

Thank you to Harold's family for the privilege to speak here today.

The first time I met Harold was in early August 1990. David Peterson had just called a snap provincial election and the London ridings were scrambling to put nominations and candidates in place. I was the president of Middlesex and knew that a) we didn't have the full executive we would need to kick start a campaign, b) didn't have a candidate and c) we didn't have any money. Under the firm hand of Pat Chefurka things began to happen and at the nominating meeting, Harold came forward to be our Chief Financial Officer, supported me as the candidate and when the fundraising began, was the first to jump up and pledge \$500 “.

I was astounded that someone would be so willing to demonstrate such faith in a stranger but understood absolutely his commitment to our riding association and the NDP. And Harold remained our CFO for seventeen years. He toiled over the NDP accounts, frowned when we tried to spend too much money, did battle with the bean counters at provincial office and terrorized party, provincial and federal auditors. I suspect Harold rather enjoyed terrorizing auditors.

In the 17 years that followed our first meeting, I learned much, much more about Harold. I learned that he has a strong and loving family and that, that family was a part of and supported his many interests and his social and political activism.

I also learned that Harold, a man of strong principles and convictions, did not shy away from a cause- no matter how complex or how controversial. When Harold was with you, no matter what, you had nothing to fear.

The list of Harold's accomplishments is long and distinguished.

We know of his many contributions through his work as an engineer for AV Roe and Ontario Hydro; his commitment to peace and social justice; students, parents and teachers in North York; The Unitarian Fellowship; his solidarity with our First Nations brothers and sisters; his dedication to the NDP and his passion for Dorothy, his children and grandchildren and of course line dancing.

Last spring many of us gathered for Harold and Dorothy's 60th wedding anniversary and heard of how they had positively and lovingly touched the lives of so many people. We were privileged to know of a life well lived. Now we can celebrate and honour Harold by pursuing the causes that he held dear.

We can as a community of friends continue to advocate for those who need our help and understanding, and do it the way Harold did- with humility, sincerity and genuine affection.