

Older and smarter with age?

As the years go by, I wonder if I might be getting a little more efficient with age.

You see, last weekend, I put the final touches on my farm tractor, converting it from being a turf terrorizing grass cutting machine to kick-ass snow blowing mode.

And I haven't seen so much as a snowflake to inspire (or intimidate) me to do so. I simply did it just cuz I felt like it.

For those uninitiated to the joys of country living in the winter, this is a significant accomplishment— particularly for me.

There have been years when I've been found out in the driving shed attaching the blower— as the first blizzard raged outside.

But not this year. And making that conversion ain't a 10-minute job. I spent the past two weekends getting it all together.

The tractor cab was hoisted up onto the tractor, the tire chains had to be installed on the tires, and the blower had to be attached.

And this year the snowblower even received a set of brand new shear bolts in all the drives, the gear boxes were topped up with oil and the bearings were all greased and packed. I even had the starter motor on the tractor rebuilt.

To top it off, (no pun intended) I mounted a set of new halogen operating lights on top of the cab, to better light the way when I blow out my long lane in the wee dark hours of the morning, or late at night.

I tell ya, that baby's just itching for snow. Now I'm not sure what has come over me— I've never been this prepared before.

Honestly, it kinda scares me. 'Older' and 'smarter' are the words that I like to use to describe my actions, but I fear it might just indicate I don't have a life.

Oh sure, I've had the snow tires put on the car fairly early in previous years, but

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

I've always had to be hit with one tiny snowstorm to encourage me to take that bold step. But not this year.

With the temperatures running in the positive double digits this fall, people think I've lost my marbles, being at this level of preparedness for the coming winter.

One of the smokers outside the back door at the office remarked that with me having it all ready, I could be jinxing the good weather. I disagreed. If anything, I figure I'm prolonging it. My actions are likely holding Ol' Man Winter back.

After all, what fun is it for him to hit us with a major winter blizzard when Ted Brown is sitting there, tractor and blower ready, just waiting for a foot of snow to land in the lane? Believe me, he watches.

Case in point— years ago, I removed my snow tires in early March, and as a result, we were hit with the worst March storm in recent years. So trust me— he watches.

And I'm ready dammit!
So now, when someone wants to say I'm rushing or jinxing the season, I can only respond with one fact.

One morning, in the not-too-distant future, when we least expect it, we'll wake up to a world of winter whiteness.

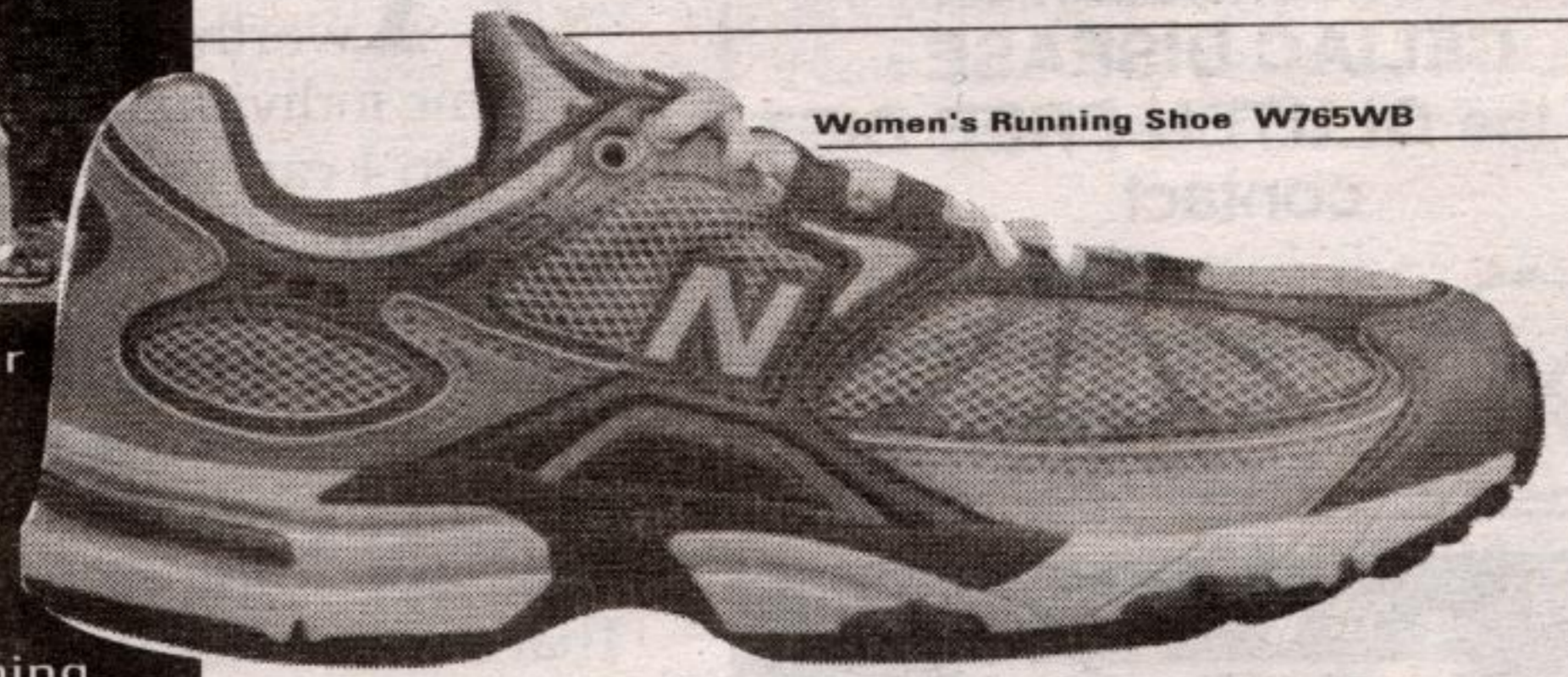
And when it happens, I'll be grinning...

