

These 2 businesses bridged generation gap

By LAURA MALIS

What do a sand cartage firm and a market farm have in common?

Lawrence Cartage on Speers Road and Cudmore's Farm and Market on Lakeshore Road are both two-generation family businesses.

It was more than 50 years ago when the late Joseph Lawrence bought a horse-drawn truck to carry sand and gravel for local construction projects.

In 1926, he incorporated his first automated truck into his Allan Street cartage business. Now his sons Charles and Ted manage an up-to-date hauling operation which includes five trucks and three employees.

Joseph was 83 years old when he passed away in 1966 but he remained active in the cartage business up until his death.

He missed the company's move to its Speers Road building and the fire in 1974 which gutted the office and destroyed the old pictures of the company's early trucks.

"Our first truck didn't have a dump on it so we would have to shovel materials onto the truck and then shovel them off again," Charles Lawrence says.

"Then came the dump truck you had to crank up. Things are mechanized today but in those days things were mostly done by manpower," he recalls.

Now the trucks are heated, have radios and power steering —



Charles and Ted Lawrence carry on a cartage business that began with a horse-drawn truck.

Photo by BILL MAJESKY

paradise compared to the early trucks.

The Cudmores in Bronte have run their market ever since Mike Cudmore set up a small stand for his produce during the depression. Sixty-

nine-year-old Mike still runs that market in the summer and his son Bill controls the Bronte farm.

"The business grew from that orange crate fruitstand to what it is today," Bill Cudmore says.

The wholesale outlet grew to include marketing the farm's produce at the Toronto food terminal and the rental of 12 different farms in the Oakville-Burlington area, he said.

The range of produce grown by the

farm has expanded from those early depression days. Pussy willows, zucchini, indian corn, and multicolored sweet corn are new additions to the Cudmore crops, he says.

Sophisticated farm machinery, and high powered chemicals have also been integrated into the Cudmore operation.

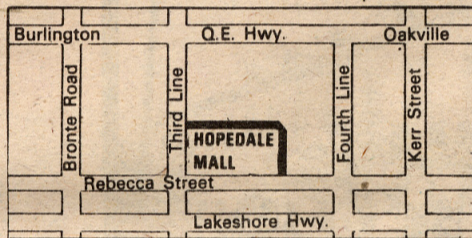
"There really wasn't any machinery until I started taking farming seriously 17 years ago. In the old days we didn't have any tractors, now we have three Massey-Ferguson tractors, corn planters, and spraying devices.

"We also didn't use chemicals in the 30's and now we use them extensively. Probably the main function of the farmer now is to decide what chemical to use on any particular day," Cudmore says.

"Women demand higher quality produce today than they did 40 years ago," he says. "It's good because the housewife has a higher quality product to work with but on the other hand it has made costs higher and caused extensive use of chemicals."

Ironically, while the business has grown in leaps and bounds, the Cudmore farm has dwindled in size.

Cudmore's grandfather had 75 acres of good farm land and his father owned 25 acres. By renting nearby farms, Bill Cudmore has been able to sell his land and cultivate 400 acres of rented land.



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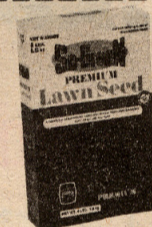
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