



Gladys Graham --- Sitting at the door.



1. Ruby McGugan, 2. Joan Johnson. <sup>tom</sup>



Serving Punch.

1. Ruby McGugan, @ 2. Joan Johnson.  
Looking on Marg Cowell.  
In front Kathy Minnema.





Visitors at the front door.



Visitors having punch.



1. Lillian Jones, 2. Sally McIntyre.





1.-----, 2, Gladys Egelton, 3. Pauline Lindsay.



Lillian Jones.



1. Marg Harris ( F W I O President.)

2. Kay Lilley saying thank you.







Ann McLean.



Ladies from Clachan Institute.



Betty Van Patter.



1. Marg Harris, 2. Helen Van Brenk.





1. Kay Lilley, 2. Joan Johnston, 3. Ruby McGugan.

1. Joan McLandress, 2. Dorothy Lamb.



1. Mary Gow, 2. Jean Gow-- Leitch.



1. Jean Morrison, Marjorie Ripley, 3, Mae Graham.





Ladies from Shedden Institute.



1. Eleanor McMillan. 2. Jan McMillan,  
3. Jill Morden.



1. Grace Campbell, 2. Rena Campbell.



Paynes Mills Institute Ladies.



CITIZENS.



# Farm life in 1888 — a marked contrast to today

by Susan Bennett  
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*Agriculture is a diverse industry. Farms vary according to size, location, production type and a myriad of other factors. This is as true today as it was 100 years ago.*

*However, a general description of farming and rural life will prove useful and interesting during the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Centennial Year.*

*The following information is based upon a wide range of primary and secondary source materials available at the Ontario Agricultural Museum Library/Archives, such as diaries, farm journals, letters and official reports. These data help to establish a picture of a "typical" farm in Ontario back in 1888.*

The year 1888 opened on a dismal note; the province's farmers faced a hay and wheat shortage — the result of a wet spring followed by a summer of drought in 1887.

It was wet again in 1888, causing below average yields, but there were no drastic shortages.

The weather prompted Ira Morgan, president of the Agriculture and Arts Association, to comment during the provincial exhibition at Kingston in 1888:

"Wheat is no longer the staple of Ontario and the reaper is almost superseded by the binder — if we have no means of drying grain artificially, we have a

superior method of storing it green — the silo."

Morgan also summed up the state of agriculture at that time:

"Livestock is now the staple of this province and is so likely to continue through all time. The exports of grain from Ontario are dwindling every year; while those of livestock and livestock products, both to the east and south, are rapidly

increasing year by year."

In terms of technology, he explained the direction in which agricultural leaders were looking to the future:

"With all the improvements in our agricultural implements, we have not yet attained everything. We are still waiting with anxious longing for the days to arrive when steam will be employed in the plowing and the sowing and the reap-

ing of our fields."

Morgan may have been slightly off the mark in his prophecy of the use of steam in agriculture, but in general terms, he was right on target in his prediction of the mechanization of farm work, through the application of power.

## Everyday Life

How did the "average" farmer fit into the scheme of things?

The pioneer era, which was dominated by wheat production, had essentially come to an end. The tendency was towards general or mixed farming, with some specialization primarily in the areas of dairy and livestock production.

Despite regional variations, the farm landscape was somewhat similar across the province.

Most of the log structures had been replaced by brick or frame houses which were one-and-a-half or two stories high.

The average farm family consisted of seven people: husband, wife and five children.

As a rule, farm homes did not have indoor plumbing, leaving the entire upstairs space for bedrooms.

There were two basic floor plans for the ground level of the farmhouse — either centre hall or side hall. Designated space usually included a parlor, a sliproom (bedroom for guests, or older family members), a dining parlor, kitchen, pantry and a summer kitchen/woodshed.

Some type of cellar or basement was most common, however there was usually little space for anything other than a cistern and dairy/storage area.

Farms were about 100 acres in size. Approximately 65 of these were improved.

Generally, 50 acres were planted in crops in any one year, while 15 were devoted to pasture. An additional acre or two were consumed by the garden and orchard.

The remainder of the farm consisted of unimproved woodlot, swamp, low areas,



*In 1888, farm families lacked many of the conveniences farmers enjoy today. But despite modern advances, farming continues to be a profession that requires hard work and dedication.* (Photo from the R.R. Sallows Collection, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.)

## L'héritage sans égal d'un agronome

*Pour commémorer le centenaire du ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, OMAF News publiera en 1988 une série de portraits de gens qui ont contribué aussi bien à la communauté qu'à l'industrie agro-alimentaire de l'Ontario.*

*La première de cette série est consacrée à*

Une grande partie des terres situées dans Prescott et Russell étaient impropres à la culture en raison des sols très sablonneux. À proximité du village de Bourget, il y avait même un endroit recouvert de dunes de sables qui était appelé à juste titre "le désert de Bourget". Cette condition des terres s'expliquait en partie par le passé

trèfle rouge et introduit de nouveaux troupeaux (ayrshire) pour la production laitière.

Laurent Farmer rappelle que l'agronome devait être aussi généreux de son temps pour d'autres tâches:

"Larose devait donner des conférences et informer les cultivateurs, ce qu'il faisait