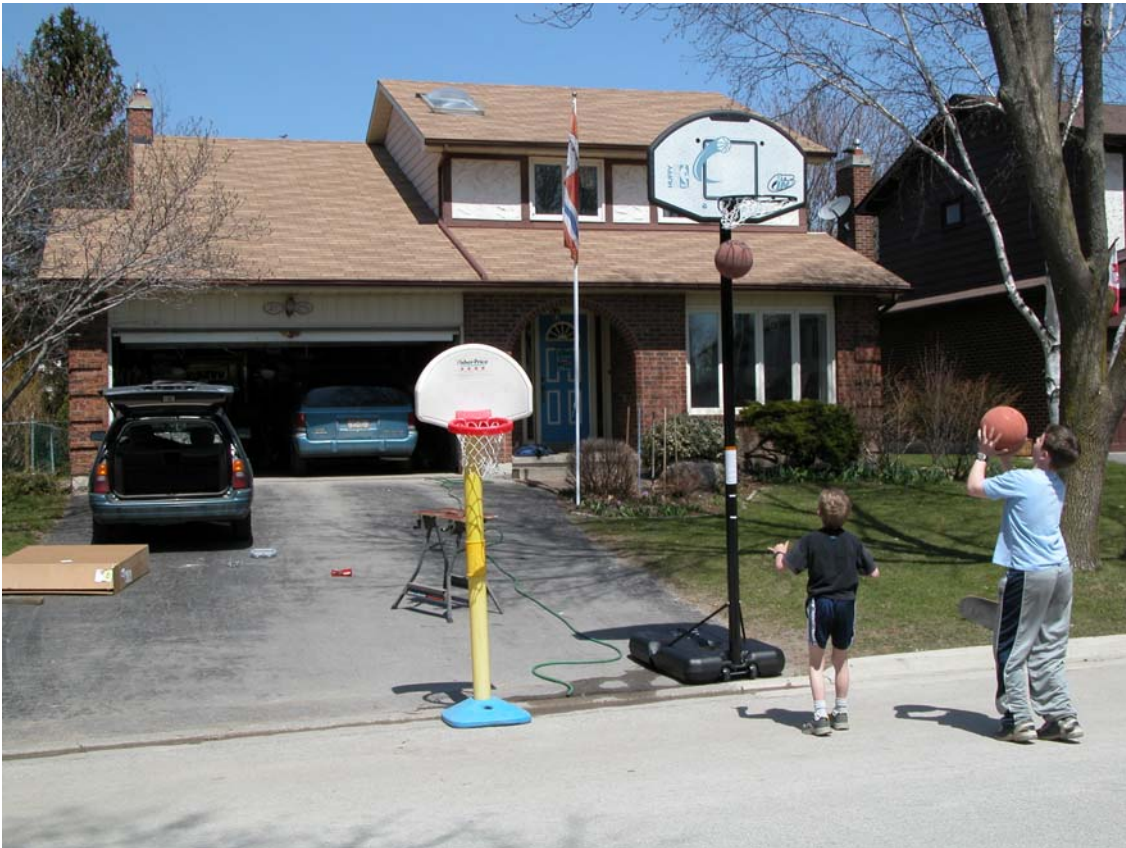


# The Basketball Net

It was time for the boys to get a new Basketball net. The old was even too small for Scottie. So I got a proper regulation height one at Toy's R Us.

I know on one will believe this, but after we put it together, at 10 feet high, Scottie threw a basketball at it and it went in. On the very first try! I took that as a good omen.



We set it up at the end of the driveway and filled it with water. Now most everyone around here puts the net off to the side facing the driveway. But in our case the driveway has such a slope it would make playing difficult. The only flat surface around was the road itself. My thinking was to move the net every day down and back up. But guess what. When the base is full of water, that sucker will NOT move.

So what to do?

My second idea was to put it on the lawn next to the road and driveway. Like so:



I had to set it back so that the hoop itself wasn't over the road (big trucks would hit it) and make it level.



This wasn't a big job. Just dig up the sod, place the net and lay some patio stones in front.

Before I began Liz warned me about Roger's cable. It was buried in that area. Then she left for a rock and gem show.

I knew she was right, We had had the cable replaced less than a year before and I knew right where it was. I also figured it was at least a foot down.

I started to dig. Root after root after root, after black root? What the hell? Shit and damn. There was the cable barely 4 inches down! I had the shovel raised to cut that sucker!

I stopped in time to avoid cutting it off completely, but on close inspection, I had already cut into the cable and exposed the wire beneath the black covering.

I dropped everything and ran inside. The TV was still perfect, the Internet on the computer was okay too. I breathed a sigh of relief and headed back out with electrical tape, wound it around the cut and continued on to reposition the net.

I told Liz about the cable when she got home. She wasn't pleased, but heck who would have thought it was so close to the surface?

The next day we saw that our next door neighbor had a line of cable strung from his house, up in the trees to a nearby cable box; just as if this underground cable had been cut. That's what they do: string it up high and then a crew comes a few days later and buries it.

Oh My GOD! I hadn't cut MY cable. I had cut JOHN's. I was mortified. I couldn't tell him. Liz was very tactful and in a conversation with him she asked about the cable. He had had satellite and had just switched back to cable. His cable had been cut by Bell repairing a phone line last year. Thanks God it wasn't us!

Okay so it looked like we had dodged the bullet, TWICE on that stupid basketball net. No one's cable was affected.

Then it rained.

Our cable went for a big shit. "Wait", I said, "Let's see if it clears up."

A week later it had NOT cleared up. The last thing I wanted to do was call Rogers but something had to be done.

So I called and explained about the poor reception. They said fine and would send out a technician. I took a deep breath and said sheepishly, "I think I know what's the problem." I am too damn honest.

"Oh?"

"I cut the cable."

"Ahh, that might do it."

Taking a second deep breath, "So how many hundred's of dollars will this cost me?"

"Nothing."

Talk about lucky. Apparently Rogers fixes the cable for free. Even if you're an idiot.

So they told us to mark the spot where the cable was cut. We moved the net, exposed the cable and Liz put up a big cardboard sign, “Rogers: We think the problem is here” with a big arrow pointing to the cable and my tape job. ☺

When we came home that evening the cable was re buried and our neighbor John said that he saw them come and that they replaced a section of the cable.

So that was that. Except that the TV reception was exactly as it was: shitty! After all this it wasn't my cut cable at all!

I went down to the power splitter and turned the gain down a turn. The reception cleared right up. Best we ever had! Apparently Rogers had boosted the signal and all we needed to do was adjust our power splitter. Maybe it had nothing to do with our cut line at all.

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PS. The boys love the net and all the kids on the street play at it. Best thing we ever did.