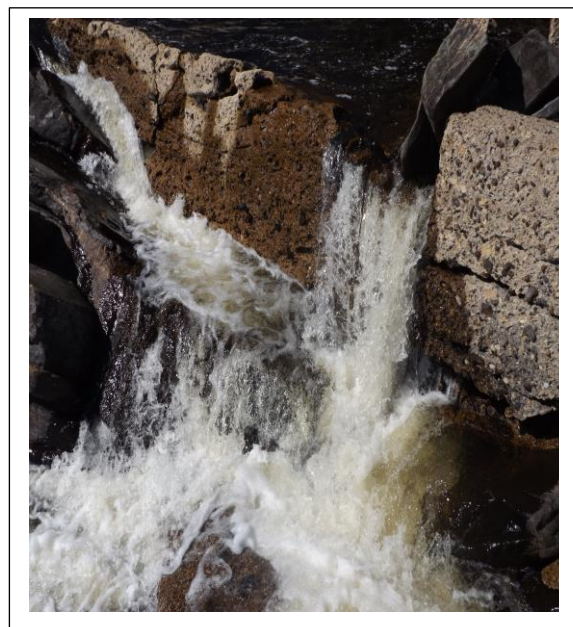


Coop's Scoops #33 May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

I've had quite a few calls from folks who are really tightly self-isolated, whether in care facilities, retirement homes, apartments etc, and who are not able to get out and about for walks or drives to see the scenes they love to see at this time of year. They really appreciate pictures! And I love to take them, so it is "marriage" made in heaven for our wants to coincide. Below you'll first see a shot of the upper part of Bracebridge falls, taken to show the water, of course, but also the size of the buds on the brush beside the walkway. They will burst and be in full leaf very soon. Last year at this time, we were still buried in meters of snow (last big snow was May 14<sup>th</sup>), and not a bud in view. We were about to suffer extensive damaging flooding. Now this year, there is no flooding. The winter snows have gone with quiet and gradual grace and none of the picnic tables in the park are under water. So many homes damaged last year. How wonderful it is that in this pandemic time, nature has been so kind to us with fine weather, and an early spring. Now, of course, it COULD snow again, but I doubt it, and even if it does, it will be gone quickly. This is a great blessing!





Now when I go off on my pictorial walks of course I wear a mask! But not just ANY mask. One made by our own Mary Andison. It is so incredibly cute I had to show you! Thanks so much, Mary. People in the grocery stand 6feet way and holler "That's an amazing mask". Lucky me! ( Those colourful figures are all children!)

Here's a good one sent in by Caroline this morning!

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now.

( with apologies to all ethics or health motivated vegetarians!)



## **In Loving Memory : Rev. Canon Tom Crawford**

May 5, 2020

I am so sad today in announcing that my dear friend, and a great supporter of Lake of Bays, Rev. Canon Tom Crawford passed away yesterday. David and I both shall miss him greatly. David and Tom spoke often on the phone for long periods of time and the calls were a combination of world affairs and laughter. Tom always said to David...I will pray and all you have to do is listen, and listen, David did. Tom was a teacher and encourager during my discernment. I will always see him as a builder and strengthener of my faith. Tom was a great support in the successful fundraising that we took on at St Ambrose. He attended many of our meetings, adding prayer, support and great optimism. He always encouraged me to be more bold and to assume that the goal would be reached and it was. He was such a support to Rev. Heather in her first Parish and as she took and returned from her maternity leave. He and Father John Thompson were a great team. Tom and Nancy have a wonderful family and I pray that they will be strengthened from their shared love and support. They will all be well aware of the pride and love that Tom had for each of them. Nancy's strength and love of family and community will serve her well in the sad days ahead. My prayers are with you all. Tom will now be free to fly where his legs have not been able to carry him for some time. Tom awaited his Lord and the dawn of new life without fear. He loved shepherding his flocks while on earth and was confident that he would never be separated from the love of his God. Now he will rest in the everlasting, caring arms of Christ. Tom may you now have the peace and joy that you so anticipated while here on earth. Tom, I shall miss your support, friendship and love. Today I am very sad but strengthened with the sure and certain hope that you are with your Lord.

Rev. Margaret Morrison+

**Prayer: Rest eternal grant to Canon Tom, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

## Your Scripture for Today:

**Matthew 18: 1-5** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?” Jesus called a child, whom He put in the middle of them, and said “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in My name, welcomes Me. “

Now here’s a twist for today! I am not going to write about this scripture, but rather I am asking YOU to tell me what it means to you, and how it might be relative to this time we are in, and perhaps a word about someone who has blessed your life through childlike humility and faith. Don’t stress! No one HAS to do this, but it could be a good exercise, thinking it through, and coming to some sort of statement about it.

I remember a few years back just chatting with my granddaughter Claire, at about the age of six. We’d looked at a book about dogs, and I pointed to one, and asked “What is this dog’s name?” I expected her to say “Brownie” or “Fido” or “Goldie” or some such. What she said however was “Hmmm...I wonder...” Instead of just giving a stock answer, she moved into being “relational” with the dog in the book, the dog was not just a “who” but an animal with a history, and many who may have named it and so on.

She taught me that whenever someone asks me what a certain Scripture means, a perfectly good answer is “ I wonder.....” And then spend some time actually wondering about it. So have some fun with this, and if you like, send me your thoughts! Thanks!!!

## Prayers for this day!

As a child, O Lord, I accept your acceptance of me.  
I confess that You are always with me and always for me.  
I receive into my spirit your grace, your mercy, your care.  
I rest in your Love, leaning into your shoulder,  
I rest in your Love as a child this day.

( adapted from “Prayers from the Heart”, Richard J. Foster, 1994, Harper San Francisco press)

**You've already had a good chuckle from Caroline but here's one more!**

Another one from the Family Crypt ( which just means a true story from my real life):

Back when I was doing police victim assistance work, I was driving out to a funeral to scope out some witnesses as the deceased person had very sadly been murdered. It was a beautiful day, and I did not actually know the deceased, so my mind was not grieving. It just began to wander. I became truly amazed that every vehicle...truck...motorcycles....cars...kids on scooters....bicycles.... pedestrians..... big log trucks....virtually EVERYTHING in Sault Ste. Marie comes to a full halt while funeral cars pass by, no exceptions! .

And it popped into my head **“O my goodness, if I can only live in Sault Ste. Marie until I die, I will finally have a body that stops traffic!”**

Yup, actually happened. Then I moved. But I got my chance, just outside of the Grand Canyon in 2011. That's my pretty face in that amazing body!



