

# 'Jack' earns his keep being my alarm clock

Most of us have alarm clocks or clock radios to wake us in the morning.

You know, that appliance that was invented to make sure no one was ever late for work, thereby creating the very first element of stress in civilized mankind's life.

Now personally, I've never really needed much of an alarm clock, having spent too many years getting up at the break of dawn to milk the cows, when I was a dairy farmer.

Waking at 6 a.m. seven days a week for years established a sleep pattern that I doubt I'll ever change.

But, just in case, I do use a clock radio. Recently however, I have another reminder of the dawn's early light.

His name is 'Jack'. Jack moved to the Brown farm a few weeks back, taking up residence in the hen house, right next the barn.

His job is quite simple—he's my auditory ambiance to remind me that I'm waking up on a farm, and that it's near time to

consider rolling out of bed.

You see, Jack is a rooster. A BIG rooster.

When he arrived, he was called 'JD' but no one was quite sure if it was short for 'John Deere' or 'Jack Daniels'.

When The Sidekick saw him, she automatically decided that it stood for Jack Daniels, so she dubbed him 'Jack' for short.

She likes to call him her pet, and from time to time she does feed him, but she still hasn't quite garnered the nerve to pick him up yet.

Jack came from my next door neighbours, who acquired him a year ago, when they bought a bunch of day-old chicks for their kids to feed and raise, and in doing so, experience a little bit of rural

**Ted Brown**



life.

All went well, with Jack enjoying his little harem of a dozen hens, until he got a bit cocky, (no pun intended.)

Seems Jack figured he was king of the roost, so to speak, and the little kids feeding the chickens were fair game for him to chase.

In other words, Jack developed an attitude.

The little kids were scared of him, so the parents asked if I would take Jack off their hands. I said sure, he was welcome to move in.

So Jack moved north a few hundred yards—close enough for the kids to visit from time to time, yet far enough away from the opportunity to terrorize them.

When I was a kid, my parents and grandparents had chickens, and ran an

egg route, delivering fresh eggs to local restaurants and individuals in Georgetown every week. Having Jack move in was kinda like déjà vu for me.

He signals the break of dawn with his cock-a-doodle-do around 5:45 a.m., and I smile to myself in the sleepy fog of the early morning, as I hear him through my open bedroom window.

Naturally, Jack was used to having a flock of hens around him, and with his new digs, I'm sure he's not really enjoying his celibate lifestyle that much.

Before he arrived, I had intended to pick up a half dozen hens. In time, I will, rescuing him from a life of celibacy in the old hen house.

But until then, he can earn his keep, crowing at the top of his lungs every morning.

And in doing so, remind me that morning has indeed broken, and it's time to get up.

(Ted Brown can be reached at [tbrown@independentfreepress.com](mailto:tbrown@independentfreepress.com))

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<b>KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> God's Word for Today's World. <a href="http://www.knoxgeorgetown.ca">www.knoxgeorgetown.ca</a>	<b>REV. DR. JAMES COOPER</b> 116 Main St. South Georgetown, ON (905) 877-7585 Service Dial-In: (905) 702-1629
<b>SUNDAY SERVICES 11:00 AM</b> (Nursery Services Provided)	
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