

WINTER 2010

mountain life

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Mountain Lifer

EASTERN POWDER: 5 DEEP DESTINATIONS
OLYMPIC HALFPIPE HOPEFULS
WORLD CUP AT BLUE
TOUR D'AFRIQUE
2010 GEAR GUIDE



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*based on sales from June 1, 2009

A PERFECT TUNE DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE

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Introducing roboitic snowboard tune-ups, now on the brand new **Montana** Ski Cruiser Max.

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The brand new MONTANA Snow Cruiser Max: the only robotic ski and snowboard machine in Collingwood



WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU WANT TO COME TO WHISTLER BLACKCOMB IN 2010?

As it turns out, the myths surrounding the Games are actually making Whistler Blackcomb the place to visit this winter.

THE TRUTH ABOUT 2010

- 100% of terrain open before and after the Games and 90% open during the Games period.
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- Fresh Tracks tickets FREE**

BOOK BY JANUARY 31, 2010

* Ski Free Stay Free packages include 5 nights accommodation (with the 5th night free or a minimum of 20% off all nights), a 4 Day Lift Ticket (with the 4th day free), and a FREE Fresh Tracks Ticket per person. Offer available Jan 2 – Apr 18, 2010 (excluding Feb 12 – 28, 2010). Starting from rate is per person per night, based on 2 adults sharing a studio from Jan 2 – Feb 2, 2010. Full package price is calculated as an average nightly rate per person per night for 5 nights.

** Free Fresh tickets only available for a minimum of five night stay. Minimum night stays, blackout dates, and/or other restrictions may apply. Rates are exclusive of taxes, fees and are subject to availability at the time of booking and may change without notice. Additional packages available, please inquire for details.

† Taxes and fees are extra. Valid for travel Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat. Blackout dates Apr 9-14, 2010. Fares available when booked with a min 3 night's accommodation.



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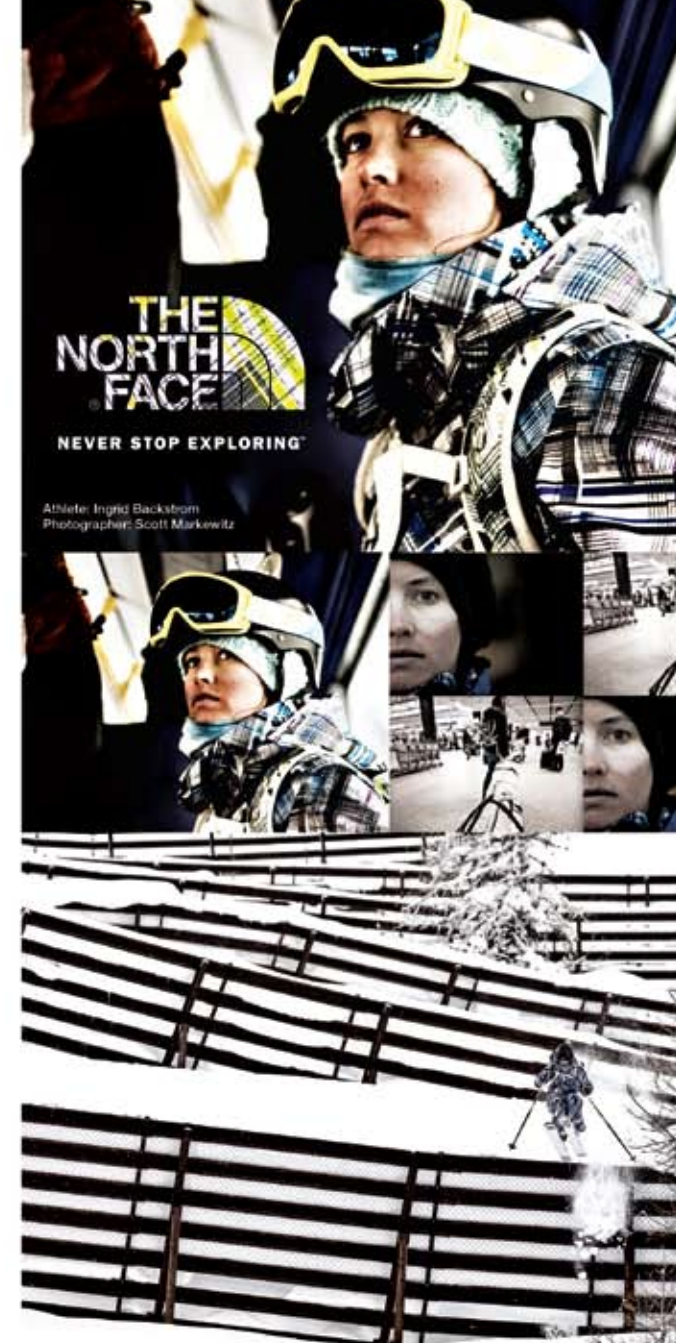


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Georgian Meadows 3 Bdrm home, 1547 sq ft., c/air, gas heat, finished bsmt, shared luxury en-suite, 2nd flr laundry, rear patio & fenced yard. **MLS#20095204 \$259,900.** Call Cindy Ryerse direct 705-446-7254



Shore Lane offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,560 sq ft at Sandy Beach, low maintenance yard. Include the hot tub when entertaining. **\$399,863.** Alberto Zanchetta 705-606-1445 www.AZREALSTATE.ca



CENTRAL COLLINGWOOD - walk or public transit. 3 bedroom bungalow starter home, garage, corner lot 60' x 116', **\$159,500.** Alberto Zanchetta 705-606-1445 www.AZREALSTATE.ca



COLLINGWOOD-NEWLY LISTED-RARE, PREMIUM WATERSIDE LOT \$825,000 Bungalow/Loft, approx. 2,700 plus finished basement. Main floor master bedroom with ensuite. Rita Giglione, Listing broker 705-770-4039 www.ritagiglione.com



\$449,999 Upgraded "Vallant" garden suite with expansive views in this 1368 sq. ft. waterfront condo in Admirals Gate - steps from patio to pool. Garage+2 parking. **Maggi Olson Ext 248, molson@CollingwoodResortProperties.com**



\$157,900+ Bachelors, **\$189,900+** one bedrooms and **\$319,000+** two bedroom condos in Intrawest Village at Blue. Move in for ski season! Check website for details on listings. **Maggi Olson Ext 248, molson@CollingwoodResortProperties.com**



\$229,900 Beautifully preserved & lovingly cared for century home, 3 bedrooms, updated bath, full town lot on treed street in Collingwood. **Maggi Olson Ext 248, molson@CollingwoodResortProperties.com**



\$229,000 Live the lifestyle of the "Village" at Blue at affordable pricing - in this newly renovated Heritage Corners condo, tennis & pool, sleeps 8. **Maggi Olson Ext 248, molson@CollingwoodResortProperties.com**



FULLY FURNISHED TURNKEY Three level, four bedroom chalet stunning views of Osler Ski Club on 90 x 286 lot. Yours for ski season!! **\$347,900.** Karen Poshtar 705-445-5520 Ext 243



EVERGREEN ESTATES Stunning five bedroom, finished basement, main floor master, gourmet kitchen. Lot 125 x 262. Within five minutes of skiing @ Blue and Collingwood Shops **\$849,000.** Karen Poshtar 705-445-5520 Ext 243



SKI CHALET THINKS IT'S A SUMMER HOME Four bedroom Princeton Shores home 90 feet of waterfront within ten minutes of Osler, Craigleith, Alpine and Georgian Peaks. **\$949,000.** Karen Poshtar 705-445-5520 Ext 243



Backs to trail, four bedrooms, three baths, open concept great room, cathedral ceilings, basement media room. **\$354,900.** Karen Poshtar 705-445-5520 Ext 243



LOT 10 ALTA RD \$949,000 Construction has begun on this beautiful new design/build project from Stone Custom Homes. Over 3400 sq ft, this property has views to the ski hills. Floor Plans and Finish Details available for review. Call today! **Holly Stone 705-888-5775 www.stonecustomhomes.net**



\$499,000 Incredible quality on a 70' lot! Over 2500 sq ft with custom details throughout. 4 beds all up. Great street with Park/Tennis Court/Skating Rink. Call **Holly Stone 705-888-5775 www.stonecustomhomes.net**



Charming red brick century schoolhouse in the Beaver Valley. Features original pine and hardwood floors and large classroom windows. **Asking \$250,000 MLS#20095509** Ralph Kertcher 705-446-5670 kertcher@bmts.com

PROPERTIES WANTED:
1) House 1,200 - 2,000 sq. ft. range, garage/out-building, within 20 mins. Collingwood
2) House with in-law suite, apartment or potential suite, Collingwood/Blue Mountains area.
Neil Thain 705-812-0627



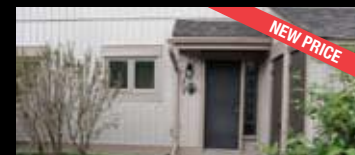
Quiet in town court location, 5 bedrooms, lots of upgrades, excellent value. Call for a no obligation chance to see this great home. **\$284,900.** www.realstatetewiz.ca, Neil Thain 705-812-0627



Beautifully maintained family chalet/home. Vaulted ceiling in great room, 4 bedrooms, main floor master, 3.5 baths, finished basement & double garage on a wooded 1/2 acre lot. **\$479,000.** Rick Crouch rickcrouch@propertycollingwood.com



WHY BUY NEW? Stately all brick executive home on a private 270' deep lot, mature trees and in-ground pool. 3+ bedrooms, 2.5 baths, main floor den. **\$389,900.** Doug Brown douglasbrown@royallepage.ca



DELIGHTFUL CRANBERRY CONDO 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom with private patio and deck. Get set for the ski season or move in and call it home. **\$155K.** Karen E. Willison 705-888-0075, HomesofCollingwood.com



POWER of SALE; MEAFORD ESTATE/DEVELOPMENT 99 acres with panoramic Bay views, minutes from schools, town and amenities (Sold in 2007 for \$1.5M). **Asking \$750K.** Karen E. Willison 705-888-0075, HomesofCollingwood.com



BACKS ONTO 18th FAIRWAY with Escarpment views. Great family condo, 4 bedroom, 1800sqft+ unit at Cranberry. New windows 08, gas fireplace and lots of storage. **Asking \$240K.** Karen E. Willison 705-888-0075, HomesofCollingwood.com



GEORGIAN BAY GOLF CLUB Two lots available in this prestigious Golf Club community, with views of the course and Georgian Bay. Create your dream home in the heart of recreation. **\$425K.** Karen E. Willison 705-888-0075, HomesofCollingwood.com



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P.70

Features

70 Fantasy Land

If you're not ready to jump in a plane to get some faceshots this season, then your next best option is a trip to one of these eastern powder havens. We scientifically researched the deepest, driest snow within car-pooling distance. You'll be surprised by what we found and rewarded if you venture out.

