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A Ted Bit

When the best-laid plans don't go as planned

Did you ever notice how rarely things actually go as planned?

Case in point— I took last week off work for my annual Thanksgiving week vacation.

Unlike other years, part of the week was spent in Ottawa, where The Sidekick's father and brother reside. We were joined by two of her sisters as well, for a full-blown Thanksgiving celebration with many of her family members. It was really nice to get away for a few days— something we don't do very often.

But 'Ted's Thanksgiving Week Vacation' has traditionally been the time when I get lots of outside work done around the farm, packing things away in preparation of winter.

So that didn't exactly go as planned.

By the time we got back, and dealt with other appointments throughout the balance of the week, I only had Friday afternoon to get things put into storage.

Now the Lil Red Rocket, my set of summer wheels, has traditionally been stored in the driving shed every winter, cozily tucked away between the New Holland hay baler and the International combine, waiting for spring to return, to once again take to the road.

When the Lil Red Rocket moves to the shed, that frees up one of the parking spots in the garage— the place I park my daily drive for the winter.

The other parking spot is for The Sidekick— she too has an extra vehicle, but it's moving on soon.

Some who read this column may recall I purchased a new vehicle last summer.

It's a Ford F150 pickup, and it took the place of both the 2001 Explorer and the 1999 F150 farm truck.

Every year in the past, when the Lil Red Rocket moved over to the shed, the Explorer simply took its place inside the garage, protected from the snow and ice that has to be cleaned off a vehicle parked outside during the winter months.

Keeping with that status quo, I just assumed I'd be parking the new F150

in that space this winter.

Again— seems it was time for a change of plans.

Even though the new F150 is essentially the same size as the 1999, there is one big difference.

It has huge mirrors on each side.

I eased the truck through the garage door, and found it went in as far as the mirrors— and could go no further.

Admittedly, I did have the option of folding the mirrors in, but that gave it about an inch or less clearance on either side.

It just wasn't gonna happen.

I could just see the first icy morning, backing the truck out, and the back wheels of the truck shifting just a tiny bit to one side on the ice, resulting in some part of the truck 'kissing' the edge of the garage door.

I'm sure the resulting outburst of profanity and the glowing blue light in the sky would be seen and heard across the GTA.

After looking at it from every conceivable angle, it became abundantly clear the Lil Red Rocket will be spending the winter in the garage, not the shed.

For a short time, I did consider parking the F150 in the shed, but that would mean walking through the deep

snow over to the shed every morning to drive to work, not to mention having to open and close the big sliding doors on the driving shed every time I wanted to come or go.

And I'm pretty sure that would be a lot more effort than simply cleaning off the accumulated snow and ice.

Besides, the way the shed is arranged, the F150 would be in the way of the big tractor and snowblower, making it even more awkward.

So I'm at an impasse.

It seems I have two choices.

I can simply bite the bullet and clean snow off the truck for this winter.

Or, take a more drastic action.

I wonder— how much would it cost to build another garage?



TED BROWN

'For a short time, I did consider parking the F150 in the shed...'

—Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@theifp.ca

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS



COME SHAPE THE VISION!

The Vision Georgetown Project

The Town of Halton Hills has launched Vision Georgetown, which is a planning project focused on the future development of the lands shown on the map below. The study area is 1,000 acres and will be home to approximately 20,000 people and 1,700 jobs by 2031. The end product of the study will be a Secondary Plan which will include:

- a land use map which will identify where the different land uses will be located, including different types of housing, retail and other businesses, community facilities (schools, community centres, places of worship), parks, natural areas, storm water management ponds, and the road and trails network; and,
- detailed land use and neighbourhood design policies to guide the development of the area.

We Want to Hear from You!

The Town of Halton Hills encourages you to participate in this Visioning Session. Come out to the session and give your input to the Vision and Guiding Principles, which will provide a solid foundation for the development of a preferred land use concept, and policy framework, leading into the preparation of a proposed Secondary Plan in the concluding phase of the project.

Details of the meeting are as follows:

Date: Saturday November 2, 2013
Time: 1:30 to 4:30 PM
Location: Gellert Community Centre, 10241 Eighth Line, Georgetown

Please RSVP:

The main focus of this meeting is to hear from you. It will be very interactive and carried out in a workshop format. In order to assist with planning this event, you are asked to register in advance with Town staff at visiongeorgetown@haltonhills.ca or 905-873-2601 ext. 2214. Please encourage interested friends or colleagues to attend, and ask them to RSVP!

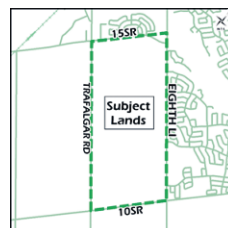
For More Information

If you are unable to attend the Visioning Session but would like to obtain further details about the study or provide comments, please visit the Planning, Development and Sustainability Department, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, Ontario L7G 5G2, email us at visiongeorgetown@haltonhills.ca, or contact:

Tara Buonpensiero
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Steve Burke
Manager of Planning Policy
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Please be sure to visit the Town's project website at www.visiongeorgetown.ca for updates on the study and to be added to the project mailing list.



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