

It's time to replace those wipers

As I came in the door one morning this week, everyone was grumbling.

It seems the main subject of complaint was the rain— 'it's too wet, my hair is a mess, my shoes are all soggy...' you know, the typical wet weather complaints. But I'm the exact opposite. I kinda like it.

Okay, it'd been raining for two days straight, but that was a good thing.

For obvious reasons, the land needs a drink once in a while, and (from a purely selfish personal point of view) the hay is all baled up at my place.

But the real reason I enjoyed the rain was my car, a.k.a. the 'Little Red Rocket.' You see, I put new windshield wiper blades on it last weekend, and they are *soooo* nice.

I'm of the firm opinion that if you want to cheer yourself up, install a new set of wiper blades on your car. I figure it's the best 20 bucks a person can spend, cuz the whole world seems to look better as a result..

Let's face it, with bad wipers, the view is often smeared during one direction of the wipe, or they jerk and chatter across the windshield— annoying as hell.

But put on a set of new wipers and they glide across the glass in the rain. Gawd, one can actually see that kid playing in the water running down the storm sewer beside the sidewalk.

Even in fair weather, there's a certain satisfaction watching new wipers making a streak-free swipe as they clean off the bug guts when you squirt the windshield washer.

The Little Red Rocket also has a back wiper, and I usually replace it the same time as the front ones, 'cuz it lets me see what's creeping up on me as I sit in traffic.

I make a point of replacing all the blades on my vehicles at least once a year— more often if they get streaky. I just hate having my view impaired.

On my SUV, I usually replace them in the fall,

Ted Brown



just before winter so I have new blades to face the winter slush.

Now by this time, most people will be saying 'How anal is that Ted Brown guy anyway, with all this talk of changing windshield wiper blades?'

And if I were to stop here, I'd agree, I am probably being anal.

But I told that story to tell another.

If you think about wiper blades as your outlook on life, there's a whole new line of thought.

As we travel through this thing called life, it's a bit like driving a car. There are times to move slowly and carefully, there are times to throw caution to the wind and let 'er rip, feeling the wind in your hair. There are times to stop, to pause or to even park it for a bit.

But all the time you are driving the road of life, it's good to be able to see where you are going.

Oh sure, there are times when it will be foggy, or dark, and your vision is impaired no matter what shape your wipers are in. But, anything that improves your view is an asset— like replacing your wiper blades (even the back one)—'cuz it also allows you to see where you've been. And we need that sometimes too.

So take a moment, and if the world appears a little streaky or unclear... indulge yourself.

It might be time to replace those wiper blades.

(Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com)



Charitable golf

Thanks to the generosity of Gregori Osteopathy and Athletic Therapy, Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) received a donation for \$5,050 after Gregori hosted its second annual golf tournament. Alberto Gregori (centre) was joined by Janet Foster (left) and Joan Barham (right) both of HHCSI as they accepted the cheque. The donation will be used to fund the Open Door Youth Programs. (Left) Aaron Cardon looks down the fairway before taking a swing during the Georgetown Alliance Church's fundraising golf tournament for the Georgetown Bread Basket held recently at Eagle Ridge Golf Course.



Top photo by Ted Brown
Left photo by Sabrina Byrnes

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