76 Pipe Dreams

Local snowboarders Kris Decoste and Jesse Fulton have made quite the name for themselves. So much so that they're halfpipe coaches for some Olympic athletes in the 2010 Olympics. Find out how they got there and which other locals are going with them.

82 Photo Gallery

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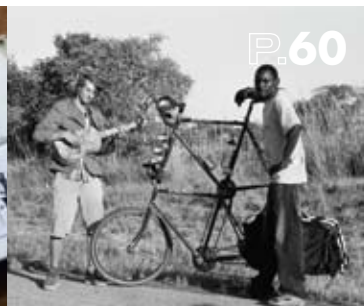
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The Nordic Centre at Scenic Caves rests amid a 200 year old forest, on the top of Blue Mountain near Collingwood.



Colin Field Photo

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Profile:
Rob Butler
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It was our family's passion for ski racing and the outdoors that brought us here and we have since discovered the joys of sailing on Georgian Bay, as well as cycling and mountain biking the Niagara Escarpment.

It's a great, well-rounded community that's committed to helping businesses succeed and with a lifestyle we all feel privileged to enjoy."

Let Collingwood show you the ideal place to grow your business ...and your family.

Passions:

Sailing: the ever-changing, crystal clear waters of Georgian Bay.

Skiing: skiing and racing with family and friends.

Cycling: from scenic back roads to rugged mountain trails, cycling here is a blast.



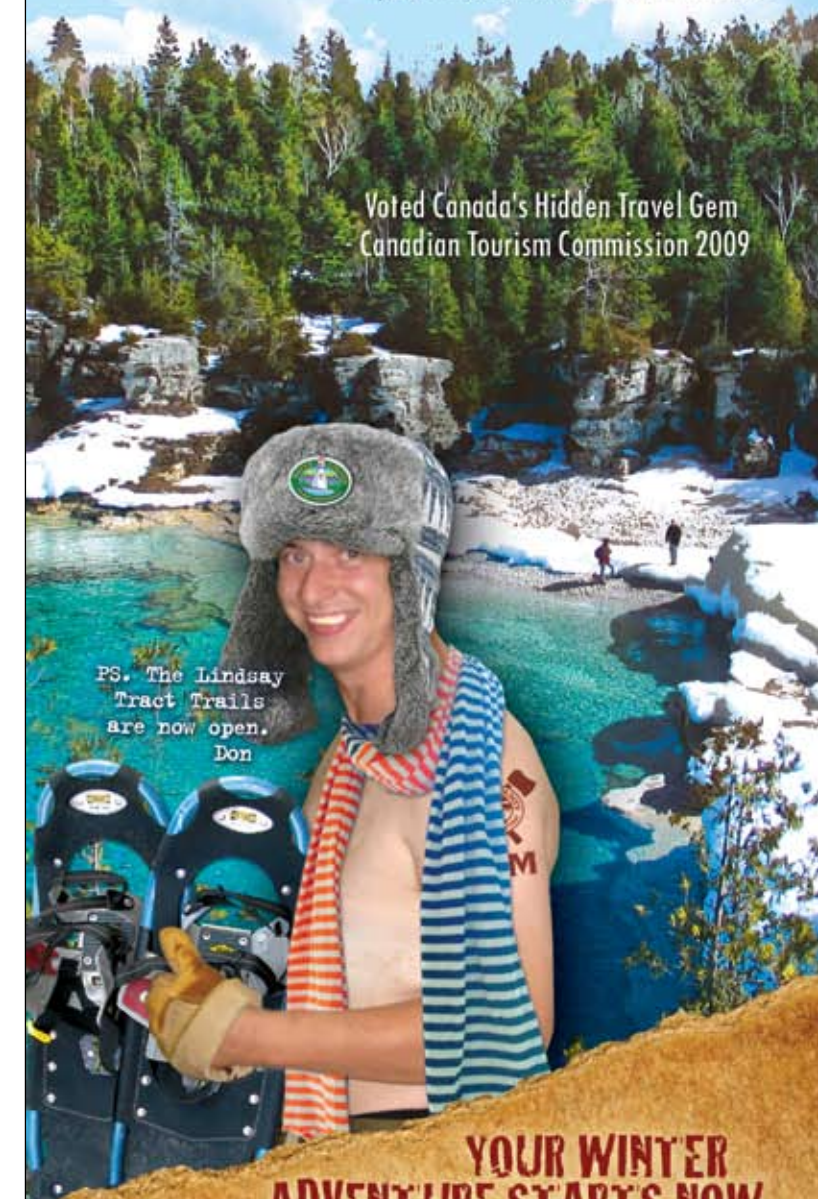
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Photo - Bruce Peninsula National Park, Indian Head Cove

Ski Tracks

FOR A WHILE THERE, HE WAS LIKE A MYTH: a single track down each and every run at Blue on the days before the lifts were even running; a line on the ungroomed surface like a zig-zagging scar on the Escarpment's alabaster face. Then evidence of him started to spread, including tales of bottomless turns at Osler and rebel tracks down Wilson's Wiggle at Georgian Peaks. Tracks appeared on Alpine on the days when it wasn't open. He was like the mythical Sasquatch, poaching turns and leaving nothing behind but mysterious tracks.

And barely anyone noticed. Sure, the groomers noticed. Skiers noticed. A few eyewitnesses saw it all go down. And they all gave a damn with varying degrees. Some could care less, while others threatened legal action. But generally, no one was really paying much attention. And that's the beauty of it.

He wasn't hiking up in sub-par conditions thinking he was going to get sponsored. He wasn't filming for video parts. He wasn't gunning for Internet infamy or the glory of poaching the line under the chair. And he had no delusions of getting on any Olympic team. He was simply skiing. He didn't bag any first descents, jib any gnarly rails, or even jump any gaps.

When there wasn't enough snow, he was skiing. When it was raining, he was skiing. When the lifts weren't running, he was skiing. And when no one was watching, he was skiing.

People can complain all they want about how local resorts aren't actually mountains. About how the runs aren't long enough, the snow isn't good enough or there aren't any steeps. They can say the lift lines are too long, the tickets too expensive or it's just too damn cold.

But what they're forgetting is that skiing, and this will sound cliché, but I'm gonna say it, is like life. You get out what you put in.

When you look up this winter on a day when conditions are miserable and you see a single track carving down a slope that shouldn't be carved, know this: that mythical Sasquatch just had a great day. And we could all learn something from such optimism.

COLIN FIELD
Editor

The elusive samsquanch finds some
elusive knee-deep freshies.
COLIN FIELD PHOTO

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mountain life

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Meaford by the Bay



*Just a sample of what's
happening this winter....*

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
December 20th

Olympic Torch Relay & Breakfast of Champions
December 29th

Roy Orbison Tribute
January 16th

Led Zeppelin Tribute
January 29th

Summer of My Amazing Luck
February 19th

Meaford & District Chamber of Commerce AGM
February 24th

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PROMOTION



meditation

"One of the things that meditation teaches us, when we slowly descend into ourselves, is that the sense of peace already exists in us." ~ His Holiness the Dalai Lama

In a time when life just keeps going faster and the constant pressure to perform is ever greater, it becomes essential for us all to find a way to re-centre ourselves and to relieve stress on a daily basis. The most direct route to inner peace and a sense of well-being is meditation. The related health benefits no longer need to be scientifically proven. It has been documented that the regular practice of meditation results in a lowering of blood pressure, a reduction of stress hormones and consequently, an overall reinforcing of the immune system.

In deep meditation, the body is at rest while the mind stays alert, yet calm. There are a variety of meditation styles suitable for a variety of personality types. Whereas some people may prefer to be seated in the lotus position with their eyes closed while repeating a mantra, others might prefer to keep their eyes open and focussed - on a candle flame, for example. Regardless of the method used however, the key to successful meditation is to practice often and to remain patient. Even though we are programmed to expect immediate answers and instant results in our day and age, the process of creating new life habits and developing our inner selves takes time and discipline. While having a designated space and time for the uninterrupted practice of meditation is preferable, meditation can be done anywhere and at anytime. The key is to practice regularly. Controlling the mind is not always easy, so it's important not to get discouraged. With the discipline of consistency and tenacity, the practice of meditation becomes easier and the positive results more and more tangible.

"Have your attention on what is and see its fullness in every moment. The presence of the divine is everywhere. You have only to consciously embrace it with your attention."
~ The Vedas

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Namaste!

Written by Natalie Richard for Scandinave Spa
Translation by Tara Johns



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FEEDBACK

IT AIN'T EASY SKIING GREEN

To the Editor,
I was dismayed to see the lack of consistency in your usual fine publication that regularly features the many natural wonders of our Blue Mountains and Georgian Bay natural heritage, while fairly outlining the important issues to preserve it that way.

I am at a loss to see how torching skis [see ML Fall 2009, p.86] is a symbol in keeping with your usual conscientious editorial gestalt. Hence this arguably obvious protest to the burning of plastic laminates, lacquered veneers, inorganic adhesives and resins in a not-so-subtle bonfire of something that can easily be recycled at a reuse centre such as the BVO in Thornbury.

My problem is that it really isn't imbued with any more important meaning despite the title "It's time...Pray for Snow."

