



# Eileen Knox

*Starkville/Solina*

*Trailblazing teacher and  
community leader (née Farrow)*

I went to school in Crooked Creek, and then went to Starkville, then to Newcastle, and finally Grade 13 in Bowmanville. In that last year, I got a letter from the principal asking if I wanted to replace a male teacher, while they were away fighting in the war. So, I was hired to teach at the age of 17.

We had two or three lessons on how to mark and manage and about curriculum, but we didn't really follow it. Sometimes we only had one child per grade in the schoolhouse.

On my first day of teaching, my mother was driving me, and she put the car in the ditch. Well, I couldn't be late, so I grabbed my books, and my lunch pail, and away

I went running. It was a full concession away... about four miles. I got to the schoolyard, and the boys thought I was a student running in. Then I pulled the keys out to open the school. It was a memorable first day.

I loved teaching. I taught for 27 years. It was the best. I hope I helped the children... but they taught me as well.