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The citizens of Georgetown, do care and they do share. The 14th Annual Scout and Guide Food Drive on Nov. 6, 2004, was very successful. We took in over 36,000 lbs. of food and \$475.00 in cash donations.

We would like to say a very big "Thank You" to the Leaders of the Scouts and Guides, for their organization, the Scouts and Guides and their parents for their hard work, all the volunteers, including the youth church groups, who sorted and boxed the food (the largest number ever), the Lorne Scots who loaded the trucks and took the food to the Bread Basket. It was a great day of working together to help others.

Behind the scenes there is also a large group, with out who's help, we couldn't have done it. A "Thank You" also to the Alliance Church, Andrew Murray Motors, A & P, Loblaws, Food Basics, Tim Hortons, AMJ Campbell, Curves, Figures, The Mall Management, Georgetown Terminal Warehouse, McDonalds, Mold Masters, Label Factory, The Halton Compass and The Georgetown Independent & Free Press.

On behalf of our clients, we are extremely grateful to the caring people of Georgetown who make our job so much easier.



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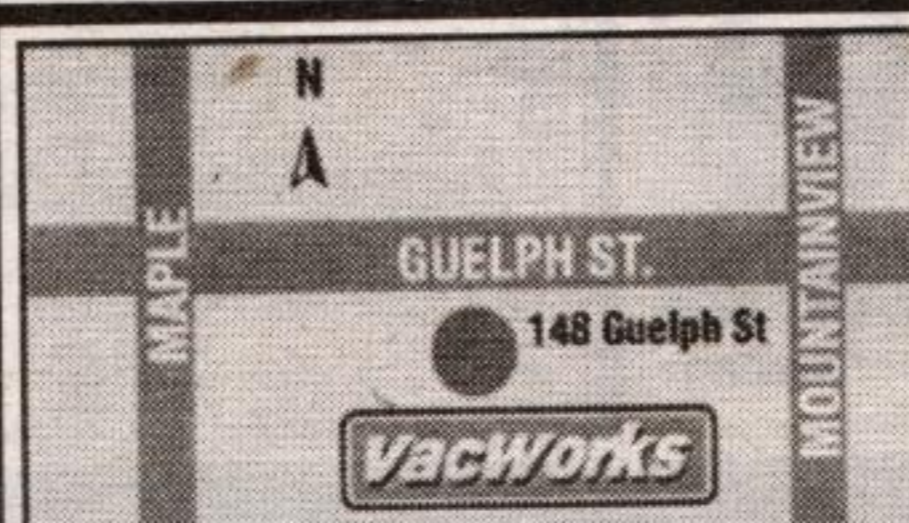
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