Steve Bowie

Hey Steve,
I was waiting for this letter. I totally agree burning skis is pretty nasty stuff. It's by no means an environmentally friendly thing to do with them. And the photo wasn't meant to encourage people to burn their skis, but an acknowledgement that it happens, and that it's a part (good or bad) of ski culture.

It is imbued with more meaning than the title however; and that meaning, right or wrong, comes from tradition. In ski towns throughout North America, ever since people started ski bumming, people have been ski burning. When you dedicate your entire life to skiing (or snowboarding for that matter) snow quality becomes a pretty important part of your life. So you sacrifice a ski to the Norse god Ullr. Depending on your source, he was the god of skiing, archery and hunting, although the modern interpretation is that he's the god of snow. And appeasing him, means more snow. Simple as that.

Tradition will always be problematic and controversial as our times and ideas change. Duelling, foot-binding and perhaps now ski burning are traditions that need to feel the threat of extinction. Convincing a bunch of skiers (after a few tips of the traditional shotski), standing around a bonfire during a green December that this is the case, however, could prove challenging. -Ed.

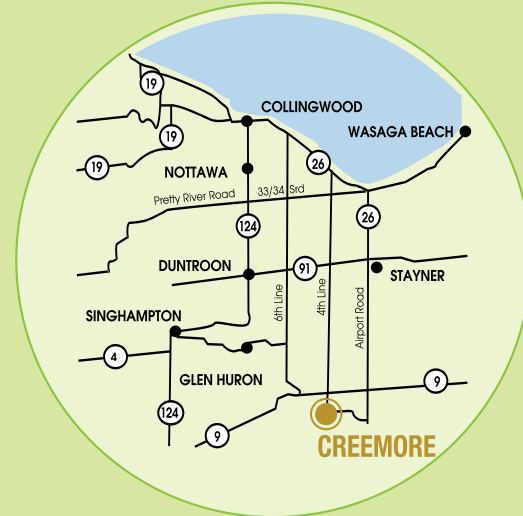


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‘World Class’? World Cup!

WE HEAR THE TERM ‘WORLD CLASS’ TOSSED AROUND A LOT when referring to the Southern Georgian Bay region. Prepare to put the ‘world’ back in ‘world class’ this January 25-27 when Blue Mountain hosts the FIS World Cup Ski Cross, marking the first time a Southern Ontario venue has hosted an event of this calibre. At the Olympic Games in February, Ski Cross will make its debut as a full medal sport.



The real reason to check out the Ski Cross event at Blue: carnage. JOHN EVELY PHOTO

Ski Cross features four skiers head to head, navigating rollers, jumps, banked turns and tabletops in a single elimination format where the fastest two skiers advance to the next round until the final heat determines a winner.

According to Chris Robinson of The World Cup Group, hosting a World Cup event in this region is long overdue.

“The people of Collingwood and The Blue Mountains will have a unique opportunity to see Olympic athletes compete right here in our back yard just a couple of weeks before the Ski Cross events are held at [2010 Olympic venue] Cypress Mountain.”

This race may still be a proving ground for Olympic athletes. According to Robinson, “the Olympic quotas will be set prior to the event but there is a complex process by which the countries have to confirm their usage of the quota spots. So this event could still have some impact on team selections for some countries.”

We asked Robinson about Blue’s obvious vertical challenges when compared to the usual World Cup venues.

“FIS rules for Ski Cross require a minimum of 900 meters of running length and 180 meters of vertical drop for a World Cup course,” he says. “Blue Mountain fits these specs. Ski Cross is the most exciting competitive skiing format going and the course specs happen to be perfectly suited for a resort like Blue Mountain. The finish area comes right into the Village making it one of the best resort set-ups on the circuit” – William Shelley

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Owning Talisman

Talisman may not boast Ontario's most challenging runs, but its 600-foot vertical, six lifts, fifteen runs and a terrain park – combined with creative educational programming and a secluded location in one of the most scenic zones in the province – make the sum total an impressive one. New this year is the Own The Hill initiative where the

entire resort can be rented on Mondays or Tuesdays. If you can rustle up 150 friends (the minimum number required) you can 'own' the hill and the lodge for a day for \$11,250, as calculated at the basic rate of \$75 dollars per person – and that includes rentals, lessons, breakfast and lunch. Who knew resort ownership came at such a bargain?

– Kelly Romney



Rheanna Kish skiing at her own risk at Kolapore.
COLIN FIELD PHOTO

Kolapore 1, Lawsuit 0

If you're a loyal reader (and/or trail user), you'll remember the crisis facing Kolapore in the summer of 2005. For those who don't remember, here's an excerpt from the story "Paper Over Rock" that ran in our Summer 2005 issue.

"Last summer (2004), Torontonians James Leone's bicycle came to an abrupt stop on a Kolapore trail, sending him over the handlebars. Leone claims he suffered fractured vertebrae, soft-tissue injuries, lacerations and bruising from the accident. The claim states the defendants neglected to inspect, design or properly manage the trails."

The lawsuit sent local trail users into a state of panic, fearful that insurance costs would skyrocket, and potentially threaten the existence of the trails altogether. Well, finally there's some good news.

"The action has been settled with no settlement monies paid to the plaintiff in regard to the action," says Bruce King, the trails coordinator for the Kolapore Uplands Wilderness Ski Trails.

So wax up those skis and get out to some of the greatest cross-country skis trails in the region. They're still open to the public. Just remember to throw a little responsibility for your own actions into your daypack while you're out there. – C. G. Fuego

Mountain Life joins 1% for the Planet

Mountain Life now donates one percent of its annual sales to 1% for the Planet, a global movement dedicated to building and supporting an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet. 1% for the Planet is made up of a growing number of companies that donate one percent of their sales to a network of environmental organizations worldwide.

"I learned about 1% for the Planet through an article we ran in the Coast Mountains edition of *Mountain Life*," says publisher Glen Harris. "We joined right away. As Yvon Chouinard, the founder of Patagonia, says: 'No matter how diligent we are, everything we make causes some waste and pollution. So our next step is to pay for our sins until such a time that we hope to stop sinning.' I feel good about this. We print on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) paper and now we've joined 1%. This makes a difference."

Joining other one-percenters like Patagonia, Cliff Bar and Jack Johnson, *Mountain Life* will continue its commitment to the environment. It's a proud step for the company that its employees, advertisers and readers can feel good about.



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Lordy, Lordy

FORTY YEARS AGO, A FUN-LOVING HIPPIE opened a ski shop. Squire John's ski shop has seen many changes prior to its fortieth anniversary, but one thing has remained the same: the spirit of its founder is still strong.

Described as an absentminded professor who carried around a Dictaphone reciting chores from his wife Helen, the Squire, a.k.a. John Will, also recited his crazy yet prophetic ideas about his ski shop. "He made so many of those ideas work," recalls John Murray who started working at the store when he was 16 and is now one of three owners.

When the store opened in 1969, the Squire, who named the store after the contractor who built it, was the first to bring in a ski press. Later, he brought in the renegade snowboard during the late 1980s.

"Snowboards weren't even allowed on the lifts when they first came out," says Bryan Grundmann who worked at Squire's back in the late 1980s.

The Squire had a head for business, but he also carried his laid-back attitude into the shop – it felt like home for so many of the decade-long employees. Murray first met the Squire at a party sometime around 1983. The Squire was standing next to a hot tub with his robe open, and wearing nothing underneath. "That was the Squire," says Murray.

And even though Olympic giants such as Todd Brooker and John Medley were customers, it is the local regulars who keep the place together, literally. Murray recalls a weekend cottager repairing a sale tent in the middle of the night when a massive storm ripped through the area. "[He] was up watching the storm pass by and thought it might be a good idea to check on the tent."

Today the kids who started working there as teens are all grown up with families. Though their forefather isn't around to celebrate the fortieth anniversary, he'd be pleased to know that the family has grown. Whether there will be any full-frontal nudity at the anniversary party scheduled for the spring of 2010 remains to be seen.

– Melanie Chambers



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Shooting the Hill

FOR ERLING MORRIS, LIFE IS AN ALL-OUT AFFAIR

BY PAUL WILSON
PHOTO BY COLIN FIELD

ERLING MORRIS IS A TALL, TRIM MAN with a dry sense of humour, a taste for pungent language and a penchant for making his point with a telling anecdote. He's a walking advertisement for the soundness of the advice once doled out by a fellow Norwegian, Herman "Jackrabbit" Smith-Johannsen, one of Canada's great skiing pioneers. If Canadians want to stay healthy, Johannsen once said, "they should forget about pills and medicine and get onto the best prescription around for winter fitness – a pair of skis." Johannsen lived to be 111.

At a relatively young 88, Erl Morris is still going strong. He's a founding commodore of the Thornbury Yacht Club; he sails Georgian Bay each summer, and in winter, still straps on a pair of cross-country skis, though his glory days of coaching are over. The only physical infirmity he'll admit to is tinnitus, a ringing in his ear of such perfect pitch (G) he says he could tune an orchestra with it. It's not an idle claim: Morris was a founding member of the Valley Concert Band and has played with the Georgian Sound Big Band though his first love is classical music. He's a man of many parts and, as he says, most of them are still working.

Morris was already adept at Norwegian skiing disciplines (particularly cross-country and jumping) when he arrived in Canada in 1951. He began in the lumber business but soon opened a sporting goods store on Bayview Avenue in Toronto and started importing Norwegian skis. The Norwegian Ski Shop, as he called it, was a Mecca for enthusiasts of a sport that was then still in its adolescence and Morris – a natural-born teacher – became something of a guru.



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Morris’s first encounter with the Blue Mountains area was not auspicious: the only ski lifts were reciprocal sleds and primitive rope tows, and he was shocked at how small the ‘mountains’ were. “They may be hills,” he said, “but mountains they are not.” His second shock came when he announced his intention to ski the hills at Osler Bluff and was told it was a private club. “The clubhouse, maybe, but surely the runs aren’t private,” he said. Oh yes they are, he was told. “There’s no such thing in Norway,” Morris huffed, and went on to ski there anyway.

