**Ross Campbell**

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| Ross was born On April 26th, 1942. His mother, Dorothy, was a former schoolteacher and his father, Gerald, ran a cold storage locker and egg grading station in Hickson. Ross has a younger sister, Joyce, and a brother, Allan. In 1987 Ross married his wife, Dorothy, and immediately was part of a family of two boys and two girls. The three eldest were already established on their own, while the youngest was still in high school. | E:\2013 NEW MEMBERS\Ross Campbell.jpg |

Ross went to Hickson Public School and completed his formal education at Huron Park Secondary. One of his classmates was our own Phil Dunbar and it is clear from what Ross remembers, Phil has not changed much in the intervening years.

As a youngster, Ross was an enthusiastic member of the local 4 H Calf Club where he had his first ‘hands-on’ experience with livestock. Under the Club’s direction he raised his own calf. In his second year, he chose to raise a Jersey calf and this was the beginning of a lifelong interest in that breed. Armed with the proceeds from a paper route, Ross started raising cows as a moneymaking hobby and by the time he finished high school he was milking a herd of five cows. Now remember, Ross wasn’t a farm kid, so his early interest in livestock was unusual even for those times. During summer vacations and after he left school, Ross worked for a neighbouring farmer who did a lot of silo building. This meant that he had the chance to see a lot of farming operations at first hand. As Ross put it, “I got to see a number of farms, the good, the bad, and the ugly. Some farms were really good, and a lot of them could teach you something, and some, you just knew, there was something you shouldn't follow”.

In 1963 Ross, with his father’s help, moved his high school dairy herd to a rented farm near Innerkip. After about two years, he was milking around thirty cows. In 1965 he bought his present farm where he continued with his dairy operation until 2005.

Ross also took an interest in local and national dairy associations. During the mid 1960s Ross was involved with the Oxford Milk Committee and Oxford Milkways. As a member of Jersey Canada, Ross attended events hosted by the Dairy Farmers of Canada in all ten provinces. He served on the Board of Directors of Gay Lea for six years. Gay Lea is a large farm owned co-op that these days has sales approaching half a billion.

For someone from the city, I was fascinated most in hearing about Ross’s first hand experience with the pesticide Atrazine. In the early sixties, Atrazine was the wonder chemical: spray on 2 lbs. per acre and, bingo, no weeds. Well, two or three years later it was 4 lbs. per acre, then 8, and so on. Eventually, Ross started to feel poorly after spraying the chemical on his land. Then one year at the London Farm show he was introduced to a new method of cultivation that would reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides. Eventually, the Campbell farm went completely organic and Ross now sells his organic grains to Oak Manor Farms.

Ross has been active in his community. For a number of years he was a member of the Hickson Lions, he served on his church council and has just finished a term as the Chair of the Tavistock Community Health Inc (approximately 7,000 area patients use the Health Centre's services).