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*Ottawa Outlook, nee North Hero News and World Review …. ……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

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Winter Peeve.

Maybe not yours, but for us …, a ‘pet’ winter Peeve is footwear. Seems we spend a good part of the day changing shoes. The Canadian winter is partly to blame plus the Canadian penchant for not wearing shoes in the house. By the time March rolls around we’re pretty sick of the sight of winter boots. Course if we just had one pair of boots it wouldn’t be so bad, but no, we’ve multiple.

Let’s start out by addressing the ice situation. Our drive is plowed over winter. Snow builds up along the sides. A warm day comes, snow melts, water has nowhere to go, freezes overnight. A light snow flurry next morning and we have a driveway that is almost impossible to stand up on, let alone walk on. We cope. L.L.Bean sells “Stable-icers”, removable ice spikes that attach to boots. We get some. Putting them on a pair of boots is a 15 minute job, so dedicate a pair of boots as “Stable-icers”. Stable-icers should be used only on ice and needless to say, driving a car in these is next to impossible.

Now, the ever present snow. Shoes are just about worthless, more boots. One pair (old) for work and one pair (newer) for walks and show. Then there is the boot which you can slip a shoe into, a shoe you can’t keep on when you get where you are going anyway, so might just as well put a slipper into it in the first place.

Then there is the indoor winter shoe arsenal. Upon awakening its reach for the slippers and some shorts for a Sunlamp session. Next, change slippers to gym shoes for some exercise. Then off with the gym shoes, on with the long johns, pants and house shoes.

All right, today is February 28th, garbage pickup day, otherwise a pretty normal morning, let’s go thru it. Three footwear changes as above and time to address last night’s light snowfall. Off with house shoes on with work boots. Walkway to drive is not frozen, sweep and salt. Garbage is in the garage. Drive is frozen. Back in house. Off with work boots, on with Stable-icers. Put out garbage. Back in house. Off with Stable-icers, on with house shoes.

Breakfast, then Lucille and Ken have an errand to do. Off with house shoes, on with stable-icers, back car out of the garage. Back in house. Off with stable-icers, on with ‘Show’ boots and put slippers in a bag to take with us. Will change when we get there. Good Grief… it is only 10:30 and we’ve changed footwear ten times.

Twenty-one days till spring!!!! Can’t wait. Just think, errant toss by the morning paper deliverer? Just walk out and pick it up in your slippers!

Till next month,

From Ottawa, Lucille & Ken.