

Agriculture

Dreams can indeed come true

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald

Halton's acting Agricultural Representative, Marie Hartley, said she always dreamed of marrying a farmer.

That dream came true when she married Georgetown dairy farmer, Ken McNabb, on Oct. 26.

"I always hoped I would marry a dairy farmer," said the newlywed, who was raised on a dairy farm and later beef farm near Woodstock.

She left the family farm when she was 18 to go to university and after graduation, landed a job as the Farm Management Specialist with the Dufferin County office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

She came to Halton in Oct. 1990 as the acting Agriculture Representative, which involves acting as a liaison between Halton agricultural groups and the Ministry.

It was at one of these group meetings she met Ken McNabb who took over his parent's (John and Doris McNabb) Guernsey farm on Trafalgar Road. Mr. McNabb is very active in farming organizations such as the Halton Milk Committee and the Halton Soil and Crop Association.

The two announced their engagement in May 1991 and were married six months later in Woodstock, the home of her mother Mary Hartley and the late Donald Hartley.

The marriage has meant a few changes in Mrs. McNabb's lifestyle. First of all, her working day no longer ends when she leaves the office.

"Now I find my days sometimes don't end until 8:00 p.m.," she said. "That takes some getting used to."

Another change she's more enthusiastic about is becoming involved in the dairy cow show circuit again.

Mr. McNabb has been developing a string of top Guernseys he shows across Western and Central Ontario and she finds great pleasure in taking days off work to lead cattle in the show ring.

"Showing is a perk for me," she admits. "I showed cattle when I was in 4-H and it's exciting to get back into the ring again."

The new year will bring even more changes in Marie McNabb's life.

The Halton and Peel offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food are amalgamating in March, 1992. At that time, she'll be losing her position as Ag. Rep. to the Peel Agricultural Representative based on seniority.

She will undertake new duties as the Farming Organization Specialist which is actually assistant to the Ag. Rep.

Despite it being a step down, Mrs. McNabb said she's happy about the change.

"It's a relief to be going back to that job," she said. "Being an administrator is not a lot of fun some days." She admitted it will be interesting adjusting to receiving orders instead of giving them.



Wedding Bells

Halton Region provincial Agricultural and Food Representative Marie Hartley recently wed Ken McNabb. The couple now resides in Ashgrove. (Photo submitted)

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