

Spring time for renewal, hope and gratitude

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For Canadians, spring is often a favourite season and I am one of many Canadians who hold this point of view. After a year of COVID -19 and a long pandemic that has spread world-wide, this spring of 2021 gives us hope that the new season will bring us more freedom and joy than we experienced in March, 2020. It was last spring when we first became aware of how serious the coronavirus can be.

I am delighted to see the emergence of longer days and brighter warm sunshine. It is a happy sight to see the return of robins and to hear their delightful enthusiastic songs. Spring rainfalls bring new sprouts to my hedge of red-berried yew trees. These sights are welcome and bring happiness to my heart. As I emerge into my nonagenarian years I find freedom in my outdoor walks and joy returns to my outlook on life.

The main branches of the Thames River meet within the heart of London and flow with great enthusiasm this spring. It is as though the Thames this spring defines the return of life and signifies a kind of happiness and strength that is spread throughout the centre of London. The Thames River enhances our city and it is appreciated by its citizens this season.

London has many beautiful parks. If you are able to walk outdoors in any of them you will sense a resurgence of life this spring season. I feel fortunate that there are many city employees and London workers who care about our parks maintenance and enable us to enjoy their natural beauty.

I am thrilled when I hear the distinctive call of flocks of Canada geese which are enthusiastically united by their natural drive to return to their summer homes. I look sky ward to hear their enthusiastic calls. I watch them as they fly in giant V-shaped formation heading northward. It makes me wonder as I did long ago in my childhood days. How do Canada geese get organized? How do they choose their leaders? How do they know which directions to follow? How do they decide to land together for a rest stop in the same place at the same time? I wonder at Mother Nature. I am still delighted by her springtime mysteries.

It's spring and rain and sunshine are better than snow. Warm breezes are better than cold winds. For seniors walking on dry sidewalks and scenic pathways is safer than walking on slippery snow and ice. The days are longer and the sun shines stronger each day.

For those who still drive cars, spring weather is safer than winter driving. Bicycles which were stored throughout the winter months reappear on our parks and pathways. There is a freedom of motion and emotion as people are on the move.

In a few days flowers will reappear. Warmer sunshine brings the buds back to our forest city trees in preparation for the emergence of new leaves. This springtime, March 2021, is a happy time to live in London, Ontario.

As I age I find most new spring times are better than each previous spring. This statement is not hyperbole. I say it because I am happy to be alive as I get older. I realize that our human life span is limited, each day and each spring is a recurring gift and I am lucky to be alive to enjoy each new spring with my fellow citizens in this beautiful city. I hope that many of my readers will enjoy the return of springtime as much as I do.