Ironically, given his attitude, much of Morris’s life has been involved, in one way or another, with the private clubs that ring the Escarpment ridge, from Devil’s Glen in the south to Beaver Valley in the west. He was a founding member of the Alpine Ski Club in 1957 when it was just a Toronto-based travelling club with no hill of its own, and when the club was debating whether to buy a property in Craigleith, Morris argued against it. “I thought it would create a club for the wealthy,” he said, “and skiing should not be a rich man’s sport. In Norway, everybody skied.” But when the club voted to buy the land Morris was one of the first to pony up \$100 to fund the purchase. Then he joined an already established private club, Craigleith. Why? So his children would have a place to ski, he said.


MORRIS’S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE BLUE MOUNTAINS AREA WAS NOT AUSPICIOUS: THE ONLY SKI LIFTS WERE RECIPROCAL SLEDS AND PRIMITIVE ROPE TOWS, AND HE WAS SHOCKED AT HOW SMALL THE ‘MOUNTAINS’ WERE.

Eventually, Morris built a cottage in the area and skied all the hills along the Ridge, though to the astonishment of many, he did so on cross-country skis. “I would ski up to Georgian Peaks, ski across the top, and come down one hill after the other. I was a certified downhill ski instructor, and they would say, ‘Jeeze, are you gonna go down on those skis?’ and I would say, ‘Absolutely!’ Of course, I looked like hell. Some said, ‘You look like you’re shitting your pants,’ and I said, “I don’t care what I look like. The thing is to get down that hill and enjoy it. And don’t ski so slow! It’s a lot more fun if you just shoot the hill.”

One day in the seventies when Morris was working weekends at Alpine as Assistant Director of the ski school, two doctors came into his store in Toronto and asked him if he’d help them start up a program for disabled skiers. Sceptical at first, Morris went to a meeting at Craigleith, saw a movie about a U.S. program, and was an instant convert. He took charge of equipping the skiers – most of whom had lost limbs to cancer – with special boots and outriggers, and started skiing with them at Osler Bluff. “We didn’t know what the hell we were doing,” he said, “so we went out West to a guy who had been running a program for amputee skiers, and we learned how to ski on one ski and outriggers, and how to teach. When we came back, I quit my ski instructing job at Alpine and went in for Track 3, as the program was called, a hundred percent.”

Morris ended up as director of Track 3 for 14 years, introducing the program to all the private ski clubs, who enthusiastically opened their runs and provided many instructors. His fondest memory is of a promising young freestyle skier who had lost a leg to cancer and was refusing to leave the house. Morris cajoled him out of his depression and got him skiing again, and the boy went on to become a champion racer, skiing in competitions all over North America. Morris treasures a letter he got from the boy’s psychiatrist. “You’ve done more for him in one season,” the doctor wrote, “than I’ve been able to do in two years.”

To all his work, Morris brings a spirit instilled in him from his school days in Norway, when he was a ski-jumper. Still in grade school, he won a jumping competition against all odds, but instead of taking home the beautiful bone-handled hunting knife he had been so determined to win, all he got was a handshake. Somewhere between the running of the jumping competition and the awarding of the honours, the school authorities had decided to withdraw actual prizes to teach the students a lesson in the joys of pure sportsmanship, untainted by the desire for material gain. The young Erling was close to tears. “It was such crap,” he said. “They had it all twisted wrong in those days.”

Later, he would borrow his winning credo from another countryman, the great college football coach, Knute Rockne. “I would tell my skiers that winning was not just an idea,” Morris said, “it was the only idea. You can’t always win, but if you don’t want to win, you shouldn’t go there in the first place.” 

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Chris Tellez doing what he does best.

Is There a Barista in the House?

BY ESTER O'NEILL
PHOTOS BY COLIN FIELD

A CHAMPION SHARES HIS PASSION FOR THE LITTLE BROWN BEAN


AS THE 2009 CENTRAL CANADA BARISTA CHAMPION, Chris Tellez knows his coffee. Wait – that's an understatement. This guy is passionate about the little brown bean so many of us are addicted to.

"I couldn't really see myself doing anything else at this point. Every day I come here I'm excited to make drinks. It started as a job, turned into a passion and has now become an obsession in a way, trying to focus in on how to make the best coffee, all different types of coffee, and how to give people the best experience."

After three years behind the bar at Espresso Post in Collingwood, Chris won this year's in-house barista competition and went to Toronto to compete against espresso-slingers from across the province. To compete, entrants made 12 espresso-based drinks in 15 minutes, including four signature drinks developed especially for the show. Judging was based on a combination of technical and sensory components.

As a focus, Chris chose to highlight his pride in the small-town community feel at Espresso Post where he can usually name every customer (and most of their favourite drinks) at any given time. His signature drink, bearing the name Communal Pie, was an intriguing combination of beans from Africa, South America and India paired with homemade lavender syrup, coconut milk, cinnamon, nutmeg and a dusting of dried pumpkin puree aimed to express how community works.

"Each ingredient was chosen to bring out a character trait in my blend of beans, like how in a community you have strong points or people that sparkle at different aspects and everybody else rounds it out."

While the win has come at a bittersweet moment (Chris is moving on to check out the café scene in Calgary), he feels he owes lots to the community at the Espresso Post and dreams of one day opening a similar café of his own. But until then, "there is so much to learn. I look at it like being a sommelier or a chef, we use similar vocabulary and express our creativity through giving people things that they can enjoy, and it's constantly evolving." 

CHRIS'S TIPS FOR PROFESSIONAL-TASTING COFFEE AT HOME:

- Make sure your coffee is fresh. Purchase small amounts more frequently and store in a cool, dark airtight container.

- Invest in a good coffee grinder. Buy whole beans and grind them just before use. This means you get the most flavour from your coffee. Within half an hour of grinding, coffee beans begin to lose the volatile compounds which contribute to the aroma and flavour. Already ground coffee, supposing it has been sealed and stored properly, only has a shelf life of about a week. Coffee beans, stored properly, can last at least twice as long without compromising flavour.

- Use fresh filtered water. While tap water is clean and safe to drink, it still contains some chemicals, such as chlorine, that can alter and affect the flavour of the coffee.

- Nail the coffee-to-water ratio. Chris recommends seven to nine grams of coffee grounds per cup of water. Too little results in weak, watery coffee. Too much results in under-extraction and can be the cause of excessive bitterness or other unpleasant flavours.

- Experiment with types of beans. Coffee is grown all over the world with each growing region offering unique flavour profiles and aromas based on the surrounding environment. Think 'terroir' in wine lingo.

- Pay for coffee what it is actually worth. The process of growing, processing and shipping coffee is a costly affair. More expensive coffee beans (\$15-20 per pound) more accurately express the worth of the bean from the farmers and beyond. It might also help ensure that everyone along the chain is getting from the sale what they deserve.

- While Chris confesses to owning many types of brewing contraptions for home use, his go-to machine is most often the humble French press. Requiring only a kettle and the press, it offers a consistent, clean and fresh cup of coffee. Because the beans steep like tea, it allows you to get the most flavour.



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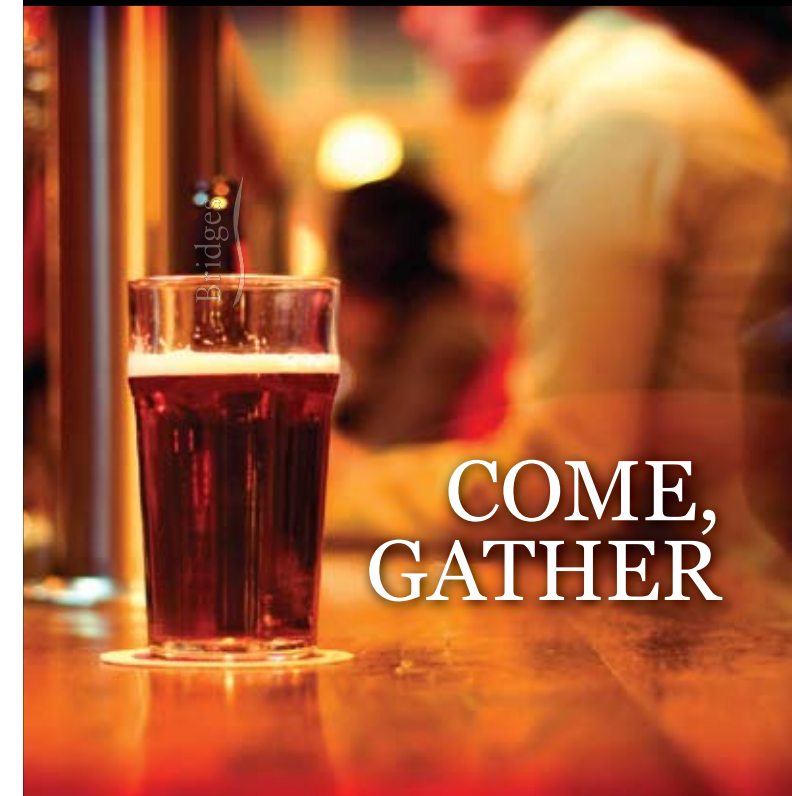
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519.599.3311



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windyoneills.com
kaytoo.ca
705.445.4100



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windyoneills.com
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oliverbonacini.com
705.444.8680



Jozo's
Blue Mountain's original rockin' hot spot located in the Blue Mountain Inn right across the hall from The Pottery, featuring nightly live entertainment. There's incredible dancing and nightlife where the energy intensifies until the wee hours. Jozo's menu is the best of pub grub featuring fabulous wings, nachos, pizzas, stacked sandwiches and burgers. Apres vibrations at their best!
bluemountain.ca/jozobar.htm
705.443.5508



The Pottery Restaurant
Located in the original Blue Mountain Inn, the Pottery has lots to offer including a casual atmosphere, exceptional service and creative dining experiences. Menu features seafood, AAA steaks and amazing daily selections. Open breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Children's menu available.
bluemountain.ca/potteryres.htm
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heavenlysweets.ca
519.599.1188



