

Lambert, Yake and John Hoover

Partners farm 2,000 acres

By EVE-LYNN DOBIE
Life on the farm for Lambert Yake could be anywhere from Newmarket to Cherrywood. In partnership with brother-in-law

John Hoover, they crop over 2,000 acres in the shadow of one of Canada's largest cities. "It means a lot of running the machinery on the roads," says

Lambert, who lives with wife Vicky and their two children in the Yake family's original Kennedy Road farmhouse. "Most of the land is rented," he explains.

"There were times, five to ten years ago, when we doubled the size of the farm because the land was available, the money was coming in, and we took advantage of it."

Cash-cropping so much land is important to them. "A wheat-bean-red clover rotation means three years without breaking the ground up and this saves time, money and soil," he explains.

fields. But old-fashioned square bales are labor intensive, he says. "This summer, we'd like to try obtaining help during the hay season only, but we hear there will be more jobs than workers, so we'll see."

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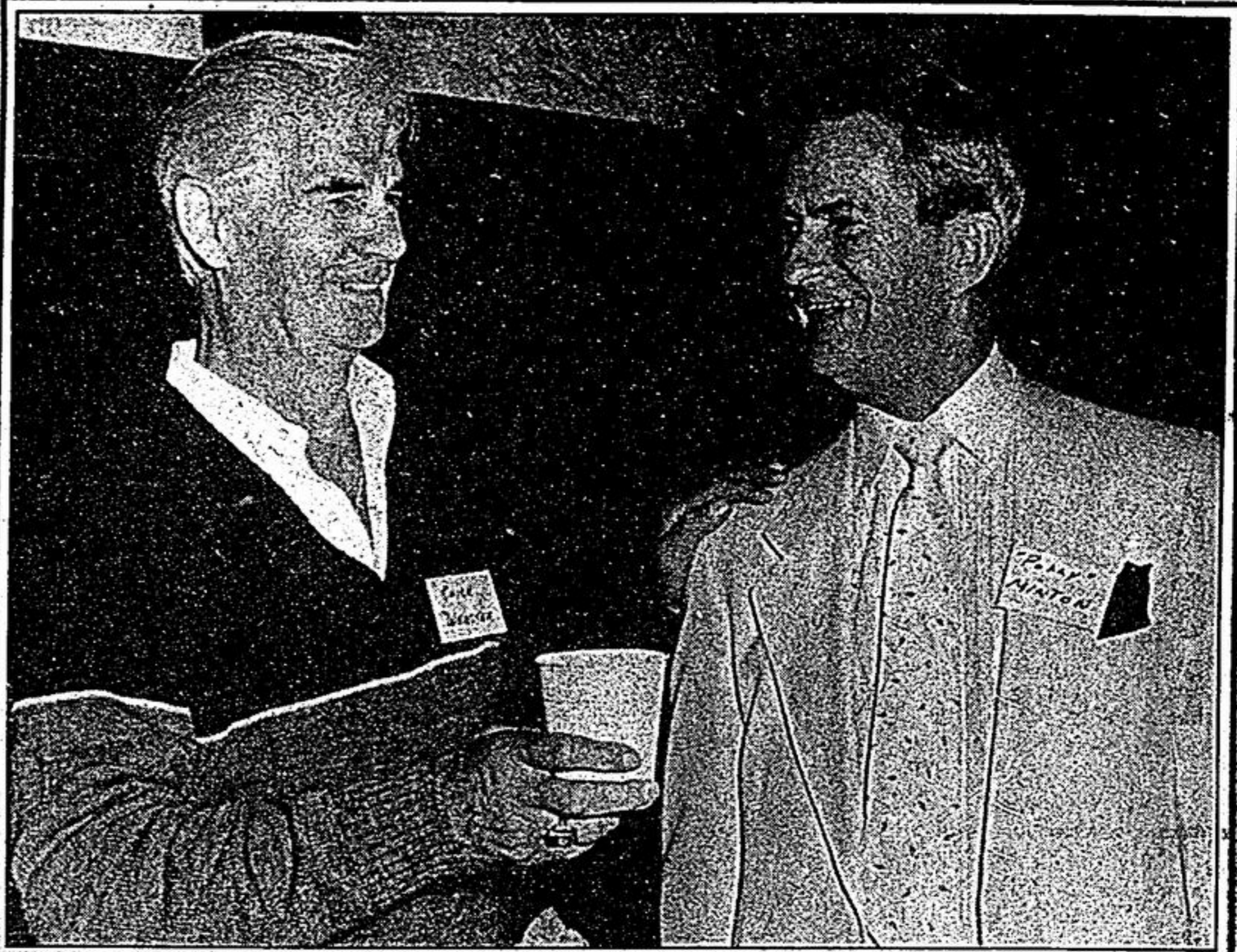
"At times, it was a matter of grow or sink," he says. Growing corn, soybeans, white beans, wheat and hay every year requires a lot of land and machinery, he notes.

"John (Hoover) finishes 400 hogs in a barn at his father's place. I have a small herd of 30 milking cows here with my dad, and we have a full-time hired man," says Lambert.

They've adopted the method of sowing winter wheat into standing fields of beans from an aeroplane. The beans are left undamaged by machinery while they provide cover for tender seedlings.

The demand for quality hay at neighboring stables has provided the mainly row crop farm with opportunities to use poorer land and 'rest' other more productive

Lambert's son, Corey, 14, is one of only two students in his class at school whose parents farm for a living. Farm workers are hard to find. Long-term land leases are rare, due to speculation and development opportunities. Land prices are high. "But you grow and adapt or you quit," says Lambert, one of the few farmers still tilling the soil in south-central York Region.



"Believe me Polly, it's only Adam's Ale"

They came from near and far to attend the Markham-Stouffville Oldtimers' Hockey Reunion April 22. 'Chick' Webster, (left), travelled all the way from Mattawa. 'Polly' Minton, (right), lives in Stouffville. Both were stars with the Stouffville 'Clippers'. —Jim Thomas

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