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 John Moorby. The two became friends and learned they both shared interests in animals and the outdoors.

They dreamed of buying an outdoors camp in Temagami, but with the scare in the late 1960s about swine workers’ course on the Turnberry Twp. Federation of Agriculture, and from there, 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 Agriculture Historical 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 the 10,000 Villages craft fair who sang and performed at the fair, these was theatrical performer Craig Zeigler of Akron, Ohio. She was predeceased by her parents, her bother “Buddy” Marcus L. Brown III and her cousin Mary Kiernan, California.

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