

Some Dutch and Belgian Families of Bornish, Ontario

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

A list of Dutch and Belgian family names as found in the St. Columba-Sacred Heart parish records. They are not all from the 1949-1950s; some are of later immigration, or by marriage.

Adams	Janssens	Royackers	Van Ostaeyen
Ansems	Kanters	Schenning	Van Roestel
Cornelis	Kennes	Schepers	Van Sas
Cornelissen	Kindt	Soetemans	Vanden Bogaard
Coolman	Kremer	Sommerdyk	Vanden Broek
de Gouw	Kroonen	Spruytte	Vanden Eynden
de Koning	Kustermans	Struyf	Vander Aa
de Ruiter	Lauryssen	Thuss	Vanderheyden
Dekkers	Lepelaars	Timmermans	Vander Kant
Denys	Leyten	Van Asseldonk	Vander Vloet
Guedens	Masfrankc	Van Berkel	Van Diepenbeek
Godts	Maschelein	Van Deuren	Vanneste
Hendrikx	Michielsen	Van Gorp	Verberk
Herygers	Nuyten	Van Hooydonk	Vermunt
Hovenaars	Peeters	Van Massenhoven	Vriends
Jansen	Roelands	Van Moorsel	Willemse

In the 1920s, 15,000 Dutch, 13,000 Belgians, and 22,000 Czech and Slovaks immigrated to Canada, with many settling in the Blenheim area. Bishop Michael Fallon, of the London Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, invited the Capuchins (a Franciscan preaching and parochial order), based in Merlse-Dref, Brugge, Belgium, to come to the diocese. In 1927, Fr. Ladislaus (Joseph Zegers), and four other Capuchins arrived in Blenheim's St. Mary's Parish.

On a return visit to Europe, Fr. Ladislaus studied the Czech language to aid him in this "mission work". He preached every Sunday in English, Dutch and Czech to reach all the parishioners. His letters to his sister (wife of Aloysius Jansen) and to other family members in Alphen, Holland, told of all the farmland available in Ontario. His niece, Joanna, first learned of Canada from these letters. She and John Hendrikx married in 1941 and settled on a farm in Alphen.

When the Second World War ended, much of Europe, including Holland and Belgium, were in physical and economic ruin. The limited arable land grew scarcer. Residents, displaced during the war by fleeing danger or forced service, returned to already crowded homes. The outbreak of war in the Dutch

colony of Indonesia and the fear of a Russian invasion of Western Europe worried the survivors. Young people and young families, so long restricted by the Depression and then war, were restless. They were eager to establish their growing families even if it meant moving far away.

Destination Canada

Canada and Canadians had earned a good reputation among the Dutch during wartime and, especially, liberation. Canada offered space, freedom and promise of opportunity. Other emigrants chose to move to France, Australia and New Zealand, or South America --- particularly Brazil.

For John and Joanna Hendrikx, Canada was the chosen destination. Joe Kennes, who had contracted to work for them to avoid military conscription, applied immediately too. John, his pregnant wife Joanna, and their four children, left by ocean liner on March 12, 1948. They arrived in Halifax two weeks later, then travelled by train to Chatham, Ontario. In Blenheim, near Joanna's uncle, they sharecropped a farm owned by Adelson Gobert. Gobert, born in Belgium in 1904, was a real estate agent who located

and sold farms to Dutch and Belgian immigrants.

Joe Kennes arrived on April 20, 1948, to help the Hendrikss with crops of tomatoes, cucumbers and tobacco. The family's first year was a productive one.

In 1948, Fr. Ladislaus, C.F.M., of Blenheim, was invited to Parkhill by Fr. Joseph Paquette to preach a mission to a diminishing parish. Many farms in the Bornish/Parkhill area were for sale or had been abandoned. Others were occupied by aging parents or unmarried adult children. The Catholic schools had barely sufficient children to keep them open.

John Hendrixx, Joe Kennes and Adelson Gobert came to visit Fr. Paquette and survey the local farm area. Farms, with potential as livestock operations, were selling for less here than in Blenheim. Also they were close to a Catholic Church and school. In early February, 1949, John bought the farm on Lot 3, Con. 12, West Williams from bachelor Rory McIntosh and his unmarried sister, Margaret. Alfons Van Loock, a Dutch immigrant to Blenheim in the 1920s, bought Lot 10, Con.13, East Williams, west of John's (Kleeman's farm). John had already purchased a tractor and machinery in Blenheim. On a snowy day in late February, he and Joe Kennes drove the tractor and loaded wagon from Blenheim to the Van Loock house. They arrived after dark and were unable to find a stove pipe hole to set up the stove for extra heat. The next morning they found the hole had been neatly covered by the wallpaper. The neighbouring families of L.P. McDonald and John D. McCormick welcomed them and fed them during their initial stay. John made the trip from Blenheim to Bornish several times by bicycle. In late May, 1949, John's brother, Tony and Cornelia (Van Gorp) Hendrixx and family, came to John's farm. Joe Kennes's parents and family rented Van Loock's farm. John and Joe had to seed the crops in Blenheim and then in Bornish. Joe stayed in Bornish to get his family settled (he had already learned some English). His brother Harry went to work for John Hendrixx in Blenheim, for Adelson and Vicky Gobert; they stayed one more year after Gobert died Sept. 29, 1949. Louie Kennes went to school at S.S.S. 10 at Bornish for the last 4 weeks of school in June of 1949. He was the first new-Canadian, raising the total school population to 5 but, by September, more came to school. John D. and Clara McCormick "adopted" Louie that first spring so he wouldn't have to walk so far, leaving his family free to work.

In early spring of 1951, John and Johanna Hendrixx and family came to their farm on the 12th Concession of West Williams. Brother Tony had purchased on the Kerwood Road. In the fall of 1949, the Kennes's purchased Lot 4, Con. 16, East Williams and moved there in the spring of 1950 (where Louie and Carol live today).

For a variety of reasons these new families ended up in this area --- family contact, sponsorship by local farmers, employment possibilities.

There was a constant stream of new immigrant families now that there was a base to contact. Fr. Paquette travelled the concessions looking for potential farms and homes for the new families, Adelson Gobert brought Belgian buyers in. Through John Hendrixx, the direct contact person from Holland, the first Dutch families came from Nord Brabant, on the northern boundary with Belgium: Willemse and Hoevenaars (from Gilze),

Leyten (from Chaam), Van Hooydonk (from Prinsenbeek), Bax (from Poppel), Vander Vloet (from Alphen). John was also contacted by other Dutch families who were already working for Canadian farmers. These included Kustermans (from Cornwall, Ont.), Thuss and Jansen, Hendrixx's shipmates (from Blenheim, Ont.), Herygers (from Quebec), and Soetemans (from Aylmer, Ont.).

Once new families were established, their relatives and friends soon arrived in the area. These included the de Gouw, Vermunt, Ansems, Vanneste, Van Hevel, Coolman and Schenning families. Sometimes this was a permanent move, sometimes a stopping-off point before they moved to another area. The children and grandchildren of these first-generation Dutch and Belgian immigrants remained in or returned to East Williams. Several single adventurous lads without family connections passed, and stayed to find work, a wife, and eventually a farm, such as Van Deuren, Godts, Jansen, Vriends, VandenBoogaard, Van Roestel, Van den Eynden.



The de Gouw Family, Liverpool, England 1952
Mary, Marinus, Alice, Lucia, Francine

Belgian Families Arrive

The Belgian families, Denys, Masschelein, and Hallaert, came to this area initially with the assistance of Adelson Gobert. André and Godelieve Denys and family came to West Williams in 1949 from Vlanders, (near Flanders Fields, close to the Belgian-French border). They lived on a viable farm, shared by the several family members, but Andre wanted his family to create a niche of their own. In 1950, his brother Oscar and Maria Denys and family, stayed for a time on Con.19, East Williams and later moved to the Blenheim area. His sister, Marcella, and Marcel Van Hevel and family lived north of Parkhill in 1950 and later moved to the Mitchell area. The Vanneste family had their first Canadian home with their friends, the Denys family.

The Masschelein's sent their son Emile in 1948 to work for a farmer in Wallaceburg, Ontario, to look out for a potential home. Silveer and Irma Masschelein and family, from West Flanders, Belgium, sought peace and opportunity after the war. With the help of Gobert, they settled on Hwy. 81 next to the Nairn Road.

