

THINGS WE MISS THE MOST

By Mike Harris

This week's assignment brings many strong emotions to the surface of all who are alive. Mostly the memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. Family and friends, a wife and partner, a mother and father, or sibling, all leaving an aching wound that never seems to heal. Does one expose their hurts to strangers? Most are not that courageous. So what to write that would be safe and acceptable for discussion?

In thinking of alternate subjects only one comes to mind. The erosion and declination of abilities and skills which compromise our freedom.

Windsor Gardens is an exceptional place to study this subject. All residents are of an advanced age. Individuals find solutions according to their natures. There seem to be categories into which they fall. The categories seem not to have clear bounds, they seem to slip one into the other.

One category for example, just accepts the end as inevitable and peaceably lets nature move them along and they arrive at their end quietly with very little fuss. The next group are restless and seek to fill their last declining years reaching out to their fellow humans grasping, socializing, fearful of the unknown and final destination. A third group tries another path. They seek to leave memories behind of help to those who are unduly incapacitated by poor health and circumstances and throw themselves into volunteering. Then there are those who do something to hold off the ravages of time by working to overcome their physical shortcomings, and apply the accumulated knowledge of civilization and try to hold back the shortcomings that occur in the time that eventually comes to all living creatures.

There is an astute observation: "WE COME INTO THIS WORLD KICKING, CRYING AND SCREAMING AND USUALLY LEAVE IT THE SAME WAY." But not all conform to this pattern. Our time in this world is not the same for everyone. The violence that we experience during our passage from birth to death, while on the whole similar, has definite distinctions for every individual. Most in the last group find some activity that is beneficial for themselves and the society of which they are a part.

That their lives might have some meaning, and they owe somehow and must give back. We all go!! And get the equivalent of "six feet of ground and no pockets."

It is something to consider and ponder, and do some thinking about our end. WHAT ARE WE MISSING?!