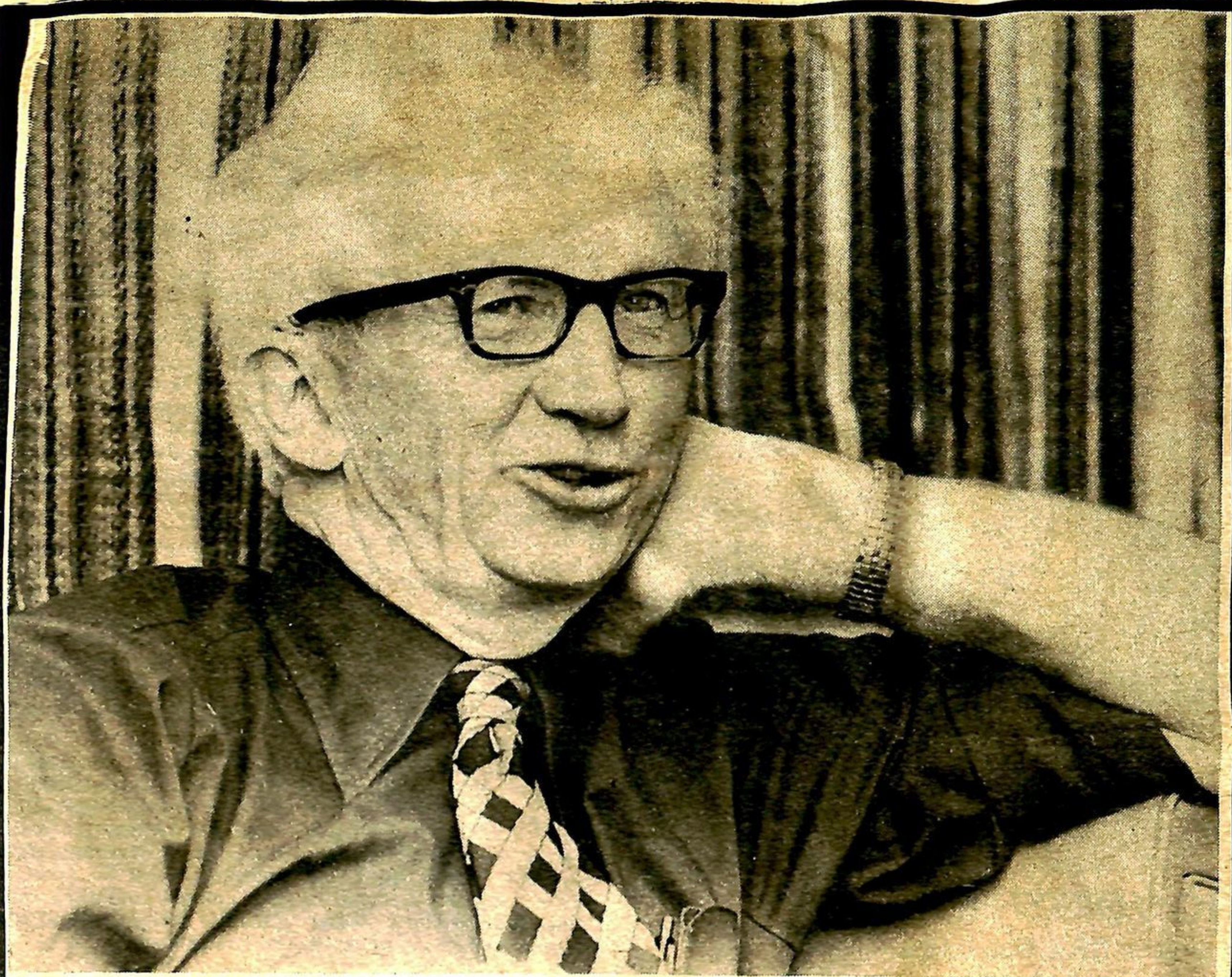


W.S. Annual Meeting 1979



— Staff photo

Don Taylor, long-time agriculture representative for Oxford County, is retiring.

# GOODBYE DON

## Over the years this man's name became synonymous with farming

By JANICE VANSICKLE  
Sentinel-Review staff  
writer

Don Taylor and Pierre Trudeau have something in common. They're both giving up offices they cherish and have revelled in, but Taylor is doing so by choice.

The 61-year-old Taylor will bid goodbye to his post as Oxford's agricultural representative on May 31, a position he has held for 19 of his 35 years with the provincial agriculture ministry.

Leaving will not be easy, but Taylor said in an interview, both he and his wife Elsie want to take advantage of early retirement.

His departure opens the door for someone else to serve as representative in Oxford, "one of the most coveted offices," Taylor said. Cliff Matthews will move up from the post of assistant representative.

Of all the counties with ministry offices, Taylor said Oxford is one of the most agriculturally active and is truly rural with no large cities.

He praised farm groups, such as the Oxford Agricultural Land Use Committee for pushing for farm land preservation during the development of the county's official plan.

"That the farm people themselves have taken a hold on the land retention issue is encouraging," he said.

"In a lot of areas farm people are willing to sell off land for a short term

gain."

The county is well balanced between rural and urban, he said, with a good understanding between the two groups.

"It's a lovely county to work in," Taylor added.

In the early days of the office, Oxford County council was the only council to co-fund the representative's salary, he said.

