

EVERYTHING WAS YESTERDAY

I remember when the first television came to town. All the kids in the neighbourhood kids would stand in front of Moore's music store and stare at it. There was nothing but the test pattern with some graphics and an indian head. It was hypnotic. How did they do that? How did they send a picture through a wire and have it end up on the screen?

I also remember the first day I came home from school and saw our first television standing in our living room. It looked like a wooden spaceship had landed. My sisters were sitting on the floor in a half lotus position looking up at the screen. I joined them. We sat in awe. We were witnessing magic. It was the birth of commercialism. There was only one channel but it wasn't long before the television gods gave us a second option. This of course led to much arguing between me and my sisters. My father threatened to burn the TV if we didn't stop it.....so of course we stopped.

I didn't know what was more impressive, the fact that the Americans put a man on the moon or that I had become a devout follower of the Friendly Giant show. I would come home from school and immediately turn the TV on. There he was....in his castle playing the theme song....early one morning. I made my own little castle out of a cardboard box, complete with draw bridge.

It was the dawning of the age of aquarius and Jimi Hendrix asked the world...."are you experienced". I had to admit I wasn't but I figured I better learn how to play the guitar and get some experience. This was a good idea because every job application I filled out asked me to state my job experiences. Yes, guitar was a good thing to learn.

It was the sixties. Computers were the size of refrigerators. They had reel to reel tapes doing a dance routine to their own noise. The line between science and science fiction was disappearing. Rod Serling's twilight zone played on TV and computers were becoming very scary beasts.

Coffee was ten cents and came in a styrofoam cup. The environment hadn't hit the front pages yet and people were more interested in LSD than acid rain. The world was turned on. Every TV was in colour, stereos got bigger and computers got smaller.....but even scarier.

Music looked like it could be a possible career so I signed up. Life got louder but was still reasonably simple....then....oil got famous. Inflation became a way of life and remains with us 'till this day. It is safe to say that the game is the same but the numbers are different.

Everything was yesterday but today leaves no room for nostalgia. We are beyond the space age. It is all about science. Progress is accelerated. The moon is just a port of call for voyagers heading down the road to Mars. Oil is still famous... even more so these days. Electric vehicles are here. Less gas is being consumed so you would think gas would be cheaper but it is just the opposite. It makes no sense.....but nothing makes sense these days. They say we will soon be a bi-planetary species. A million people inhabiting Mars by 2050. Meanwhile, earth is going through a rough phase in its evolution. Nothing new in the large scheme of things.