

# Counting out 1,000 marbles...

You know how you receive those little philosophical e-mails from time to time?

They are those ones that have some unique outlook on life, and are usually accompanied by a 'life lesson' of sorts.

I received one from an old friend recently.

Entitled '1,000 Marbles' it has been making the e-mail rounds lately, and I truly think it's well worth reading.

The author (on the copy I saw) was Jeffrey Davis, and the story is about a fellow who listens in on a ham radio on a Saturday morning, hearing a conversation between an older fellow talking to a younger one about the younger one being too busy, 'working 60 to 70 hours a week', and how he 'missed his daughter's dance recital'.

The older man went on to tell how he changed his own outlook many years ago.

I quote:

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about 75 years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, most folks live about 75 years.

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3,900 which is the number of Saturdays the average person has in their entire lifetime.

"It took me until I was 55 years old to think about all this in any detail," he went on, "and by that time I'd lived through over 2,800 Saturdays. I thought that if I lived to be 75, I only had about 1,000 of them left to enjoy."

The older fellow went on to say how he had gone out and bought 1,000 marbles from the local toy store, and placed them in a jar.

After that, every Saturday morning, he took out another marble and threw it away.

He continued:

"I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

Whether it's a true story or simply some cre-

**Ted Brown**



ation of an unknown author, it's certainly sobering to read, especially when one comes to realize that life can indeed be so fleeting.

When we have a bad day, and too many things seem to be vying for our attention, perhaps both young and old should take a moment to think about that jar full of marbles.

In the grand scheme of things, those little things that appear to be the most difficult, really aren't, and not nearly as significant as they may first appear.

I believe life is precious and shouldn't be wasted, in any way, shape or form.

Life is not a dress rehearsal, and we should try to live it to the fullest whenever we can. Perhaps not irresponsibly, but certainly with a certain amount of appreciation for the finer non-material things around us, that make our time here that much more special.

If you work too much, maybe it's time to relax a bit more— no one ever had 'He was a hard worker' inscribed on their gravestone.

If you have a dispute or a disagreement with someone, maybe it's time to settle it.

If you have a to-do list, take a new look at it.

Finally, there was another aspect of this story that made it significant to me.

This June, I will celebrate my 55th birthday.

Now I don't feel old, decrepit or in any way 'over the hill'— but I do know one thing.

I, too, may only have 1,000 marbles left in my own 'private jar.'

And they are being thrown out, one at a time, each and every Saturday morning.

Until that jar is empty.

—Ted Brown can be reached at [tbrown@independentfreepress.com](mailto:tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

## Family OPTICAL

873-3050

*Quality & Vision In Sight*



2 PAIR OF SOFT DAILY WEAR CONTACT LENSES (Regular)

**\$99<sup>00</sup> COMPLETE**

Please present coupon at time of purchase. Offer expires March 31, 2006

**\$50<sup>00</sup> OFF**

Purchase of Complete Pair of EYE GLASSES or PRESCRIPTION SUNGLASSES Frame and Lenses

Please present coupon at time of purchase. Offer expires March 31, 2006

• Professional Eye Exams Arranged

• Eyeglasses • Sunglasses • Contact Lenses

**280 Guelph Street**  
**Georgetown Market Place**

*Hours:*  
10:00 - 9:00 Monday to Friday  
9:30 - 6:00 Saturday  
Closed Sunday

# SNR Liquidation

Casual, Business & Formal Fashions


**NEW ARRIVALS \*Purses - Great Selection!**

- \*Spring & Summer Shirts & Tanks - from **\$4.99**
- \*Levi's Jeans - Mens & Ladies - from **\$17.99**
- \*Hanes, Mens T-Shirts - **\$2.99**
- \*Shoes - Mens, Ladies & Kids - **\$5.00 - 15.99**

Small Appliances, Electronics - ALL CLEARANCE PRICED

**130 Guelph St., Unit 5 • 905-873-8902**


HOURS: Monday Closed, Tuesday to Friday 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, Saturday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm




## 15% Off Laser Hair Removal for Men & Women\*

- painfree
- "cool comfort"
- safe • efficient

**Complimentary Laser** Ask for details





**adamson**  
SPA AND SALON

2 Adamson Street, Norval  
**905-877-1604**  
[www.adamsonspa.com](http://www.adamsonspa.com)

*"Gift Cards Available for all occasions"*

**www.independentfreepress.com**

## Career Services



**NO FEE Programs and Services for the Unemployed!**

**We'll help you get results!**

For more information, please call  
**905-333-3499**  
[www.thecentre.on.ca](http://www.thecentre.on.ca)



**The Centre Skills Development & Training**

These projects are funded by the Government of Canada.