

CALL TODAY!

# BULK SALT

- TRADE & PUBLIC WELCOME
- PICK UP/DELIVERED
- ALSO AVAILABLE IN BAGS

24/7 ALWAYS ON CALL



519-853-2480

www.RedsGardenCentre.com  
12771 Hwy 25 (2 Km South of Acton)



## COMMENT

# I feel like picking a fight with Mother Nature

By Ted Brown  
tedbit@hotmail.com



A Ted Bit

Okay, I've had it.

I've been patient, tried my best to be positive about the weather.

But I'm now in cranky mode— I'm almost ready to pick a fight with Mother Nature.

Geez, how much more do we have to endure? We've been frozen up since November, without even a tiny thaw.

The kitchen sink in the farmhouse has been frozen for weeks— it seems the water didn't get away from the drain where it's not buried very deep, and presto! It's solid.

And I'm not seeing any relief arriving in the not too distant future.

The Sidekick and I are in it for the duration, until the ground thaws enough to dig up the drain.

In the meantime, I re-routed the drain hose from the dishwasher into a big pail under the sink. We can now run the dishwasher, and catch it in a pail, then dump it.

There's more frost issues in the barn.

I have heat straps on all the pipes in the barn, but at this time of year, there are several sheep being watered by pails, not with a heated water bowl.

When an ewe gives birth to a lamb, she is isolated from the rest of the flock, and placed in a lambing pen, were mom and her lamb can bond for a few days before being re-introduced to the flock.

So every morning we have to thaw out six or seven pails that are frozen solid.

However, the most frustrating problem with the deep freeze is the lambs themselves. As a rule, the sheep (with their body heat,) keep the stable around 0 degrees Celsius, at times slipping down to -2 on a really cold night.

But with this prolonged cold, the barn is now around -6 to -8 Celsius, which is

simply too cold for newborn lambs.

When a lamb is born, its mother usually licks it off, and in doing so, dries its fleece, turning the little guy into an insulated little ball of wool.

But with the extreme cold, the mom doesn't have enough time to get it dry, before the second lamb (twin) is born. As a result, with virtually every set of multiple lambs (twins or triplets) we lost one of the lambs simply because the poor little thing couldn't get warmed up quickly enough. It only takes minutes for a wet lamb to die of hypothermia.

My most dramatic loss was from our Number One ewe, one of the best mothers in the barn. She gave birth to triplet ewe lambs— ordinarily, that's like winning the lottery.

Sadly, she was only able to save one before the other two died from the -8 temperature.

If I'd been there when they were born, I could have wrapped them in a towel and rubbed them down, giving them a fighting chance. But as luck would have it, she gave birth in the wee hours of the morning. They were a significant loss.

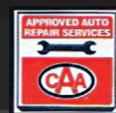
Of course, compared to the larger picture in our towns and cities around us, where homeless people are dying out on the streets, or, most tragically, that little three-year-old boy who died after getting outside in the middle of the night— well, my concerns at home seem pretty trivial.

And we do know the mild temperatures will eventually arrive, hopefully soon.

But until then, all we can do is bundle up, and be cognizant of the extremity of the cold.

Cuz ya know— there's no point picking a fight with Mother Nature.

She always wins.



CAA Approved Vehicle Repair Facility



We do ALL Automotive Maintenance  
**QUIK AUTO REPAIR**

Serving Halton Hills & Georgetown Since 1985

354 Guelph St. Unit 21, Georgetown

905-877-8220

bstephens@quikautokrown.com



- Dental Consults
- Medical Grooming
- Behavior Counselling
- Member of the Emergency Clinic on HWY 10
- Compassionate and quality health care and pain management



Mountainview Animal Hospital

905-702-8822

www.mountainviewanimalhospital.ca

333 Mountainview Road Unit #12  
South Georgetown Centre



Director: CRAIG MARSHALL  
Music Director: LUMENA DANIEL  
Choreographer: JENNIFER MARSHALL  
Producer: LEANN PLAYTER

Music by Alan Menken  
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater  
Book by Doug Wright  
Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film  
Music Adapted and Arranged by David Weinstein

MAY 1 and 8 @ 7:30pm  
MAY 2, 3, 9, 10 @ 2:00pm

JOHN ELLIOTT THEATRE / Georgetown

Tickets \$16 / www.globeproductions.ca  
Box Office 905 877 3700



DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. / Phone: 212.541.4684, Fax: 212.397.4684 / www.MITShows.com

**SUCK UP THE SAVINGS!**

ONLY **\$139.99**

Limited Time Offer

- 3 year warranty!
- Deep cleaning
- 46ft of extended reach

**Cleans BETTER THAN DYSAN...  
for LESS than 1/2 the Price!!\***



\*Ask for details!

HALTON HILLS  
**SEWING & VACUUM**

140 Guelph St.,  
Georgetown (across from CTK)  
905-873-8196