Adolphe Hallaert, whose family had left their war-torn farm in southern Belgium after WW I to go to the Somme in northern France, now found himself and his wife Marie Antoinette and seven children ravaged again. They had had enough of war, and came to Canada for family, farm and religious stability. Through the Blenheim connections, they made their home at Lot 7, Con. 14, East Williams in June 1950, later moving to Norwich where Irene Hallaert married Emile Masschelein.

Employment Found on Farms

Other families came quite by accident to Bornish. Some Canadian farmers sponsored the Dutch and Belgians for a year's employment. Angus Morrison, a bachelor farmer sponsored John and Elizabeth Van Massenhoven and family for accommodation and pay in 1949. The next season the four oldest grown children handed the wages they earned in tobacco to their parents to buy their own farm on Con.12, West Williams. Then followed brothers Albert and Joe and their families.

August Roelands worked for Donald and Grace McIntyre on Lot 7, Con. 11, East Williams. He credits the little McIntyre girls with patiently teaching him English. The next year he went back to get his new wife. The family eventually settled west of Parkhill.

During this time, Bob McCubbin employed several men whose families occupied houses on his farms such as Kuysten, Kersten, de Boer, Bof, Vandermaden, Van Asseldonk, and de Koning, until such time that they could start out on their own.

Thirlwalls hired the Schennings; J.J. Johnson had Kanters helping him. As well, Alex McGregor, Chas. Bannister and Bill Cox were in need of help. Norman and Grace Hodgins provided employment and home for Van Roestel and then Hein Hofland for many years.

Others who worked on farms here or elsewhere before buying their own were the Appelman, Twynstra and Dieleman families.

The normal pay for a single man was \$45 per month plus room and board; families received \$75 per month plus housing. Dinie (Kuysten) Twynstra was the first non-English-speaking pupil at Springbank Public School in 1950.

The Dutch Reformed Community

No one living in Holland, regardless of religion, had been spared the ravages of war. Many Dutch families from the provinces of Friesland and Nord Holland, members of the Dutch Reformed Church came to Canada for all the same reasons. Unlike the Catholics, there was no Dutch Reformed community established here to welcome them. It was not long, however, before they gathered together in Strathroy. The 1953 flooding of Zeeland forced the Vandermadens and the de Boers to seek refuge and apply for placement on Canadian farms. The de Vlughts had spent an extended war period in Indonesia from 1934-1948, only to come home to Holland where there was no room for them either. Canada's bountiful resources and space beckoned.

Some of the placements were godsend, others were to areas where the farming possibility on rough, infertile or heavy terrain was challenging even for hardy Canadians. The Dutch and Belgians were used to fertile, soft soils though limited. Some families beseeched their families and friends already here to save them from self-serving or nonpaying employers.

Immigrants from Holland were severely restricted as to the amount of money they could take with them - \$125 per adult and \$30 per child. Methods of bringing funds by "underground" routes were devised quickly. Money was hidden in the false walls of bureaus, bicycle frames, extra wide hems or linings of clothes. Shipping containers carried household goods as well as drygoods, woollen yarns and footwear to be sold in Canada for much needed cash. Sometimes a "trusted someone" transported cash to foreign banks, mostly in Switzerland, to be transferred to Canadian banks. By the mid-1950s, émigrés from Holland could get financial assistance, if the assets of the family were less than \$2500. For selected emigres, the Dutch government paid for their trip and they received \$80 each from the Canadian government to aid in their settlement. There was, however, no automatic approval for immigration into Canada. Medical checkups had to be passed and political and criminal backgrounds were checked. Any glitches could scuttle the application.

The Belgians did not have the same restrictions on their resources but, nonetheless, their wallets were thin, too, for few had survived the war years with their "portefeuille" bulging. Many had sold their few extra possessions to pay for passage to Canada and could not afford to return even they had wanted to. For many, their portion of the dwelling already accommodated another family before they had left European shores, so severe was the housing shortage.

Seasonal Employment

At first, to assist with cashflow, older children and often fathers had to find outside employment. There was a variety of labour-intensive opportunities - spring, summer and fall work in tobacco, sugar beets, cucumbers, beans, peas, and the developing market gardening of Grand Bend; aid for local farmers for cleaning box stalls and haying; in winter, cutting logs for lumber companies and firewood for local farmers at 50 cents per day with bush saw, axe and wedge; construction of railways, bridges and roads; trenching by shovel for gas and water lines; local creamery, brickyard, sawmills and furniture factories.

For the young girls, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Hospitals and Brescia Hall, all in London, provided employment away from home. Closer to home, there was always a family with a newborn baby who needed short-term assistance. These were often only temporary, until a family had saved enough to establish a home and farming operation.

Within a few years, the former hawthorned grass pastures produced crops of alfalfa, grains and corn for the dairy cows as the immigrant farmers slowly increased their herds. Holstein heifers took over the pastures from the Red Angus beef. A few sows could be housed in that other shed or barn. To add to the mixed farm, every Dutch and Belgian farmer, at some time, grew sugar beets, cucumbers and beans.

Because of the location of St. Columba's Catholic Church and S.S.S. 10 at Bornish, the early Dutch settlement was close to church and school in West Williams and East Williams, within the first two miles west or east of Hwy. 81. The school soon bulged in population - all non-English-speaking, with Mrs. Louise (Alex) Morrison as the teacher. This situation was duplicated in Parkhill at Sacred Heart School. With the influx, Fr. Paquette, ever mindful of the needs of his new parishioners, requested a Dutch-speaking priest come to Parkhill-Bornish area. Fr. Peter Oostveen was first assistant and later pastor. He later served parishes in Watford and St. Columban, between Dublin and Seaforth, and is now retired in Chatham. In the 1950s, Mass was celebrated on Sundays and weekdays as often in Bornish as in Parkhill.

With family life the cycles of birth, marriage and death go on, even in a new land. The first baptisms recorded of Dutch and Belgian immigrant children were Marlene Maria Vermeersch, daughter of Jerome Vermeersch and Erma Masschelein, (unrelated but of the same area as Masschelein's) and Johanna Maria Hendrikx daughter of Tony and Cornelia Hendrikx, in October, 1949. The first marriages were Leon Van Heule and Godelieve Masschelein, then Kenneth McRae and Maria Van Massenhoven. The first deaths were children, John de Kroon (1952) (whose family lived on the Haig farms and later moved to Dublin, Ont.) and Johannes Van Asseldonk (1955) each a year old, and Cornelia Leyten, (1955) an infant.

Nova Scotia Attracts Some Families

In the late 1950s, the province of Nova Scotia attracted several families, with the promise of reasonably priced land and low guaranteed interest rates. This cancelled plans for the expansion of the school. The move of the Leyten, Kustermans, Herygers families removed several students from S.S.S 10 at Bornish. Many of these families, however, trickled back from Nova Scotia in later years.

Unlike some ethnic groups, the Dutch were not so adamant about retaining their language and culture to form closed communities. Instead the family worked on or near the farm, and close to their Catholic church and school and concentrated on their family. Dutch immigrants organized St. Willibrord Credit Union, the annual Dutch picnic at Sacred Heart Fathers' property in Delaware and the St. Joseph's Club. Dutch and Belgian ancestry is claimed by many area families; these connections are evident in every facet of local life in East Williams, especially in the expansions and improvements of homes, farms and farmland.

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The de Gouw Family 1974
Elsie, Mary, Francine, Joanne, Peter, Alice
Barbara, Angela, Agnes, Lucia, Marinus

The de Gouw Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

Marinus de Gouw was born, October 5, 1919, third of four surviving children of Peter de Gouw and Elizabeth Gevers near Achtmaal, Zundert in Nord Brabant, Holland. The family rented one of several farms in the Buisheide, a large estate owned by a lord. Today, about 1000 acres of older forest and scrubland have been left to return to its natural state. Later, Elizabeth, his widowed mother, married Cornelius Vermunt and they had four sons. After her death, Cornelius married Barbara Maria Jongelen, a widow with three daughters.

