

Where There's a Will...

My grandmother had all these sayings that at first, as a child, I didn't even understand; as I grew older they just drove me crazy so I didn't bother to understand, but underneath it all was this constant subliminal message which performed an essential function in shaping the person I am today.

"There's no such word as can't" was her reply whenever I complained that I couldn't do something. "Where there's a will there's a way" was what I heard when I was about to give up on something. The old woman drove me nuts and it wasn't until I was an adult that I realized the important philosophy she handed over to me. It didn't take long before I was driving others nuts whenever I heard that something couldn't be done – I would find a way, just as my grandmother had taught me.

Ralph Marston, a contributor to the [Practice Journal e-builder](#) states that "Everything you accomplish you must first attempt. And, to borrow from another old saying, "if it first you don't succeed"... I find these days that too many of us give up. In a society where we are used to instant gratification, quick response times and multitasking, we tend to fall short with our longer term goals. We don't have the patience nor do we claim to have the time to wait around for long term payoffs.

I think we need to borrow from those we consider successful; whether it be as parents, as partners, artists or leaders of organizations. If you ask them I am certain they will tell you that aside from a bit of luck, everything they're good at took planning, dedication, persistence and effort. But first you have to have the will, as my grandmother would have said. Will, combined with action and persistence will get you the success you want for yourself, but it won't happen in an instant. So next time you're about to give up on something, remember all those people you look up to and admire and ask yourself if they achieved success in a day and without effort; If they believed that they could not accomplish what they set out to do. I am certain you will find that my grandmother was right: "there's no such word as can't"

So to borrow from Ralph Marston once again:

"When you are clear about why you must do what you must do, you'll have no trouble finding the will and the commitment ..."

Article by Linda Constant, lconstant@optimusperformance.ca