**Richard Orton**

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| How did Richard Orton come to be born in Gravenhurst?  Richard’s grandfather came to Canada in 1918.  In Britain, he was a bristle maker, and the Rubberset Company in Gravenhurst made lots of brushes.  Richard’s father and mother came to work for Rubberset as well.  Richard’s mother was also famous for her baking.   | E:\2011 12 Photo Directory Pictures\Orton Richard.jpg |

Sloan’s Restaurant, a local landmark, always featured “Mrs. Orton’s apple pie”.

Richard began his education in a one-room schoolhouse (a distinction that is becoming rarer as time goes by).  He played hockey as a kid (goalie) and his early exposure to northern life planted the seeds for a lifelong interest in the out-of-doors, camping, fishing and hunting.  In high school he became involved with cadets and, as a young adult, Richard followed this interest by joining the militia.

Richard, too, went to work for Rubberset, but by 1962 had set his sights on the new field of Data Processing.  So he moved to Toronto where he attended the International Data Processing Institute.  His first job was with Household Finance where he stayed until May 1976.

Once Richard was established in Toronto, he felt confident to propose to his future wife Jean.  Jean and Richard have two children, Andrew and Jo-Anne.  Andrew works with students at Sheridan College in their Technology Department.  Jo-Anne trained in social work and is currently employed with Community Living Ontario.  She lives here in Woodstock with her husband and two children, Jack, who is fourteen, and Eva, who is two years younger.

In 1976, the lure of the north called, and Richard and Jean settled in North Bay, where they worked in real estate for a few years. Although they enjoyed the life in the north, the income stream was not always steady.  So in 1978, Richard took a computer-related position with Fisher Controls in Woodstock, where he worked until Fisher Controls shut down in 1997.  As fate would have it, the Guarantee Company of North America had just decided to relocate its Information Systems Dept to Woodstock.  Richard found employment there until his retirement in May of 2008.

Since his retirement, Richard and Jean have taken up modern square dancing.  The exercise is great: 2½ hours of dancing is the equivalent of walking 5 km.  It is fun and it provides a great opportunity to make new friendships.  During the summer months Jean and Richard can often be found on the golf course.  Their lively pet dog, Maggie, is also a source of great interest.  Of course, there is always yard work and maintaining the fishpond.