



EBENEZER, TORONTO GORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Bruce Fieldhouse

Feb 27, 1935 - Jun 29, 2010

Bruce was a director of E.TGHF from the inception. We will miss his quick wit, extensive knowledge of the area and his insightful contributions to the Foundation..
The Board of Directors of E.TGHF

Thanks to Gladys Fieldhouse for the following..

Bruce, the third child of Alma & Harry Fieldhouse, grew up with siblings, Bernice, Don and Ann on the 9th line of York Township, changed to 7981 Huntington Rd, R. R.#1, (Bruce wanted R.R.#1 kept in the address) Woodbridge, in the City of Vaughan.

Was there ever a doubt that young Bruce would not grow up a farmer? He was often seen doing numerous farm chores, driving the horses, Minnie pulling the buggy and Maude and Net pulling various machines at harvest time, as captured in the family photo album. When the new 1945 Ford tractor arrived, an eager 10 year old Bruce, drove it on the manure spreader and grain binder.

Before the automatic milking machine was installed in 1947, Bruce helped his parents, sister Bernice, and brother Don hand milk the cows for the evening milking. Morning milking was replaced with breakfast, making his school lunch and walking to the Lower Ninth School, along a dirt road, which is now Highway #7, a six-lane highway.

Like other farm boys in the 1950s, Bruce attended 4H and Junior Farmer meetings, Ebenezer church and Sunday School every Sunday and the United Church Young People's Union. Bruce played baseball, lacrosse, High School football, and hockey for Ebenezer Junior Farmers in Brampton. Later he kept interested and attended some of grand nephew Bruce Codd's lacrosse games and enjoyed pick-up hockey with neighbours and his sons on the Woodbridge farm pond.

After graduating from school, Bruce worked at home with his parents and took on the responsibility of being the 'cow man', keeping cow records, administering minimal veterinary tasks, and of course, naming the new calves. Calves were

named after the first initial of the sire, so twins, sired by Quality Ultimate, were named, Fieldhouse Ultimate Udo and FH Udont, a single was named FH Uncouth. Fieldhouse Warden Wiggle was one of his son Rick's 4H calves. When Don and Annie bought Don's grandparent's farm, (Weatherill), Harry, Don & Bruce formed a partnership. The highlight of Bruce's career in the dairy business came in 1999, when Fieldhouse Farms won the Master Breeder Award.

When the Ebenezer church shed was no longer used for many functions, including strawberry suppers, it was moved to the Fieldhouse home farm, to store machinery and the family car.

In the 1960s, Bruce left the farm on Saturday nights to join the ‘stag line’ along the back of Maple and Innis Lake dance halls, chatting with other farmers to get caught up on local farm news and community events. The gals would sit on the sidelines, anticipating a request to dance. One such request was to a young gal from Egbert, in Simcoe County, and after many dances later, 1½ yrs, he and Gladys Mooney were united in marriage on July 18, 1970, (between haying and wheat harvest). On June 26, 2010, they danced to many songs at the Bond Head Community hall—little did we know it would be our last dances together.

Two young farmers were born, Rick in 1971 and Bryan, 1973, to carry on the family dairy business. Now my family album includes pictures of the boys sleeping in the cab beside Bruce, to pictures of his sons driving the machinery to work the land or harvest the crops.

Uncle Jack Julian gave up the reins as Secretary Treasurer for Ebenezer cemetery to Bruce, in the '70s, a position held until his passing and now, nephew, David Fieldhouse, has taken the position.

In 1984, the church's shingled roof needed to be replaced. Steel was used, at Bruce's suggestion, and he and other members completed that job. Another day, he and others, reset the tall tombstones. Rick and Bryan took turns cutting the grass at the Ebenezer church cemetery.

(Cont'd over)

In 2008, the 'Alma Room' was dedicated in honour of Bruce's mother. He was very pleased as he knew she had wanted the basement dug out in the 1950s to accommodate Sunday School rooms - 'Not feasible' was the report.

Bruce and Gladys enjoyed traveling, from the East to the West Coast, around Ontario, Scotland, NZ, Australia, Tasmania, Singapore, many US States, including Alaska, NF and South America in Feb of 2010, meeting many interesting people. Trips, where farms were included, were his most treasured. You can take the boy away from the farm, but not for long.

Bruce moved from the community in 2000, but was a Director of ETGHF, just one of his many ways of keeping in touch. He enjoyed the Ebenezer community where he grew up, farmed, and raised his sons, but adjusted to the new community at Bond Head, farming with Bryan, and farming, when needed, with Rick at Ariss.

Bruce had a way of turning a tense moment into a humorous one, and through our tears we are left with many happy memories of a great husband, father, brother and treasured friend to many. As his son, Bryan said at the funeral, "He got what he wanted, died, doing what he loved best, farming, and not to suffer, but we didn't get what we wanted".

He was the wind beneath our sails.

HISTORIC SCHOOLHOUSE MOVES

In January, 2011, the 112 year old historic Ebenezer Schoolhouse (now the Ebenezer Community Hall) was moved back from the road approximately 50 feet (15 metres). This was deemed necessary to protect the building from the heavy traffic and road salt spray due to the recent road widening.

The relocation was part of a current project by the City of Brampton which, in addition to restoring the building, includes adding a basement and landscaping the grounds to include a community garden.

Many of you remember the building as a one-room schoolhouse (in fact you may have been

one of the students). After 70 years operating as a school, in 1962 the building was converted for use as the Toronto-Gore Township Council Chambers (the only township hall still standing in Brampton).

In 1973, the building became the Ebenezer Community Hall and continues as a meeting place for the current area residents.

BOOK PROJECT – 200 YEARS IN THE GORE

Archibald McVean settled in the Gore of Toronto, Upper Canada, in 1818. As we approach 200 years in the Gore, Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation has agreed to support a group to write a book recognizing the back breaking efforts of our historic pioneers. This is a huge project and we are asking for assistance in providing us with your family history, stories, community participation and photographs.

To contribute, please contact

old.ebenezer.chapel@gmail.com or mail your stories to Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation, 8999 The Gore Road, Brampton, ON L6P 2P7

RENTAL ACTIVITIES

The chapel continues to be rented Sunday morning and afternoon, Wednesday and Friday evenings for services and fellowship gatherings. The City of Brampton rents Monday to Fridays from 1 - 4 pm to accommodate a local seniors group while the community hall is being restored.

If you are interested in checking on what days and times the chapel is available, you can now access the calendar on our website
www.oldebenezerchapel.com

Memberships

Don't forget to renew your 2011 membership. An application form is enclosed for your convenience. Please return to the address on the form.

Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation

Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

- Membership fee of \$20 for one calendar year
 An additional donation to the Foundation of \$ _____

A tax receipt will be issued. Charitable donations number 87678 4315 RR001

Return to: ETG Historical Foundation 8999 The Gore Road Brampton ON L6P 2P7