The Falls Inn
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thefallsinn.com
519.794.4388



Firehall Pizza
Village icon Fire Hall Pizza Co. is a family favourite. The casual authentic Italian menu has something for every palate. With pizzas ranging from the traditional, (pepperoni) to the exotic (curried chicken) Fire Hall offers something new each time you visit.
firehallpizza.com
705.444.0611



Tholos
The spectacular old-world charm and warmth of the Greek island of Crete is now in the heart of the Village at Blue. Meaning "dome" or "vaulted space," Tholos fittingly describes the high ceilings featured in this Greek/ Mediterranean restaurant. Entertainment including live music and belly dancing, plus a medley of Mediterranean delicacies, set the stage for a dining experience you won't soon forget.
tholos.ca
705.443.8311



Raven Grill
Located in the heart of the famous Lora Bay fairways, Raven Grill offers casual yet elegant menu choices prepared by Executive Chef Geoff Kitt. Also choose from an exciting selection of special wine-tasting dinners, jazz brunches and themed cooking classes. Raven Grill is ideal for corporate groups or private parties.
ravenatorabay.com
519.599.7500



Cafe Chartreuse
Cafe Chartreuse is a European-style café open Wed-Mon 8am-5pm (closed Tuesday). Open for Apres Ski Fondue dinners Jan-Mar Fri & Sat evenings 6-9 pm. Watch our chalkboard menu for fresh from-scratch ingredients for our daily changing menu. Fully licensed – we also have gourmet frozen prepared foods as well as our Marche Chartreuse of specialty food items.
cafechartreuse.com
705.444.0099



Azzurra Trattoria
A blue gem in downtown Collingwood, Azzurra has a longstanding reputation for blending classic Italian dishes with up-market contemporary cuisine. Pastas, desserts and pastries are crafted in-house with fresh, seasonal ingredients. Warm terra cotta tile and timeworn wood under candlelight frame a fine collection of Canadian landscape art. "Pranzo Italiano" dinners are a lively and unique way to accommodate larger tables.
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ravennacountrymarket.ca
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Copper Blues
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copperblues.com
705.446.2643



Rusty's at Blue
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rustysatblue.com
705.445.2718



Bridges Tavern
Located in the area's first brick mansion, Bridges Tavern has been recently renovated and re-opened with a refreshed atmosphere of warmth, friendliness and sophistication. Casual dining menu items include Grilled herbed calamari, Bridges baby back ribs braised in Peeler cider, Chicken flatbread pizza and many more.
bridgestavern.com
519.599.2217



Tesoro
Tesoro is best known for its gourmet thin crust pizza fresh from the oven, Sicilian meatballs, spicy Penne Arbiatta and Veal Parmagiano. Tesoro Mercato is attached, offering homemade entrees such as Towering Lasagna, Stuffed Shells, Chicken Pot Pies and fresh pastas. Tesoro can cater private functions from parties of 10 to 100.
tesoro@bellnet.ca
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Twist Martini & Wine Lounge
Located in Seasons at Blue, in the Blue Mountain Village, Twist is a rustic-chic lounge with flavours of the city and country packed into one exciting venue. With a tapas style internationally inspired menu, extensive martini & wine list, and Blue Mountain's only bottle service, Twist strikes the perfect balance between apres drinks, casual fine dining and DJ & dancing.
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IF YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT CAN'T IMAGINE GOING A WHOLE WINTER without riding your bike, then it's time to rejoice. Joyride 150 is here. Inspired by Ray's MTB Indoor Park in Cleveland, Joyride is ready to quell any jones local riders will be suffering from this winter.

With over 90,000 square feet of entertainment for two wheels, the owners are not messing around. They've got terrain to appease just about every level of rider.

"We wanted to make it really accessible to people," says Shannon Bentley, wife of one of the owners.

And accessible it is. The Markham, Ontario warehouse has skinnies, pump tracks, rollers, a cross-country 'trail,' a spin studio, a skatepark, a foam pit and a resi ramp. And if that doesn't mean anything to you, well, after one visit to this place, it will. One visit will have you riding at least some of these features, since the place is geared to the complete beginner upwards. And that's obviously the way you build a great clientele.

The GTA has seen its share of skateparks before, albeit of differing quality and success. From Launch Pad, to Grassroots, to The Warehouse and beyond, one skatepark after another has failed as a business, even with both skateboarders and bike riders as clientele. And while Joyride will exclude skateboarders, the variety of terrain is Joyride's strength. Sure it will only be bike riders in here, but nearly every genre of the sport – from spandex-wearing, clipless cross-country guys, to baggy-short full-face downhill types and girl-jean wearing BMX kids – is represented. Hell, they may even manage to attract a girl or two here and there.


The owners aren't shy to admit that Ray's MTB was a big inspiration. And it's not surprising. If you've opened a bike magazine in the last five years, you've read a story about Ray's. The 130,000-square-foot park has been wildly successful. It's a bike

industry leader in the U.S. and worldwide. Few have managed to create the indoor riding facility like Ray's while also managing to make the financial side of it feasible.

But the owners of Joyride seem confident. "There are a couple investors," says one of the owners, Scott Bentley. "Hopefully it's a solid business plan."

Who knows what it costs to rent 90,000 square feet of warehouse space, but it can't be cheap, let alone the tens of thousands of dollars of wood used to create the terrain. But the general vibe within the building is that it will succeed. You don't open a bike park to make money; you do it because you love bikes. And the owners have their hearts in the right places.

"We're cycling advocates," says Scott Bentley. "I ride all kinds of stuff. I race mountain bikes, I race road bikes, I dirt jump. Anything on two wheels is good by me."

So if you too are a cycling advocate, you owe yourself a visit to Joyride 150 this winter. You won't be disappointed. 



Will Fisher looking down on the skatepark.



It's big, it's heavy, it's wood. It's better than bad, it's good. Mike Comello plays with Log.

DIY:

For all the important details head over to joyride150.com

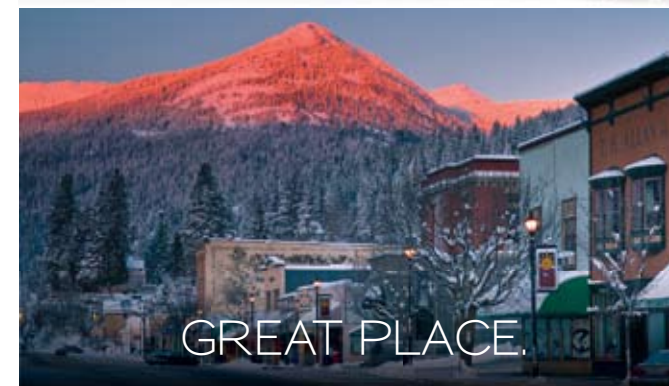
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The architect's scale model.
GLEN HARRIS PHOTO

Frickin' A

WORDS BY PAT WHYTE

AN OLD A-FRAME CHALET KNOWN AS THE TREEHOUSE GETS TOP MARKS FOR CHARACTER AND GOOD TIMES

WHEN YOU BUY A HOME, you inherit more than just the walls; you also inherit the drafty windows, the wood stove slowly burning its way through the floor, the foundation that needs replacing and the faulty roofing. But sometimes you can look past all that and see the potential.

"I saw this house, and it's just me," says owner Mike Wheatcroft. "It had character. I love it, man. Every day I'm here it feels like I'm on holiday."

Not even the house inspector could deter him.

"We were crawling under the house and he said to me, 'So, are you sure you want to buy this?' He told me the roof, the foundation and the fireplace needed fixing. It's taken me four years to do it."

But when you choose the right home, you choose the lifestyle too. And as the railing in the house says, "Hidden Lake, where everybody

has a good time," Wheatcroft manages to keep the party going.

Now affectionately known as the Treehouse, the place is known for its seasonal burns and attracts those passionate about snow and good times.

Walking into the house, you'll notice the barn board that covers all the interior walls, complete with old skis mounted to them giving it that classic ski-chalet feel. And where there isn't barn board, there's window. The entire west and east sides give the place plenty of light, while the surrounding trees make it feel much more secluded than it actually is. A sunken living room faces the warmth of the hearth and an open concept, loft-style second floor makes the house feel airy and larger than its 1200 square feet. And with a large outdoor firepit, Wheatcroft is kept busy stoking the fire.



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The third owners carry on the traditions.

Built between 1969 and 1971, the Treehouse is a testament to what an amateur handyman can do. The flat-topped A-frame-style house has been through four owners and will no doubt survive a few more in its time.


The third owners, Mark and Robin Noakes, remember the night they moved in. "There was a bottle of champagne, a hot tub, these photos and a long letter that said, 'We found these photos between the walls, and thought it was only right to pass them on to the next owners,'" says Robin.

And if you're lucky enough to see these albums, the photos of the original owners leave little doubt the house was literally built on good times.

"Every friend that ever came over just loved it," says Mark. "They'd just come over and hang out. Just sitting there and looking west up into the hills, seeing the ridge between Alpine and the Peaks. It's a cool shack, man."

For now, Wheatcroft is busy fixing what needs to be fixed. Renovations at the Treehouse aren't done out of vanity, but necessity.

"I think everything's been redone once," he says while carefully laying stone for the new woodstove. "I'm rebuilding the Treehouse, right? That's the joke."

And while the rebuild may be an ongoing project, the good times continue to roll. One burn at a time. 

"WE WERE CRAWLING UNDER THE HOUSE
AND THE INSPECTOR SAID TO ME,
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The original owners left some memories behind.



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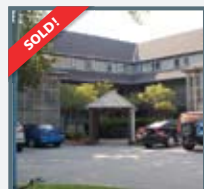
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you will enjoy the map and pictures of these individual properties.