On March 21, 1922, Lucia Kustermans was born, in the same town, daughter of Adrianus Kustermans and Anna Kuystermans, the seventh of ten children. She and Marinus were married on Feb. 3, 1948; she being the first of three Kustermans to marry that spring. Their first home was a small rented farm in Wommelgem, near Antwerp, Belgium. Owning a farm would remain a dream, unless divided from family holdings or inherited from a rich relative. Within a few years, Marinus "Rein" and Lucia were looking to go elsewhere for space to farm and raise their growing family, now three girls: Annalies, Mary, and Francine. Lucia's two brothers, Andrew and Adrian were emigrating to Canada. Once they were settled in the Watford-Parkhill area, the de Gouw family, (accompanied by her sister Maria and Peter Rombouts and their nine children) followed, from Ostende, Belgium to Dover, England, then to Liverpool and by the *Empress of France* to St. John, New Brunswick, arriving in Canada on March 5, 1952. The days of seasickness were over as they touched solid land, and a two-day train ride brought them to London, Ont. in the dark of night. Two not-so-convinced taxi drivers loaded the two families, 16 in all, with two wicker baby baskets and luggage, into two cabs; they were handed a note with a foreign name at R.R. 8, Watford, and headed out into the dark countryside to deliver the newcomers.

Within six weeks of looking at farms with Adrian Kustermans and John Hendriks, they bought the farm at Lot 7, Con. 12, East Williams from Fred Hollands. His wife, Katherine finished the wallpapering she was doing before the de Gouw family moved in late April. The house had a telephone and the hydro line ran past at the road but not onto the property. They were enthused about the big brick house and the two large barns, and land to farm, 2 km. from church and school. That same summer, de Gouw's provided the pasture among the hawthorns and Tony Willemse, the cow and they shared the milk for their families. This was the start of the milking herd that grew from selling milk as cream, then in cans, and then in bulk.

The cattle herd grew, pigs were added, and more land rented and/or bought. The first few years were tragic cashcrop years due to inexperience with farm practices and adverse weather even for Canadian farmers. Their dream of farming their own land did come true. More barns were built, like one of the first polebarns in the area, and later one of the first Harvestore silos for feed. Marinus "Martin" was readily recognized as the one with the big cigar.

In September of 1952, Johanna was born, the first one in a hospital. Later came Peter, Elizabeth (Elsie), Agnes, Angela and Barbara. Lucia's father, visiting from Holland, witnessed the 1953 tornado that ravaged the neighborhood. In 1960, on his third visit, Adrianus Kustermans died of a heart attack and was buried in Parkhill. Some thought he, too, had entered the beard-growing contest for the Parkhill Centennial but his white beard was that of a lifetime.

In 1980, Marinus and Lucia moved to Lot 13, ABCR West Williams, while Peter and his wife moved to the home farm. In 1981, the parents moved to Parkhill, retiring in the winter and farming again in spring, summer and fall.

Their children are all married, with surnames denoting a variety of origins: Annalies (Alice) and Lucio Facchina, Mary and Ike Schiestel. Francine and Jack de Groot live in Kinkora (Sebringville) with their 2 sons and 4 daughters. Johanna and her husband, Joe Minten from Watford, raised their family of 5 girls and 7 boys at Keyser.

After four girls, Peter was the first (and only) son, so he had to be named after the paternal grandfather. He was the first, too, to carry the Kustermans' curls and auburn hair - only they weren't discovered until he was a teenager when his hair grew longer than the customary brushcut. His wife, Julie Nash, is the English-born daughter of "Irish Joe" and Frances Nash, of Ailsa Craig. Since 1980, they have lived on the home dairy farm, at Lot 7, Con. 12. Their children are Frances, Therese, Ryan (anglicized version of "Rein" - maybe a hint of Irish?), Peter, Catherine, Marian, Elizabeth, Adrian, and Laura.



The Pete and Julie de Gouw Family - 1993
Peter, Therese, Frances, Ryan
Marian, Elizabeth, Adrian, Catherine

Elsie and her husband, Peter Dykstra from Goderich, make their home near Kingsbridge, Ont., with their 7 girls and 2 boys. Agnes and Kees Peeters with their 2 sons and 2 daughters live near Sylvan. Angela and David Kennedy live in East Williams with their three children. Barbara and Chris Vander Vloet live on Hwy. 7 near Sylvan with their 2 boys and 5 girls.

Lucio **Facchina**, only son of Luigi Facchina and Maria Fabris, was born in San Martino al Tagliamento, Pordenone, Italy, north of Venice. Of a farming background, but bricklayer by trade, Lucio came to his cousin in Dorchester, Ont., to work and to avoid compulsory military service. In 1973 Lucio and Alice de Gouw, oldest daughter of Marinus and Lucia de Gouw, were married and moved into their barely-completed house on the former McIntyre Century farm at Lot 4, Con. 13, East Williams. Alice had been Annalies until she started school at S.S.S. 10 without any English; her sympathy for new Canadians comes from personal experience. Alice taught at Our Lady Immaculate School, Strathroy, Ont., for nine years, where many of the new students were straight from Portugal. The first Canadian generation of Facchinas are Jeffrey, Maureen and Tania, all avid soccer players like their father.



The Facchina Family - 1993
Maureen, Lucio, Jeffrey, Alice, Tania

David **Kennedy**, oldest son of Paul Kennedy and Shirley McLelland, came from the Wingham area and transferred from New Life Mills in Hanover to the new mill in Denfield when it opened. Angela de Gouw, daughter of Marinus and Lucia de Gouw worked in the office. After their 1984 wedding, Dave and Angela Kennedy moved to the farm at Lot 4, Con. 11, East Williams. Their children are Paul, Sarah and Kyle.

Ignatius "Ike" **Schiestel**, a second generation German, son of Ferdinand Schiestel and Gertrude Schaefer, was raised around Teeswater, Ont. He and

Mary de Gouw, daughter of Marinus and Lucia de Gouw were married in 1981. They live on a farm at Lot 13, ABCR, West Williams and farm in East Williams too. Mary de Gouw spent twelve years at Strathroy Hospital, from RNA office secretary, to steno pool manager and then Executive Secretary, at times being called on to reassure Dutch-speaking patients. Their family consists of Marcia, Nicholas, Sandra, Robert, and Gregory.

The Hendrikx Family

Adrian Hendrikx (-1941) and **Petronella DeGroot** (1879-1981) of Alphen, Holland had six children. 1. **Adriana** Hendrikx (1909-1995), Sr. Bernarda who remained in Holland, taught nursing at Hulst near Breda. 2. **Francis** Hendrikx (1910-1986), who married Philomena Puÿenbroek also remained in Holland. 3. **Anna M.C.** Hendrikx (1911-) married Francis A.J. Hoevenaars (1906-1990) and emigrated in 1951. They lived, for a short time, across the road from Jack O'Hanley at Bornish, before moving into Parkhill, Ont. Their children, born in Holland, were Adrian, Mary, Elsie, Josie, Frank, Trudy, Jackie, Bernadette, Casey and Mary Ann. Patricia Petronella Maria was born here in 1955. Their grandmother, Petronella, visited with her children in Canada from 1953 to 1956. In 1956, the Hoevenaars family moved to London, Ont. 4. **Antonius "Tony"** Hendrikx (1912-1991) married Cornelia "Corrie" Van Gorp (1913-) (See below) 5. Rev. **Adrian C. "Casey"** Hendrikx (1914-1990) (See 'Priests of Bornish' section) 6. **John G.** Hendrikx (1915-1990) married Joanna M. Jansen (See below)



Adrian, Adriana and Dale Hendrikx, - 1993

The Tony Hendrikx Family

by Adrian Hendrikx

We arrived by train in London, Ont., on June 4, 1949, after traveling by plane to Montreal, Que. We were a family of eight, Mom and Dad and six kids aged 1½ - 11. We sharecropped on Rory McIntosh's farm, Lot 4, Con. 12, West Williams Twp., which had been bought by my Uncle John Hendrikx who then lived in Blenheim, Ont. We farmed there until Christmas 1950 when we moved to Lot 9, Con. 15, Effie and Dan McCormick's place. In 1969, my parents, Corrie and Tony, moved to Lot 10, Con. 15, George and Georgina McLellan's farm, until they retired to Strathroy, Ont., in 1978. Meanwhile, three more children were born. Brother Johnny died in 1962. My son Tony and I farm about 1700 acres in this immediate neighborhood.

