

A late column? No problem

This column is supposed to be submitted by noon on Thursdays.

But today, I think I'll do it later— maybe I'll hold off finishing it until Friday, or even next week. I'm figuring I'll just do it when I feel like it. You know, just so long as it's finished sometime soon.

I'm sure the editor won't mind— after all, why worry about having it done on time? The newspaper is supposed to go to press at a designated time— but what the heck, they can wait until we get it there. No problem, right?

Wrong. Unfortunately, it simply doesn't work that way in the real world.

But according to the newest Ontario Ministry of Education's mandate to not penalize students who hand in their work late, that's the way students can now operate.

Apparently, the powers that be feel today's students are simply too busy, and teachers should cut them some slack and let them hand in assignments when they feel like it, so long as they get 'em in before the end of the semester.

Oh yeah, and with no late penalties.

Now how idiotic is that?

First of all, are the ministry people giving any thought at all to the teachers trying to instill some wisdom into our students?

Geez, I can just see it, some poor teacher wading through marking a zillion essays the last week of the semester, simply because they all came in late.

I could see teachers NOT assigning essays, simply because of the mayhem that will arise from marking them all in the 11th hour.

And I couldn't blame them if they did.

How about those conscientious students who do actually strive to get their work in on time? What incentive do they have to give that added effort to excel in that subject and achieve better marks?

When it's time to apply to university, competitive admissions to post secondary education are

Ted Brown



based on marks. A couple of marks can make difference between being accepted or not.

With this new mandate, a conscientious student is given no reward for striving to be better.

If this is the way of the future, why not allow teachers to submit their report card marks when they get around to it too? Hey, if the students can do it, why not the teachers?

I truly believe students need a line drawn in the sand— a deadline they must meet. How else are they going develop responsibility and accountability? Students need to learn that their actions, or lack of, have ramifications. They need to learn how to adopt time management skills and the essentials of productivity.

If not, they will have a major reality slap when they enter that 'real' work world, where most projects were due 'yesterday' and the boss doesn't wanna hear excuses.

It's a scary thought that people at the top of the ministry are actually holding the strings that will shape our youth in the coming generations— and this late assignment mandate is another bruise to their already battered credibility.

By the way, the editor wasn't amused when I said I'd turn this in Friday, or whenever.

As he walked away, I'm sure I heard him mumbling something about my paycheque might be a week or two late...

Like, whenever payroll gets around to it.

(Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

MACMILLAN'S Gourmet Frozen Foods

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9 AM - 6 PM

HWY. 7, 1 MILE WEST OF ACTON

519-853-0311 • (800)-387-4039 • www.macmillans.ca

SHRIMP SALE...
LARGE COOKED SHRIMP
DEVEINED & READY TO EAT
2 LBS. \$11.99
4 LBS. \$21.99

FOR SMOOTHIES AND PIES
ASSORTED FRUIT
MIX & MATCH...
SALE - 3x 1 kg Bags
\$15.99

STOCK YOUR FREEZER FOR VALENTINES & EASTER!

BLUEBERRIES, STRAWBERRIES OR FRUIT SALAD

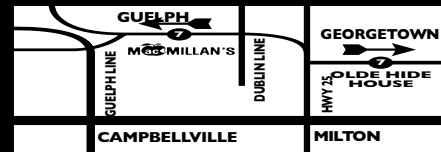
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...
VALENTINES DINNER FOR 2!!
ONLY \$19.99
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

- *Large Cooked Shrimp or Lobstertails
- *Bacon Wrapped Beef or Chicken
- *Medley of Mixed Vegetables
- *Gourmet Stuffed Potatoes
- *Chocolate Volcano Cake

LEADBETTERS
LEAN GROUND BEEF
5 x 1 lb. \$11.99
STEAKS ALSO AVAILABLE

OUR CATCH OF THE DAY...
WILD PACIFIC
SALMON LOINS
4 portions
\$6.99
(Reg. \$8.99)

SENIORS 10% OFF EVERY WEDNESDAY (REG. PRICED MERCHANDISE)



"IT'S WORTH THE DRIVE TO ACTON"

SERVING
ACTON & AREA
FOR OVER 20 YEARS!

SPECIALS FROM: Feb. 4th to Feb. 24th

THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING
PREMIUM LIVING STARTS SOON!



GOOD SELECTION OF SUITES AVAILABLE FROM THE LOW \$200'S



THE GALLERY AT BENNETT VILLAGE
GEORGETOWN'S PREMIUM 60 PLUS LIVING
OCCUPANCY FALL 2008
DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY. ACT NOW.
CALL 905.702.1247 • bennettvillage.ca

The Georgetown Choral Society
Presents

CHOCOLATE & Roses

A Benefit Concert
for The Georgetown Hospital
In cooperation with the Georgetown Hospital Volunteer Association

Saturday, February 16th, 8:00 pm
Georgetown District Christian School,
11643 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown, Ontario

Tickets are \$20.00 and are available at the following locations
Bergsma's Paint and Wallpaper (Georgetown Marketplace),
The Freckled Lion Children's Bookstore (Main St., Georgetown) and
Alexandre (333 Mountainview Rd. South) or from any choir member.

Tickets can also be purchased on our website at:
www.georgetownchoral.ca



www.independentfreepress.com