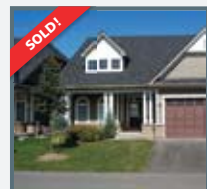
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\$459,000

MLS@20092965



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ALTA/ALPINE FLATLANDS

2200 sq. foot custom bungalow on approx. 1/2 acre lot. Eat in kitchen with SS appliances, separate dining room, floor to ceiling wood burning fireplace in living room, master suite with walk-in closet & impressive ensuite. Close to Alpine Ski Club.

\$699,000

MLS@20092237



CUL-DE-SAC

Great chalet in Summit Green, close to skiing, golf & Intrawest Village. Excellent mountain views from living room and deck. 4 bedrooms, 2/1 baths, attached double garage with inside entry. Gas fireplace in living room, large family room on fully finished lower level.

\$499,000

MLS@20094197



NATURE LOVER'S RETREAT

Enchanting property with 2000' of Beaver River frontage. Unique & beautiful home designed to showcase Mother Nature. Open concept, hardwood floors, fieldstone F/P & cook's kitchen with SS appliances. Close to Georgian Bay & Lora Bay Golf Clubs, skiing, Georgian Bay & Thornbury.

\$1,499,000

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LOG HOME LOVERS!

Beautifully built 4700 sq. foot log home/chalet with 4+2 bedrooms & 2 + 1/2 baths. Open concept main level with fieldstone F/P in great room, large dining area & kitchen with woodstove. Lower level with in-law capability. Large deck with hot tub, detached garage, large lot.

\$695,000

MLS@20095141



NIPISSING RIDGE

Custom post & beam; great room with impressive stone fireplace & floor-to-ceiling windows, 14x20' separate dining area & main floor master with his & her ensuites & walk-in closets. Complete outdoor living area with saltwater in-ground pool. Beautiful home/chalet close to skiing/golf & Village at Intrawest.

\$1,495,000

MLS@20094232



The maiden voyage of the Tall Horse.

Riding the Tall Horse

WORDS AND PHOTOS
BY BRIAN VERNOR

FILMING THE TOUR D'AFRIQUE FROM A RIDICULOUSLY TALL BIKE

IN LATE 2007, I WAS OFFERED A CHANCE to join a filmmaking expedition to follow the longest bike race in the world, the Tour D'Afrique (TDA). With a month to arrange visas, quit my job and move out of my house in Santa Cruz, California, I wholeheartedly if somewhat blindly plunged into the four-month, 12,000-kilometre race that took us from Cairo, Egypt to Cape Town, South Africa. I was not concerned that neither my film co-director Benny Zenga (Toronto, ON), nor I had ever set foot in a single African nation. We went with an eye for bicycles and openness to the inevitably unpredictable journey ahead of us.

Benny and I have both made a number of bike-related films (*The Winking Circle*, *Ski Boys*, *Pure Sweet Hell*), but this was our first collaboration. We added Benny's brother Christian to the team and managed a quick meet-up in Toronto just days before embarking on the TDA from Cairo. Like many independent and disorganized film crews, we used this time less to discuss the film and more to accomplish last-minute errands like procuring malaria medicine and inoculations (thank you, Canada), and to finalize the chaotic task of moving Benny out of his apartment.

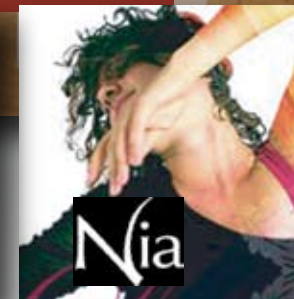
Once in Africa, the plan for the next four months was to camp every night. In Cairo, however, we stayed in a strangely fortress-like hotel intended to keep the sight, sound and smell of Egypt away from its guests. This segregation was in sharp contrast to the rest of our journey where riding our bicycles was an intimate experience with the land and the people who inhabit it. Along our East African trajectory the bicycle was everywhere, and we found many curious, knowledgeable and passionate cyclists anxious to see what we were all about.



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Winter
PROGRAMS

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Saturday, December 19 from 1:30-3:00pm
\$5 includes all of the stuff you need to make your dream home! Register at the Library.
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Holiday Pajama Story Time

Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30pm
Tots wear your jammies to this cozy pre holiday story time! Hot chocolate and great stories provided. Bring a blanket!
Free for families.

Family Movie Night - Home Alone

Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00pm
A holiday favourite! Join us in the Library gallery for popcorn. Free for families.

Art Shows

The Wildman Studio Presents a Christmas Gift Show
December and January
This gift show provides an excellent opportunity to give original works of art at affordable prices. Back by popular demand! Showing daily during Library hours for the months of December and January.

The Bay School of the Arts Children's Art Show
Bay School's Director Michelle Flemming brings an eclectic mix of children's art from the Bay School Studio. Join us as we honor children involved in art. Showing daily during Library hours for the month of February. Opening Reception Saturday, February 6 from 2:00-4:00pm

Save the Date

Canada Blooms Bus Trip
Wednesday, March 17 2010
See Library for Details

The Second Annual Blue Mountains

Youth Film Festival
Friday, March 26 from 7:00-10:30pm
Contact Library or Library web site for entry form and information. For Youth 13-19.

Materials and Resources

Our extensive collection of new fiction and non fiction will entice the most devoted powder seeker back to the lodge. Our DVD collection continues to grow; did you know that we loan for one week? We've got the complete TV to DVD series of Six Feet Under, Freaks and Geeks, Sopranos, Weeds, and Lost. Stay tuned for Tudors, Madmen and as always GREAT new releases and classics.

HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 11:00-8:00
Wednesday: 10:00-5:00
Thursday: 11:00-8:00
Friday: 10:00-5:00
Saturday: 10:00-5:00
Sunday: 12:00-4:00

L.E. Shore Memorial Library 183 Bruce Street South, Thornbury
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Sharing the Tall Horse and proving that, nope, in fact there is no mechanical advantage to this beast.

On any given day we cycled 90 to 150 kilometres. One day we rode 240 kilometres, though that was exceptional. Sometimes our interactions with local cyclists meant a short race to the next town, and other times meant sitting on the side of the road for hours trading bikes and laughing at the goofy style of a four-foot-tall boy trying to ride one of the Zengas' 60-cm touring bikes. We were laughed at plenty, too. And this was where we found our film and our journey becoming something unique. At all times we were aware of how much we gained from the experience of traveling in these countries. But we were also aware that the people of our host countries rarely saw much return from all the amazing experiences we travelers were having on their turf. We found that if we put ourselves in a position to be laughed at, this dynamic shifted. From then on, we looked for ways to show we weren't to be taken seriously, which was the key to reversing the 'human safari.' Instead of culture-stalking the local people, a regrettably common approach to foreign travel by North Americans, we strived to switch roles with the locals so that we, instead, were the spectacle.



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Christian Zenga and a new friend.

Given that most Africans know more about bikes than most North Americans, assembling a double tall bike enabled much success in reversing roles. The bike that we eventually named 'Tall Horse' (slang for giraffe) was heavy, hard to ride, and probably not very safe, but it elicited shrieks of laughter and confident demands to share. The knowledgeable roadside mechanics in every town we passed took note of the rolling beast, rushing to meet us in the street and clamoring for a chance to ride the ridiculously tall bike. Frequently the questions put to us were straight and to the point: "What is the advantage of this bicycle?" Sometimes assuming we knew something they didn't, the question was worded more as a statement – "Your bicycle must be very fast" – followed by sideways looks to their friends. We weren't fooling anyone, though; the bike was impractical and a monster of engineering and construction, but most importantly it was a hoot to ride.

Our rolling expedition, and ultimately our film, turned into a series of short friendships forged from the most basic desire to interact with and to play with people who are on the surface different from oneself. We made no attempt to solve any problems for our hosts, or to document any suffering they may experience from day to day. Instead, we made every effort to acknowledge and celebrate a progressive and contemporary aspect of their cultures. Our cameras sought out fun people open to goofing around with a few foreigners for an hour or two. As beautiful as the traditions of these people were to us, and as tragic as some of the living conditions we witnessed, our goal as filmmakers was to avoid nostalgic or negative reportage while showing people back home something they could relate to. We wanted to show the underreported moments, and in our case those moments revolved



Cycling footwear in Malawi.

around the simple joy of pedaling a bicycle with a new friend. We started out as a scattered film crew with not enough education about the places we were to visit, but our experiences in East Africa inspired us to spend an entire year editing our film, and throughout this process we studied the people we had recorded, listening to their music, reading their histories and following every bit of current news we could find. In the end we knew we owed them our greatest effort to understand their culture beyond the too often reported wars, famine and corruption that characterize Africa to most outsiders.



The winners of Banff's Next Top Model have been announced! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BELL FAMILY.

At the competition, held at the Toronto Ski, Snowboard and Travel Show, Lucy and Brian Bell won the judges over with this photo of their daughter Julia. The two year old stole the show as the cutest skier around, and her parents couldn't be prouder. "I'm so excited," said Lucy, of Toronto, Ontario. "Banff-Lake Louise is where we always wanted to go! Julia enjoys the winter and loves the snow".

All three family members will be flown out to Banff-Lake Louise for a ski vacation of a lifetime, and a photo shoot at Mt. Norquay, The Lake Louise Ski Area and Sunshine Village. They'll then be featured in one of Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine's advertising campaigns.

"The Bell family love skiing, and have an energy and passion which really captures what Canada's Protected Playground™, Banff National Park, is all about," said Dan Markham of Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine. "We're excited to have them show off our three ski resorts."

Hundreds of skiers and boarders of all ages competed to be crowned Banff's Next Top Model at the Toronto Ski, Snowboard and Travel Show in October. Contrary to typical model searches, the search was centered around people who love to ski or board and live to have fun. For this competition, wanna-be models posed in front of a "green screen", later to be superimposed against a shot of beautiful Banff-Lake Louise's snow covered mountains.

Now the Bell family will be able to experience those mountains first-hand – and there's a lot of them to see! Almost 8,000 acres of skiable terrain is offered, over three of the world's finest ski resorts, all on one convenient tri-area lift ticket. Plus, being in the heart of Canada's first National Park, you might just see elk wondering the streets as casually as skiers and snowboarders!