I have many memories of when we were first in Canada. I was nine years old and was an altar boy for Father Paquette. There were only three kids, Hughie Morrison and the McDonald girls (Ann and Mary Ellen, daughters of Hanlon and Helen McDonald), going to the Bornish School. There were many immigrants in 1949 --- Van Massenhoven, Kennes, Masschelein, Soetemans, Denys --- so soon both Bornish and Parkhill Schools were full. I knew L.P. McDonald and his wife, Hannah, quite well. He took Louie Kennes and I to the flats to show us the largest elm tree in the township. Hannah had teenage children come to her house to teach them English. The Larkins brought comic books to our house from which I learned quite a bit during the summer. We were well received by the Scot Canadian people like the McIntoshes --- Lachlan and his mother, the McCormicks, the Walshes --- Bill and Marie, Angus Morrison and Johnny Steve McCormick. Our belated thanks to them all. As a child, I was at the 100th anniversary of Bornish Church in 1949, where I tasted lemon meringue pie for the first time; it has been a favorite ever since. I look forward to the 150th anniversary celebrations.

Antonius "Tony" Hendrikx (1912-1991) married **Cornelia "Corrie" Van Gorp** (1913-) at Alphen, N.B., Netherlands. They had nine children:

Elizabeth Hendrikx (1938) married **William Dortman** (1935-1990) in 1960. They lived on the 2nd Line South, Adelaide Twp. and had six boys and two girls.

Adrian Hendrikx (1940) married **Adriana Geerts** (1943) and operated a dairy farm on Lot 10, Con. 15, West Williams Twp. until 1978. He now cash crops. They have four children:

1. Anthony John "Tony" Hendrikx (1964) married **Katherine Atwell**. Their children are Shawn Adrian (1988), Andrea Viola and Adrian Anthony. Tony operates a hog farm on the family farm. **2. Patricia Antonia Hendrikx** (1965) married **Douglas Jeffrey Mawson**. Their children are Gregory Jeffrey (1984), Jennifer Lynn (1985) and Christopher Douglas (1986). **3. John Peter**

Hendrikx (1967) married **Jo-anne Grootjen** in 1994. Their children are Michelle Ann (1995) and Kyle Adrian (1996). **4. Dale Adrian Hendrikx** (1971) married **Katherine Airey** in 1995.



The Adrian Hendrikx Family - 1974
John, Adriana, Tony, Adrian, Dale, Patricia

Ellie Antonia Hendrikx married **Harry Anthony Straatman** in 1964. They farm in Warwick Twp., Lambton Co., Ont. and have four boys and a girl.

Cornelius "Casey" Hendrikx married **Margaret St. Pierre** and reside in Emo, Ont. Their children are Joseph Anthony (1970), Catherine Louise (1971) who lives in Killaloe Station, Ont., and Andre "Andy" (1973).

Mary Hendrikx married **Adrian Rombouts** in 1968. They farm in Adelaide Twp. and have five sons.

Anna E. "Annie" Hendrikx married **Cornelius J. "Casey" Willemse** in 1970 and moved to a farm on the Centre Rd. in West Williams Twp. Their children are David Cornelius (1971), Ben Anthony (1973), Michael John (1976) and twins, Kimberley Cornelia Adriana (1978) and Timothy John (1978).

Joanna "Joanne" Maria Hendrikx (1949) married **Cornelius Joseph Rombouts** in 1972. Cornelius and Adrian, husband of her sister, Mary, are sons of Adrian Rombouts and Elizabeth Kustermans. (Joanna's baptismal sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. L.P. McDonald.) They farm in Warwick Twp., Lambton Co., Ont., and have four boys and three girls.

Johnny Hendrikx (1951-1962) died of leukemia.

Bernadette Maria Hendrikx (1953) married **Anthony J. "Tony" Willemse** in 1974. Tony and Casey, husband of her sister, Annie, are sons of Antonius Willemse and Adriana DeGroot. Their farm on the Centre Rd. in East Williams Twp. is across the road from Casey and Annie's farm. Their children are Bernice Maria (1975), Daniel Anthony (1976), Christina Anna Elizabeth (1979) and Anthony Cornelius (1980).

The John Hendrikx Family

by Lucy (Devet) Hendrikx

John Hendrikx, the youngest son of Adrian and Petronella Hendrikx, was born in Alphen, Holland in 1915 and married **Joanna Jansen** (1917) on May 27, 1941. After the destruction left behind in Holland by the 2nd World War, they decided to emigrate and build a new life for themselves and their family. After looking at possibilities in France, New Zealand and Brazil, they decided that Canada offered the best conditions for immigrants. On March 12th, 1948, John and Joanna left Holland by ship with their four children: Elsa, Josie, Archie and Annie. They arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 23rd and traveled by train to Chatham, Ontario, where they arrived on March 25th. They operated a farm on share near the town of Blenheim.

John purchased the farm at Lot 4, Con. 12, West Williams Twp. in 1949 and share-cropped it with his brother Toni, who had just emigrated from Holland. In the early spring of 1951, they moved with two more children, Mary and Louis, into their new home. They were drawn to this site because of its proximity to a Catholic school for their children. They had seven more children: Lyle, Jim, Jerry, Joanne, twins Judy and Janet, and Marge. Over the years, as they milked cows and fed pigs, they increased their property holdings to 650 acres. John Hendrikx passed away in 1990.

Elsa Hendrikx (1942) married **Henry Thuss** (1939-1966) in 1963 and moved to a dairy farm in the Kerwood area. They had five children: Gary (1964), Rosanne (1966), Lyle (1967), Ron (1970) and Jason (1974).

Josie Hendrikx (1943) married **John DeGroot** (1943) in 1966 and moved to a hog farm outside of Stratford, Ont. They had five children: Laura (1967), Brian (1969), Ken (1970), Carolyn (1973) and Michael (Feb. 1976 - Apr. 1976).

Archie Hendrikx (1945) married **Toni Koolen** (1947) in 1968 and moved to a hog farm in the Kerwood area. They have four children: John (1969), Rick (1972), Shirley (1974) and Jeremy (1977).

Annie Hendrikx (1946) married **Gerald Sanders** (1944) in 1968 and moved to a hog farm in the Kerwood area. They have four children: Michael (1969), Lori (1971), Jennifer (1974) and Angela (1977).

Mary Hendrikx (1948) married **Bill Stevens** (1947) in 1972 and moved to a dairy farm in the Kerwood area. They have four children: Chris (1973), Patricia (1974), Rob (1976) and Jolene (1982).

Louis Hendrikx (1949) married **Lucy Devet** (1952) of Adelaide Twp. in 1973 and moved to a dairy farm at Lot 12, Con. 17, West Williams Twp. They have five children: Marcia (1974), Sherri (1975), Cindy (1976), David (1977) and Amy (1981). They've named their farm Alsina Farms and are presently feeding pigs and cash cropping along with the dairy cows they started out with. They own 850 acres in West Williams Twp. In 1995, Marcia married Craig White (1972). Cindy married Carlos Rocha (1966) in 1998 and moved to London, Ont.; they have one child.



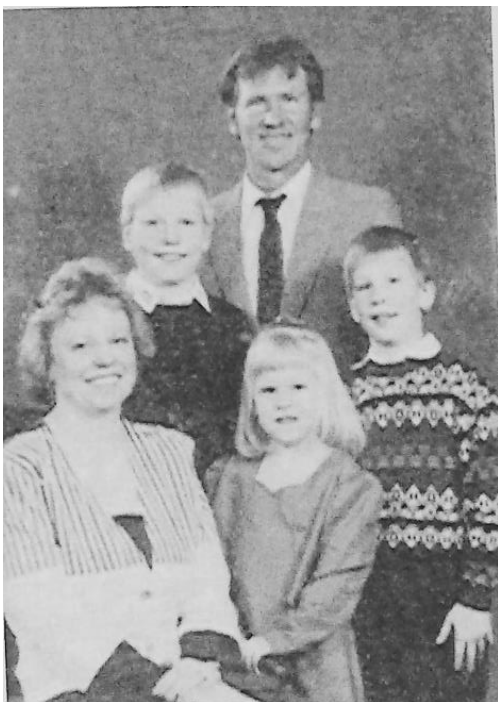
The John Hendrikx Family - 1974
Joanne, Judy, Jerry, Jim, Lyle
Margie, Janet, Joanna, John



Louis and Lucy Hendrikx - 1993
Sherri, Cindy, Marcia, David, Amy

Lyle Hendrikx (1951) married **Mary Ann Royackers** (1958) in 1978 and moved to a hog farm in Adelaide Twp. They had six children: Valerie (1978), Karl (1979-1982), Dan (1981), Melissa (1982), Justin (1983) and Nathan (1985). Lyle has since purchased Lots 3 and 19, Con. ABCR, West Williams Twp.

