**David Smith**

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| This exercise has given me an opportunity to reflect a bit, something I have not done for a very long time, so, as you can imagine, it required some serious editing.David was born in 1940 in London, Ontario. Not an unusual beginning, except that both his parents were blind. His mother lost her eyesight at 9 months old from meningitis, while his  | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Smith, David.tif |

father lost his sight at 5 years old when a bottle exploded in a store he was in. Both parents attended the Brantford School for the Blind, lived in residence, so they were away from their parents for 10 months each year. He has one sister, and none of the family regarded the parent's blindness as a disability.

His father was a piano technician and travelled throughout the area using public transportation or hitchhiking to out of town customers. The Canadian National institute for the Blind was a great support for the family in terms of recreational activities.

He attended Tecumseh Public School, South Secondary School and Beal Technical School. He had a London Free Press paper route, saved his money and bought a TV set, which had not been a priority at their house. His father died suddenly in 1958, requiring David to quit school and find a job to support the family.

He worked for 2 years in the parts department of London Motor Products. [n 1961, he \*'as accepted on the London Police Department. in 1975, he joined the security staff at the new General Motors Parts Centre in Woodstock, later becoming a supervisor in the warehouse. He retired from GM alter 25 years.

David met Sylvia a nurse, while on the police force and they were married in 1962 (Sylvia spoke at our December meeting on the benefits of physical fitness for seniors.) They had 4 children during the next 8 years, but he

found time to coach hockey and baseball and be a Cub Leader. Summer holidays r\*'ere spent camping.

They now have 7 grandchildren and attend their school activities and sports events. They will be in Welland on the May 24th long weekend to support a grandson competing in a rowing regatta.

Their travel has included winter vacations in Jamaica, Aruba and Cuba and a trip England, Scotland and Wales for their 25th Wedding Anniversary. After a trip outside Canada they are always thankful to return to this great country of ours. He hopes to realize one of his goals with a trip to Alaska next year.

David has joined Southgate Centre and participates in singing, exercise programs and their band, most recently joining a quartet formed from the band.

Over the last two years he has made a couple of trips with another new member, Bob Beattie. It sounds like they need major help with map reading.