

Do ya take the high road, or the low road?

So if you rise up in the morning, and look outside to see really crappy weather, just remember to take the 'high road' if at all possible, writes Ted Brown



TED BROWN
Column

headed to the barn to do chores, I realized the sun was quite bright with a gorgeous blue sky. It was cold, but beautiful.

Once a week, I venture upstairs in the barn to the granary, to fill the grain bin with barley, which flows by gravity through a pipe downstairs to the feed bin to feed the sheep.

That particular day was the 'barley day.'

For some reason, it always seems colder upstairs in the barn than it is outside.

I suspect it's because the wind can't move the air as it's closed in, so the stagnant cold just sits there.

The granary is a closed-in room in one of the hay mows, all made of wood. The walls are covered with notes and comments about grain yields from years ago.

The best part- it has a window, which gives a pretty commanding view of the south east corner of the farm. It's kinda neat up there. From that vantage point about 15 feet above the ground, it allows one to see into the marshlands and the fields at the front of the farm.

Being elevated, the view is almost unimpeded. Wild turkeys and coyotes are often seen from that vantage point. And at this time of the year, I can also see the icy patches, the wet muddy patches and the

piles of drifted snow- depending on the weather of the day.

It can be depressing looking at those patches, thinking how far off spring is.

But as the early morning sun broke over the horizon, the light flowed in through that window into the granary, almost like warm caramel. It was visually stunning.

And when that happens, it's not cold anymore.

I often take time to soak up the positive feelings in the flow of that sunshine, and realize there's nothing cold or nasty anymore.

I understand that February is often credited as being THE most depressing month of the year- it's cold, it's dark, and it's unpredictable. (Why do you think they gave February Valentine's Day? Just trying to cheer up the month!)

If we're grumpy and impatient about the world around us, there is really nothing we can do to change things around us. The only thing we can do is change our attitude.

So if you rise up in the morning, and look outside to see really crappy weather, just remember to take the 'high road' if at all possible.

Let's face it, before you know it, the ice, the cold, the snow and all the negative aspects of this world around us will be gone for another year, and the green grass will be poking up through the ground.

And all will be well in the world again.

- Ted Brown is a freelance columnist for the Independent and can be reached at tedbit@hotmail.com.

THE WAY WE WERE



Esqueving Historical Society/Photo

This picture is looking down Main Street in Glen Williams towards Prince Street in 1908. The building on the end of the street was Wheeler's General Store (the Copper Kettle Pub today).

• OPINION •

Review employment insurance

As a working Canadian citizen who has paid into employment insurance for the past 44 years, I was disappointed to find out short-term disability through EI only covers fifteen weeks!

After that there are few options, especially if you are already 65 years old.

I know there are many others like myself, who having gone through radiation, chemo, and surgery, find themselves off work 6-12 months or longer.

This 15-week policy hasn't changed since 1971!

With an aging population it is time our elected officials review EI and re-vamp these outdated policies.

It is bad enough to have to recover from an illness, but to not have the financial support when we need it is totally unfair.

George Mahony

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