**Larry Sales**

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| I was born in Ingersoll on August 9th, 1949. My parents called me Lawrence Arthur Sales. I have an older brother and sister who are about ten years older than me and I have a younger sister who is three years younger. Another sister, Karen, died when she was six weeks old. Had she lived she would have been about a year older than me. | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Sales,Larry.tif |

After high school I had hoped to attend the Royal Military College in Kingston but around that time my parents realized that I had started to walk awkwardly. I was diagnosed with Pes Planus, a foot condition, which can seriously affect walking. My prognosis was such that I might well have been confined to a wheel chair by the age of twenty-five.

I was fortunate to be placed in the hands of Dr Harvey Bailey, the well-known London orthopedic surgeon, who over the next ten years performed twenty operations on my foot. With his skill, and my own determination I am still walking today even though it still hurts.

Thirty years ago this coming August I married my wife, Sylvia. Sylvia taught school in Oxford for 30 years and since her retirement from the Board continues to teach part-time at the Plattsville Christian School. We lived in Sweaburg for 21 years where we raised our family. After my retirement we moved to Woodstock.

Twenty-six years ago our very special son Brad was born. Brad was born with a shortened left leg. After much soul searching we followed the recommendations of his doctors and agreed to have Brad's left foot amputated when he was ten months old. I think that this was the most difficult decision I had to make in my entire life

Brad was a real fighter and he never would quit. As a youngster he took up competitive swimming in a big way. Eventually I had the supreme joy of being in the stands at the Para Olympics in Sydney Australia where I saw my son standing on the podium with a Gold Medal around his neck. It just doesn't get any better.

Emily is my daughter. She is 23 and has just graduated with a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science from McMaster University. Emily is a qualified sonographer and is employed at the London Health Science Centre. A sonographer is a specialized healthcare practitioner who performs medical sonography or ultrasound. Emily also swims, lifeguards and teaches swimming.

I should also tell you something of my work experience. In high school I joined the Elgin Regiment Reserve. My involvement with the regiment led to four wonderful summers spent at Camp Ipperwash. I did a variety of things including drill instructing, driving (from jeeps on up to eighteen wheelers) and in my final year I was promoted to Staff Sergeant where I was head chef for the Sergeant's mess.

After attending London Teachers College in 1968/69 my first teaching job was back at Victory Memorial School. I had been hired to teach grade eight but seven days before school started I was abruptly re-assigned to teach grade six. Several years later I learned that my principal had suddenly realized that there were at least two girls in the grade eight class who were already sixteen years old. As I was only eighteen at the time, he thought it prudent to make this adjustment in my teaching duties.

After twenty-one years of teaching in Oxford I moved to Perth County where I became a Vice Principal. Still living in Sweaburg I commuted to Stratford and subsequently worked in the small town of Gowanstown just north of Listowel. In five years I drove 850,000 miles, wore out three cars and seven sets of tires. I then moved to Park Hill and finally back to Oxford County. So after thirty-four years I ended my teaching career almost where it began, at Drumbo Public School.

Since retiring I have continued to do some supply teaching, I worked for a year at Dean Michaels as a chef, and now I occasionally drive the courtesy van at Gord Anderson’s. I really enjoy coming to the Probus club when I am able and I am also an active member of Oxford Baptist Church where I sing as part of a worship team. I have sung with the Choralaires for the past twenty years. I have been a longtime member of Lions International with a special interest in the Club's work with diabetes as I have been a diabetic for the past twenty years.

My dad always told me to remember that life is short and to live it every day. I had to take his advice to heart in 2006. I had a very eye opening experience. It started with a car accident in January, followed by a heart attack in February and then my kidneys stopped in March and I had to go on dialysis for six weeks. I was one of the fortunate few. Most people who come off of dialysis last only 6 to 8 months. This December it has been thirty-one wonderful months and I get up every day and say to myself the grass in green and the sun is shining and here I am. The most important part of life is to smile every day. That’s who I am.