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1st Campbellville Sparks (from left) Regan Stewart, 6, Angelina Gomes, 7, Leigh-Anne Noltie, 6, and Avery Beatty, 6, enjoy Brookville School's annual Fun Fair Saturday.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Chudleighs to be inducted into agriculture hall of fame

By ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER

Special to The Champion

Five inductees into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame will be honoured at Country Heritage Park Sunday.

In its 25th year, the Hall of Fame Gallery currently has 153 inductees, all persons who have proven themselves leaders in the growth and development of Ontario's agriculture and food indus-

One of this year's inductees is the Chudleigh family of Chudleigh's Apple Farm. Tom and his wife, Carol, along with their sons Dean and Scott, will be honoured for their impressive contributions to the fruit industry through apple production.

"It is such a great honour to be nominated for three reasons," said Mr. Chudleigh.

"First, it is wonderful to have our life's work recognized. We opened our pick-your-own (farm) in 1967 and were entertaining as much as anything else through the corn roasts, wagon rides and the animals. We did more and more entertaining and the better our years became. Second, it has always been 'we' and 'us' since the beginning and we represent so many other farm families that are a husband/wife combination. Third, my grandfather, Thomas L. Kennedy, was inducted into the hall of fame in 1986 for his role as Ontario's minister of agriculture and the work he did and I think it's nice that my picture and (testament to) my work will be hanging in the same building as his."

The Chudleighs opened Chudleigh's Apple Farm June 17, 1962, two days after their wedding. The farm was originally purchased by Mr. Chudleigh's father, Eric, but was passed down to Tom and his brother, (now Halton MPP) Ted, in 1956 when their parents were killed in an accident.

After finishing university, Mr. Chudleigh moved to the farm and, at first, grew strawberries while nurturing the dwarf apple trees that his father had planted.

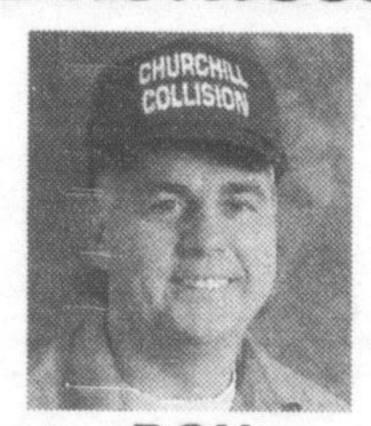
Over the years, the Chudleigh's have led the way in several innovative production and pruning techniques for the fruit trees as well as introducing 'entertainment farming', which is more recently called 'agritourism'. They offer wagon rides, corn roasts, farm animals and unique farm experiences to visitors, providing a type of attraction that's not available in the city.

The Chudleighs also introduced 'Mrs. Chudleigh's Apple Pie' and 'Apple Blossoms', two treats that originated in the farm kitchen.

The Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association nominated Mr. Chudleigh "for his ability to motivate the apple industry and for see INDUCTEES on page 19

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