**Ken Thompson**

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| Ken Thompson started his talk by telling us that he wanted the talk to give us a sense of what it was like to be involved in agriculture in Oxford Count-v tor -50+ years "....for those of us not lucky enough to be farmers".  Ken's father had a small dairy and delivered milk 7 day's/week by horse and wagon, or sleigh in winter. He attended Broadway school until his father bought a farm on the 10th line of East Zorra. There he found an extended | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Thomson, Ken.tif |

family at the l0th line school and described the sense of community and comradery that he found among the farm families.

Attending WCI at that time involved cadets and memories of marching were described. He followed up High School with the Diploma Course at Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. Studies in crops and livestock laid a foundation for continued learning to this day.

After OAC, Ken began working as an Artificial Insemination Technician with Oxford Cattle Breeders (later called Western Ontario Breeders Inc.). He worked there with fellow Probians Rusty McDonald, Gerry McKay, Bill Budd, and John McDougall. (Is Probus really, a subcommittee of the WOBI retirees club?) The work was interesting, even exciting, as they were pioneering a revolutionary genetic industry. He worked as an A.I Technician for 10 years and then moved gradually into advertising and sales, traveling to Western Canada where semen from Ontario bull studs began selling extensively. Since then, the industry has grown to have markets in 117 countries.

In 1955 he married Ann. They have since enjoyed over 50 years of marriage with three sons and nine grandchildren.

In 1965 he became a part-time farmer with the purchase of 100 acres on the l5th line of EZ, where they started raising pigs in a farrow to finish operation. This became full time in 1972 when he also became active in the Ontario Pork Congress. To improve the health of pigs and have total control of genetic source a system of three production sites was implemented. An interest in genetics led to a partnership in Shamrock Genetics which improved the outlook for the swine industry until the market price collapse of 1998.

By 2002, the business had 550 sows and things were going so well that Ken decided to sell and the sale was completed about a year ago so that now he has time for Probus and his hobby of travel throughout this large country.

(Thanks Ken, for an enlightening talk about agriculture, especially for the benefit of those of us ".......not lucky enough to have been farmers")