

generation didn't have a school bus. He and his sisters, Audrey (Mrs. Gerald Hoffman) and Anna (Mrs. Ray Steinman), now both living in the New Hamburg area, used to walk through the bush to S.S. No. 13 School on the 15th line.

As the youngest and only son of Lorne and Annie (Ruby) Bender, Harold always worked on the farm with his father as well as working a job off the farm. In his teens he worked at the German Union Cheese Factory, then got his first carpentry experience with Yantzi Bros.

He met Audrey Gerber through Young People's church group and they were married at Cassel Mennonite Church on May 6, 1961. They lived on the family farm and took over its operation in 1966.

Harold drove a fuel truck for D. H. Jutzi Ltd. for several years, then worked for Delmer Zehr Construction for a number of years.

Harold and Audrey had two sons, Rob and Todd. Rob passed away in 2012 after a number of years of declining health. In 1995, Todd and his wife Jeanette purchased the 100-acre home farm in 1995 and Harold and Audrey moved to the recently purchased adjoining farm. Both these farms had a lengthy history in the Bender and Ruby families.

Later Todd and Jeanette sold the Bender farm and purchased and now live on the Ruby farm with their children, Dathan, Michaiiah, Drystan, Fayth, Miryam

(Aaron deceased) and Gracelyn. Harold and Audrey built a new home on Bender Avenue in Tavistock in 2005.

Along with family, their faith and their church family at East Zorra Mennonite Church are very important parts of their life. Both Harold and Audrey volunteer at the New Hamburg Thrift Centre and Harold is a regular driver for the Nithview Home mobility bus, taking residents for appointments once a month.

Harold's hobby is old John Deere tractors. He is a member and past executive member of the First Ontario Two Cylinder Club, the Upper Canada Two Cylinder Club, and the North Easthope Antique Tractor Breakfast Club.

He has fully restored a 1944 BR flywheel start model and has a 1956 420 model which he bought restored. He also drives a 1956 35 Massey Diesel on the farm.

Whether he's driving a fuel truck, lumber truck, antique tractor or school bus, Harold enjoys meeting people in the community and beyond. At this point, as well, Harold finds himself driving the children's children of his first bus students. He writes a driver exam each year and gets his annual medical checkup. And when people ask how long he intends to keep driving, he says, "I'm going one day at a time."

Harold says he's in his 44th year of driving "mainly because I love my job. I love the students and at this stage in my life it gives me a good reason to get up in the morning."

## Bus Driver...

**"It gives me a good reason to get up in the morning!"**

- Harold Bender, bus driver

### ■ PUBLIC WORKS: Reduction in municipal water use

# Oxford County wins award for water efficiency

SENTINEL-REVIEW STAFF

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Oxford County public works has taken home a provincial award for programs that are helping conserve the community's groundwater resources.

On Sunday, May 4, Oxford County was awarded the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA) 2014 Award for Excellence for Water Efficiency.

A plaque, presented to public works director Rob Walton and water services manager Deborah Goudreau, was of the result of water efficiency in five areas.

They included water use metering, industrial, commercial and institutional capacity buy-back programs, water audits and leak detection, outdoor water use restrictions, and pub-

lic education and awareness.

"Winning the OWWA Water Efficiency Award is quite an honour for a smaller municipality. With the right combination of programs in Oxford County, we've been able to make a significant impact in water conservation a short period of time," Goudreau said.

Metered billing in Woodstock has resulted in a reduction of water use of 1,200 cubic metres a day since its installation in 2011. Based on statistics from 2011 to 2012, that is more than enough water to fill three Olympic-sized swimming pools every week.

While Woodstock was not the first water system to move to water meters, Oxford County continues to work towards having all water systems on water

meters by 2016.

In 2010, the county implemented a water capacity buy-back program for industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) customers.

Statistics have shown 50% of the water produced by the county is consumed by 2% of the consumers, usually from the ICI sectors.

The program encourages the largest water users to find efficiencies, with the county sharing up to 50% of the capital costs of the projects.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada was recently approved for the first of three water efficiency projects that is expected to result in an average savings of 248 cubic metres of water per day.