

# Look out grass, it's 'monster' mower

Walking in the front door of the church last Sunday, I exchanged pleasantries with the minister.

"Sure was quite a rain last night Ted," he said, "But we must have needed it— my lawn really greened up after that shower."

In my case, the rain isn't necessary to 'green up the lawn.' It simply makes it taller.

Grass cutting has always been my major Saturday activity— I have acres and acres of grass, all over the property.

For me, riding up and down the lawn is a therapeutic time of contemplation.

I'd venture to say I've solved more problems in the world from that little yellow seat, than any philosopher in the universe.

Up until this year, I'd climb aboard the trusty John Deere and be finished about three hours later— but that's changed. In the past I shared grass cutting duties with Dad. He cut the north side of the lane, I cut the south side.

Being retired, Dad had time on his hands, and enjoyed cutting it in little segments, taking on a 45-minute area one day, and another half hour the next, off and on throughout the week.

But with Dad's passing earlier this year, cutting both sides of the lane has become my sole responsibility. I first tackled the entire area three weekends ago.

More than six and a half hours later, I hobbled away in pain from the little John Deere, thinking there had to be a better way.

Don't get me wrong— I still love cutting grass. But there just ain't enough issues in the universe to contemplate for six hours— three seems to be my limit.

My nephew cuts grass all over, including a cemetery, so we sat down one day and shared a few ideas on how to address my problem over a cold Sleeman's.

"It would seem to me Uncle Ted," he said authoritatively, "That you've either gotta cut less grass, or find a way to cut it a helluva lot faster."

It's damned annoying when someone so easily simplifies things like that.

Since cutting less grass seemed to be out of the question, it was time to investigate a faster way.

I looked at tow-behind offset mowers to hitch to the John Deere, but they're kinda heavy and have a separate engine that requires service. I figured they'd probably tax those 18 little horses under the hood of the Deere a bit too much.

Dropping by Ed Stewart's Equipment in Erin, I talked to Randy Stewart. After reviewing a few different options (at different costs), I

A  
TED  
BIT



Ted Brown

decided to utilize my farm tractor at home, and mount a seven foot wide finishing mower on it, the type used to cut the grass at conservation areas and soccer fields.

Driving in the lane Wednesday evening, my heart skipped a beat as the new mower greeted me, resting in the yard.

Rich charcoal grey in colour, it beckoned me to come hither.

The paint glistened, the rubber floatation tires were so black and clean, and it was truly a study of serious, ass-kicking, grass cutting hardware.

I did manage to make supper before getting out the big tractor, and I hitched it to the mower, then made a few necessary adjustments.

All connections made, I fired the old International up, and pulled the PTO into gear.

A warm fuzzy feeling surged through me as that powerful drone emitted from under that 84 inch wide deck.

Now this was a mower!!!

My dad would have been so pleased to see this hunk of machinery— I know I inherited his 'machinery' genes.

For some unknown reason, my daughters failed to share my enthusiasm to the same degree as me, but to be fair, I will say they did politely sit on the veranda to witness the ceremonial 'first swath' cut across the lower lawn.

In two passes, that new mower devoured what the little riding mower would have taken about four or five swaths to do, with a fraction of the effort.

I tell ya, mowing the grass has now taken on a whole new dimension at the Brown homestead. With the 'monster' mower, wide open spaces are a piece of cake.

The trusty John Deere will still handle the fine work around the house, but I'm expecting my grass cutting time to be easily cut in half.

Of course, when it's so easy to cut those bigger areas, that chunk of grass on the back hill would look so nice if I just trimmed it up a bit...

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For these and other issues related to By-law 00-154, please contact Warren Harris, Manager of Parks and Cemeteries at (905) 873-2601, ext. 2274.

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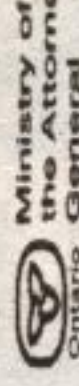
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