Jim Hendrikx (1952) married **Kathy Kennes** (1960) of McGillivray Twp. in 1979 and moved to a hog farm at Lot 4, Con. 13, West Williams Twp., across the road from his parents. They have three children: Michael (1981), Paul (1983) and Lindsay (1986). Under the farm name 'Bornish Farms', they presently feed pigs and broiler chickens, as well as cash cropping. They've increased their holdings to 600 acres in West Williams Twp.



Jim and Kathy Hendrikx
Mike, Lindsay, Paul - 1993

In 1982, **Jerry Hendrikx** (1954) took over the family dairy farm, named 'Dalgetta Farms' (after a small community which was situated just outside of Bornish). He married **D. Kathy Patterson** (1963) of Adelaide Twp. in 1987. They have four children: Emily (1988), Erin (1990), Scott (1993) and Meghan (1995). They have remodeled the house and dairy barns and now are cash cropping as well. They own 517 acres in West Williams Twp. Jerry is working jointly with Mark Cadman in a broiler chicken operation.



Jerry and Kathy Hendrikx
Erin and Emily - 1993

Joanne Hendrikx (1955) married **John Sanders** (1953) in 1975 and moved to a hog farm near Watford, Ont. They have four children: Lisa (1977), Karen (1979), Jeff (1981) and Craig (1982).

Judy Hendrikx (1959) married **Glen Steeper** (1955) in 1980 and moved to a dairy farm in McGillivray Twp. They have four children: Melanie (1982), Adam (1985), Janel (1990) and Brian (1982).

Janet Hendrikx (1959) married **John Baltessen** (1960) in 1984 and moved to a hog farm in McGillivray Twp. They have four children: Carlene (1983), Derek (1985), Justine (1987) and Kyle (1989).

Marge Hendrikx (1965) married **Frank Rutten** (1961) in 1985 and moved to a dairy farm near Forest, Ont. They have four children: Steven (1987), Sarah (1988), Joanna (1991) and Shawn (1993).

Another Hendrickx family emigrated from Belgium during the same period but they did not settle at Bornish. They are not related to the above Hendrikx family (note the spelling of Hendrickx). They were **Harry Hendrickx** (c.1938) who married **Mary Louisa Geenen**. Three of their sons married three daughters of Louis Soetemans and Virginia LeBruyn. **Andre John Hendrickx** married **Stephanie Maria Soetemans** in 1963; their children are Mary Ann (1964), Louis Alphonse (1966). **George Hendrickx** married **Mary Lodovica Soetemans** in 1966 and **Lloyd Louis John Hendrickx** married **Margaret Soetemans** in 1969.

The Herygers Family

by Judy (Van Massenhoven) Vandenberk

Joseph Herygers (1910-1990), accompanied by his wife **Maria Hereygers** (1914-) and their children, emigrated to Canada on January 31, 1952. They came by plane from Amsterdam, Holland, to Montreal, Quebec. Joseph was one of seven siblings who were fruit growers in Holland but he was the only one who emigrated. When the family reached West Williams Twp. they settled at the south end of Haskett Rd., where it meets the Ausable River. On May 21, 1953, their barn and silo was destroyed by a tornado which swept across the area. In 1958, the family moved to Middleton, Nova Scotia. Their children are as follows:

Adriana Herygers (1936) married **Cornell Van Massenhoven** (1931) and had four children. (See Van Massenhoven)

Peter Herygers (1936) married **Marjorie McLeish** (1941) and had four children. Peter lives in Strathroy, Ont.

Joseph Herygers (1937) married **Marie O'Brien** (1942). They have one child and live in Parkhill, Ont.

Mary Herygers (1939) married **Gerard Geerts** (1939). They reside in Watford, Ont., with six children.

Catherine Herygers (1941) married **Jacques Couture** (1940). They live in Quebec with their five children.

Johanna Herygers (1942) married **Bryan Young** (1941-1994). She resides in Hampton, N.S., with five children.

Ann Herygers (1944) married **Edward Olscamp**. They have two children and live in Campbellton, N.B.

Louis Herygers (1945-1947)

William Herygers (1947) married **Lorraine Leger** (1949) and they have one child in Sainte-Anne (Bathurst), N.B.

Jack Herygers (1948) married **Lise Arseneau** (1949). They reside in Nigadoo, N.B., with one child.

Theo Herygers (1949) married and has two children; they reside in Sainte-Anne (Bathurst), N.B.

Corrie Herygers (1951) married **John Locke** (1948). They live in Grand Falls, Nfld., with two children.

Elsa Herygers (1952) married **Andrew Baker** (1950-1994). She lives in Liverpool, N.S., with two children.

Rosa Herygers (1953) married **Richard Dufresne**. They have two children and reside in St. Thérèse, Que.

Diane Herygers (1955) married **Kevin Poole**. They live in Windsor, N.S., with three children.

Selma Herygers (1957) married **Richard Hebb** (1956). They have two children and reside in Barrie, Ont.

The Kennes Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

Frans and Maria (Hendrikx) Kennes and family were the first new Dutch immigrants to buy in East Williams, Lot 4, Con. 16, and moved there in early spring of 1950. They had followed their oldest son Joe, who had come with John Hendrikx in 1948, to a farm in West Williams in spring of 1949. Their youngest son, Louie was the first of the new immigrant children to go to S.S.S. 10 at Bornish, raising its student population to 5. When Louie married, Frans and Maria and Seline moved to Lot 11, Con. 17 (Fort Rose and Nairn Road).

Their family includes: Catherine, her husband, Ted Van Roestel, and their seven children of Crediton, Ont.; Joe, his wife, Rachel Masschelein, and their four children of West Williams; Marie and husband, Albert Vanden Boogaard; and Harry and wife, Elizabeth Versteegden, also of this township; Elizabeth and husband, Bernie Stinson, (John Donkers) and five children of Forest, Ont.; Hubert and wife, Frances Jansen, and Louie and wife, Carol Peters, of East Williams; and Seline, her husband, Peter Visser, and their three children of Dublin, Ont.

Harry and Elizabeth Kennes bought a farm on Lot 13, Con. 20, Hwy. 7 west of Ailsa Craig, from Fred Hollands and developed a dairy operation. They have four children. Frank married Marianne Van Eyk; they live in Strathroy with their two sons, Jeffrey and Benny, and are both employed at St. Willibrord Credit Union. Kathy married Jim Hendrikx; they live west of Bornish with Mike, Paul and Lindsay. Dave, his wife, Willy Ann Wester, and their three children, Ryan, Jennifer and Matthew, live on the home farm and recently added a broiler barn to replace the dairy operation. Harry and Elizabeth traded homes across the road with Dave and Willy Ann in 1989. When they retired, Harry and Elizabeth moved to a home in Strathroy, and their youngest son, Ron, moved from London and now lives in the McGillivray home. Ron has a son, Josh, and is now married to Debbie McIntyre.

Hubert and Frances Kennes bought their farm on Lot 6, Con. 16, East Williams from Sandford Thomson in 1960 and started dairy farming. They have four children. John married Nancy Soetemans, daughter of Joe Soetemans and Joanne Willemse, in 1982. In 1990, they assumed the dairy farm and added other farm properties. Hubert and Frances built a new house on the next farm east, the James Cluness farm, Lot 7, Con. 16. John and Nancy have three children: Brian, Mark and Emily. Cathy and her husband, Claude Mallette, live at Corbett with their two girls, Amanda and Chantal; Cathy has worked at the CIBC Parkhill for 16 years. Lisa married Tony Delaney in 1996; they are setting up a photography business in Vancouver, B.C. Jim joined the navy and is stationed presently on the "HMCS Provider" in British Columbia.



