

Obituary

James Mercer Eccles

After an illness of several months, James Mercer Eccles, enterprising farmer and businessman, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, March 10, 1991. He was born March 27, 1919 on the family farm at Lot 12, Concession 4 Chinguacousy on Creditview Road. He was the son of Wilma Lyons and James Alexander Eccles who purchased the farm in 1912.

In 1947 Jim married Margaret Ford, daughter of Wilbert and Agnes Ford from Halton County. Their family consists of four daughters, Wilma, Heather, Marlene (Mrs. David McClure) and Beverley and one grandchild Natalie McClure.

A few years later Jim took over the farm from his father and developed the registered Holstein herd under the Baccara prefix. His success in grain farming caused him to disperse the herd in 1968 and subsequently he made a partnership to purchase Acton Flour Mill. He soon required grain storage on his own farm and built Eccles Elevator on Mississauga Road at the back of the home property. This rapidly became a commercial enterprise and the Acton Mill was sold. Jim took an active interest in the success of his customers and community concerns developing a wide circle of friends.

Due to failing health Jim and Margaret sold the home farm in 1981 and built a new residence in the same concession at Lot 14 on Mississauga Road. In 1985 he sold the Elevator but did not relinquish his activist role in the neighborhood. They had enjoyed many agricultural tours to Europe, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, Cuba and Russia but Margaret's sudden death in 1987 brought an end to future plans. Diagnosed in 1988 with a malignant bone disease he made many valiant rallies before his final illness.

Though a member of the Brampton Curling Club for about 10 years Jim's chief recreation was found at local and international ploughing competitions. Starting at age eleven he went on to win the Canadian Tractor Championship in 1949 and the first World Grand Champion Ploughman trophy - the Esso Golden Plough - at Cobourg in 1963. He then turned to coaching and preparing younger competitors for these events.

In 1981 he received the recognition of his peers when he was chosen as Peel County's "Farmer of the Year".

But perhaps his greatest contribution to his community was the practical assistance and supervision offered freely to young men and new Canadians trying to get a start in today's world of agriculture. Although diagnosed with a form of muscular dystrophy early in life and surviving a severe attack of tetanus poisoning in 1980 Jim forged ahead. He was a positive believer in and example of the rewards of hard physical labor whether by man or machine and perpetuated the old-fashioned virtues of neighborliness.

The funeral service, conducted by the Reverend Ian MacPherson and the Reverend Mary Campbell, took place on Wednesday, March 13, 1991 at J. S. Jones and Son Funeral Home in Georgetown. Cremation followed, with interment later at Hillcrest Cemetery, Norval.

Jim was predeceased by one brother John (1914-1918) and is survived by sisters Georgina Dolson and Jean Kirkwood.

Book sale

The University Women's Club of Georgetown is holding its annual Book Sale on Saturday, April 20, 1991. The sale will be held at Knox Church, corner of Main St. and Church St. in Georgetown from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you wish to have your books picked up please call 873-4985 or 873-6665.



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