

NOVEMBER 2019

NEIGHBOURS

IN REMEMBRANCE

of Glen Abbey

ESTABLISHING CONNECTIONS AND HELPING OTHERS:

BARRY AND ANGIE WYLIE

WEAR A POPPY IN REMEMBRANCE

PRANCING WITH THE STARS

OAKVILLE RESIDENT AND VETERAN
HELPS CREATE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Establishing Connections and Helping Others

Meet Barry and Angie Wylie

By Deborah Everest-Hill

Photos by Renata Pollock Studio

Barry Wylie, volunteer president of the Canadian Club of Halton and his wife Angie, a recently retired pharmacist, grew up in Winnipeg before moving to Oakville where they have lived for 42 years.

Barry was the oldest of five children and grew up in a century home near the Assiniboine River. His father was a pediatrician and his mother was a stay-at-home mom. "Life was pretty carefree back then," Barry says. "Freedom was having a bicycle and friends with bicycles, and parents that didn't have to worry where and how far you were going – just be home for dinner!"

After completing high school, Barry was not interested in practicing medicine, like his father, because he was not keen on the number of hours his father spent every day away from home, including house calls in the evenings. Barry enjoyed mathematics, it was something he had an aptitude for, and he selected a business education and enrolled in the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Manitoba. The idea of becoming a chartered accountant was raised by a friend and three years after joining Price Waterhouse, he obtained his CA designation, receiving a silver medal for the second-highest mark in Manitoba on the final exam.

Angie was the youngest of five children and grew up in Russell, a farming community in Manitoba. After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Manitoba to study pharmacy and had completed her first two years of school when the opportunity to travel abroad with Barry came up.

Barry and Angie met through mutual friends in 1973 and were married the following year. In 1976, the couple moved to Dublin, Ireland for Barry to participate in a six-month Price Waterhouse management exchange program. "On the weekends, we drove all over the Republic visiting the major



sights and historic structures," Barry says. And, before returning to Canada, the couple toured England, Scotland and Wales for four weeks, making stops at "almost every historic castle" along their route.

When the Wylies returned to Canada, Angie completed her final two years at the University of Toronto and went on to work in retail pharmacy for 25 years. She then specialized in long-term care pharmacy for 14 years before retiring. Angie says every day was different and she enjoyed the life-long learning that came with the profession.

The move to Oakville came in 1977 when Barry joined the management team at the new Price Waterhouse office in Mississauga and Angie began working in Oakville and Burlington. The couple originally settled in the Coronation Park area and then moved to Glen Abbey where they have been for 30 years. "We live in a mature area of Oakville so the trees, parks and trails are a major plus," Barry says. The lake and harbours are nearby and a nice place to take visitors. He says there are a variety of shopping options close by and "Oakville retains a sense of community despite its continual growth."

In the summer, the couple enjoys swimming in their pool, going for walks, cooking, entertaining and gardening. They tend to two 35-year-old fruit trees in their backyard: a Crabapple which they use for making jelly, and a McIntosh apple tree that provides 200 to 300 apples each year for eating, baking and giving away.

The Wylies also enjoy wine tasting. When they moved to Oakville, Barry says "the wine industry was still very small but was improving in quality. We have been strong supporters ever since." The couple also had friends and acquaintances in Oakville who enjoyed wine and food and Barry says "those connections continue today and have grown over the years."

In the 1980s Barry and Angie went on several wine tours organized by Canadian wine clubs including the Opimian Wine Society (Spain, France and Italy) and the Spanish Wine Society. The couple became friends with one of the tour guides and his wife who were originally from Barcelona but lived in Tarragona, an ancient Roman city on the Mediterranean coast. "They invited us to stay with them the next time that we decided to travel to Europe," Barry says. "That connection lasted for the next 30 years. We attended the weddings of their three sons and enjoyed travelling with them on wine, food and history trips throughout Spain and to Munich, Germany, southern Italy and Sicily, Austria, Slovenia and Lisbon, Portugal. Sadly, their close friend Joan (Juan) Lacorte passed away three years ago at the age of 69.

