**Harold Walls**

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| Born in London Ont. on June 3, 1931. Due to illness, he was raised by his grandmother in Ilderton where he grew up skating and playing hockey in the Ilderton Arena.  Following High School at Central Collegiate in London he studied telegraphy and subsequently joined the C.N.R. in the summer of '49’. Spent the first winter at Hornepayne and | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Walls, Harold.tif |

Minnipuka in Northern Ontario, where trains could be on time but be a whole day late.

In 1951 he was working at Hamilton Jct. and witnessed “the best train wreck I have ever seen", due to a maintainer who had trouble with Rule G (no drinking before work or during). The result was 3 Diesel units flopped over the bank towards Hamilton Bay and 10 cars falling across the westbound main line right in front of an oncoming passenger train. Fortunately, the passenger train had received a red signal and slid to a stop before hitting the toppled cars. The whole system was tied up for 2 days while the mess was cleared away. In 1959 he thought he was rich, as he was the C.N.R. Agent and also Clerk-Treasurer for Newbury, Ont.

In Jan., 1964, he quit the C.N.R. and started his Municipal career as Clerk-Treasurer for the Town of Essex. He studied Municipal Government with Queen's University and received his designation in 1967. He also completed Public Administration at University of Windsor in 1970.

In 1971 he went to Goderich and held numerous municipal positions, was secretary to several boards, had a busy social life and also was President of Rotary for 1976/77.

In 1977 came to Oxford County as Clerk, Deputy Treasurer and was fortunate to have Ken Peers as Warden to help in his transition to County Administration which was totally different structure than at the local level. Oxford was in year 3 of its' own restructuring program and became the model for other counties. When he retired in 1995, the counties' budget was $50 Million and is now in excess of $80 Million due in part to downloading from senior government.

He is married to Barbara and lives at 41 Northland Crescent. He has spent most of his life golfing, and wasted the rest of the time.