

## The Good Old Days ... Good?

*By Mike Harris*

Maybe? My nature is to look forward, not back. This puts me in a position where I find myself pretty much alone. To my mind there is nothing really outstanding to look back at, and there are a lot of old days, because I am approaching the century mark. In short I am an anachronism in my own time. My old days do not include my creating any world-shaking or major events.

I was born and survived the times of my being here, and am asked to talk about "The Good Old Days." What good old days? I came to an awareness of the world around me at the conclusion of World War One, which was shortly followed by the Great Depression, the years ending with the defeat of President Hoover and election of President Roosevelt. The effects of his time as the head of our country, depending who you ask, were either great or cataclysmically horrible.

On emerging from the Great Depression the country got caught up in a movement called Fascism and World War Two. After some three and a half years and victory the politicians dropped the ball and we thought ourselves omnipotent and proceeded to tell the world how they should conduct themselves. The resulting ongoing chaos and wars engulfing the planet are mute testimony to the failure of this policy. So what "Good Old Days"?

Well there were some important accomplishments. We split the atom, made some medical advancements, mechanical breakthroughs, and in so doing are living a richer life. Our progeny are better educated and there is the hope that perhaps that they will do a better job in the future than we have done in the past.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL!