**Peter Ewing**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Peter began his presentation by leading us in a team cheer and offering a prize to anyone who could guess where he was born. It was the Hamilton Tiger Cat cheer and Larry Lake was the first to guess correctly. Did you get your prize Larry? Peter was born in Hamilton on June 14, 1941. His father was an accountant with Firestone Rubber Company and his mother was a Piano Teacher. His grandfather, Alexander Ewing,  | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Ewing, Peter.tif |

operated the Star Bakery in the early 1900's and had the first automated bakery in Hamilton and motorized delivery. Peter's mother died in 1945, shortly after the birth of his brother, who was raised by his mother's best friend. Peter stayed with his father, who became the most significant person in his life. They also became best friends and Peter lived with his Dad in the same house in Hamilton for 25 years. At a recent school reunion Peter found that his Dad was also remembered as great friend and coach by other children who had grown up in their area of Hamilton.

His early memories include the A.M. Cunningham playground, where you just arrived and there would be a game of some sport in progress and you simply joined in the fun. There was also the police Minor Baseball and Hockey Association which Peter grew up with for many years.

His education started with the A.M. Cunningham School, then Delta School which just celebrated it's 75th Anniversary. He attended McMaster University from 1961 to 1965, taking 3 yrs. of History and Physical Education & Health in his last year.

He was on the basketball team for the 4 yrs. under a great coach, Bill Fowler. In his final year he was the Captain and MVP for his team and was named to the 2nd All-Star team for the Province.

In 1965 there was a teacher shortage, so Peter went to Summer school for 8 weeks and then started his teaching career at C.A.S.S. with George Symons as Principal,

Don Young as History head and Dick MacKenzie as Physical Education head. He coached Football, Basketball and Track & Field, was made Physical Education head after 2 years and remained at C.A.S.S. for 14 years. Peter has wonderful memories of playing basketball for the Woodstock Kings, a team organized by

Dick MacKenzie and supported financially, and in person at their games, by Mr. and Mrs. V.B. King.

In the 1979-80 school year, the Oxford County Board of Education wanted to transfer some Dept. heads and approached Peter and 2 others. The others said no thank-you (or No), but Peter agreed to go to W.C.I, and feels it was one of the best things that has happened for him. A quote he likes to remember is 'life is a series of golden opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." After adjusting to W.C.I. and coaching against his former school, he was offered the chance to move from Physical Education to Guidance, and later to Co-operative Education. A humorous memory from the Co-op program involved Jessica Hagan on assignment at Woodingford Lodge. He went to the Lodge to review her progress and wound up as the pin setter for the bowling game she was organizing for the seniors.

His second best decision was to retire in 1997 after 32 years of teaching.

His best decision was to cut in on a dance with Carol Tupling in 1966. They were married in April, 1967 and have 3 children and 3 grand-children.

Another highlight of his life was working at the Olympia Sports Camp near Huntsville. He and his family went there for 26 years with Peter coaching Basketball and his family holidaying.

Peter got an idea from Dr. Paul Willoughby and divides his time between the 4 boxes of Life; Family, Community, Hobbies and Play. At a deeper level he has 5 anchors in his life which include Christianity, taking one day at a time, and interaction with other People.

He would like to be remembered as follows: "Being of healthy body, sound mind and positive spirit, he spent them."