

Our Technology Was Adventure: A Nostalgic Look at Growing Up Without Technology.

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“I remember when life was so easy, boys grew into men and little girls to women, but it ain’t like that anymore...(Winans)

I’m not exactly a spring chicken but neither am I on the waiting list to occupy a room at the Valleyview retirement facility in North York, Ontario. So I can reminisce on what it was like to grow up with minimal technology.

Summers used to be my favourite time of year, not just because school was out, but also because I would spend all summer long with my three cousins who were as sports-driven, junk-food-eating, sleep-deprived and adventurous as I. We would spend our days riding our bikes all over the neighbourhood and when it got cooler, we would play sports (mostly basketball) until the streetlights came on. My cousins were fortunate enough to have a Sega Genesis gaming console that at the time seemed to be the Wii of the 1980’s; however, we really didn’t play it all that much. Our technology was adventure!

When I got to high school, I remember trying to complete an assignment or write an essay using a typewriter and how hard it was to finish. I so much preferred to use good ol’ pen and paper. Yes, I would write an essay on lined paper using a pen. Today such a concept is nearly unheard of. Without Google, I had to research and find the answers to life myself and it took time. Taking time meant I had to read. Reading meant I was learning and retaining information that would make me more knowledgeable and help me with my writing skills. Now that I think about it, I got the best of both worlds: Life before the onslaught of technology and the benefits today’s technology brings.

Don’t get me wrong; I love technology. Technology has had so much positive impact on my life. MSN and e-mail gave me immediate communication with my girlfriend (who is now my wife) while I was away at school. The internet cut down the amount of time it would take me to do research so I could actually spend time writing, and technology simply allowed me to work from home where there are no hours of operation and no time constraints.

Today, technology continues to impact my life. From my classroom, church and personal life, I have learned to weave technology in with the important principles that are necessary to better enhance the use of technology. Read before you watch, draft before you type, and script before you perform.

Now that I’m an adult, I realize that life wasn’t easy back then; it was just that I was a child and my scope of responsibility was limited to how much food I could eat, how many hours I could play and how many days I could get away with not taking a shower, *but it ain’t like that anymore!* Life is more complicated now, and technology is here to stay.

