

# Weedeater, whipper-snipper, weed-whacker, string trimmer? They're all the same

By Ted Brown  
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I'm not what one would call an impulse buyer.

I've written about that in the past. It's generally a pretty cold day in hell when I go out and purchase something that might be construed as frivolous. But last Friday I had my two grandsons with me for the day, and when The Sidekick came home, we took the boys out to dinner, then later dropped them off at my daughter's place.

As usual, the boys thanked us for keeping them for the day, then hustled into the house for their television fix before bed.

As my daughter and son-in-law chatted, I spotted something on the floor of the garage.

It was a string trimmer—a big string trimmer—a big rechargeable string trimmer.

Okay, I call it a string trimmer, but there are a zillion names attributed to the same tool. There's the 'weedeater' (more of a product name instead of the generic name), the whipper-snipper, weed-whacker, and I'm sure there's lots more nicknames for the same tool.

My brother-in-law, for example, not only calls his a 'weedeater', but he has also adopted the word as a verb... "The lawn is done, so I'm just going out to 'weed-eat' the flowerbeds..."

So there I was, in the presence of my son-in-law's weed whacker, feeling a bit envious. I picked it up—it was fairly light weight (and when you're over the 60-year mark, the weight of the tool is important.) I gave it a few spins—

nice, really fast and a nice manly buzz sound.

The Sidekick was first to break my concentration.

"You should put that on your Christmas list, or even your birthday list," she said, referring to how my daughters are always challenged, when it comes to shopping for me for Christmas.

"Okay, that's a nice thought," I replied, "But do I really want to receive a weed whacker for Christmas? The snow is kinda deep..."

I added that my birthday is 11 months away—again, a long ways off.

Son-in-law Kevin carried on with the product demonstration, showing me how it would tilt and work as a sidewalk edger, as well as the fact it was rechargeable.

I thought back, waaaaay back to the 1980s when we bought a gas weed whacker on the farm.

It was a monster of a thing, that could almost cut down small trees. It was brutal to use, but did a great job. Later we owned an electric one, that was the opposite—weak and pathetic, and was limited to the length of your extension cord. The one in my hands, was half the weight of the gas one and had one really nice feature—it would run for 30 minutes on a full charge. I commented that was a good thing.

"Only 30 minutes?" she said, "That's not very long."

"Yup, that's a great feature—it runs for 30 minutes, then I have to sit on the verandah while it's recharging..."

The next day we perused the weed whacker display at Canadian Tire.

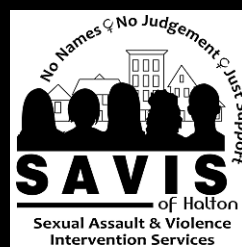
Geez, there's zillions of models available. One had

20-volt batteries, another with 24-volt batteries, and finally one had a 40-volt battery, with a four-year warranty. After comparing, The Sidekick and I decided on the 40-volt model—sort of the 'high-performance, street-racing' model of the group.



## A Ted Bit

"It's only got one battery," she said, as we headed to the cash, "Don't you think it'd be a good idea to have a second battery as a backup?" "Nah, I'm quite happy with being able to run (only) 30 minutes before I have to take a break.



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