You can't stop time. You can't even slow it down for a while. Time goes on regardless. What can you do?

You want summer to never end, but it's ending. This is the week before Labor Day, and many people are taking one last vacation trip before the realities of September and fall set in.

So now that summer is nearly over, we wonder what lies ahead for us, just over that next hill. The days are getting cooler. The humid summer days are just a sticky memory now. We grab jackets more often and glance at the thermometer before going outside. The sun is getting up later and punching out earlier—it is really easy to see that now.

That northwest breeze has already paid us a few visits. It was pleasant and fresh, indeed, but we weren't born yesterday. We know what's going to be coming from the northwest in two or three months. When will we start saying "the S word"?

We start wondering what this fall and winter will be like. Will it be stormy? Will it be mild? How cold will it get? How soon will the really cold weather get here? How will we deal with it all?

But deal with it, we will. We will make our way through it, watching the leaves change and later raking all of them up. We will watch the U.P.'s unique culture reassert itself during deer season. We will feel it as the rain turn colder and looks whiter. We will make sure the car's window brush and scraper are where they need to be: close at hand..

Before long, we will be seeing pumpkins and black cats and funny costumes. Plenty of orange and black. Then it will be wreaths and holly and evergreen trees and the big bearded man in the red suit. And the baby in the manger. Plenty of red and green.

Football season is here, and schools start next week. Time to head off to camp and get that ready for fall. Time to think about decorations and crafts and special meals.

Summer was nice, but now it is ending. We can't stop time. We can't even slow it down. It's a fact of nature. So let's enjoy the good times and preserve them in our memories for when the days aren't so warm.

And then we'll go out and make more memories this fall and winter. That's part of being in the U.P. That's what we do.

--Peter Nocerini.