The Hubert Kennes Family - 1974
Lisa, John, Cathy
Jim, Frances, Hubert

Louie and Carol Kennes carried on the dairy farm on the home farm on Lot 4, Con. 16, East Williams, after their marriage in 1963. In recent years, they have changed to a farrow-finish pork operation. They have four sons. Frank and his wife, Agnes Peters, and daughter Melissa are pork producers on a farm on Hwy. 7, Lot 4, Con. 18, East Williams. Martin, in the last few years, changed occupation from farming to long-distance truck driver, travelling to points far and wide on the continent. Carl and his wife, Laura Van Dyk of West Lorne, met at Waterloo University; they live in Kitchener and both work for Manulife where Carl will soon be an actuary. Dan, after finishing school in Sudbury, works at Northern Plating, where they chrome shafts for mines.

Carol Kennes related that many of the couples of her generation, teenagers in the 1950s, met their future spouses at the St. Willibrord Club, a Dutch Catholic group that held dances every other Saturday night from 8-11 p.m. at Craithie Hall (schoolhouse), rather central to Parkhill, Watford and Strathroy. At first, records were used and, later, accordion-playing musicians who were paid \$2 each per night. Admission was 25 cents and pop was 7 cents. A priest of the Sacred Heart Fathers in Delaware was the Director of the group, and always gave a sermon in Dutch at intermission. Louie and Carol's wedding reception was the first of the family to be held at a hall.

In 1951, Albert **Vanden Boogaard** came to Lucan, Ont. with three Koolen family members (their widowed parents had married) to their Koolen brother who had come the year before. Albert worked a variety of construction and other jobs, including Stewart's and Bannister's. He met and married Marie Kennes of East Williams and bought a farm from Ambert Hill on Lot 8, Con. 15, East Williams. With intensive tile drainage, the muck farm became productive farmland, good for cashcrop and hay for their

dairy herd. With help only for the large work, Albert and boys added a calf barn, milk parlour and implement shed. Their family grew up here - four boys and a girl.

John, an electrician with Van Electric, married Ann Lehrbass, an X-ray technician. They live in Strathroy with their three girls --- Amanda, Rebecca and Shelley. Tony, a diesel mechanic, married Pat Geerts from Watford and cashcropped their farm on Lot 13?, Con. 1. In 1994, they sold here, and with their four children --- Jason, Angela, Justin and Aaron --- they moved to their dairy farm in Verner, near Sturgeon Falls, Ont. When Ted married, Albert, Marie and Bob moved to one of their other farms in McGillivray. Ted and his wife, Maryann Vanden Ouweland, and their children --- Katie, Julie and Frankie --- carry on the dairy farm. Mary with her husband, Henk Veens, and 5 girls and 1 boy, Carla, Tracey, Jenny, Mark, Sara and Christina live on a dairy farm outside of Arkona. Bob is a dairy herdsman and cashcrops the Vanden Boogaard's McGillivray farm. He and his wife, Karen Kleeman of West Williams, have two boys and a girl, Ryan, Wayne and Laura. Albert and Marie have retired to a new home in Strathroy, Ont.

The Kustermans Family



The Kustermans Family - 1974
Joanne, Elisabeth, Annie, Peter
Anna, Andy, André

The Leyten Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

Francis "Frank" Leyten was the youngest of seven children of Peter Leyten and Cornelia Nooren of Prinsenbeek, near Breda, Nord Brabant, Holland. Anna Geerts, his wife, was the only daughter of Joseph Geerts and Anna Maria Van Riel of Chaam. With her widowed father, Frank and Anna made their home on the farm rented from the baron, a large local landlord; her only brother, Jacobus, lived on his wife's family farm. Their family grew to eight and, with seven sons, they felt cramped for future farming possibility. Through connections with Adrian Vander Vloet, they started on their trek via England, then across the Atlantic by an English liner, with only one other Dutch-speaking passenger, to Halifax and by train to London, Ontario. For the first three weeks after their April 1953 arrival, they sheltered in a house on ABCR Lot 12, East Williams, across from the O'Hanley's. The farm they purchased on Lot 6, Con. 12, had an unused schoolhouse, their home until the Moggach farm sale on May 6th. Here they farmed for six years while the school children went to S.S.S. 10. William (husband of Tracy Mathers.) was born three months after their arrival; Cornelia Maria died as a newborn, the second baby of Dutch/Belgian immigrants to be buried at St. Columba's Cemetery, and later Cornelia Wilhemina "Elly" (wife of Mike Vansevenant) rounded out the family. The attraction of plentiful, less expensive farmland in Nova Scotia had the Leyten family packing up to move in February of 1959 to Middleton, N.S., the day after Elly's first birthday. After three years, the family returned again to West Williams, moving twice before settling on the Broken Front. In 1983, Frank and Anna retired to Hastings Manor in Parkhill. All their children live between Sarnia and London.

Joe married **Toni de Haan**, a bride from their stay in Middleton, Nova Scotia. He is a heavy construction operator. They raised their family of five in Ailsa Craig - Virginia, Steve, Tim, Chris and Michelle. The only Leyten living in East Williams, namely in Carlisle, is Steve, married to Patti McVeeney, daughter of Jim and Maura McVeeney, with their son, Justin and daughter, Jaimie.

Peter chose **Rinelda Van Massenhoven**, daughter of Albert and Maria Van Massenhoven of West Williams, to farm with him first in West Williams, and later in Watford, where they raised their three sons. **Romulus** (1943-1978), named after Frank's only brother and known as "Ron", married Marion Bullock, daughter of William and Wilma Bullock of McGillivray Township. They had a dairy farm in West Williams where Ron and Marion's three children were born. **Jack** brought Thea Vloet, daughter of John and Thea Vloet of Welland, who worked at St. Joseph's Hospital, London, to be his wife, and mother of their four children on their West Williams farm. **Corneil** "Neil" married Elizabeth Van Massenhoven, a cousin of Rinelda, daughter of Joseph and Maria Van Massenhoven, of

McGillivray; they live in Forest with their three children. Neil works on construction in the Chemical Valley. **Anne** was married to Tony Vanderloo from the Rodney area; she and three sons live in London, as she works at Ford in Talbotville. **Tony** married Anna Marie Koolen, daughter of John and Ann Marie Koolen of Arkona. Tony works in the Chemical Valley too, and calls Forest home; they have four children. **Frank** is single and lives in Sarnia where he works for Union Gas. The Canadian-born **William** "Bill" and his wife, Tracy Mathers of Strathroy, live in London with their two children. **Elly** married Mike Vansevenant; they have two children near Corunna.

The Masschelein Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

Silveer Masschelein and Irma Decramer lived in West Flanders, Belgium. Though he was of farm background he had always worked as flax handler. The coming of synthetics and the depressed war and postwar economy decreased demand for linen and flax products. In 1948, they sent their son, Emile, of military service age, to work for a farmer in Wallaceburg, Ont., and to scout for a potential farm, in a country promising peace and opportunity. The next year, the family followed from Antwerp on the *Marina Shark* to New York, then to Buffalo, Fort Erie and Chatham. Emile urged them to stay near Wallaceburg, Ont., where a fertile cashcrop farm cost \$25,000; but Gobert from Blenheim, brought them to Williams, where farms sold for \$7,000. The Masschelein's settled on the corner of Hwy. 81 and the Nairn Road in late May of 1949. Silveer, at his age and a non-farmer, never wholehearted farmed or lived in Canada; he had brought the family here strictly for their opportunity to farm, and they did, in both Williams and McGillivray, where the Masschelein name is found today. **Robert** married Joanne Timmermans and moved to London, Ont. **Godelieve** married Leon Van Heule, the first wedding of new immigrants. **Rachel** married Joe Kennes, son of Frank and Maria Kennes of East Williams; they raised their family of four in West Williams. **Emile** and Irene (Hallaert) returned from British Columbia with their six children and now live in McGillivray; their son, **John**, and his wife, Gudrun Brunnemeier, have a son Jamie, and live west of Nairn on the 17th Concession. **Joe** and Diane (D'Hoine) farmed around Centre Road until their move to Parkhill; **Brian** and Sherri Harkness and three boys, Brandon, Dylan and Jordan, live in West Williams; **Wayne** and his wife, Maria Denys, live on the original farm with their son, Grant; **Lorraine** and her husband, Paul Dixon of McGillivray Twp., live in Parkhill with their two children, Madison and Nathan; **Brenda** and her husband, Martin Vander Elst, live in London with their son, Derick.