But you don't have to be a winner to experience an amazing vacation in Banff-Lake Louise. Great Ski & Stay Free deals are available now. Visit www.SkiBig3.com/mlm or speak with a Banff-based reservations agents by calling 1-866-748-1071.




TRAVEL



DIY:

If you want to race the Tour D'Afrique you may still have time to register for 2010. The race starts on January 16, 2010 in Cairo. For more info go to tourdafrique.com

To check out a trailer of Vernor and Zenga's film *Where Are You Go*, check out our online version of this story at mountainlifemag.ca 



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Wed., Dec. 2, 2009 – Sat., Jan. 2, 2010
Blue Mountain Foundation for the Arts
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www.bmfa.on.ca

COLLINGWOOD DOWNTOWN SANTA CLAUS PARADE
December 6, 2009
Collingwood Downtown
705-445-5595
www.collingwooddowntown.com

FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY
Wed., Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
200 Maple Street
www.firstprescollingwood.com

FLEETWOOD DANCE CENTRE PRESENTS "THE NUTCRACKER"
December 11, 7 p.m.
December 12, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
December 13, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Gayety Theatre, 161 Hurontario St.
fleetwooddance@gmail.com

COLLINGWOOD SCHOOL OF DANCE PRESENTS "CHRISTMAS IN OZ"
Saturday, December 19, 2009
Meaford Opera House
705-321-0175

VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY VISITS COLLINGWOOD
Tuesday, December 29, 2009
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Collingwood Downtown
705-445-9463
www.collingwood.ca

TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVITIES
Thursday, December 31, 2009
9:30 to 4 p.m.
Collingwood Downtown
Town of Collingwood
705-445-9463
www.collingwood.ca

MAYOR'S NEW YEARS LEVEE
Sunday, January 10, 2010
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Georgian Manor Resort,
10 Vacation Inn Drive
705-445-8451

BE THE CHANGE DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES
"Food, INC."
Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.
"Age of Stupid"
Wednesday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.
December 6
Gayety Theatre,
161 Hurontario Street
www.bethechangefilmseries.com

MARCH BREAK CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
Monday, March 15, 2010 – Friday, March 19, 2010
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Winning the lottery in Le Massif.
BENJAMIN GAGNON PHOTO

POWDER IN THE EAST? IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT WINNING THE LOTTERY AS WAS ONCE SUSPECTED. YOU JUST HAVE TO BE SMART ABOUT WHERE TO LOOK, AND JUDICIOUS ABOUT YOUR TIMING

FANTASY LAND

BY STAG CANYON

SEARCHMONT

ONTARIO

Still searching for a decent photo, Searchmont offers the most snow (statistically) in Ontario. MIKE STUBINSKY PHOTO

Located on the eastern shore of Lake Superior in the Algoma lake-effect snowbelt, Searchmont resort's 336-centimetre annual average snowfall as measured over the last decade is highest for any Ontario resort. But that's not its only superlative – the 213-metre vertical drop is among the province's highest, the views are awesome, the mountain empty (even on weekends, line-ups are almost non-existent), it boasts awesome backcountry tree skiing, and it's the only Ontario resort that consistently receives a five-star rating in all categories from users on internet ski sites; many Americans even cite Searchmont as the best 'mid-west' resort on the continent. It's usually a few degrees colder than in nearby Sault Ste. Marie. If it's raining in town, it can be snowing at Searchmont.

searchmont.com

CHIC-CHOCS MOUNTAINS

QUEBEC

Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula – a 500 km-long chunk of ancient rock – juts out into the Atlantic Ocean where a whole bunch of currents and winds meet up to throw a winter storm party. The result? A ton of snow: enough that a heli-ski operation once tried to operate out of Ste. Anne-des-Monts. It didn't last because... well, the weather was always bad, and there was too much snow. These days you'll find a smattering of huts to stay in and tour from. In the easternmost part of the wildly remote Chic-Chocs range sits the no-frills Pique Daigle hut, from which you can access the sublime 1,150-metre powder slopes of Mont Logan. The hut sits atop a plateau that offers a variety of bowl and tree skiing on each of the surrounding aspects. Ouellet bowl is the best-known and most expansive slope in this part of Gaspé Park. Logan's north face is a tasty 650 metres of 40° runs. The best tree skiing is in the Logan-Fortin-Matawee cirque – perfectly spaced evergreens that are legendary when filled with the dry snow that usually holds until mid-March.

skichicchocs.com
sepaq.com

You have to earn your turns in the Chic-Chocs. BRIAN MOHR / EMBERPHOTO

LE MASSIF

QUEBEC

All you need to know about why you should ski Le Massif is why and how it was started in the first place. Visionary Marc Deschamps opened up this powder-skiing haven back in the late 1970s, accessing the 770-metre vertical (highest drop east of the Rocky Mountains) with big ol' yellow school buses that needed to be driven a half-hour from the bottom pick-up to the topside drop-off. Groups of skiers (only 300 per day) had guides lead them down the precipitous pistes that hung above the lower St. Lawrence River – overlooking ice floes, freighters and whales. The river isn't just for looks, however: it's what helps deliver the outrageous snowfalls that Le Massif is known for, when easterly winds from westerly storms blow heavy flakage in off the open, salty water. These days it's a modern resort with high-speed lifts and lodges and truly awesome dining. But nothing has changed in the powder department: storms that leave 60-70 cm at a time are not uncommon, adding up to about 672 cm per year; with the right pitch to ski the snow, and 34 acres of off-piste skiing, you can almost visualize the western-style heli-runs the place is famous for.

lemassif.com/en

Eastern face shots? Definitely doable at Le Massif. BENJAMIN GAGNON PHOTO

Andrew Skelhorn with a backside 180 to soft landing at Marble Mountain.
MATT FIMIO PHOTO

CORNER BROOK

NEWFOUNDLAND

A hop, skip and jump down Humber Arm fjord from award-winning, snow-addled Marble Mountain ski area – the local ski hill where, we kid you not, skiers are frequently decked out in full Sou'westers – the Blomidon Mountains offer a windswept jumble of bowls, chutes, buttes, and gorges featuring mostly bare-ass peaks. West winds off the icy North Atlantic hemorrhage snow onto these promontories, a deluge of fat flakes that blow across tabletops of bright orange peridotite – a heavy-metal eruption of the Earth's mantle, rock so toxic it can't support vegetation – to pile deeply in leeward bowls. So you can find high-alpine conditions here at a mere 1,000 metres above sea level. And when the region's somewhat perpetual fog is on a rare holiday, views to the uncommonly azure waters surrounding the Bay of Islands are enough to make even the staunchest landlubber weep into his mitts. Marble averages five metres of snow each year, and the Blomidons get double that. In fact, come winter, this area has it going on like nowhere else in the snow-starved East: amazing cross-country and alpine skiing, spectacular touring in spectacular mountains, and terrain and snowfall that even allow a cat-skiing operation to thrive. You can fly into Corner Brook from any city in the East and head directly into the backcountry in a weatherproof cat.

skimarble.com
catskiing.net

Steve Cartwright with some methodical powder hunting at Marble.
MATT FIMIO PHOTO

JAY PEAK

VERMONT

Way down in Quebec's Eastern Townships lies a resort called Sutton, known for its generous snows and hardwood glades. Jay Peak, just over the border in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, improves on that basic formula by an order of magnitude. Well-known for its off-piste skiing and perfect northeast exposure, Jay Peak Resort offers two peaks, over 385 acres of terrain, and 24 different glades trimmed of small vegetation covering approximately 100 acres, making for primo off-piste skiing. And here's a bonus for keeping the punters at bay: for every six glades that the resort thins or trims, only one actually appears on the trailmap. With a generous 656-metre vertical drop, Jay Peak also enjoys the largest average annual snowfall – 900 cm – of any ski area in eastern North America, including Mount Washington (which averages 645 cm annually on the summit). In 2007-8, Jay Peak reported 1,064 cm of snowfall, more than many western mountain areas. [ml](#)

jaypeakresort.com

Getting the goods at Jay Peak.
BRIAN MOHR / EMBERPHOTO



Brad Martin.
JEFF PATTERSON PHOTO



FIVE DREAMS

BY COLIN FIELD



LOCAL OLYMPIC HALFPIPE COACHES ON WHY ONTARIO
ATHLETES ARE DESTINED FOR THE PODIUM.

WHEN YOU THINK

Canadian Pro Snowboarder, no one would be offended if you thought of BC. It's where the mountains are, so the majority of Canada's pro snowboarders live out there. It just makes sense. And when you think of Canadian Olympic Snowboarding, no one would be surprised if you thought of BC again. This time, perhaps for a certain medalist and a cash crop that tends to flourish out there.

But if everything goes according to plan, after the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, when you think of an Olympic halfpipe snowboarder, you just might end up thinking of Ontario. That's what Thornbury's Kris Decoste and Jesse Fulton, a couple of local snowboard coaches, have in mind at least. And they're both working with riders – local riders – who have damned good chances of making the podium at the 2010 Olympics.

Thirty-three-year-old Decoste just became one of the coaches for the Canadian Olympic halfpipe team through the Canadian Snowboard Federation. He's been snowboarding for 21 years and coaching for the last 12. He started coaching at Alpine Ski Club.

"I started putting together a team, with the goal of getting to nationals," says Decoste, speaking of his early days as a coach. "I was looking at it as a free snowboard trip. As long as I focused on my team and worked hard with my team and got them there, I got one trip per year. I went to Whistler, Tremblant, Big White, Nakiska."

Now Decoste talks about places like New Zealand, Colorado, and, of course, the Olympics.

Through coaching Decoste has met and taught some of the guys most likely to be in the finals at the Olympics, the favourite of whom is Jeff Batchelor. Known for his patented Batchelor Roll (see sidebar), Batchelor lives in Oakville and has been riding at Blue Mountain and Alpine for years.

"Jeff has been snowboarding with me since he was eight years old," says Decoste. "He would just rip around the hill behind me at Alpine Ski Club. Even when I finished coaching at two or three [o'clock], this guy still wanted to rip and he was a great little snowboarder. So he had me, as a twenty-year-old, to look up to. When I was bombing off something, he was bombing off it too. I got Brad when he was twelve."

