

## WHAT DID I WANT TO BE & WHAT DID I TURN OUT TO BE?

*by Mike Harris*

This title for me causes more than the usual introspection. First at what age did I make a decision on what I wanted to be. Second an honest answer to what I have become, and at age ninety six there is no maybe. Then there is the additional question, “Do I want to reveal myself to what are strangers and peers, and perhaps judgments?”

Since this is limited to five hundred words, I will skip all the how I arrived at my various decisions and give answers. The first part, I wanted to be happy, did not want to be poor, and being “rich” was not necessarily the guaranty for the achievement of the above. This at the age of fourteen.

Now for the second part, at ninety six, do I dare answer this? “What have I turned out to be?” “Happy” over the years more than many of my peers, “Fortunate” in choosing a lifelong partner. More than fortunate in the children my partner and I procreated and raised. Not poor by my standard, not rich either. Some hard times, but never hunger or lack of shelter. Two college graduates well adjusted adults, happy with their lives and choices, responsible citizens in their societies. So much for my partner and I to be able to claim responsible parenting and sixty years of marital success.

Now for the last part, “What did I become?” Ego says one thing, but pomposity was never a part of my nature. Perhaps I really do not have to answer this? Suppose I let others be the judge, since at ninety six it really makes no difference, I am not going to change. I am what I am, not poor, not rich, a mostly happy individual, still curious with all my buttons and over-all healthy enough to still be able to be independent. You can take it from there!