The Royackers Family



The Royackers Family 1974
Gil, Martin, Mary Ann
Susie, Elaine, Joanne, Albert



Gil and Josy Royackers - 1993
Bradley, Eric, Leanne, David

The Van Asseldonk Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

Adrian Van Asseldonk, from near Veghel, N. Brabant had served with Frank Vander Vloet in the Dutch forces in Indonesia. As farming possibility in a large family was non-existent, Adrian Vander Vloet Sr., already in Parkhill, sent for his son, Frank, and young family in 1953. His comrade, Adrian and wife, Hendrika, Van Asseldonk, followed in 1954. In the spring of 1955, he worked for Wilfred Sadler. That next December, Mary was born and one-year-old Johnny died. To be closer to the winter job in Strathroy, they moved to a farmhouse in Lobo Township, where they were joined by Adrian's newly-wed brother and wife. Unemployment insurance for the winter months of \$28 per month had to pay rent and living. Mr. Sutherland in Adelaide Township offered the brothers part-time work - they would go daily; he took them along during the day and sent them home with eggs and milk and, if there was payable work, cash on top. Employment needed to be more consistent. George Massey told Adrian of Bob McCubbin, for he had several farms and houses and longterm work. During their stay in East Williams, Joanne, Frances, Jack and Rita filled out Adrian and Hendrika's family. The children went by bus to Sacred Heart School in Parkhill; Bob McCubbin offered them the house closer to the road so that it was more convenient for the children and bus driver. A friend's admonition of "now you will have a good boss" was true. After seven years, Adrian chose to leave McCubbin's to buy a dairy farm on Con. 10, West Williams, near the Old Elm Tree. Here they farmed and raised their family until they retired to Parkhill. For several years they were a vital part of the "Klompens Dancers" in traditional Dutch "Volendam's" dress and wooden shoes.

The Van Hooydonk Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina

Cornelius Van Hooydonk (1901-1984) was born in Zundert, Nord Brabant, Holland, son of Jacobus and Maria Van Hooydonk. His wife, Wilhe "Mina" Leyten (1908-1992), daughter of Peter Leyten and Cornelia Nooren, grew up in Prinsenbeek, near Breda. Nearby they rented a farm after they were married. Farming space was tight and wartime had been very trying. The couple looked elsewhere to have their family of nine grow up. In August, 1953, the Van Hooydonk family came by boat to Halifax and by train to London, Ont. Her brother, Frank Leyten, with neighbour John Hendriks, brought them to Lot 6, Con. 13, to a house rented from George Massey, across from Leyten's. Six of the middle children started at S.S.S. 10 at Bornish in September, while Cora, the oldest, went to work at Brescia College in London, Ont. In 1954, they moved to their own farm on Hwy. 81, just out of Parkhill, where a

daughter, Cindy, was born. After Rudy got married, Cornelius and Mina retired to McLeod Street, Parkhill, beside the P.W.W. school. Some of the children returned to East Williams.

Cornelia (Cora) and August Van Massenhoven with their five children live in McGillivray Township. Two sons married East Williams Township girls - John married Donna Thomson and Casey, Terry Cox. Mary and Victor Wouters and two sons live near Talbotville; Joanne and Bruce Hutchison; Adriana and Stan Forrestal and two girls live near Forest; Andre and Dorothy Koster; Elizabeth and Albert Van Massenhoven (yes, cousins) and three sons, live north of Parkhill; Peter (1946-1986) and Linda Steeper (later Turner) and three children lived north of Ailsa Craig; Cornelius "Casey" and Anny Nieuwenhuizen; Rudy and Joanne Joris and their three children live on the home farm; and Francine "Cindy" and Andy Rombouts and two children live north of Watford.

Now, the Van Hooydonk's and the Leyten's were stepping-stones. Cornelius' brother, Tony, came in 1954, to be followed by his wife, Joanna, and daughter, Maria. They moved to the St. Thomas area. A nephew, Peter Bastiaansen, son of Frank's and Mina's sister Joanna, came in the 1960s; he married Mary Lou Van Buel, daughter of Henry and Jean Van Buel of East Williams, and with their two daughters, Billy Jo and Corinna, live in Strathroy.

Andre Van Hooydonk was born on his father's birthday, June 15, in 1944, in the midst of violent war activity. In November, 1966, he and his bride Dorothy Koster, of Kitchener, moved to Con. 11, East Williams, the farm purchased from Joe Van Ostayen, a Belgian who moved to Kintore. Dorothy's parents, William Koster and Dorothy Vreidegor, came from Gelderland where she was born. Andre continued to work for Wm. Battram Construction for several years. In trucking in gravel for the cement plant, Andre knew every possible way in and out of Parkhill, for he made the trip six times daily. Bill always gave Andre the newest truck they had. He and Dorothy farmed full time until 1984, when Andy started working for Simpson's Fencing. Andy played soccer for many years on the Ailsa Craig and Nairn soccer teams, and with the two boys - all three together. Nancy married Joe Vanneste; Ron and his wife, Donna McLachlan daughter of Ken and Winnie McLachlan, live in Parkhill with twins Andrea and Braedon; Donna is on the Parkhill Town Hall staff. Paul, at home, is a welder at Ross Welding in Ailsa Craig.

Cornelius "Casey" came with the family from Breda. His wife, Anny Nieuwenhuizen, was born in Boekel, N.Brabant, Holland, daughter of Arnold Nieuwenhuizen and Roberta Maeyer of Watford, Ont. They moved to their farm on Hwy. 7 in 1970. Their children are Brian, Tracy and Jaime.

Joe **Vanneste** is the only son of Willy Vanneste and Jeannine Coolman, of Exeter, Ont.; they spent time in East Williams in 1949-50's when their families first arrived in Canada. He married Nancy Van Hooydonk, daughter of

Andre and Dorothy Van Hooydonk. With daughters Emily and Sara, they live down the road from her parents. Joe is a bricklayer and, being a Vanneste, takes interest in training and racing horses.

Bruce **Hutchison**, son of Art and Evelyn Hutchison of Parkhill, and Joanne Van Hooydonk, daughter of Cornelius and Mina Van Hooydonk, had their family in Parkhill, where Bruce worked in construction and on the cement truck for Wm. Battram. In the early 1970s, they moved to their farm on the curve of Hwy. 7, at the East Williams/McGillivray townline with their three children still living close by. Brenda and her two sons, Chris and Derek live across the road; Mike and his wife, Terry Nichols, formerly of London, live across Hwy. 7 with Brandon and Tanner; and Mark Hutchison lives at home.

The Van Massenhoven Family

by Judy (Van Massenhoven) Vandenberg

John Van Massenhoven (1901-1965), accompanied by his wife **Elizabeth Van Loon** (1903-1973) and their children, emigrated from Schoten, Belgium, in 1949. They were sponsored for accommodation and wages by Angus Morrison, a bachelor farmer. At the end of the next harvest season, the four oldest grown children handed the wages that they earned in the tobacco farms to their parents to buy their own farm on Lot 13, Con. 12, West Williams Twp. John's two brothers also came to Canada, Albert in 1953 and Joe in 1954. **Albert Van Massenhoven** (1911-1998), who married **Marie Bavens**, farmed on Con. 14, West Williams Twp.; they had five children. **Joseph Van Massenhoven** (1909-) who married **Maria Reynders** (1910-1976) farmed in West Williams Twp.; they had four children.



The Con Van Massenhoven Family - 1974

Judy, Marion, Don
Bonnie, Adriana, Cornell

Cornell "Slim" Van Massenhoven (1931), son of John and Elizabeth, married **Adriana Herygers** (1936) daughter of Joseph Herygers and Maria Hereygers. When Slim first arrived in Canada he worked on the farm of L.P. McDonald at Lot 11, Con. 13, West Williams Twp. As newlyweds, he and Adriana rented a house in Parkhill, Ont. They soon moved to a farm on Lot 6, Con. 12, West Williams Twp., where they raised their four children Marion, Donald, Judy and Bonnie. In addition to farming, Slim coached local hockey teams for many years. In recent years he has been serving on the St. Columba Cemetery Board and, in 1999, he will mark fifty years as an usher at the Bornish and Parkhill churches. On retiring in 1994, the couple bought and moved into the same house in Parkhill that they had lived in when first married.

