

Life in the fast lane— for an hour

I jumped into the fast lane this week. Only for a scant 65 minutes, but I was there. And dammit, I managed to survive.

Wednesday I took part as a volunteer during McHappy Day, in which McDonald's restaurants across the country invite individuals from the community (some call them 'mini-celebrities' but I hesitate to accept that title) to take a shift behind the counter to raise funds for local charities, in this case the local hospital foundation.

I confess I didn't go willingly—I was coerced.

Covering a McHappy Day press conference at William Osler Health Centre (which I still stubbornly call Georgetown Hospital), a few weeks ago, I happen to be standing in front of a group of 40-odd people in the lobby of the hospital.

Dave and Lucy Beatty, owners of the Acton, Brampton and Georgetown restaurants were on hand, addressing those assembled.

"... And we're just asking local 'celebrities', you know, like Ted here," said Dave, "To take a shift during McHappy Day activities... you WILL take part, won't you Ted?"

As a hush blanketed the room, I suddenly realized there is no way in hell one can graciously bow out of an 'invitation' of that nature.

During that brief 10 seconds another voice piped up from the front of the press conference.

"I want Ted for an hour— Dave, Lucy, make sure he's mine for an hour!"

Ordinarily, if a guy heard a line like that, he might be inclined to feel complimented.

But coming from Beatty's Georgetown restaurant McHappy Days co-ordinator Sandra Denis, I knew her motives were a little more pointed— perhaps bordering on vindictive.

I've known Sandra for years. Affectionately referred to as 'The Silver Bullet' by co-workers, she's the person I see at the drive-thru window.

I love to give her a hard time, suggesting she's shortchanged my order or insinuating she added extra sauce to my Big Xtra so it drips on me.

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

She handles my abuse so well.

But it was now pay back time.

Arriving at McD's at my appointed time, I walked in the door to be greeted by The Silver Bullet's smiling face, knowing full well my fate.

The fast lane—the drive-thru window.

"You're gonna be a 'presenter' Ted," she said, grinning from ear to ear, "Your job is to pass the order out the window to the customers."

Directed by Kumar Deonarine (he does the final check on each order) he placed orders on a countdown mat with 3,2, and ready squares.

With McD's Jenny Jackson filling drinks, my job was to greet the customers with my best smile and sunny disposition, then hand over their order, once it moved to the 'ready' square.

Drive-thru runs like a well-oiled machine, as staffers converge on that window with the items on the order, fired into action the second the order is punched into the computer.

Kumar said the goal is to have a customer's order out the window within 90 seconds of ordering. Most times I was well under the 90, a fact I HAD to share with The Silver Bullet.

She was duly impressed (or so she said.)

We serviced about 55 cars during my hour shift, a credit to all those staffers behind me.

Okay, it was fun, and I now have a respect for those staff behind the window in the 'fast lane.'

But better still, I've got two full years to annoy The Silver Bullet, before the next McHappy Day.

KROWN

RUST CONTROL

Proven Automotive Body Maintenance

ARE YOU GOING TO LET YOUR VEHICLE FACE THE RAVAGES OF WINTER WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF KROWN RUST CONTROL? WHY?

DID YOU KNOW KROWN RUST CONTROL WILL NOT VOID CAR MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY?

Krown Rust Control is the only national automotive body maintenance program that is recommended by the Automobile Protection Association. That is high praise indeed!

We have been protecting the automotive investment for the people of Halton since 1985.

Did you know that Krown works not only on new but even rusty cars?

Save money by protecting your expensive vehicle now.



KROWN

RUST CONTROL

354 Guelph St., Unit 21 905-877-1712

CLAY DOWNES & ERIC BEESLEY

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

SOUTH GEORGETOWN CENTRE

333 Mountainview Rd., South - 905-877-2299

Christmas in November Biotherm Sale

From Sat. Nov 23 to Sat. Nov 30th

With Every \$80 Purchase of Biotherm Products

you receive free either a

Biotherm Eye Makeup Remover Gel or Liquid 125mL or
Biotherm Softening Cleansing Milk 250mL, or Foam 150mL

A \$22-\$24 Value

Check out our newly expanded line of cosmetics. We now have ...

Quo colour cosmetics exclusive to Shoppers

Christian Dior - Dolce Vita, Dune, Higher, and Fahrenheit

Chanel - Chanel No 5, Coco and Allure

Calvin Klein- Obsession, Escape, Contradiction and Eternity

Elizabeth Arden, Gucci, Alfred Sung, Hugo Boss

Come try the new Capteur de Reves by Lise Watier and Glow by J.LO

Remember to book your free Quo make over now, and receive 10% off your Quo purchase.

