

Great Events at V!VA Mississauga.

MILTON

CAMPBELLVILLE

Tai Chi Beginner Exercise Classes

September 12th, 19th & 26th, 2013 at 2:00 - 3:00pm Join in on a complimentary Tai Chi class in our V!VAfit Studio.

Wine & Cheese Art Show Exhibit

September 20th, 2013 at 2:00 - 4:00pm

Fine wine, live entertainment and art by our Community Members.

Lunch & Learn: Independent Living

September 28th & 29th, 2013 at 11:00am - 1:30pm Enjoy a wonderful lunch while discovering all the benefits of Independent Living at V!VA.

Space is limited! Please RSVP to 905.566.4500.

2nd Anniversary Specials, offered for a limited time!



5575 Bonnie Street, Mississauga, ON Call 905.566.4500 or visit www.vivalife.ca



A Ted Bit

I'm the creator of a few culinary masterpieces

TED

BROWN

'I walked into the kitchen,

my mouth salivating for a

bowl of hot beef stew...'

do know how to cook a few things.

I have a handful of tried and true recipes up my sleeve that are always a hit. Even The Sidekick admits I'm not the least bit lost in the kitchen.

I can cook a fabulous meatloaf and I have a good recipe for a rolled/stuffed pork roast. I also make a pretty good butternut squash soup and my Christmas turkey is always a hit.

One time when I made meatloaf, The Sidekick took a slab of it to work

to enjoy for lunch. As she unwrapped it in preparation of heating it in the microwave, she inadvertently dropped it on the lunchroom floor.

I'm told the profanity could be heard 10 miles away as she threw it in the garbage. It was followed by a spell of grieving.

Then there's my salmon.

Without any exaggeration, I'm proud to say my pan-seared salmon has actually converted one of my daughters from turning her nose up at salmon, to

requesting it when she happens to be coming for dinner.

tion is my beef stew.

Okay, there's nothing really challenging about making a stew, especially in a crock pot.

But my stew seems better than

most, if I say so myself. And The Sidekick says it's the best—but she might be saying that just because any meal you don't have to prepare yourself is always 'the best'.

Labour Day Monday morning, as I stepped into the kitchen, I decided it was 'stew' day. I'd taken the stewing beef out of the freezer the night before and cut it up into little cubes to began assembly of my masterpiece.

It's a rule— I 'must' cook it in 'my' old crock pot (one of the really old ones, not the newer version that The Sidekick brought into the marriage.)

Of course. I had to find it first— The Sidekick has a storage deficiency in our kitchen, so my crock pot is stashed in the basement.

Armed with 'my' crock pot, I was ready to 'crock 'n roll.'

I put all my ingredients into it, set

I may not be no Gerri or Lori, but I it on 'high' and glanced at the clock dinner would be ready in six hours.

> Okay, fast forward to later that night— a crock pot triumph was consumed at dinner. I had two helpings, as did The Sidekick.

> She was about to ladle out a serving to cool down for Hamish the border collie as he sat there mesmerized by the smells of the stew, his sorrowful eyes working their magic on The Sidekick's conscience.

I said it was a sacrilege to feed

Hamish 'that' stew- it was too good for a dog.

She reluctantly agreed and Hamish had to settle for his usual kibble.

Next morning, The Sidekick left early, and I, too, had an early assignment the first day of school.

I rushed out and forgot to fill a Tupperware container with some stew.

As lunchtime approached at the office, I was fixated on my stew and annoyed with myself that I hadn't brought some to work.

I decided to go home for lunch.

Once home, I walked into the kitch-But my favourite culinary concoc- en, my mouth salivating in anticipation

of warming up that

bowl of stew. I opened the door to the refrig-

I checked the basement refrigerator-no stew.

erator— no stew.

I could only assume The Sidekick had packed her lunch and my stew was to be the main event at her office.

I texted her: 'No stew left?'

No response. Hmm, I figured she was the culprit and was ignoring my text message.

An hour or more later, after I was back at the office, having settled for a grilled cheese sandwich, a reply came

'I think it's still in the pot,' she texted. 'I forgot to put it in the fridge last night...'

So, after sitting out all night and all day Tuesday— in the crock pot— well, suffice to say, Hamish got the lion's share of the stew after all.

> —Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@theifp.ca