



# Rae Pickell

## *Courtice/Ebenezer*

*Deep local farming roots, family farm  
stood on site of Courtice GO Station*

Keith and I went to a one room school, and we both had the same teacher for eight years. One year she had 54 kids in eight different grades. Miss Arnold was a very influential part of our growing up.

Keith's dad and my dad used to cut wood in the winter. In those days, that was with horses. They'd go out at the start of the day and come back hauling logs. Then, they'd all get together with the old buzzsaws... great big wheels with the tractors spinning them. It was the most dangerous thing you could ever imagine, and you'd never get away with that now.

And yet those were great times. Three

or four farmers would get together and they'd spend the day cutting wood. The next day, they would pack up and go cut wood at the next man's farm. Those were good times of camaraderie and the farm community doing things together.

My grandfather owned the middle stretch of what is now Darlington Provincial Park. When the 401 went through, he lost all that land to the south. That changed everything. My dad quit farming when he was 75 or 80. I think he knew by that time, that farming in that part of the world wasn't going to go on as it had.

