

Remaining enlightened

After recently changing a light bulb, I've decided there's a conspiracy out there.

The light bulb people are running the world. By 2012, we will no longer be able to buy old style incandescent light bulbs.

Only those annoying compact fluorescent (CF) ones will be available.

Now I've given the CFs a fair shake. I've replaced many of the original incandescent bulbs in the house with CFs.

But there's a problem— they're garbage.

I have a pair of them in the garage. You know, the cold, dark garage, where we park our cars? Just try a CF in that environment.

When it's cold, it takes forever to light up. They start to glow, then build up to their full-fledged pathetic light (which seems to be equivalent to a couple birthday candles.) I tell ya, by the time it's up to full brightness, I'm late for work.

Then there's the upstairs bathroom. Being old like me, when I get up in the night, I want instant light, not some pathetic glow in the dark. Geez, I need all the help I can get to... well, you know.

And in the barn— well that turned out to be the worst-case scenario.

The stable's cold, that's a given, so the same problem arose as in the garage, only more so, as there was a whole row of bulbs, not one or two.

They took much too long to light—in fact, some wouldn't light at all, they just hung there and flickered.

Now when I'm facing a stable full of hungry sheep, or worse still, a ewe giving birth in the middle of the night, well I need light— pronto.

So the CFs were short-lived in the barn. I switched back to the originals within days.

In the barn, I have another use for incandescents— as a heat source.

Now before an environmentalist declares "Heat uses energy, and we're all for saving energy," well, just hang

Ted Brown



on a minute. You see, I utilize that heat.

My water bowls for the livestock are kept warm by enclosing a 100 watt bulb under them, which creates 100 watts of heat, keeping the bowls from freezing.

I'm really not sure how I'll address the problem once I can no longer buy incandescent bulbs.

There are heated water bowls with electric elements on the market, but they cost hundreds of dollars. And the hydro used to heat them versus a light bulb?

There's a huge difference.

So we have a deadline, and it's gonna be here by 2012.

But I have a plan. I'm buying up 12-packs of 100 watt bulbs. Geez, I may even sell 'em on the black market, to others who want to remain enlightened.

So for those who are afraid of the dark, (or at least hate the dim light of a CF), go out and buy as many of those bulk packs of incandescents as you can find, and hide 'em under lock and key, to be used when the old ones burn out.

That way, we can remain enlightened— at least more than those embracing CFs.

And just watch— somewhere down the line, someone will 'discover' CFs are hazardous to landfill, or create a health hazard in the home.

By then, the others will be history and we'll likely be paying a surcharge to dispose of the CFs.

—Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com

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ATHLETES of the week

Acton High School



Natalie Roza



Nicola Kitching



Dylan Auty



Jessica Hannan



Megan de Chastelain



Zac Borotsik

G.D.H.S

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Natalie Roza and Nicola Kitching. Both are members of the Bearcats' swim team, and have been chosen for their dedication to the team, attending practices and working on their events.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Megan de Chastelain and Zac Borotsik. Borotsik is a dedicated member of the Rebels' curling team having played well in the zone playdowns, while de Chastelain is on the swim team, and was recognized for her team spirit and willingness to improve her times.

Christ the King Catholic High School Athletes of the Week are Dylan Auty and Jessica Hannan. Auty, a forward on the Jaguars' hockey team, was chosen for his play at a tournament in New York, where he was named MVP for scoring the tying goal. Hannan, a centre on the Jags' girls hockey team, was selected for her two assists in a game against Notre Dame High School.



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