

THE WAY WE WERE

This 1908 photo shows Knox Presbyterian Church, still a familiar landmark in Georgetown at 116 Main St. South. A good example of a Gothic Revival style church, featuring two towers, symmetrical façade and lancet windows, it was built in 1887 to replace the first church building on this site, constructed 20 years earlier but deemed too small for the congregation. Knox Presbyterian Church is a listed cultural heritage property. -Submitted by Heritage Halton Hills

Esqueusing Historical Society



OPINION

OK, SO I'M A SENTIMENTAL OLD FOOL

FARM MACHINERY TRULY A HALTON HERITAGE COMBINE, WRITES BROWN



TED BROWN
Column

tractor until we purchased bigger ones in the years that followed.

It has been my No. 1 tractor ever since it was new, and all it does now is cut the lawn with a big finishing mower. I'm betting it will likely "outlive" me; I'll likely never sell it as long as I'm on the farm.

A few years ago, I had a moment of weakness regarding an old combine.

Now this combine, a Model 93 International, has some Halton history. It was purchased new from Dales Farm Machinery in Milton in 1962 by Burlington farmer Brock Harris. It was

quite unique, as it came with two headers (the front attachments): a 10-foot grain header and a two-row corn header. Very few combines were equipped with a corn header in the 1960s.

Brock Harris eventually traded it to local New Holland farm equipment dealer Bill Penson in 1977, and Dad and I bought it from Penson. In late 1980, we traded our 93 International to Massey dealer Murt Allison, acquiring a bigger Massey Ferguson 300 combine.

Murt sold the 93 to another owner, and there it sat until 2012, when I happened to attend the auction sale where that combine had gone 30-plus years before.

And letting sentiment and emotion get the better of me, I bid it up to \$500 to avoid having some guy haul it away for scrap. I once again became the proud owner of that 93 International combine.

It's a little machine, not one of those huge behemoths that rumble across the field these days, harvesting grain, soybeans or corn, and costing the price of a fairly nice house.

Nope, we're talking a tiny little combine with a 10-foot wide cutter head - not 30-plus feet like today's monsters.

Raising sheep, I had the perfect excuse for buying it. I could grow 10 acres of grain to feed them and harvest it myself when it was ready.

And it ran like a well-oiled machine.

Earlier this year, The

Sidekick and I decided to stop raising sheep, so the combine became redundant. We just didn't need it anymore.

Sadly, old machinery like that usually ends up in the scrapyard.

But as fate would have it, I had a buyer come in, looking at another piece of equipment. He asked about the 93.

I told him the story, from 1962 to present. I said it's truly a Halton heritage combine, never leaving Halton.

He grew up near Brock Harris's farm, so he was familiar with its origins - and he lives near Lowville, still in Halton.

He asked the price, and he bought it.

He intends to grow grain for his cattle, and like me, be able to harvest it when he wants - not when the

customer operator is available.

It's quite compact, so it's also easy to store.

I tell ya, finding a buyer for that 93 was like finding a good home for a family pet.

I know he's excited about getting it and will tinker with it, making it into a project.

There aren't many small, old combines around anymore, so saving this one makes me feel warm and fuzzy inside.

The 93 will be gone next week, and it's a bittersweet moment.

But I know it's going to a good home.

And who knows? I might just visit it someday.

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