

## THE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO BEFORE YOU KICK THE PROVERBIAL BUCKET

*by Mike Harris*

This topic is a real out of the blue in left field. I never felt strongly about unfulfillable projects, I am more of a pragmatist. I put my mind and efforts on the doable. It makes for a much happier life.

Kicking the bucket has always been something that would eventually happen but was nothing I was concerned about, only to the constant effort to keep this event from taking place in the here and now!

Life was fun, I was lucky, I had a partner who saw things pretty much the same way that I did. Our life was in spite of ups and downs mostly fun.

We laugh at the dips and reveled in the highs. We enjoyed parenting and took pride in the highs that our progeny provided. We watched them grow and succeed and miraculously seemed to know when to let go.

As our children managed their own lives we hoped they would know the joy that comes with fulfillment. The boy found his way, never realizing that we were watchful. The girl found her way in spite of my partner's continuing mantra, "You have to get married."

Now I find myself the object of concern. I feel that my kids and my daughter-in-law love me, but I cannot accept the reversal of our roles. Too many years of making independent decisions make for a very hard acceptance of a subjective role. The adage "the road to hell is paved with good intentions" comes to mind because their good intentions are playing hell with my life. The lack of their belief in my ability to overcome my infirmities is a constant drag on my efforts. My therapists, nurses, and doctors all keep telling me that I keep surprising them. Five weeks after breaking a hip I walked six feet with just a cane, I was the only one not surprised. Sorry I can not think about kicking the bucket. Life and living is very much more fun, the here and now beats the maybe!