**Mike Connell**

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| It was lying on his back in a pool of warm, sticky, sour milk at Levitt’s Dairy one hot summer day that convinced an eighteen year old Mike Connell that maybe going on to university wasn’t such a bad idea after all.  After graduating in Psychology from Waterloo Lutheran, Mike spent a two-year internship at the Ontario Regional | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Connell, Mike - Copy.jpg |

Hospital in Woodstock where he trained as a psychometrician (one who analyzes questionnaires and tests). After a time Mike realized that his real calling was in social work and with the support of his employer he studied social work at U of T. In addition to his work at the ORC, Mike taught at WLU, instructing field workers from the Southwest region.

In the 1970s, the standard approach in children’s mental health was to sit with the child and talk. Mike’s innovation was to take the kids down to a park and knock some balls around, while working through their concerns. Having already adopted this strategy Mike was well primed when David Bond and George Ireland approached him about starting a Big Brothers group in Oxford. Mike was part of Big Brothers for about a dozen years.

With the closing of the ORC, Mike was involved with introducing computers into Ontario’s Psychiatric Hospitals. Mike attended the DEC school where he studied minicomputers (an early form of computing device). He later supervised their installation in locations throughout the province. After retiring, Mike started a computer support business.

Along the way Mike married Mary Jane and they raised three children. Now, there are two lovely granddaughters on the scene. Living up to their expectations keeps Mike hopping.