“ We had friends and new acquaintances living in Oakville who enjoyed wine and food, and those connections continue today and have grown over the years. ”

Barry's interest in and love for wine has permeated his role as the president of the Canadian Club of Halton. For the past ten years, the club has thanked dinner speakers with a gift of quality Niagara wines, featuring a different winery each year.

Since the Canadian Club of Halton does not have the resources to pay speakers, the club encourages speakers to participate in two ways: The club donates \$500 to a charity of the speaker's choice and gives them a selection of Niagara wines.

While Barry is still frustrated by the number of residents who are unaware of the non-profit organization now in its 34th season, he says the club has had increasing success attracting speakers from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Since he became the director in 2006, the club has more than doubled in size, growing from approximately 60 members to 180, and each dinner usually attracts between 120 and 150 people. Barry says the continued growth is largely

due to emails, flyers and the club website. "Thanks to our volunteer webmaster/audio-visual director Clayton Shold, we have had a modern website for the past three and half years, and it was recently upgraded to handle secure on-line credit card reservations."

Continued on page 12

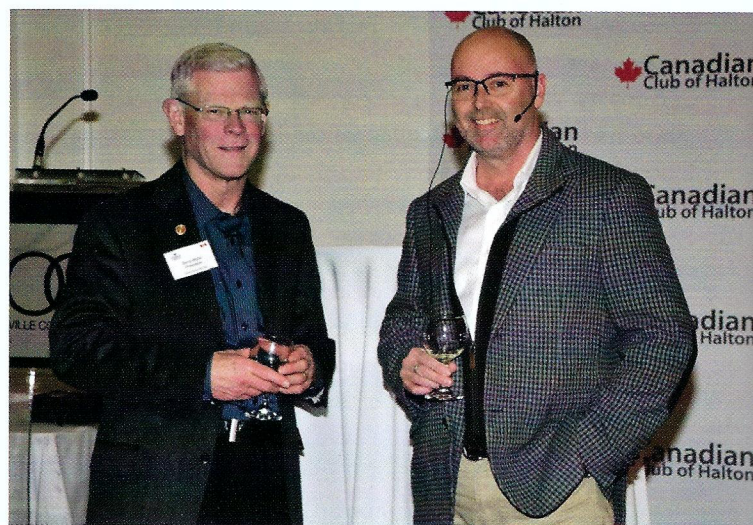
Barry says most club members are between 50 and 80 years of age and many come from professional backgrounds. "There is a nice mix of female and male members, singles and couples, and a good number sit with friends at reserved tables. Some members are very good about encouraging non-members to attend dinners and ultimately help to maintain membership numbers," he says.

Barry says his role as MC has helped enhance his public speaking skills and he received the Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellowship Award for his contributions to the community. He was also nominated for the Oakville Community Spirit Award. However, the Canadian Club of Halton is not Barry's only volunteer venture.

After leaving Price Waterhouse in 1982 to take on the job of corporate controller at NCR Canada, he then went on to assume a vice-president of finance role for an office products company in Scarborough in 1999 until he eased into retirement four years later. "Over my career I enjoyed helping clients and other business associates with their accounting, audit and tax needs, working with and guiding my staff and others at all levels and working on the practical challenges of a few acquisitions and divestitures," he says.

It was at this time that Barry realized he wasn't very engaged in the Oakville community because of working outside of it for so long and he began looking for community opportunities nearby. In 2002, he became the volunteer treasurer for the Bronte Butterfly Foundation, a charity that was active until 2008.

In 2007, he reached out to the president of the Oakville Chamber of



Barry Wylie and Craig McDonald, vice-president, winemaking at Andrew Peller Ltd., enjoying a glass of wine at the Canadian Club of Halton in April of 2018. Photo courtesy of Clayton Shold.

Commerce to determine how the two organizations could work together and ended up becoming the Chamber's volunteer treasurer, a role that he has been in for 13 years now.

To Barry and Angie "friends, food and wine are important" as is the opportunity to see many places in the world. Their advice: "travel before you no longer can or no longer want to."

For more information on the Canadian Club of Halton, visit www.canadianclubhalton.ca.