

# Bev Brown was an indomitable force in Huron

Bev Brown, who died Sunday, September 26, 2010 at her home in Stratford had a force of personality that made her unforgettable to everyone who came in contact with her.

She spent the latter half of her 80 years in Huron County, leaving her mark on many organizations, including the founding of this newspaper.

She was born on June 20, 1930 in Toronto, the daughter of the late Marcus and Helen (Smith) Brown. After getting her early schooling in Toronto, she attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, then graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she specialized in personnel administration.

She was working for the Cryovac Division of W. R. Grace & Co. of Canada, where she rose to the position of supervisor of the customer service department, when she met co-worker Jean Moorby. The two became friends and learned they both shared interests in animals and the outdoors.

They dreamed of buying an outfitters camp in Temagami, but with the scare in the late 1960s about mercury in fish they turned in another direction. searching for a farm between Orangeville and Lake Huron.

They became acquainted with George and Elizabeth Procter and accepted an invitation to spend a weekend at Bodmin Farms to learn about the pig business. Soon after they bought a farm in Turnberry Twp. which they called B & J Acres.

They took a professional approach

to raising weanling pigs to ship to other producers, seeking out the best foundation stock and expert advice. Though many doubted they'd last, they established a solid reputation for having healthy weaner pigs. Later they switched to supplying breeding stock. Brown delighted in their nickname: "The Pig Ladies".

As the more outgoing of the partners, Brown soon became involved in the Turnberry Twp. Federation of Agriculture, and from there with the Huron County Federation of Agriculture, serving on the executive. At the provincial level, she worked on the resource committee of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

In the late 1970s, she was the first woman on the advisory committee for the agriculture business management course at Centralia College of Agriculture Technology and several times lectured at the swine workers' course on the psychology of pigs.

In 1978 she became a member of the founding committee of the Town and Country Homemakers, serving for three years as chair.

When A. Y. McLean of *The Huron Expositor* bought *The Rural Voice* farm magazine in 1978, he created an advisory committee of agricultural leaders to help guide the direction of the magazine. Brown was one of these along with Sheila Gunby. When McLean later decided to sell off his various publications, Brown and Gunby became partners with Brown selling the advertising and Gunby editing.

In 1981 Brown and Moorby decided their swine operation was



becoming too difficult for them to manage so they got out of pigs.

For a couple of years Brown worked at *The Rural Voice* before her partnership with Gunby ended. Moorby became ill with cancer and died in Mexico in February 1984 with Brown by her side.

When Brown returned to Huron County she was approached by McLean who had been asked to act as editor of the Huron County Historic Atlas. She took on the job of co-ordinator for the project, guiding the massive project of its completion.

Among her staff there was Jill Roulston and when Roulston and her husband Keith were organizing (along with Sheila Richards) the community-owned newspaper *The Citizen*, they asked her to come on board to be advertising manager. She was so successful in selling the debut edition that the staff, rusty

from several years of non-involvement in the newspaper industry, barely managed to get the thick paper out on time.

Over the next two years her competitive drive to always exceed her sales goals helped the newspaper get off to a booming start.

After leaving *The Citizen* she worked for the Huron County Health Unit until her retirement.

It was when she was based in *The Citizen's* Brussels office, she decided to make Brussels her home, selling the Turnberry farm. She became an active part of the community until ill health prompted a move to Stratford two years ago.

At the centre of her life in Brussels was the Brussels Mennonite Fellowship where with her usual enthusiasm she became an integral part of the church, involved in such events as the 10,000 Villages craft sale.

The auditorium at the Mennonite Fellowship was filled on Saturday, Oct. 2 for a memorial service with

many people stepping forward to share their memories of the memorable woman. Many noted that though she never had children of her own, she took such an active interest in the lives of their children that she influenced their futures. One of these was theatrical performer Craig Fair who sang and performed at the service with his father Sandy and brother Shawn.

The service was officiated by Pastor Herb Sawatzky, her pastor at Avon Mennonite Church in Stratford and Pastor Brent Kipfer, her former pastor at Brussels Mennonite Fellowship.

