

Letters to the editor Do we care about refugees?

Canada has a long and proud tradition of actively welcoming refugees from other nations, reflecting the proud sense of our role in a world where many live with danger and need.

Can we still hold up our heads up with pride? Are we really living up to that tradition? Our experience two passionately committed churches in Oakville with the refugee process makes us wonder.

Our first experience went really well. With only a week of advance notice we welcomed a United Nations-identified refugee family and supported them so well that they are now established and new Canadians living in our community. Not so much with the other two families we have committed ourselves to sponsor.

Both these families are Iraqi and have fled their homes due to the turmoil and dangers caused by ISIS. Both these families are trapped in refugee settlements in Turkey. While here in Canada, as sponsors, we are ready to go with the full range of needed support: accommodations, jobs and personal support. Despite that, our applications seem to sit unattended to; one filed in November 2015, the second in the fall of 2016. Despite repeated emails, pleas, and even meeting with our local MP, there has been absolutely no direct contact by our government to move the immigration process along for either family. This is disappointing in view of our government's promise to clear the backlog by this year.

Gary Dobbie

There s a different set of rules when Mommy s away

This past weekend, I hosted a boys event.

You see, The Sidekick was away for a few days tending to her dad in Ottawa.

He had to relocate to a new facility, since his mobility has become a problem and his assisted-living facility couldn t accommodate his needs anymore.

So The Sidekick, joined by one sister, her older brother and a bunch of nieces, moved him to his new place and cleared his old location.

As I watched her vehicle drive out the lane Thursday morning I had a twinge of guilt.

Oh sure, I was gonna miss her but I could also host a boys weekend.

And my best friend was standing at my side waiting for the party to begin.

Naturally, I m referring to Hamish.

He watched her vehicle disappear over the hill and shed his I m gonna miss you Mommy look then turned to me saying, Okay Ted, when s this party gonna start?

I have mixed feelings when she leaves for Ottawa, a trip she makes a couple times a year. Sometimes I accompany her, and enjoy conversations with some of her siblings it s rare to see them all at the same time, as the six of them are spread across Canada, from Montreal in the east, to Nanaimo B.C. in the west, and a few in between.

But for this trip I couldn t go I m still waiting on three remaining sheep to have their lambs.

So it was just Hamish and me.

When The Sidekick leaves Hamish changes a bit.

I know he misses her every time he enters the house with me he checks every room in the house even the upstairs bedrooms.

Mind you, I wonder if he s missing her, or just checking to see if she s still gone so he can get away with those things he might not usually be

able to pull off.

He knows when Mommy s away, there s a whole different set of rules.

One is the fact her side of the love seat is open when I watch TV so he walks into the den bold as brass and hops right on to her side of the love seat.

The other is television programming.

If he s said it once, he s probably said it a million times, If I have to watch one more episode of *Say Yes to the Dress*, I m gonna explode

I have to agree with him. We both know when the Sidekick is away, Brown Farm is definitely a *Say Yes to the Dress*-free zone.

He has also said watching *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* wears him down, as the screaming women

in the audience tend to hurt his acute sense of hearing.

On the other hand, Hamish enjoys car shows on TV. I m betting he can watch em all night and imagine marking all those tires on the television, yet there s absolutely no risk of any sort of dehydration that he might experience in real life.

Over the years, I ve learned there are a couple things that we don t joke about when The Sidekick goes to Ottawa.

One time after she d been away, I joked that Hamish really enjoyed his time at the house, especially sleeping on her side of the bed.

Experience has taught me to never, ever, joke about that again.

So it was a good weekend. I had the entire bed to myself and full control of the TV remote.

But at the same time, it s always good when she s back I know little breaks in routine are always healthy for a relationship.

And in spite of the fact Hamish enjoys her vacancy when she s away, he s always happy to hear her vehicle pull into the garage.

And you know what? He s not alone .



TED BROWN

The Way We Were



The first baby of the New Year is always a celebrated event, and in 1967 that honour went to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hulme. Bruce Andrew Hulme became the town's Centennial baby, born at Georgetown and District Hospital at 11.59 p.m. on New Year's Day. His timing earned him a \$50 government bond, put up as a gift by the town for the first baby born in 1967.

Photo courtesy of Esquesing Historical Society/Text courtesy of Heritage Halton Hills

Speedy Glass

We handle all insurance work.

• Truck Accessories • Upholstery
• Heavy Equipment Glass
• Window Tinting

354 Guelph Street, Georgetown
905-873-1655

Furnace Air Conditioning Gaslines Boilers Water Heaters Radiant Heating

Brooks Heating & Air.ca

905-877-3100

NAPOLEON

Local Experts You Know & Trust

proud local dealer of Canadian made products

Visit our showroom

BuyWise

WINDOWS & DOORS

• your window & door professionals •
341 Guelph St., Unit 3 Georgetown
905.873.0236
www.buy-wise.ca info@buy-wise.ca
• awarded readers choice 26 times •