

# A rusty trip down memory lane

For the past week, I've been engaged in an excursion down memory lane.

And it's been a somewhat rusty trip.

You see, after doing some renovations around the barn at home, I've accumulated a pile of scrap metal, and was considering bringing in a dumpster to deal with it.

And in that 'one thing leads to another' scenario, I thought I'd top off the dumpster with scrap metal that's been laying around for eons.

Now when it comes to The Sidekick, just thinking about delving into the old scrap pile is like waving a 'go fetch' ball in front of a puppy. I tell ya, if she had a tail, it'd be wagging.

For the most part, that scrap pile pre-dates me on the farm. I'm sure there are bits and pieces of old farm equipment buried in that rust heap that would probably interest an archeologist in search of lost civilizations.

Even during my 50-plus years, I've seen lots of things that have found their way into the pile.

Thus the trip down memory lane.

Last Sunday was the beginning of it all. You see, The Sidekick had an ambition attack. It happens now and then, and can only be viewed as scary. We had cleaned up the fallen branches and dumped them in the brush pile, which entailed going past the scrap pile.

The Sidekick was suddenly bitten by the bug.

"Let's start on the scrap pile," she said, nostrils flaring with anticipation, "That way, when the dumpster finally arrives, it'll be ready."

I reluctantly agreed. The idea was to pile the old scrap on the concrete beside the barn and when the bin was dropped off, load it with the tractor loader. So we started picking away at it.

The worst part was the old rolls of fence wire.

I swear, there was enough rusty wire fence to reach to the moon and back—and it was all tangled together like a huge ball of steel wool.

As we worked our way into the pile, bit by bit I 'discovered' some old memories.

## Ted Brown



There were dozens of old ploughshares to be found, chronicling the progression of ploughs the Brown family has used over the past century. There were parts from old horse-drawn walking ploughs, the old ace-bottom wheel ploughs and even ploughshares off the wide-bottom ploughs used by my dad and I—all tangled in the wire.

I discovered parts from old farm equipment from the '30s, '40s right up to the '90s, which were replaced and then tossed into the scrap pile.

Rusted water troughs, old water pipe, a flattened horse-drawn dump rake and a number of bent steel wheels were among those things that emerged as we picked and pulled away at the pile.

I even found two perfect cast-iron tractor seats which are now considered collectors items.

The discoveries carried on, with the pile on growing bit by bit. Excited by it all, The Sidekick even dragged me out one night this past week to work on the scrap after supper, until it was too dark to see what we were sorting. I must admit, seeing that pile shrink has been quite satisfying.

It's been one of those jobs that's needed to be done for decade now. When the time comes, and the bin finally arrives, it will be the topping on the cake to see it all loaded and gone.

Of course, I do have one reservation about finishing cleaning up the scrap pile. I'm just a little nervous about what The Sidekick will target as 'our' next clean-up project.

## Letters to the editor

# Help for ailing son appreciated

Dear editor,

Recently our son was quite ill and our doctor was out of town. In his absence, a number of people helped us get our son the medical help he desperately needed.

First, we would like to thank our physician's secretary for her suggestions of where we might find the right help for our situation. Her suggestions put us in touch with the right people and were the first step in diagnosing our son.

Next we need to thank the wonderful staff at Young's Pharmacy Homecare for their quick response. What a blessing it is knowing we have such a compassionate team of professionals who truly care about the people they treat. These women will

always hold a place in our hearts.

We want to thank the staff at our local hospital for their quick response. The nurses were professional and caring and quick to respond with reassurances for us. A special thank you to Dr. Iracleous and Dr. Zeni for their quick diagnosis and for immediately getting my son the treatment he needed.

We are so fortunate to have a medical facility within our community with such a professional and caring staff and we are grateful for their hard work.

Sometimes a simple thank you just does not seem adequate, however, our thanks to, and appreciation for, these people really does come from the heart.

R. and M Hessels, Georgetown

# Unbelted passengers in back seats are a threat

Dear editor,

Most people in Ontario use seatbelts, but there are still some who don't—especially in the back seat. They think the back seat is safer or the back seat feels like a social situation.

People need to know that unbelted rear passengers are not only a threat to themselves, but to others as well. In a crash, an unbelted passenger becomes a high-speed projectile and can actually hurt or kill someone in the front seat.

Our group is organizing an art and essay contest in the Acton elementary schools to promote the importance of seat belt use. On April 17 we ran a

"One Person, One Seatbelt" count at the corner of Main and Mill Streets in Acton.

What's holding you back? Buckle up, for everyone's sake.

Halton Hills West Senior Planning and Education Committee

# Honesty is the best policy

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the kind and honest person who found my Super 7 ticket on the floor outside the smoke shop in the Georgetown Market Place April 7. I won a free ticket.

It's nice to know there are honest people in Georgetown.

Donna Hamilton, Georgetown

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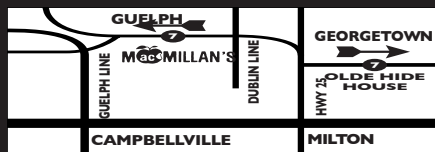
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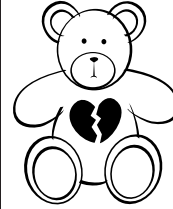
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If you feel overwhelmed, angry or frustrated as a parent, help is out there for you. Look in your area for support groups and services, or talk to a trusted friend, family member, pastor or doctor about what you can do to protect and support your child. If we all do our part to prevent child abuse, we'll get to the heart of the matter.

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