Beverly Adele Brown is survived by her sister Helen Joanne Holmes of Corpus Christi, Texas. She was the aunt of Tracy Mistler and her husband Michael of Overland Park, Kansas and Lauren and Forrest of California. She was the cousin of Pat and her husband Bill Zeigler of Akron, Ohio. She was predeceased by her parents, her bother "Buddy" Marcus L. Brown III and her cousin Mary Kiernan, California.

**BE A  
FACE  
IN THE FIGHT  
AGAINST CANCER**



**BECAUSE CANCER IS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, SO ARE WE.**

Open your door and give generously when a Canadian Cancer Society volunteer comes knocking this April.

**HELP US MAKE CANCER HISTORY.**

[www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)



Canadian Cancer Society    Société canadienne du cancer

# Business Directory



**ZAHND REAL ESTATE LTD.**  
BROKERAGE

P.O. Box 38  
Listowel, Ontario N4W 3H2

**Claude Robin**  
Broker  
519-887-6205

**Kurt Keller**  
Sales Representative  
519-236-7874

[www.zahnd.on.ca](http://www.zahnd.on.ca)

**CASH SAVINGS**

**ON \$6.00 THURSDAYS**

Drop into either of our offices any Thursday with your word classified (maximum 20 words) and pay only \$6.00 + HST (paid in advance). That's \$1.00 off regular rates.

**The Citizen**

**Alan P. Reed, CA 519 357 3231**  
[areed@bdo.ca](mailto:areed@bdo.ca)    Wingham, ON

ASSURANCE | ACCOUNTING | TAXATION | ADVISORY SERVICES

**BDO. More than you think.**



**WARD & UPTIGROVE**

P.O. Box 127  
145 MAIN STREET EAST  
LISTOWEL, ONTARIO  
N4W 3H2

PHONE: 519-291-3040  
Fax: 519-291-1850  
Email: [wuca@w-u.on.ca](mailto:wuca@w-u.on.ca)  
Visit our website  
[www.wardanduptigrove.com](http://www.wardanduptigrove.com)

**TRUCK & TRAILER SERVICE**



**Truck & Trailer Repair Facility**

BLYTH  
519-523-9681 1-800-276-4163 • Light Truck, Automotive Repairs & Certifications  
24 hours 519-524-0599 • Truck, Trailer & Bus Safety Certifications  
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7-5; Sat. 8-1 • All Heavy Truck & Trailer Repairs

**Supplier of quality parts for trucks, trailers & equipment**  
~ Light truck & automotive parts



**Talk to us instead.**  
CALL THE  
CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY'S  
TOLL-FREE  
**SMOKERS' HELPLINE**  
1-877-513-5333

**Affordable  
CAR AND TRUCK  
RENTALS**

**Large & Small Trucks**  
fridge carts - piano dollies-  
moving blankets

**Complete Selection of Cars**  
Our rates qualify for  
insurance replacement

**Passenger Vans**  
full size or mini

**STRICKLANDS**  
344 Huron Rd. 519-524-9381  
GODERICH 1-800-338-1134



**NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
AGRICULTURAL  
RENOVATIONS  
RESIDENTIAL

call **519-527-1538**  
Tarion Home Warranty Builders

**TREE SERVICE**

- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Aerial Buckets • Snow Removal
- Stump Grinding & Removal

Free Estimate  
24 Hour  
Emergency Response



**Cell 519-525-1601**

**Here Comes  
the Guide!**

Getting married?  
In a wedding?  
Mother of the bride?  
Visit our website for  
all things bridal!

[www.northhuron.on.ca](http://www.northhuron.on.ca)  
(Click on Brides In Huron)



**JAMES BROWN PHARMACY**  
198 Josephine St., Wingham, Ont.  
519-357-1629  
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 - 6 Sat. 9 - 4  
Rear Parking Available

Live well with  
**PHARMASAVE**

Delivery available