

Back in the saddle

Okay, I'm back.

After almost seven weeks, I'm back in the saddle.

Not that I actually have a horse outfitted with a saddle—I do have the saddle at home—just haven't used it in decades.

You see, to do so you really need to own a horse. But The Sidekick made it clear some time ago that we are NOT getting a horse. Her reason—'You can't eat a horse.'

That's a tough one to argue.... 'nuff of that.

During the past seven weeks, I've come to a number of conclusions and made several discoveries while convalescing with my arm in a sling and my stitches feeling itchy.

1. My first discovery—daytime TV is a complete waste of electricity.

I do NOT care how much that wedding dress cost, nor do I feel compelled to watch some strung-out bride fight with her mother, her father, her sister or her fiancé.

I figure give the princess \$10,000 and a ladder and move on.

On the same note, I really don't give a damn how many groceries some obsessed woman can 'buy' using a zillion coupons she has squirreled away by climbing into a dumpster, and spent 60 hours a week gathering up a binder-full of these 'great' offers.

I wanna tell her to get a job and rent out the bedroom she's filled with 7,000 boxes of tissue and feminine hygiene products she got 'real cheap' with her coupons—she'd be further ahead in the long run.

2. By the second week, I gave up on daytime TV, and tried a healthier approach to living. After breakfast, I'd walk to the barn, let Hamish the border collie out, and we'd do 'things'—like walk out for the mail (if it wasn't raining), walk to the back of the farm (if it wasn't too muddy), sit on the verandah (when it was warm enough) and check the sheep, every couple hours.

The sheep rarely changed, and there wasn't much to do, as The Sidekick was pretty good about lending a hand, keeping them fed and watered before and after her office job.

Hamish was visibly overjoyed with the attention and companionship of this new-

Ted Brown



found arrangement. And I was pleased to have him to 'talk' to as well.

Naturally he was disappointed when our weekday walks and jaunts came to an end last week, when I started back to work.

3. I re-discovered two-hour lunch breaks, with a 45 minute nap thrown in the mix. (Hamish took part in the lunch/nap routine too, sprawled out on the floor beside me. Oh yeah, I also discovered he snores almost as loud as The Sidekick!)

4. During my time off, I learned there is another world when it comes to covering elections. For the first time in 30 years, I sat at home and watched election results coming in on TV, having Lloyd Robertson predict when the Conservatives had won, rather than hanging out at Michael Chong's party, waiting for the news.

Geez, I was in bed hours earlier than I would have ordinarily been, out on the road covering the election results.

5. While I was off, I lost nine pounds, much to the chagrin of The Sidekick. When it comes to the old waistline, I guess opening a can of soup or making a sandwich is better than buying lunch.

6. Oh, another plus—I suddenly discovered I had money in my wallet. Same with the gas tank. Filled up every two weeks or so—not twice a week.

So those were some of the discoveries and conclusions I garnered and gathered during my time off.

But there was one more thing I discovered.

I missed the people.

People in the mall, people out on the road, people who sent cards and emails wishing me well. Yup, I'm a 'people person'.

So I'm back in the saddle again.

Even though I still don't have a horse.

VISION 2000
GROUPE VOYAGES - TRAVEL GROUP
CRUISES & VACATIONS

Vision 2000 Exclusive Bonus:
US \$100 per stateroom Onboard Credit &
Pinnacle Grill dinner for 2

TRANSATLANTIC SAVINGS!

17 Day Spanish Odyssey | October 25 2011

Rome to Ft Lauderdale aboard the *m.s. Noordam*

Highlights: Civitavecchia (Rome), Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Cartagena, Malaga, Cadiz (Seville), Portimao, Lisbon & Funchal (Madeira)

Inside stateroom fares starting at **US \$1499** p.p.

Balcony stateroom fares starting at **US \$1899** p.p.

Taxes of \$123.41 are additional

Holland America
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



Georgetown

328 Guelph St. Georgetown, ON T1C0 Reg #50018501

905-873-2000

VIRTUOSO MEMBER
SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL

Open Saturdays 9am - 4pm
www.vision2000travel.com

All fares are in US Dollars, per person, cruise only, based on double occupancy and subject to availability at time of booking. Cruise Line reserves the right to withdraw promotion without any prior notice. Government Fees & Taxes are additional as stated above. Vision 2000 Exclusive Bonus may not be combinable with other promotions and can be withdrawn at any time. Ships Registry: The Netherlands.



**IF IT'S NOT WORTH
DRIVING, IT'S NOT
WORTH BUILDING.**



2011 MAZDASPEED 3

With over 120 international awards, the 2011 MAZDA3 is made for people seeking pure driving pleasure in a car that's anything but ordinary.

Take advantage of extraordinary lease and finance offers today.

2011 MAZDA 3

Lease from **\$169*** at **2.9%**
per month
for 48 months with **\$1,795 down**

2011 MAZDA 3 SPORT

Lease from **\$189*** at **2.9%**
per month
for 48 months with **\$1,895 down**

GT model shown



GT model shown



For DSC-equipped models built after December 2010*



★★★★★
HIGHEST GOVERNMENT FRONTAL CRASH SAFETY RATING*

OR

0% PURCHASE FINANCING* FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS

MAZDA DELIVERY PROMISE

We promise that every new Mazda is ready to meet all your driving needs, starting with a comprehensive delivery inspection, a full tank of gas, fitted front and rear floor mats and our 24-hour Roadside Assistance with no administration fees. Get complete details at mazda.ca/promise.

*Based on Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. ♦U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) frontal impact rating for 2011 Mazda3 and 2011 Mazda3 Sport models. *Offers available on retail leases of new 2011 Mazda3 GX (D4XS1AA00)/2011 Mazda3 Sport GX (D5XS1AA00) with a lease APR of 2.9%/2.9% and monthly payments of \$169/\$189 for 48/48 months, the total lease obligation is \$9,932/\$10,985, including down payment of \$1,795/\$1,895. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of \$1,495/\$1,495. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. 24,000 km leases also available. PPSA and taxes are extra. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Leasing may not be available for all models. Lease offers vary by region and trim level/model. See mazda.ca or your dealer for lease available vehicles. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on new 2011 Mazda3 models. Example: using a financed amount of \$20,000, the cost of borrowing for a 60-month term is \$0, monthly payment is \$333.33, total finance obligation is \$20,000. Terms vary by model, see your dealer for full details. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes, down payment and other dealer charges are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order or trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Lease and Finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers valid while supplies last. Prices subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

WHAT DO YOU DRIVE?

TEST DRIVE A MAZDA TODAY OR GO TO MAZDA.CA FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

ZOOM-ZOOM.

Ahoy, Mateys!

Stag 'n Doe for

Lori Eldridge & Wayne Ervin

Georgetown Lions Hall
Sat. June 4th, 7:30 pm

Games, Food & Prizes!

Tickets \$10 at the door.

FREE DELIVERY

Largest Selection of
Patio Furniture in
Halton Hills
Since 1998

INDOOR & OUTDOOR FURNITURE

136 Guelph St., Georgetown (Across from Christ the King School) 905-873-9791

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK www.furnitureindooroutdoor.ca