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Ross Township couple celebrate 50th anniversary



Allan and Florence Cole of Ross Township celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday with an open house at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk Hall in Cobden. Hanging behind the couple is a friendship quilt presented to them by their friends and neighbours. Mr. Cole is also holding a congratulatory plaque which they received from Ontario Premier David Peterson.

Tomorrow (Thursday) will be a remarkable day for Allan and Florence Cole. While it may just be October 2nd to most other people, for Mr. and Mrs. Cole the date marks their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Coles, who are life-long residents of Ross Township, were married on October 2, 1936 in Cobden at the Presbyterian manse, with Rev. Connor conducting the ceremony.

This past Saturday, family and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Cole gathered at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk Hall in Cobden for an open house in honour of the couple. It was a special day for the Coles, with many dozens of guests stopping by to wish them well.

Among those who could not attend and sent greetings in their stead were: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Ontario Premier David Peterson, Ontario Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander, and Renfrew South MPP Paul Yakabuski.

But there were also several visitors who travelled a great distance in order to celebrate with Allan and Florence. A niece from California was in attendance, as were several cousins from Montreal. Other relatives "from all around" were also there, says Mrs. Cole.

A highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of a friendship quilt to

Mr. and Mrs. Cole. Their relatives and neighbours worked together, block by block, to make the quilt which will serve as a reminder of the occasion.

Mrs. Cole (nee Beall), 68, recalls that she and Mr. Cole 74, honeymooned in Sudbury immediately following their autumn wedding, staying with Mr. Cole's brother who was living there at the time. When they returned home, they took up residence on a 100 acre farm on the Fourth Line of Ross.

In 1947, they moved to another farm nearby on County Road 21. They still live there today, managing close to 200 acres. "We still putter around," says Mrs. Cole with a laugh. "We couldn't do without the farm."

Along with running the farm, Mr. Cole also held a job with the Township of Ross, working as the municipal roads superintendent. It was a position he held for 33 years before he retired.

The Coles have a son Mervin, who is married to Gail Wallace. They are also very proud of their two grandchildren and their two great grandchildren.

In June of this year, the Coles received a special anniversary gift a few months early. Their son and daughter-in-law took them on a two-week vacation to Newfoundland. "We had a wonderful time," says Mrs. Cole.