



**Inducted: 2001**

Ken and Dora Hutton founded Hutton Farm Supplies in 1934. They are recognized for their contributions to the Agri-Food Industry as reflected by their innovative approach to their feed, seed, and farm-supply business. Constantly searching to keep abreast of new techniques in farming, "Huttons" was always on the cutting edge of technology as it pertained to agriculture at the time. They were one of the first Ontario farm-supply outlets to supplement manure with added plant food, to introduce the application of anhydrous ammonia for corn, and to supply bulk-blended fertilizers. A totally community-focused couple, Ken and Dora continue to be respected by their long-term customers, their business partners, and their community.

**KEN AND DORA HUTTON**

**(B.1911)**

**(B.1912)**

Ken and Dora were both born and raised in the Uniondale area, 5 miles east of Wellburn. They were neighbours and attended the same public school.

As a young boy Ken often helped his mother prepare produce and chickens for sale at the original London Convent Garden Market buildings. They would get up very early Saturday morning and travel to London to market their produce. Ken got his first real introduction to agriculture by working for his older brother who owned Medina Feed Mill at Medina. When he established his own feed mill in 1934 the world was in the midst of a depression and money was scarce. Ken purchased the frame of an old house in Stratford and hauled it to Wellburn, a few beams at a time to establish the basic structure for the mill.

Dora (Gleason) whose family was one of the original homestead families of East Nissouri, excelled at elementary school graduating at age 11. Following high school in St. Marys, Dora attended Stratford Normal School. This led to a teaching position at Brown's School (SS #3, E. Nissouri), which she held for 5 years until she married Ken on July 22, 1936.

After their marriage Dora became the bookkeeper for the business, a job she kept until her retirement. Ken's primary role was to look after the mill production by maintaining the engines, grinders and mixers. However, because labourers were hard to come by during the war they often helped each other with various roles when necessary. Dora often worked in the mill bagging feed, mixing grass seed and delivering feed products.

Both Ken and Dora kept very well informed on the many changes to Ontario Agriculture by reading extensively all agricultural publications available. What resulted was an innovative business that was able to provide the latest products and technology to the surrounding agricultural community. Some of the products and services would include: adoption of balanced feeds including the addition of proteins, vitamins and minerals that greatly enhanced feeding efficiencies; custom pasture and hay mixtures with formulas to suit individual farmer requirements; certified and registered cereal seed mixes that gave farmers much improved yields over farm cleaned bin run seed; recognizing and supporting the program of supplementing manure with added plant food. In the early 1940's they began offering bagged horse byproduct which was added to the soil to improve yields. During the war years Huttons held the Case farm machinery dealership and provided many area farmers with their first tractor; as rubber tires became more popular and available Ken changed many of the steel tired tractors to rubber which led to increased efficiencies. For many years they provided rural homes with a source of furnace and stove coal, delivering as much as 25 rail cars a year. As the business could afford it Ken and Dora assisted many local farmers with extended credit to help them develop their farming operations. In the mid 1950's they introduced the use of anhydrous ammonia for corn, in 1965 bulk blending of fertilizer products became available and over time additional spreaders, high flotation fertilizer and chemical applicators were added to the fleet.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's their two sons, Murray and Bob, joined the family business, which eventually became known as Hutton Farm Supplies Limited. Five years after selling their business to C.I.L. (Canadian Industries Limited), Ken and Dora retired at age 65.

In retirement Ken and Dora have maintained their strong commitments to family, friends and community. As well, their motor home has allowed them the opportunity to hunt and fish throughout Canada and on numerous occasions, extended southern vacations.

Ken and Dora Hutton started with a small feed mill and over their careers built that into a full-service, community-based agricultural business. In their time they negotiated significant agricultural deals with many of the largest grain brokers and fertilizer manufactures in the business, however, they always had time to discuss the requirements of the smallest farmer. They established a solid reputation with suppliers and customers of being honest and fair.

Today we join together to celebrate and honour the achievements of a couple married almost 65 years, who, through their team approach have shown themselves to be leaders in Middlesex agriculture.