

Community

The secret to wedded bliss: have a lot in common

By Cecilia Nasmith

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If having a lot in common is the secret to a long and happy marriage, you just couldn't beat Doug and Shirley Johnston for success.

June 12 is the Grafton couple's 60th anniversary, and they're planning a big celebration two days later.

Both are retired farmers and insurance professionals. Mrs. Johnston is a former school-board member and Mr. Johnston a former hospital-board member and Haldimand Township councillor.

Mr. Johnston has been Haldimand Township's senior of the year and Mrs. Johnston has been their citizen of the year.

Both come from families that settled in the area as early as the 1830s. Mrs. Johnston knows of a distant relative buried in Fairview Cemetery in 1835.

Both were born in Vernonville and come from farming backgrounds. Mr. Johnston's was dairy farming, and he remembers delivering milk around Grafton for eight cents a quart.

"Of course, I drove a car before I was 16," he admitted.

"Doug was a third-generation farmer, and I was just eight years old when my dad got a duodenal ulcer and quit farming," Mrs. Johnston said. "We moved to Grafton, and he started a milling business."

Both are the last ones left of their families — Mrs. Johnston had two sisters and Mr. Johnston two sisters and two brothers.

Both enjoyed playing ball and hockey, and were avid Junior Farmer and 4H Club members. Mr. Johnston also was part of an active Young People's group at St. Andrew's United Church and the local Boy Scouts.

Mr. Johnston had joined the



Shirley and Doug Johnston stand, beaming and content, having weathered the storms and calms of 60 years of marriage.

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