

Watching farmer Brian's life, in 30 seconds

By Ted Brown
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I recall those early mornings in the barn with Dad, sharing moments, talking about what was on TV the night before, upcoming events— you name it, we discussed it.

I can relate to Brian as a teen, fixing a fence out front of the farm, as his non-farming friends drive by in a 1964 Mercury, waving and shouting “Hi Brian,” on their way to some event, while he’s stuck at home doing chores.

Many times in my teenage life, I’d be annoyed that I had to work, while my friends seemed to be having the time of their lives, partying, going away for the weekend— you name it, while I was at home, doing chores.

I can relate to the young dad Brian, in the barn with his own kids helping out— the next gen-



A Ted Bit

eration following behind him.

My daughters often spent time in the barn with me with the chores, until we sold the cattle.

The scene progresses to middle age Brian, a bit more reflective with a solid purpose.

Finally, the last scene shows Brian, now a senior, walking to the house— a much slower walk— as someone calls out to him, “Dinner’s ready Brian.”

The focus of the commercial is to point out how dairy farmers dedicate their lives, milking cows, usually in a 24/7 lifestyle.

I lived that life up until the late 1980s, when we sold our cattle.

Dairying or not, if one is raised in that farming environment, one never forgets the good and the bad things about being a farmer, especially in an operation which involves looking after animals.

I returned to that livestock farming life with our sheep, and now I see myself as the older Brian, walking a bit slower now, up that same path to the same house for dinner.

Unless you’ve lived that life, it’s difficult to grasp how that commercial can make you think.

As a farmer, every aspect of one’s life must be pre-planned, making sure the livestock are tended to. Every meeting, social event and family commitment is planned around the animals’ needs, and the farm.

When one farms, there’s no

such thing as a ‘spontaneous vacation.’

Back in 1978, radio broadcaster Paul Harvey delivered his famous speech, “So God made a farmer,” giving an insight into the life of a farmer. You can search it online— it is really a great piece of writing.

This past week, as I sat on my tractor, raking hay in the front field, a truck with a boat went flying down the road. I reminisced to myself, thinking back to my teenage days.

Back then, I’d have been grumbling to myself about ‘them having fun, while I hafta work..’

But now, I’ve come to realize, I’ve been the lucky one. I’ve been the one who had the quiet solitude that ‘they’ could never imagine.

And I’m the one, still walking up to the house, albeit at a slower gait, ready for supper.



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Get ready for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games

The Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games start this week and with the Town of Milton as the official host of cycling events during the games, there will be lots of activity happening in our community. We have been working closely with the Town and the Toronto 2015 Pan Am organizing committee, to ensure the Games will be safe, fun and successful for everyone.

Plan ahead!

Temporary traffic measures will be used throughout the games to keep traffic moving, reduce congestion near venues and ensure athletes, media, visitors and spectators can travel safely to and from events.

Temporary Regional Road closures

- Parts of Bronte Road (RR 25) and Britannia Road (RR 6) will be closed due to cycling Time Trial events in Milton:
 - July 21, 2015** from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 - July 22, 2015** from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please note: There will also be road closures on August 12 and 13, 2015 for the Parapan Am Games. For more information visit halton.ca/TO2015.

Halton Waste Management Site closure – July 22

- As part of the Pan Am Time Trial Cycling events in Milton, the **Halton Waste Management Site (HWMS)** will be closed on **July 22, 2015**. All curbside waste will continue to be collected as usual on this date. The HWMS will reopen on July 23, 2015, with regular operating hours.

For more information on the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am games, visit halton.ca/TO2015, milton.ca/games or dial 311.

