



**KENNETH BROWN PATTERSON
(1917-2014)**

Kenneth was born in Middlesex County and grew up on a farm near Strathroy. He was involved with many organizations: the Middlesex Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Middlesex and Ontario Federations of Agriculture, as well as the Middlesex Canning Crop Growers Association. Kenneth participated in a number of committees such as the Ontario Crop Insurance Arbitration Board, Fanshawe College Agriculture Advisory Board, Ontario Grain Corn Council and the Eastern Canada Grain Standards Committee. He led trade & research missions to the US and around the world, as well as lectured at educational meetings across Ontario

**Kenneth Brown Patterson
(1917-2014)**

Born June 27/1917 , the son of Wesley and Jane Patterson, Ken grew upon a farm in Caradoc township near Strathroy. His formal education was limited to public school, however, being an avid reader Ken was able to keep abreast of the rapid changes that were occurring in the farm community. As time went on, he availed himself of Dale Carnegie courses as well as others put on by the Department of Agriculture and other commodity boards.

In the late thirties and during the war years , money and jobs were scarce. Ken recalled one of his occupations as being a milk inspector/dairy barn whitewasher for Silverwoods Dairies of London. With the stability of this job it allowed him to marry Elda Tedball in 1945 . It was to be a shared relationship that lasted for sixty-nine years. In 1947 they purchased their first farm on Murphy Drive , Kerwood.

The post-war period and into the late Fifties , while there wasn't a lot more money around, there was a steady consistent growth in the consumer markets leading to an increased demand for production. The Patterson farm embraced that growth , not only did the farm expand in that period but the family expanded with three children: Lorna, Wayne and Bernice. The farm, at that time, raised a few pigs and cattle but Ken was much more interested in the production of sugar beets, seed cereal grain and small acreage of grain corn.

At the beginning of the 60's we have to remember that most farms in Ontario were small mixed producers with both cattle , crops to support them and the rest as a cash crop. Corn might be 15 acres, half for the silo , half as grain stored in a corn crib. Very- very little corn was grown east of Toronto. Change came fast. New herbicides (Atrazine) increased weed control, improved genetics shortened the growing period ,new ideas with mechanization of both planting and harvesting (tractor mounted pickers, picker-shellers, corn heads for combines) led to whole farms being planted to corn. A new commodity for Ontario farmers had been created. It needed an infrastructure.

Ken, in his quest for crop production knowledge, joined the local Soil and Crop Improvement Association . He quickly found that the more he put into the organization the more he got out. From 1964 to 1983 he found himself on boards or committees for either Middlesex or Ontario association's . From 1966-1983 he championed Ontario corn at educational meetings throughout the province and to others involved in the industry (Ontario Grain and Feed Dealers Association, Canada Grains Council Meetings, Canadian Feed Manufacturers Association, Ridgetown College of Agriculture and Technology students)

He was president of the Middlesex County Federation of Agriculture and a member of the Ontario Board. In 1968 he was a member of the group that established Embrum Farms in eastern Ontario for experimental corn production

Ken, while lacking in formal education, was quite well read, very knowledgeable on his topics and a good speaker . As a result his hectic schedule became even busier. In the period from 1970-1982 Ken was a member of the Ontario Crop Insurance Arbitration Board, member and chair of Fanshawe College Agriculture Advisory Board, Chair of the Ontario Grain Corn Council ,Chair of the OSCIA Research Committee, an executive member of the Ontario Soil Management Committee. He was appointed to the Eastern Canada Grain Standards Committee was a consultant to Ontario grain dealers regarding locations for new elevators, chaired a research project for OMMAF to develop and promote corn and barley production in Huron and Perth counties.

When sugar beet production in Ontario shut down Ken along with a number of others approached Green Giant in Tecumseh to see if they could supply some of the canning crops needed for that plant . He was able to supply sweet corn, peas and snap beans.

Ken was targeted by the government to lead missions to Michigan, Ohio, England and France. These missions were to study grain storage, both on farm and commercial, land and water access drying methods ,fuels and aeration equipment that could be applicable in Ontario. In 1981 Ken was elected president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and in 1982 he led a trade mission to Spain , Portugal, North Africa and England to promote sale of Ontario Corn.

For his work , to improve agricultural production in Ontario , Ken received many accolades. He was a recipient of the U. of G. Centennial Medal for service and leadership in agriculture, he was chosen London Chamber of Commerce farmer of the year, honored by both OMMAF and OFA for significant contributions to agriculture and food industry in Ontario and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Canadian Association of Agrologists

Ken passed away January 1,2014 . He had a full and long life shared with his wife Elda . He farmed with both his son Wayne and grandson Jeff. Throughout his life the knowledge and expertise he gained was shared with his community .