

# Not just a horse, but a war horse

Most people who live on a farm have some sort of a relationship with animals.

The Sidekick and I have farm animals we bond with in our day-to-day chores.

Naturally, the most enthusiastic animal on the farm who is always there to greet us is Hamish, our border collie. He's affectionate, and loving— with an unconditional love for us. If we have to discipline him, he accepts it, then comes back, tail wagging, ready to play.

There are cats in the barn— most of them feral— but one or two who come to greet us, particularly if they hear the rattle of the dish with some kibble in it.

There are always some sheep in the flock who are pets. They walk over to the edge of the pen and nuzzle our hands and sleeves. If we happen to be in the pen, they'll even rub their heads against our legs, like some giant cat.

Being a livestock farmer, one must have a certain 'feeling' for animals, a sense of responsibility, watching over them and their well-being, as well as simply enjoying them, as part of the unique makeup of the farm.

One animal that tends to tug at everyone's heart is the noble horse, an animal people often elevate to a near-godlike status.

I like to watch horses— mostly someone else's horses, in someone else's field— as they graze and wander about, picking at the tender bits of pasture. But I'd never elevate 'em to godlike status.

As a kid, we had ponies— basically 'mini' horses. Most days after coming home from school, I'd ride our Shetland pony Vicky to the back of the farm and bring in the cattle for milking. She gave birth to Vince, and we also had another pony, a Hackney named Prince. We had them for decades— all but Prince are buried on the farm.

So I'm familiar with that feeling, that bonding with a horse.

Last weekend, The Sidekick and I went to see a very different horse.

It was a war horse.

For her birthday, my daughters gave The Sidekick tickets to the Princess of Wales Theatre production, *War Horse*.

## Ted Brown



We're not strangers to the story, having seen Steven Spielberg's movie version. We both read the book by Michael Morpurgo, so we figured we knew what to expect on the Mirvish stage in Toronto.

Boy, were we wrong.

Oh sure, we knew the storyline, and expected some variation from the book. But we weren't ready for the emotion.

I can honestly say I have never attended a more moving and emotional stage production during my three decades as an entertainment reporter. I wasn't there to review it— simply there to be entertained.

Time and again, I found myself drawn into a vortex of emotion, sometimes my heart in my throat, other times close to tears.

The horses, giant life-sized puppets, were so realistic, with their ears flipping and their heads nodding, at times making it incredibly difficult to remember they were indeed puppets, not real horses.

Driving home, The Sidekick and I talked about the emotional roller-coaster we experienced. I reminisced how, after watching the screen version, I mentioned how 'it would be kinda nice to get a horse...'

"We don't need a horse Ted," she said. "We have more than enough animals."

I agreed that she was probably right.

But Saturday evening after the matinee, we chatted with our neighbours. We told them how it was such a spectacular show, and relayed the highlights to them.

And as we were preparing to leave, I chuckled to myself as The Sidekick said to them in passing.

"We've seen the movie, we've read the book, and seen the play— guess now the only thing left is to get a horse..."

VISTON 2000  
GROUPE VOYAGES - TRAVEL GROUP  
CRUISES & VACATIONS

SAVE up to \$2,400 per couple on  
2013 Europe and Russia River Cruises

## SAVE ON 2013 RIVER CRUISES

Book your 2013 Uniworld Boutique River Cruise to Europe or Russia **NOW** and Pay in full to **SAVE** between **\$800** per couple to **\$2,400** per couple

UNIWORLD  
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION

**Don't miss out -**  
this offer expires **June 30, 2012.**

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

Savings listed is in CAD dollars. Actual savings vary by program and may be less. Pay-in-Full Savings is not combinable with the Early Booking Savings or any other promotional offers, and requires full payment at time of booking. Subject to availability. Capacity controlled. Other restrictions may apply. Uniworld reserves the right to withdraw or change offers at any time. Please contact Vision 2000 for complete details on all promotions, general information, and terms and conditions applicable to all Uniworld trips

**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](http://www.furnitureindooroutdoor.ca)

## SERVING YOU IN HALTON HILLS

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott schedules meetings with constituents in Georgetown on a regular basis at Mold Masters Sportsplex (Arena) Rink B Boardroom, 221 Guelph Street.

To arrange a meeting, please call the Wellington Halton-Hills Provincial Riding Office at 1-800-265-2366.

For more information: [www.tedarnottmpp.com](http://www.tedarnottmpp.com)



**TED ARNOTT, MPP**  
Wellington-Halton Hills



*Celebrating  
50 Years Together*



In celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary **Pat & George Baines** and family invite you to an **Open House** at the **Georgetown Seniors Centre, 318 Guelph St. Saturday May 12, 2012 from 2pm - 4pm**



**CALL TO BOOK DINNER**  
289 Rutherford Rd. S.  
**905-456-0422**

**SATURDAY TRIBUTE SHOWS**  
All shows sponsored by **Rocknhead.com**

**THIS SATURDAY MAY 12**  
**THE BEATLES**

Performed by The Rattles

**SATURDAY MAY 19**  
**PINK FLOYD**

Performed by Floyd Factor

**SATURDAY MAY 26**  
**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**

Performed by Glory Days

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
**East Coast Kitchen Party with Derek Pilgrim & Roy Penny. Jiggs Dinner**

## STAG & DOE



for

**Heather Graham**  
and **Luke Vandermeer**  
**Saturday May 12, 2012**  
**7 pm - 1 am**

**Georgetown Masonic Lodge**  
12 Lindsay Crt. (Hwy. 7 & Trafalgar - before the tracks)  
Games, Prizes, Dancing & Good Times  
For tickets call 519-853-3504  
& also available at the door

*To Mom  
on Mother's Day*



*I love you more than words can say  
And that is why this Mother's Day,  
Won't be the same without you here,  
But in my heart, I know you're near.  
Love you and miss you  
Sheri  
xoxo*

**Happy 92nd Birthday  
Kenneth Pantling!**  
**May 10th, 2012**



**Love & Best Wishes**  
**Linda, Paul, Joy, Derek,  
Liz, Deanna & Duane**  
**X X X X X**