

## ***Thoughts and Smiles – April 22, 2024***

Today I said “I’m fine”, not once  
But five times altogether  
When people asked “How are you?”  
Then made small talk of the weather

And so I hid behind my mask  
The one I’d worn a while  
I set in place my bravest face  
And dressed it with a smile

And that was how the day went  
All “I’m fine” and talk of rain  
Until somebody asked me how I was  
Then asked again

They asked if I was truly fine  
And I said I was not  
And they said they were sorry  
That they couldn’t do a lot

But then they sat beside me  
Whilst I spoke the truth at last  
They listened and they held me  
As the tears slipped through my mask

And where before, I’d felt I should  
Maintain this brave façade,  
I realised there was much to gain  
By letting down my guard

See, though my load was still the same  
It now was not as heavy  
‘Cause sitting and offloading it  
Had helped a bit already

Today they asked “how are you?”  
And I told them I was fine  
‘Til someone saw behind the mask  
And asked me one more time

And though they may have felt  
That there was little they could do  
They’ll never know how much it meant  
To tell someone the truth

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Becky Hemsley  
Artwork by Xuan Loc Xuan





In 2019 when I lived in Missouri I had a knock on the door from an older neighbour who was moving and wanted to know if I wanted some "old furniture" from his house. I said I'd take a look and take some stuff off their hands. Not finding anything I could really work with, in the basement sat this 1963 Zenith colour television with Hi-Fi sound and 19-inch screen under a bedsheet in the corner.

The guy smiled and said he hadn't used it in decades. He remembered the day his parents brought it home in the station wagon - his dad had a big smile, and his mother's face was as

white as a ghost because of the cost of a colour TV at the time.

He also recalled that when he was 13, he, his parents, and a couple of friends gathered around the glowing picture tube as man landed on the moon in 1969, everyone's eyes glued to the screen. When he grew up and got married in 1978, his parents gifted him the television as the first set for him and his bride's new home.

He treasured it so much that he never got rid of it, even after the picture tube went out. After that, he asked me if I would take care of it for him. I told him absolutely. I've had it ever since, and it's moved a couple of states with me. I am saving up a small fund to ship it off to have it fully restored electronically one day.

They don't make them like they used to.

– author unknown



Two hillbillies were sipping shine on the front porch when a truck went past loaded up with rolls of sod.

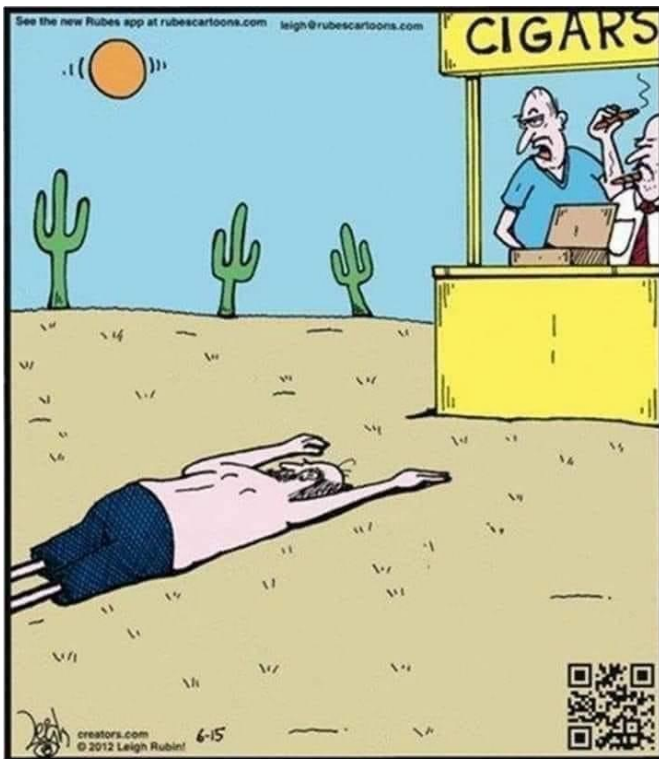
"I'm a-gonna do that when I win that there lottery," announced hillbilly #1.

"Do wut?" asked hillbilly #2.

"Send my lawn out to git mowed."

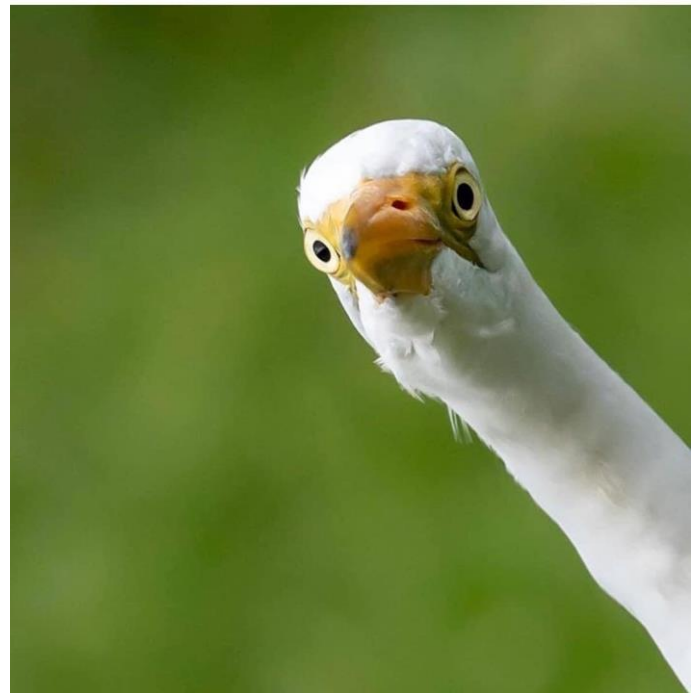


How quilters cut cake



"Close, but..."

When you go to the store for things that aren't plants but you see plants over there.





*Have a terrific week!*

*Blessings to you all!*

David Jones  
Minister of Outreach and Pastoral Care  
Hepworth-Sauble Beach Pastoral Charge  
226-568-3476 [ipcross.jones@gmail.com](mailto:ipcross.jones@gmail.com)

*Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach  
United Church website.*

<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>



"YOU MIGHT WANNA PULL UP A CHAIR.  
I'VE HAD A PRETTY BUSY DAY."

