**Tony Sheldon**

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| Tony informed us that his roots are in Oxford County, with his Dad coming from Ingersoll and his mother from Thamesford. His father was in sales, so his family left Woodstock when he was five and he attended 8 different schools before he enrolled at McMaster University.  On Remembrance Day, after the service at the Legion in Woodstock he also went to the Cenotaph in Ingersoll, where | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Sheldon, Tony.tif |

the names of all locals who served are listed with a poppy opposite those who did not come back. He was fortunate since his father and three uncles all returned. His father was in the 1st Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, the “Red Patch" who went from England to Italy, France, Germany and finally the Netherlands.

Tony is married to Leslie Anne, also a retired teacher, who earned her degree from Western at age 44. They have 2 children, Sarah and David.

He has been retired for over 5 years, giving him time to pursue his hobbies of woodworking, digital cameras, portrait photography, macro photography and exercising by walking daily and going to the "Y'.

A great deal of his time is spent in the volunteer sector, mostly with the Canadian Mental Health Association for the last 5 1/2 years. He started on their board in 1998 when they had a staff of 8 and a budget of $600,000. Today they have a staff of 28 with an annual budget of $1,500,000. They serve about 300 people with Serious Mental Illness, and operate a 24/7 Crisis Line. The Ministry of Health provides funding for 27 of the staff, with 1Education and Volunteer Co-coordinator funded by the United Way. The main office is on Dundas St. next to Tina's restaurant; however they are starting a building project of $1.5M on the south Elliot Bros. parking lot, with the hope of opening next June.

Most of his time with CMHA-Oxford has been spent on Special Projects. The Retired Teachers of Ontario contributed $3,650 to a project that included "The Last Taboo" for county school libraries and a consumer, client and family workshop. A topic that interested Tony was Discretionary, Testamentary or Henson trusts. Anyone setting up a will for a family member with addiction, mental disabilities or a mental illness should seek information along these lines.

He was involved in a six month Peer Review pilot project, spending a week in Thunder Bay and Fort Francis. A "Volunteer Task Force" was another 6 month project centering on "The International Year of the Volunteer". That report is available on their website for other groups.

Tony was also on the "Mental Health Implementation Task Force", an 18 month project that is still in the news today since the last government would not release the reports. You will see reference to these reports in the near future.