

The Danfords in Stirling Rawdon

Samuel Danford came from Wales and settled in Thurlow Township. His son, Samuel J. Danford born in 1841, moved to Bonarlaw in 1863 and raised seven children. Samuel J's son Joseph, born in 1873 in Bonarlaw, married Fanny Thomas and moved to Madoc to operate his father's Woolen Mill.

Joseph had six children, and his youngest son, Walter, born in Madoc in 1909, married Lena McMaster in 1929. Lena was a U.E.L. descendant whose family was awarded an original land grant in Adolphustown in 1784. Her parents, Charles and Annie, settled on a farm on the 8th Concession of Rawdon. Walter farmed in several locations in the township, eventually moving to Springbrook on the 9th Concession in 1939.

Walter and Lena raised a family of four, Nora, Harry, Gerald, and Bonnie. Nora married Lorne Cooke, and she still lives on the Cooke family farm on the 8th Concession of Rawdon.

Harry married Lola McConnell from Mt. Pleasant and in the late 1960's they purchased Walter's farm along with the original McMaster Century Farm. Harry and Lola have two children, Barry and Mary who were both active in local sports.

Harry has been involved in many agricultural committees. He served on Rawdon Township Council for 14 years, 9 years as Reeve and a member of County Council and in 1989 as Warden of Hastings County. In 1995 he was elected to the Ontario Legislature as the member for Hastings-Peterborough. For the 5 year term, he was Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture.

As an elected member of the Legislature and a UEL descendant, Harry introduced a Private Member's Bill to declare June 19 the anniversary of the Constitutional Act United Empire Loyalist Day in the province of Ontario. The bill was given Royal Assent and passed into law in December 1997 with unanimous all party support in the Legislature. June 19 is now an official day formally established by the Ontario Legislature to commemorate and celebrate our Loyalist heritage.

Harry has been a chartered member of the Rawdon Volunteer Fire Department for over 30 years and is currently involved with the Hastings County Agricultural Museum in Stirling, the Hastings County Plowing Match and the Stirling Masonic Lodge.

Harry and Lola are active members of Springbrook United Church and continue to be involved in many aspects of their community. They now reside in their new home located on the original McMaster homestead.

HARRY DANFORD

Harry Danford was born and raised in Rawdon Township and as a youth was active in 4-H at the local, regional and provincial levels.

The Danford Holstein herd carried the Elmford prefix and produced four Excellent cows. Harry served as President of the Hastings County Holstein Club, the Hastings County Milk Committee, was a member of the E.B.I. Sire Selection Committee and the Central Ontario Holstein Council.

Harry Danford was elected to Rawdon Township Council, served all council positions, was a member of Hastings County Council and was elected Warden in 1989.

He served as a Director and Chairman of the Lower Trent Conservation Authority and for 32 years volunteered as a charter member of the Rawdon Township Fire Department.

Harry was elected to the Ontario Legislature as M.P.P. for the riding of Hastings-Peterborough and acted as Parliamentary Assistant to the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs from 1995-1999. He was successful in introducing the United Empire Loyalist Act in 1997.

Harry has continued to remain active in many facets of agriculture and rural life including Springbrook United Church, the Hasting County Plowmens Association, the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage, the Hastings Farm Service Association and the Masonic fraternity.

**Nominated by the Hastings County Plowing Match & Farm
Show**

Inducted 2008