Representative in Prince Edward County for 13 years before coming to Oxford, Taylor praised county farmers for taking the initiative to conduct their own on-farm research.

As an indication of Oxford's reputation in agriculture circles, Taylor said the University of Guelph turns to Oxford farmers for leadership in carrying out new ideas.

Although the agriculture office's role is to pass on research information to the farmers, Taylor said a large segment learn more through over the fence discussions with other farmers.

A quiet, mild mannered man whose name has become synonymous with local agriculture, Taylor has seen a lot of changes within the industry in recent years.

"More has happened in the last 15 years than the previous 100 in technological development and acceptance," he said.

As a result land values have increased 10-fold, from \$250 an acre in the

early 1960's to \$2,500.

The face of Oxford's dairy industry has drastically changed, he said, since the introduction of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board in 1965.

The number of producers has dropped from 2,000 to 832 at last count and cattle numbers have declined at 25 per cent, while at the same time production levels have remained roughly the same.

Because of the high cost of land farmers have to keep improving their efficiency to be competitive, he said.

And as a result on-farm activities have changed to the production of single commodities, such as either cash crops, milk, or beef, over general farming.

Farm sizes have also doubled over the years to an average size of 200 acres.

But Oxford farms continue to be family operations, he said, with the average age of farmers being lower here than in other counties.

Taylor said this indicates the young people have a strong desire to carry on the tradition of family farms rather than opting for the city life.

A Woodstock resident, Taylor has no plans to leave the area, although he will be spending more time at the family cottage in northern Ontario.

His retirement does not mean he will be idle either. He said he is looking for a part-time

job, possibly with a farm organization or commodity group.

And he will continue to keep a handle on local farm activities and has plans to continue working on plans for the International Plowing Match being held here in 1980.

The TAB girls served a delicious lunch to the members of the Burgessville Women's Institute in the Sunday School Room of the Baptist Church. After the lunch the members moved to the comfortable meeting room to hold their annual meeting.

Mrs. Bill McMillen opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode. Mrs. Ross Johnson read the minutes of the last meeting as well as the treasurer's report.

Roll call was answered by paying dues. Money for the Funds for Fun was raised by each member donating a penny for the day, month and year of her birth.

Mrs. Jack McCready gave a report of the District Annual Spring Board Meeting and the conveners gave reports of the standing committees.

Mrs. Jack McCready, Mrs. Maurice Buckrell and Mrs. Bill McMillen were appointed as voting delegates to the District Annual meeting in May. It was decided to give \$20 to the Pennies for Friendship fund.

A guessing contest was won by Mrs. Lloyd Sackrider.

Mrs. McMillen, the retiring president, closed this part of the meeting with a poem she wrote entitled Being President. Mrs. Jack McCready gave a short address and Mrs. Ross Johnson presented Mrs. McMillen with a beautiful gloxinia.

Mrs. Charles Kelly then declared all offices vacant and Mrs. Charles Austin of the nominating committee brought in the new slate of officers.

The officers are: president Mrs. Jack McCready, 1st. vice-president Mrs. Maurice Buckrell, 2nd. vice-president Mrs. Lewis Austin, secretary-treasurer Mrs. Ross Johnson, assistant secretary-treasurer Mrs. Lewis Austin, resolutions convener Mrs. Fred J. Salmon, public relations Geneva Emigh, district director Mrs. Bill McMillen, alternate district director Mrs. Charles Kelly.

Members of the standing  
*April 12/79*

### Our Wisdom Corner:

To err is human: to blame it on someone else is even more human.

The bitterest words are those we are forced to eat.

committees are for family and consumer affairs Mrs. Charles Kelly and Mrs. Charles Austin, agriculture and Canadian industry Mrs. Victor Moore and Mrs. Merton Penny, citizenship and world affairs Mrs. Ross Johnson and Mrs. Jim Casler, education and cultural activities Mrs. Maurice Buckrell and Mae Dennis, good cheer Mrs. Clarence Parkhill and Mrs. Charles Kelly.

Mrs. Wilbur Morley is the curator of the Tweedsmuir History. The auditors are Mrs. Jim Casler and Mrs. G. Rood.

The nominating committee is Mrs. Wilbur Morley and Mrs. Charles Austin.

The meeting closed with the Queen.

### MRS. GLADYS ELMA HUGHES

Mrs. Gladys Elma Hughes of Woodingford Lodge, Woodstock, formerly of Burgessville, passed away on Thursday, May 17, 1979, at Woodstock General Hospital, in her 88th year.

Born in Holbrook, she was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Newman Dennis. She was a member of the Burgessville Baptist Church and was a soloist and pianist of the church, also a life member of the Mission Circle.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. J.W. (Elma) (Peg) Wood of Goderich; three sons, Johnston (Chip) of Alma, Mich., Ross of Burgessville and Ede of Woodstock; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Merville A. Hughes, predeceased her in 1961.

The funeral service was held on Monday, May 21, at 2 p.m. at the Arn and Son Funeral Residence with Rev. James Newman of Burgessville Baptist Church officiating.

The bearers were Clendon Spencer, Paul Fleming, Victor Moore, Fred Cohoe, Stanley Tribe and Alvah Lampman.

Interment in Burgessville Baptist Cemetery.



Harold Broad, of the Holbrook Anti-Dump Committee, with Harry Parrott, environment minister, who attended the seminar on garbage disposal on May 28.

*May 1979*