

## **Ruth Mabee – October 25, 1926-May 2, 2024**

I would like to thank everyone for coming this morning. Mom was always ready for a meeting, a party or actually any get-together.

I'll always remember her for her many accomplishments, some were her own personal achievements, but many more were for her community advancements.

Shortly after marrying Dad, they moved into the farm on the 12<sup>th</sup> concession of King. For additional income several different things were tried: a 10 acre Apple orchard, later on 2-3 acres of various vegetables, I specifically recall cucumbers one year and another year it was turnips. The turnips that weren't sold were fed to the cows, a trick in itself for the cows with only lower teeth. The cows managed but the cream we sold to Tottenham Creamery apparently created butter with a unique flavour.

In 1963, Mom got her Real Estate License by studying the actual legislation being a 300-400 page book of pure legaleze and then a lengthy exam. She started selling for a Real Estate company in Cookstown and soon found that this was a calling. In 1964, she obtained her Broker's License which allowed her to open an office on Main Street Schomberg with 2 Salespeople working for her.

Within a few years, she bought 19 Queen St N in Tottenham and opened an office there, but when she learned that the building at the corner of Queen and Mill Streets was available, she bought it from Royal Bank. She went on to buy out a Real Estate Company and a Travel Company in Tottenham Mall. The Travel company gave Ruth and Royce the opportunity to travel world-wide which they did several times.

Another Real Estate company was bought in Alliston which gave them yet another office. Other offices were opened in both Bond Head and Beeton.

Mom became involved with Tottenham Chamber of Commerce as soon as she had an office in town and possibly one of the lessor known events was that she was chairperson for a Large Formal dinner celebration that local politicians and the lieutenant Governor of Ontario was to attend. I believe it was a Social Success but not so much Financially.

To recoup some of the financial losses, she floated the idea of a "Trade Fair" whereby local tradespeople and merchants could showcase their products to the community. This seemed to be a success and over the years all indoor spaces on the arena floor were taken and some vendors set up trailers in the parking lot. Other communities followed this pattern and I believe the Bolton Chamber or Rotary called Ruth to a meeting to help them decide whether they should continue with theirs or if she had suggestions to help them improve.

In 1984, as President of the Chamber of Commerce, she thought Tottenham, with its proximity to Toronto, might benefit from tourism, and started negotiating with Canadian National Railway to acquire the decommissioned rail line from south of Tottenham into Beeton.

The following year, saw 2 Steam Engines, a diesel engine and 22 pieces of rolling stock arrive on those tracks.

Always ready for new adventures, she started taking flying lessons out of Base Border and at the age of 64 obtained her License in a Cessna 172.

There are so many other of her accomplishments, but the one thing I'll always believe, was that in many areas, Mom was the Dreamer/Believer/Planner and Dad was the Contractor that ensured her vision became reality.