

RANDOM REFLECTIONS: Good to be Home!

By Kathryn Wishlow

Last week was certainly memorable. Since waiting for my total hip replacement date this last year, wouldn't you know it was finally scheduled for Monday, March 31, 2025. Who knew it would be right after an epic ice storm! The good news is my daughter had decided weeks before to reserve a hotel room for the Sunday night before surgery, thus avoiding an early morning rush to get to Peterborough the next day. That turned out to have been the perfect thing to do because by the time we arrived, there were no rooms available in the area because of that serious ice storm the night before.

The town of Bancroft got hit with much more snow first, then a crust of ice before the rain. However the trip south on highway 28 was an eye-opener. There seemed to be no power for residents from Apsley down to half of Peterborough. The destruction was as bad if not worse than that storm that hit south of us on the May 24 weekend in 2022. Most of the trees that had fallen over the highway had been cut back earlier with their tops pushed aside. We did have to swerve around a few that had finally fallen from the weight of the ice after the

initial clearing. It hurt our hearts to see the damage.

Nobody had notified me that the surgery was cancelled and I knew that hospitals did have back up power sources. The next morning I was checked in and waiting for my 11:30am turn, but it was delayed because the power went out. I was informed that the risk of operating during generator only power, greatly increased the likelihood of infections due to lack of air circulation. I was given the option to postpone, but turned it down. As luck would have it, the power came back on just before noon. I was rushing into the operating theatre, given anesthetic and woke up just before 2pm in the recovery room. Ten minutes later the power went out! Evidently I had been lucky to have received my replacement between the outages.

Back in my room, I again was fortunate to have a semi-private room since it was the only one available on the orthopaedic floor. I was delighted to have the window side. For the next three days the sunrises, lightening storms, emergency helicopters arriving and snow flurries kept me entertained. Contrary to most hospital stories,

the food I received three times a day was actually good. The nurses were wonderful, and the students kind and attentive. My daughter was even allowed to stay with me from 9am to 6pm every day, and provide much needed encouragement and support.

After being evaluated by two different physiotherapists, I was finally released Thursday afternoon to go home and continue my healing journey. It felt like I was reentering a whole different world than the cold, icy day I had left for Peterborough. The sun was blinding, it was 21'C and we headed for the nearest Kawartha drive-through for milkshakes. All the way home, the broken trees were everywhere, hanging over the power lines and we saw why my son's family in Lakefield still had no electricity (it was restored after nine days). Gosh it was good to be home!

(Kathryn Wishlow belongs to White Pine Writers Inc., a local group of like-minded authors who encourage and support all facets of writing and publishing literary efforts. Follow them on FaceBook or www.whitepinewriter.ca)