

Ron and Patty Thomas/iStock/Getty Images Plus photo



## PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF SIMCOE COUNTY'S BARNs

A Simcoe County organization has started a project to document the history of barns in the area.

The **Simcoe County Historical Association** is looking for volunteers to help conduct a barn picture survey. The association will use these photos to build a database of structures it hopes to donate to the **Simcoe County Archives**.

Keeping the memories of old barns alive is important because they are part of the history of their communities, said **Ted Duncan**, president of the historical association.

"I call these barns Ontario's castles and, right now, they're falling down," he told *Better Farming*. "These buildings are a representation of the work of the early settlers."

For the picture survey, volunteers will take photos of barns from the road. Photographers will only go onto a farmer's property with permission, Duncan said.

After they take the pictures, volunteers will research the construction process and highlight how this work changed over time.

Duncan would like to see other areas follow Simcoe County's lead on similar projects.

Anyone interested in helping with the survey or who has a barn he or she would like photographed can contact Duncan at tedcansher@sympatico.ca. **BF**

## AG HELPS GROW GREAT KIDS

Bringing ag into the classroom has a positive effect on children, said **Dr. Kathryn Markham-Petro**, a faculty member in **St. Clair College's** school of community studies in Essex County.

These experiences "allow students who would otherwise not be exposed (to ag) to have a soft introduction to the basics of the industry," she said. "At **Western University** (where I earned my doctorate), we found that's something that's lacking, especially in urban schools."

Markham-Petro comes from a farming family. She was surprised by the lack of food literacy today's students display, she said. She wasn't surprised by the effects of introducing crops to the classroom, though.

"The outcomes were, obviously, good," she laughed. Being in green spaces and seeing food grow improves students' behaviour and sense of well-being. These experiences are good for kids and for the future of the industry.

More needs to be done, though, Markham-Petro said. Producers can help by offering teachers a chance to organize a meet-and-greet with students. **BF**



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## A FARMING LIFE: CARSON VICTOR KNOX

*Dedicated farmer; eternal optimist; veteran member of Holstein Canada. Born March 22, 1932; died May 3, 2019, aged 87, in Bobcaygeon.*

A neighbour used to say that **Carson Knox**, who farmed in Fenelon Falls, would "slip into a different gear when he'd get into the tractor."

The neighbour "meant (Dad) just kind of relaxed," **John Knox**, Carson's son, explained to *Better Farming*. "He just liked the view from the tractor seat, I guess."

Among the many tasks on the family dairy farm, his father preferred field work, John said. The father-son duo had an active farming partnership at **Knoxdale Farm** until about three years ago

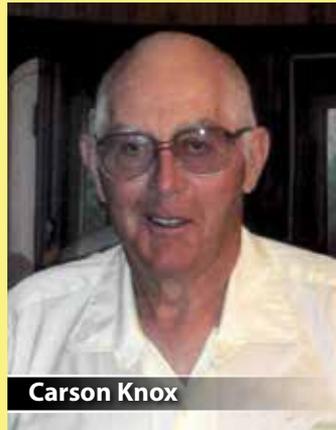
when Carson fell and broke his hip. The fourth generation of Knoxs to farm the land, Carson and his wife **Betty** saw their main challenge

as the work his ancestors began: making improvements to the farm. While a 50-cow dairy herd paid the bills, Carson concentrated on crops, improving yields, and building soil mainly using manure, solid rotations "and rock picking," John said.

"You've heard the term eternal optimist? That would

(describe) Dad as far as the farm went," said John, who continues to farm with his wife **Julie**.

"He plugged along and to the greater extent he was right. ... I have three sisters and (Mom and Dad) raised the family," John said. **BF**



Carson Knox

Knox family photo