

IT'S MY PARTY AND I'LL CRY IF I WANT TO? It is a day we all look forward to but sometimes don't want to see it roll around.

However, not having one is the worst scenario.

I am speaking of birthdays. Celebrating one's birthday with family and friends is a lot of fun, even at my age. My Mama, when she was still living, used to remember everyone's birthday. She used to send me birthday cards every day for two weeks prior to the date.

Birthday parties are always a lot of fun. There is the traditional ice cream and cake, the blowing out of candles, games and gifts.

I have a friend named Bonnie. I have known her for a few years and our birthdays fall on the same day. Bonnie is a fun-loving gal and I happen to be one, too. This year to celebrate the occasion, we decided to have a party at The Red Pig restaurant in Ottawa.

We wanted to get some friends and family together, have a meal together and some entertainment. We were looking for someone to jump out of our birthday cake, but no one volunteered. However, a good friend and a great musician, Bob Clark, offered to sing and play his guitar.

In the meantime we learned that another one of our friends was also celebrating his birthday on the same date as ours. So we had three birthdays to celebrate.

We invited people by word of mouth and on Facebook. We were never quite sure how many were going to attend, because unexpected things do happen at the last minute. We had thought at least 40 people were going to attend.

The night of the party arrived and of course it was raining. The rain did not dampen the spirits of those inside celebrating birthdays. The drinks and food were flowing and a big cake baked by one of our friends stood elegantly on a table.

The evening was a fun one as our entertainer Clark sang songs such as: "I Love That Old Time Rock and Roll," "Music Music Music" and "Livin' On Tulsa Time."

The evening was a lot of fun and afterwards I sat at the bar and had a martini with the big dogs. It was my first time trying a martini and it wasn't that bad. Happy Birthday to me! Happy Birthday to Bonnie and Happy Birthday to Bob Snyder!

A few days later it was my grandson, Owen's, birthday. Owen turned 5 and celebrated the big day with family members. A big Mexican food buffet was served along with ice cream and cake. It was a fun party also. Just chasing after grandkids and opening gifts was all the entertainment needed at this party. So, Happy Birthday to Owen!

Birthdays come and go and even though we like having them, it still means that time is slipping by. I have heard people say, "I quit having birthdays a long time ago." We are always going to have birthdays, but whether or not we celebrate them in a special way is up to us.

Personally, I believe that regardless of how old you are, you still enjoy just knowing that on a certain day you made an appearance into the world.

How do you celebrate your birthday? Do you still have them? Do you believe a birthday is a cause for a wake or a celebration? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.