

The times, they are a-changin'

Whenever I hear those words, I'm reminded of that philosophical quote, 'The only constant in life is change,' writes Ted Brown



TED BROWN
Column

to -20 C for more than three weeks, causing us to lose 24 lambs to hyperthermia.

So it was ten years ago The Sidekick and I became shepherds.

And as all things have a beginning and an end, we will be retiring from raising sheep, before winter.

We've been talking about when we would shut down the sheep operation - we just didn't know when.

But last December, we were contacted by a colleague who had a buyer interested in acquiring 100 ewe lambs, to set up an operation in Prince Edward Island this spring.

Neither my colleague and I could collectively supply 100 ewe lambs this spring - but we could work toward it.

During the negotiating, the buyer suggested he'd accept young adult ewes as well.

Back to our flock inventory sheets and we found we could be close to reaching his target. And when he accepted ewes in good shape born in 2013 or later - well, The Sidekick and I were able to come up with 24 ewe lambs and 29 mature ewes - leaving us with only 11 senior ewes, which includes two of the original ten ewes we bought a decade ago.

So with that catalyst provided by our buyer, The Sidekick and I decided this was the opportune time to disperse the flock.

I won't lie, it is bitter-sweet.

Yesterday a 53 foot double-decker livestock tractor trailer threaded a needle to get up to the loading door of our barn, and we loaded the 53 sheep, to start on their 26 hour journey, the first leg to Quebec, then be transferred to another truck, which drives non-stop to P.E.I.

As they were loaded, I watched the fear in their eyes, and thought back to those times I'd helped them give birth, or treat a sickness that required medication.

I thought of the time one of them laid her head in my lap, in appreciation for helping her through a difficult birth.

That brought a tear to my eye.

Years ago, I spoke with an elderly woman who had raised sheep. She told me that I was "privileged" to be, "like a good shepherd, responsible for all the staples of that flock of sheep."

I'd never thought of it that way before.

But watching that truck head out the driveway, I had a knot in my gut. The responsibility and safety for my flock was ebbing away from me.

We still have a few sheep left, but their future is not great.

They're past their prime, and will be gone before winter.

So I'll focus on the good times, those times when, like a good shepherd, we kept our flock safe, and we kept them well.

Yes sir, the times, they are a-changin' for sure.

And The Sidekick and I are a-changin' with them.

- Ted Brown is a freelance columnist for the IFP. He can be reached at tedbit@hotmail.com.

THEN & NOW



Esquesing Historical Society

Opened in 1936, the Georgetown Post Office on Mill Street became too crowded within three decades of use and closed in 1963. Pictured here circa 1950, "Big Ben" is one of the few federal buildings constructed during the Great Depression to have a costly clock tower design. Today, the Art Deco structure is used as an apartment building.

Visit our showroom

BuyWise
WINDOWS & DOORS

• your window & door professionals •

11 Mountainview Rd., N. Georgetown, ON L7G 4T3

905.873.0236

www.buy-wise.ca info@buy-wise.ca

• awarded readers choice 27 times •

Furnace Air Conditioning Gaslines Boilers Water Heaters Radiant Heating

Brooks
Heating & Air.ca

905-877-3100

NAPOLEON
proud local dealer of Canadian made products



Local Experts You Know & Trust

Speedy Glass

We handle all insurance work.



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

354 Guelph Street, Georgetown
905-873-1655