Marion Elizabeth Van Massenhoven (1958) married **Douglas Smith** (1948) who had four children Bill, Mike, Jim and Tina. Together they had Jeanette, Mathew, Jeffery and Amanda. The family lives in Strathroy, Ont. Marion owns a successful bicycle business.

Donald John Van Massenhoven (1960) married **Christine McGugan**. They have two daughters, Kaitlyn and Meagen. Don is ranked among the seven best NHL referees and wears number 21. Starting in the 1994-95 season, the NHL replaced the nameplates on the back of its officials' sweaters with numbers. Until that time, hockey officials were the only pro sports officials to be identified by name.

Judith Ann Van Massenhoven (1964) married **Nick Vandenberk**. They have two children, Sharaya and Brady, and also make their home in Strathroy, Ont. Judy is a talented singer and songwriter of country music under the name Judy Von.

Bonnie Lynn Van Massenhoven (1967) married **Ronald Arthur Mathers**. They live in Strathroy, Ont., with their two children, Derek and Chad.

Citizen of the Year is Hero on Distant Ice

TOP CHOICE: Parkhill area native **Don Van Massenhoven** was top choice among nominees for the Lions Club Citizen of the Year award for 1997. A product of the area minor hockey organization, Van Massenhoven advanced through refereeing ranks, while working full-time as an O.P.P. officer and eventually won a job as a professional referee.

Parkhill area's 1997 citizen of the year is a native son who went on to achieve celebrity status based on skills developed on local ice.

A committee of the Parkhill Lions Club has chosen Don Van Massenhoven as this year's recipient, Willy Heidebrecht told *The Gazette* last week. Don will be honoured for outstanding achievement in getting to the NHL as a referee, Heidebrecht said.

In contrast to his practice in previous years, Heidebrecht declined to provide *The Gazette* with nominators' supporting arguments for candidates for the

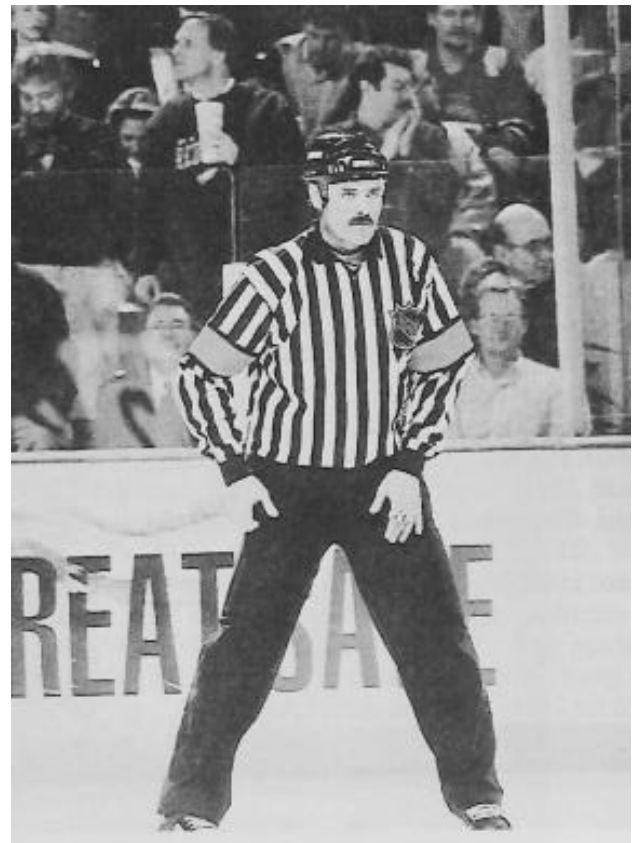
annual honour. The number of nominees is also not revealed.

After choosing previous year's award winners, the Lions provided several pages of supporting comments, all of them related to service to the community, for the choice of previous Citizens of the Year. In explaining this year's choice, "One of our criteria is outstanding achievement by a Parkhill native," Heidebrecht said.

On a date still to be arranged, the lions will host a banquet in Van Massenhoven's honour and he will be asked to donate the proceeds from ticket sales to a charity of his choice.

Don, whose first full-time career was with the Ontario Provincial Police, last summer boosted the Sunshine Foundation by organizing a celebrity Slo-Pitch game in Strathroy where he and his family live. His original hometown, Parkhill, could benefit from the same type of event in the future, he told *The Gazette* in a March, 1996 interview.

The Parkhill Lions launched their Citizen of the Year Award in 1990 and community service appeared to take precedence over celebrity status. Previous award recipients were Dr. Bill Scrimgeour (1990), Dr. Fred Boyes (1991), Lloyd Durr (1992), Janet Johnstone (1993), Chuck Box (1994), Casey Bax (1995) and Adrian Ansems (1996). (from *The Parkhill Gazette*, May 14, 1997)



Don Van Massenhoven

The Vermunt Family

by Alice (de Gouw) Facchina



Judy Von

Judy started singing in the Bornish church choir as a young child. At the age of sixteen, she and her sister, Bonnie, joined an all-girls band. Singing and writing country music, she has traveled with her current band for the past three years. In 1996, Judy won 1st place in the semi-finals in the country roads contest; she placed 3rd in the finals of the same year.

Her first CD was recorded in Vancouver, B.C., and London, Ont., in 1996. The favourite and most popular song on the CD is "Thru thick and thin". In June 1997, Judy Von and the band played at the 20th

Annual Strathroy Turkey Festival Dance. Her newest single, titled "You better love me", was recorded and released in the fall of 1998. Also at this time a CMT video was recorded and released to television and radio. During her spare time Judy enjoys singing the national anthem for local sporting teams, including the Strathroy Rockets Junior B and the London Knights Junior A hockey teams.

Bernard Vermunt was the son of Cornelius Vermunt and Elizabeth Gevers of Achtmaal, Zundert, Nord Brabant, Holland. Johanna Arnouts was the daughter of Cornelius Arnouts and Cornelia Van Ginneken of Nieuwmoer, Antwerp, Belgium. After their marriage, the Vermunts lived in Zundert where Bernard worked in the canning factory. In August, 1957, they came with two children to Woodstock, Ont., sponsored by Bernard's brother, John, and his family. Later, the Vermunt's lived in McGillivray Twp. and near Ailsa Craig, before they bought the farm on Lot 3, Con. 14, East Williams from Alex and Louise Morrison on April 1, 1960. Here they raised their family of eight.

John and his wife, Dianne Hodgins of Parkhill, live on a dairy farm at Beechwood with their four girls --- Julie, Michelle, Karen and Valerie. Liz married Dave Bond of Woodstock, where they live with their three children --- Melissa, Stephen and Philip. Bernadette married Ron Davidson of Watford; they operate an apiary which has been in the family for three generations. They have four children --- Dan, Cheryl, Heather and Bryan. Caroline and her husband, Patrick Van Kerrebroeck, live on Vancouver Island with their five children --- Simone, Leah, Morgan, Delmar and Gloria. Marlene and Joe Kelders live in Grand Bend with Jillian and Mark. Frank farms the home place and has been a milk-truck driver for some time. Connie and her husband, Ed Karsch, with their two sons, Edward and Eric, live in Dunchurch, Ont. Theresa and her husband, Paul Herbert, live in London with their two children.



The de Gouw Family Farm on Lot 7, Concession 12, East Williams Twp., October, 1952
(formerly the John A. Morrison Family Farm)



Loading Sugar Beets on the de Gouw Farm, circa 1954
Alphonse Van Looveren, Marinus and Lucia de Gouw
(the truck is in both photographs)



Bornish Farms Inc., Jim and Kathy Hendrikx, Lot. 4, Con. 13, West Williams Twp., November 1998



Dalgetta Farms Inc., Jerry and Kathy Hendrikx, Lot. 4, Con. 12, West Williams Twp., November 1998
(looking west down Bornish Drive)