

RANDOM REFLECTIONS: Crazy Week!

By Kathryn Wishlow

I don't know about everyone, but for me, last week was a "dilly" as my father used to say! That epic ice storm affected so many of my friends and relatives a bit further south of Bancroft. Trees were encrusted, fell on power lines and caused a huge amount of outages and damage. Here, we got about a foot of snow with the freezing rain that followed giving it a good thick crust on top. So much for any "out like a lamb" hopes for the end of March!

The drive south on Sunday was an eye opener. By the time we got to Apsley it was quite evident that the destruction was widespread. Crews must have been out clearing passages through the trees that fell on the road, however we swerved around a few that must have fallen later. I am talking hundreds between Paudash and Peterborough! No homes had heat or lights unless they had a generator. It reminded me of that nasty storm on the weekend of May 24, 2022, only worse. Both Orillia and Peterborough were declared to be "in a state of emergency."

Of course, my total hip replacement was booked for Monday March 31st in Peterborough. It is common knowledge that hospitals have generator backup, but surgeons are reluctant to operate with power changes as the ventilation shortage and lack of proper air circulation,

can lead to an increased risk of infection. That raised my anxiety levels, as did the threat of postponement since I was perfectly psyched up to get it over with.

As luck would have it, plus a gazillion good wishes and prayers, the power went out at my scheduled time. I was already in pre-op, prepped and ready two hours ahead of my surgery. Full power was restored shortly afterwards, so although delayed, the procedure went ahead. I have no idea how, where or whatever happened next. I woke up in the recovery room two hours later. Ten minutes afterwards, the power went down and the generator kicked in. According to my surgeon, everything went perfectly for me in the window between those two outages.

Because of a pre-existing issue, I was kept safely in PRH for three days and missed the next storm. I had a window view of the snow, hail, ice and then pouring rain with thunder and lightning. Sleep was not in the cards for me the night before my release! But the 21C beautiful afternoon the next day, deserved to be celebrated with a mango milkshake from the Kawartha Dairy drive through. It inspired the hope of a summer to come, and the trip home looked nothing like the drive south four days earlier.

For those of you who have yet to face a total hip replacement with the newer frontal approach, my advice is, "Fear not!" That improvement in procedure makes the old side incision entry seem pretty barbaric. My excellent treatment by the reassuring nurses and staff contributed to my confidence and healing. The speech the night before my release from the leader of our country to the south did not! Surely I am not the only person who can look down the road and see the significance and impact of a worldwide recession, and possible deflation, leading to an economic depression? Heavy sigh! Although this tactic will lead to loss of jobs, investor and business uncertainty, more expensive consumer products and tough times ahead, there will likely be benefits like falling oil, interest rates and housing prices. In order to revive the struggling economy, interesting stimuli will be created despite causing inflation ... again. Watch and wait! Sadly ... the "crazy" is not over yet.

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