

80 in April!

Not degrees, yet, but in years. I often wonder if I learned anything over the span of my life. With Grandkids fluent in Cyber-language and devices, and children set upon their own careers, I sometimes think I know nothing of value to them.

Yet I still have knowledge and experience that matters. I have learned, sometimes the hard way, what it is like to protect one's ethics, one's self pride, and one's open view of the world. I still have things to learn, whether through reading pertinent material or following the news from a local and global standpoint. I am gradually learning how to use my iPad and my cell phone. Gradually, not the intuitive way young people grasp the technology out of the box.

Still we all have something to offer. I once chided my Grand-dad for the time he spent conversing with what was a mentally ill resident of a facility that we serviced for Pest Control. "Why waste your time and mine while you have a conversation with a nut job?" I asked. His reply - and it was a lasting influence I carry to this day - was:

"I spent several years in this place, getting over an accidental poisoning. And let me tell you, that I found out that there is not one person on this earth, whether they be sick, old or infirm, who cannot tell you something you did not know when your day began."

With that admonition front and center for that day, I became aware of how wise my old Grand-dad really was. More to the point; he at 77 years gave me a lesson that is as true today as it was in 1954 when I was 16. It has been a long time since that day, but in many other ways, that old man was capable of giving me an education I could not have had in formal schooling. It is amazing: Mathematics, English Literature and Grammar, History, can all be taught in a school.

What school cannot teach is compassion, patience, a willingness to listen and absorb, and the provision of an ethical and personal value system that will see you through your life with other people, often strangers. School will not teach you how to speak out when you see folly, ignorance and pure

stupidity. To do that takes a confidence in your own basic intellect that lets you comment when you see dross.

My other pole star (*or philosophical touch-stone*) is a phrase by Ralph Waldo Emerson "**Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind ...**" Essentially this means that you explore as best you can the whole world around you, and hold dear those things that allow your mind to be at ease. Further, it demands that you speak up when you are faced with ideas or social mores that challenge that "integrity". To be certain of one's self requires faith in your own mental integrity. And as Emerson further suggests that if we are not confident in what our minds tell us, we shall, at some point, be forced to take, with shame, our own opinions and ideas from another.

So as you read this, and after 41 years at this location, I will be 80. I have had, so far, a very grand life. Time flies and it never comes back. Take advantage of what the world offers. If you can, travel, meet strange people, eat strange food, and relish every savory moment of life. It passes all too quickly.

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Two New Programs from CCAC Apsley

Day Away/Diner's Program:

When: 2nd Monday of the month starting April 9. We will be joining the Lakefield Diner's Club to kick off the program. Pick up at 10:40 am.

Where + How Long: Tim varies depending on Location
Cost: Transportation \$5, plus the cost of lunch.

Reservations must be made. We will be visiting different locations for an opportunity to do some sight seeing and go out for lunch. Locations may include Bancroft, Peterborough, Lakefield, Curve Lake and Ormsby.

Bank Drive Program:

When: 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month, beginning May 9.

Where: Lakefield RBC.

Time: Pick up at 10 am.

Cost: The transportation cost is \$5.

Reservations must be made. Different locations for pick up within Apsley are available: Whispering Pines, Spruce Corners, Chyler Court and Community Care.

*Please call or e-mail **Sarah McCall** at Community Care for reservations or inquiries. You must be a registered client of Community Care to participate in these programs.*

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