

FOR MYSELF



For five hours a day, three days a week Arthur receives dialysis.



Arthur has had both his legs amputated due to poor blood flow caused by his diabetes.



Arthur sits inside his Bridge Street Retirement Residence apartment. After his second leg was amputated, Arthur needed to be in a place with around-the-clock care.

“I didn’t want to be there, I wanted to be here.”

Independence is something we all strive for. When I first met Arthur Gough, he was living in a retirement home, a place he did not want to be. Independence for Gough would come only when he would leave Bridge Street Retirement Residence and make his way back to Foxboro, where he has been living since 1963.

Diabetes has played a big role in Gough's life. Living with the disease for some years now, it has affected him in the worst ways possible. Poor blood circulation to his feet has forced Gough to have both his legs amputated below the knees. The left leg was amputated four years ago, and the right one was amputated in June of 2012. With just his left leg gone, Gough was still able to live in his home in Foxboro, but it was when the right leg was removed that he was forced from his home and into a place with around the clock care and easy accessibility for someone in a wheelchair.

While waiting for prosthetic care, Gough was confined to a wheelchair, making his home in Foxboro unfit for him to be living in.

“I didn’t want to be there, I wanted to be here. Because here I do as I want to do, not what they want me

to do. When you’re in a retirement home you have to follow the house rules. I like to do what I want to do, so I’m here.”

Gough would spend 11 months, from July to May, living in Bridge Street Retirement Residence.



“I had to go to some place I could get around in a wheelchair. But as soon as I got a leg on the right side, I came home.”

Gough bought his tiny, one-story house in Foxboro back in 1963. Having grown up in Foxboro, it was only right that when he got married he bought his own home in the small town just north of Belleville. Gough raised his family at 143 Ashley St., and as his kids got older they went their own way. After losing his wife about 10 years ago, Gough would find himself alone in his quiet Foxboro home.

“I had my wife and kids then, but now I’m all by myself. It’s better than being in a retirement home anyway. I’m living here by myself because I want to be here.”

Now you might think a 76-year-old man that doesn’t have any legs below the knees would want to be living in a place with around the clock care and assistance and a place with people, but not Gough. Being at home in Foxboro is more important. It may be more dangerous and demanding, but home is where he wants to be.

To view the multi-media version of this story, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=33599>

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MATTHEW DESOUSA



Arthur uses his back scratcher to relieve an itch.



Arthur gets ready to eat a home-cooked meal.