when the OMMB was set up in 1965, Ken became the first representative of local farmers when regional elections were introduced three years later. He has subsequently been re-elected four consecutive times by the milk producers of Huron, Bruce and Grey Counties.

Mr. McKinnon remembers the late 1950s, when he first took an interest in the

marketing of milk. The local dairy industry was a lot different in those days.

"It was mainly an industrial milk area before the OMMB was set up," Ken says. "Grey County could sell table milk in Owen Sound, and a bit to Toronto, but Huron and Bruce didn't have access to fresh milk markets. In many cases, producers didn't know how much milk they could sell on a given day."

That lack of security, combined with anger over a sudden drop in the federal support price for powder, opened the young McKinnon's eyes about the marketing of milk. He started attending meetings and was elected to the Board of the Ontario Concentrated Milk Producers' Marketing Board. The early 1960s were exciting years. Dairy farmers realized changes needed to be made to the milk marketing system. Supply management, however, seemed too radical for many farmers. The result was a lot of heated debate.

In the end, orderly

marketing won the debate and supply management was introduced after the OMMB was established in 1965.

"The Board has helped dairy farmers stabilize their income, given us the confidence to reinvest in our farms and increase our productivity," he says.

The McKinnon farm is a case in point. After taking over the farm when only 15-years-old, Mr. McKinnon had expanded the herd to 60 head by the late 1950s. With the introduction of supply management, and the choice by the three McKinnon boys to farm, a major expansion was completed in 1975. A new barn with a milking parlour was built and the land base was expanded. With additional land purchased in 1979, the McKinnons now farm 950 acres. About 110 cows are milked every day out of a herd of 250 head.

The fifth generation of McKinnons now share the management of the farm with their father. Despite his full-time commitment to the OMMB since he was elected Chairman in 1977, Ken still found time to handle the financial and management side of the

operation.

A great believer in improving efficiency, the farm now has a computerized feeding system. Milk recording and computerized accounting also are an important part of the farm's management tools.

In terms of Region 11, Mr. McKinnon considers the Graduated Entry Program and the pooling of transportation costs two major benefits the OMMB has brought to the area.

Although the OMMB is much different today than in the late 1960s when the fluid milk system was introduced and the national industrial milk structure being debated, or the 1970's when the dairy industry stabilized, Ken still sees the need for strong, local representation.

"We need a new Member who is willing to make a commitment to Region 11," he says. "That commitment is more than just attending meetings or working long hours. It must be a commitment to serve the Region for more than one term (four years), because it takes that long to learn the complexities of the milk industry."

Mr. McKinnon's new position is based in Ottawa.

Page 20, The Paisley Advocate, Wednesday, September 24, 1986

Flooded Fair still a major success without featured horse show

The sun did shine for the 130th annual Paisley Fall Fair but crowds weren't up to usual, probably due to the fact that the horse show had to be cancelled because of flood water on the horse ring. The Paisley and Cargill Beef and Dairy Clubs had their shows go off without a hitch in a re-located ring on higher ground just east of the ball diamond. The kids' pet show saw a reduction in entries but the big pumpkin contest was as popular as ever. Eight entries in the boys division saw Craig Trelford come out on top, with Lyle Dudgeon and Andy Fair a close second and third. The girls only had three entrants but they sure grew larger pumpkins than the boys did. Bobbi Dawn Beech was first with a monster jack-o-lantern and Wanda Dudgeon and Crystal Trelford were second and third. Revis MacKay was the judge.

Advocate story and photos by Ev Craddock



Seeing Double! Nope! These are identical twin boys with a pair of closely matched Limosin steers. So closely matched, in fact, that they took Grand Champion and Reserve Champion honours in the Cargill 4-H Beef Club show, held

at the Paisley Fair, last Tuesday. The boys are Steve, right, and Scott, left, Dales, of Cargill, 15-year-old sons of John Dales. Steve had the grand champion steer, while Scott had reserve.

Ev Craddock Photos