

## COMMENT

# Am I a senior? Maybe...

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## A Ted Bit

I don't really think of myself a senior.

Okay, sure, at 63 years of age, I certainly qualify as a senior at various retail outlets, and the government says I can take a reduced Canada Pension right now, or, wait until I'm 65 years old, to get the full pension (whatever that works out to be.)

Also, at 65 years, one starts collecting the 'Old Age Security,' or OAS, as the government types like to say.

Personally, I think they should call it something a bit more upbeat, like 'Freedom 65' instead of OLD AGE SECURITY.

Geez, it sounds like we have one foot in the grave. Mind you, we recall how unrealistic the 'Freedom 55' concept turned out to be— very few people could honestly retire, and financially survive, at age 55.

But back to my first point, I don't feel like a senior. For all intents and purposes, I think my brain stopped around age 35.

I still like the same music, I enjoy the same beer, and most times, the same food at the restaurant.

I enjoy fast cars, and still play my guitar a bit.

Some might say that's lacking adventure, and I'm stuck in a rut— I just say I'm comfortable in my own little world.

But I AM 63, and can't ignore that fact that I am sneakin' up there.

Last week, I was invited to Hillsview Active Living Centre in Acton, for the volunteer recognition reception. Several Halton Hills Councillors were there to give their best wishes to those who had volunteered so many hours over the past year.

We councillors looked after meeting and greeting, and served some refreshments and goodies. After the many volunteers were acknowledged, the certificates presented and the photos taken, a group of young guys from a band started moving in their equipment and setting up.

They had some high end equipment, and I watched with interest, as they assembled their set. Like any other band, they tuned up and checked their sound levels.

I listened as the lead guitarist rip a few leads off on his Stratocaster. I started to wonder what kind of music these guys were going to play.

After all, we're at a seniors' centre, right? What do 'seniors' listen to?

In my mind, they would be listening to music that my parents enjoyed— the big band sounds of the post-war, or Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. They're seniors, right? Isn't that what a senior would listen to?

Well, maybe the seniors from when I was age 35... not now.

Looking over the crowd, I realized these folks weren't much older than me, in fact, some were my age.

And when the band opened with some Everly Brothers, and moved on to tunes by The Beatles, Buddy Holly and Jerry Lee Lewis, and other great music, I realized this WAS their music, from not that many years ahead of me.

I loved the music, and even more so, I loved watching the folks getting up on the dance floor, dancing to many of those '50s and '60s tunes that I once cranked out on my 8-track player, or the AM radio in my 1968 Mustang. That was the late '60s, early '70s, when I was in my teens, the same time many of those at Hillsview Active Living Centre were in their early '20s.

Yup, I'm 63 years old, and I'm a 'senior'.

But after watching that group come to life last week at Hillsview, I do know it doesn't really matter what 'year' we stopped at.

All that matters is ya enjoy it.

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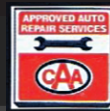
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