**Brian Armstrong**

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Brian was born in 1943 at the Stratford General Hospital on the 11th. “A healthy 8 lbs, 5 oz, red headed baby”, he tells us. He started his schooling in Stratford, continued in Wallaceburg and completed high school in Sarnia. Brian studied classics at Western.

His best summer job was as a member of the Fort Henry Precision Military Guard. This led to a second summer working as a freelance “Fort Henry Guard” at Macy's in Cleveland. It was part of a summer long promotion for Expo '67. Summing up that summer, Brian said, “The girls in Cleveland were great!” Notwithstanding, on a blind date, during his last year at Western, he met his wife, Mary Jane. This fortuitous event resulted in their marriage in 1968 and in the fullness of time, two beautiful daughters, Erin and Brenda.

Following graduation Brian taught Latin and coached football at Ridley College in St. Catherines. Why Ridley? “It was the only place I could teach without going to that dreaded institution, teachers college”. However, during subsequent summers he gained his full teaching qualifications.

In 1974 it became clear that the 'sell-by date' for Latin teachers was fast approaching. Luckily for Oxford County, Brian found a position at Oliver Stephens, teaching geography and history.

His new school was quite a culture shock. At Ridley his class size never exceeded 12, whereas at OS he was greeted by a class of 33. Brian's first impression, “they didn't appear to have much interest in history”. After five years he was promoted to Vice Principal at Harris Heights and for the balance of his career served as principal at Thamesford, Princeton, South Side, Tollgate and Kintore before retiring in 1998.

In retirement, his resume is awesome: he delivers new and used cars for two local dealers to the GTA, he is the secretary for his Masonic lodge, and he serves on the board of the local retired teachers association, and is an executive with the Woodstock Shrine Club. He also revs-up his Harley to ride with the Shrine Mocha Motor Corp a motorcycle group that performs at local parades and fall fairs.

Postscript - Brian's older brother Bob played defense for the Boston Bruins during the 50's. In 1990, at the age of 59, Bob succumbed to Parkinson's. In his role of an 'enforcer' during the pre-helmet era, Bob must have taken many blows to the head. In 1990 the connection with neurological disorders and concussions was not well established, but latterly, particularly with the passing of Derek Boogaard, Brian can't help but feel that his brother's 'policing role' as a young man might have contributed to his Parkinson's.