Decoste is referring to Brad Martin, another Blue Mountain rider and prime candidate for the Canadian Olympic halfpipe team. And it's a similar story with Derek Livingstone, Palmer Taylor, and Harrison Gray – all local riders and Olympic hopefuls.

And they've all had varying degrees of involvement with Jesse Fulton's Icarus Shreducation program. Thirty-one-year-old Fulton, who spent years as a pro snowboarder himself and started the Blue Mountain-based Shreducation program, isn't shy about his success as a coach.

"Half of the national development team is my team," he states proudly.

Parents and young snowboarders look to him as a snowboard career guidance councillor. And so far, his work is paying off. While he isn't coaching with the Canadian Snowboard Federation, he'll still be there at the top of the halfpipe at Cypress Mountain, working as a private coach for Canadian riders (including Jeff Batchelor, Palmer Taylor, and Derek Livingstone) and some international riders, too.

"I'm like a mercenary coach," he says. "I'm coaching a girl that's going to the Olympics for Poland, Paulina Ligocka, and a girl going to the Olympics for New Zealand, Kendall Brown."

The Canadian Olympic team will not be decided until January 25, after the World Cup in Stoneham, Quebec. The official rules of qualification are a lesson in boredom and fine print, and depending on whom you talk to, the candidates vary. But many of them have been under Decoste's and Fulton's tutelage.

So how come all these Olympic-level athletes are coming from Ontario? Blame it on the powder, or lack thereof.



Derek Livingstone.
RICHARD ROTH PHOTO



THE BATCHELOR ROLL

The talk on the deck of the halfpipe this winter will be about double corked manoeuvres. It's speculated whoever wins gold in 2010 will need some variation of this trick in their run. What does 'double corked' mean? Great question. It seems to mean different things to different people, so we went straight to the source for insight. Jesse Fulton worked with Jeff Batchelor on the Batchelor Roll, a double corked manoeuvre.

"You know how in a backflip your feet are straight up over your head? Corked is with your feet over head, but you're sideways, off axis, about 20-30 degrees," says Fulton. "Corked is a sideways, off-axis rotation, basically a snowboarding version of a backflip. So a double cork is inverted twice. But not fully inverted. So you're off axis and inverted slightly, twice in one trick."

"When we came up with this concept, we went to the gym and worked with Don Holmes, a national trampoline coach. The gymnastic technical term for this is a one-and-a-half in, one-and-a-half out. And that's a Frontflip 180, to Backflip 180. Everyone's gonna have a different opinion on what it is. Some may call it a Double Alley-Oop McTwist, some guys call it a Double Frontflip, everybody can analyze it their own way, but when we designed the trick, we came up with that: one-and-a-half in, one-and-a-half out."

If you're still having trouble picturing this trick, not to worry – you're not alone. But know this: you'll know it when you see it.



Jeff Batchelor.
JEFF PATTERSON PHOTO

"Pick a BC rider," challenges Decoste. "When it's dumping snow, what are you going to do? You're going to the backcountry. When we get snow here, we go around, we track the shit out of it, and then we hit the pipe. Out west you don't have to hit the pipe because you have a whole day's worth of powder."

"I'll put an Ontario snowboarder up against a BC guy in a heartbeat, for halfpipe. Hands down our Ontario snowboarders are by far the best. There hasn't been a BC pro on the national halfpipe team in forever. Here you ride icy halfpipes and throw yourself off icy jumps? You turn into that pro because you put yourself through hell on that ice."

When all is said and done out in Vancouver this February, whether we have new snowboard medals or not, guys like Decoste and Fulton will continue pushing the halfpipe dream on their teams.

"We're breeding them now," says Decoste. "We're taking them at seven or eight years old. Like Caleb [Decoste's son], he snowboards with me every minute I have a chance. And I'm breeding him. Straight up, breeding my son, to be a pro snowboarder. If Jesse [Fulton] and I do what we want to do, we're going to be putting together the next four-year push. We're aiming to develop sixteen- to twenty-year-old kids for Russia."

One of the big challenges in the future will be getting younger kids interested in halfpipe riding at all. Collingwood's Christy Deere, the program director for the Association of Ontario Snowboarders (AOS), has a good idea what kind of competitions kids are entering. The AOS hosts 22 development events a year for all snowboard disciplines (alpine, boardercross, halfpipe and slopestyle) throughout Ontario.

SO HOW COME ALL THESE OLYMPIC LEVEL ATHLETES ARE COMING FROM ONTARIO? BLAME IT ON THE POWDER, OR LACK THEREOF.

"Interest in halfpipe riding isn't that high," she says. "If we get 12 halfpipe riders at an event we're doing well. In slopestyle we'll have about 30. I wouldn't say we're a great representation of freestyle competitions to begin with, but you can't do halfpipe events anywhere [in Ontario] but with us."

The more popular contest series in the area, like the You Look Good! series and the Telus Triple Challenge don't even offer halfpipe as a discipline. It's all slopestyle, big air and rails.

"I think the Olympics will breathe some new life into halfpipe. I also have to think that AOS hasn't done a stellar job at promoting it either, but when I go to a jib fest, with a rail built on some scaffolding in a parking lot in November and there's a hundred kids registered, it's like, 'Where's the popularity here?'"

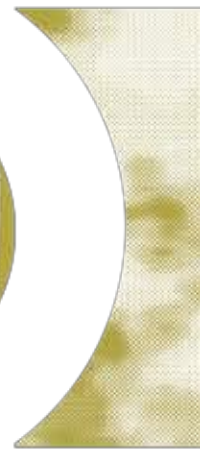
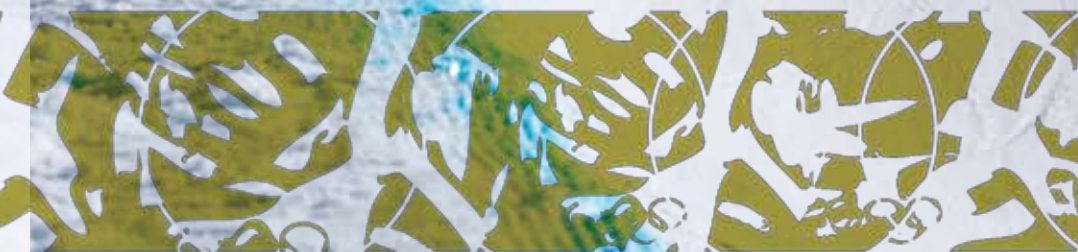
Of course, part of the problem may lie with resorts themselves. While well-designed skateparks and bike parks feature a progression of jump sizes to please beginners through to experts, at most resorts it's one giant halfpipe after another.

"You can't go to Blue and just drop into a small transitioned pipe and practice and then work your way up," points out Deere. "You drop into the big one, or you don't drop in at all."

And dropping into an 18-foot halfpipe is not something you just magically learn to do. But from the resort side, why spend all your money on pipe dragons (grooming machines), snowmaking and maintenance when all the kids want to ride are rails?

"If anyone's going to pull off the best halfpipe riders, it could be Ontario," says Deere. "How good of a program do we have to support the development of that? We've got some work to do."

With coaches like Decoste and Fulton in the area, we've already got the dedicated manpower. For now, whether Ontario becomes the Canadian capital of halfpipe riding is really up to the guys with their boots in the bindings this February. The whole world will be watching. [ml](#)





Glen Harris, Scotch Peak.
COLIN FIELD PHOTO



mountain life

Brad Martin, Collingwood, ON.
RICHARD ROTH PHOTO

Requiem for a Combine Harvester

BY NED MORGAN

ARTIST STEVEN WHITE HARVESTS NEW MACHINES FROM OLD

SLOWLY RUSTING OUT and riddled with hornets' nests, the old combine harvester sat in an overgrown field on Steven White's property near Walter's Falls. In rural Ontario these days, such abandoned farm machinery is a common site. Rather than haul it to the dump or forget about it for another few decades, White found some unlikely inspiration in it. He ripped the combine apart, recycling and transforming its parts into something far beyond even the most fevered dreams of its original designers.

Like the mythical Daedalus, at once a brilliant sculptor and marvelously skilled inventor, White's talents are not limited to one medium or vocation. His solo exhibition The Combine Project at Owen Sound's Tom Thomson Gallery features what might be called kinetic sculptures, though one could also describe them as machines or musical instruments. "I've done a lot of experimental music in the past so I wanted to make these pieces into art objects that could also generate sounds," he says.

Steven White was born in Guelph and

received his MFA from Queens University in 1995. He is represented by Toronto's Edward Day Gallery. The Combine Project, five years in the making and funded in part by a Chalmers Foundation Fellowship, advances White's longstanding interest in obsolete technology by focusing on what White calls "the ultimate found object," the combine harvester. "The combine was returning back to the land. I'm not a farmer so I saw the combine as raw material to do something new with."

White gives ML a tour of his Combine Project in a shed attached to the home studio he shares with his wife Julia White, also an artist. Crowded with all the pieces that make up The Combine Project before they're transported to the Tom Thomson Gallery, the shed is a bizarre menagerie of art-machines of fantastic shapes and sizes.

The first piece we see, the *Happy Apple Tree*, has welded-metal bowls as branches and each bowl holds a plastic Fisher-Price Happy Apple, which contains a chiming noisemaker inside. We turn the Happy Apple Tree by its large, heavy crank, made from the driveshaft of the old combine and attached by a chain to the tree. White knew the sound of one Happy Apple jingling, having played with them as a child. His own young children also play with them. "But I wanted to build a machine that would rattle 18 of them at the same time." As White explains the mechanism required to rattle the apples in their bowls to make the sound he was aiming for, it's clear he has engineered and re-engineered the piece painstakingly.

The toy apples were manufactured in 1972, coincidentally the year White was born. "They're shiny still – they're made to not age. I think about how an



Steven White working and the harvester that inspired him.
COLIN FIELD PHOTO

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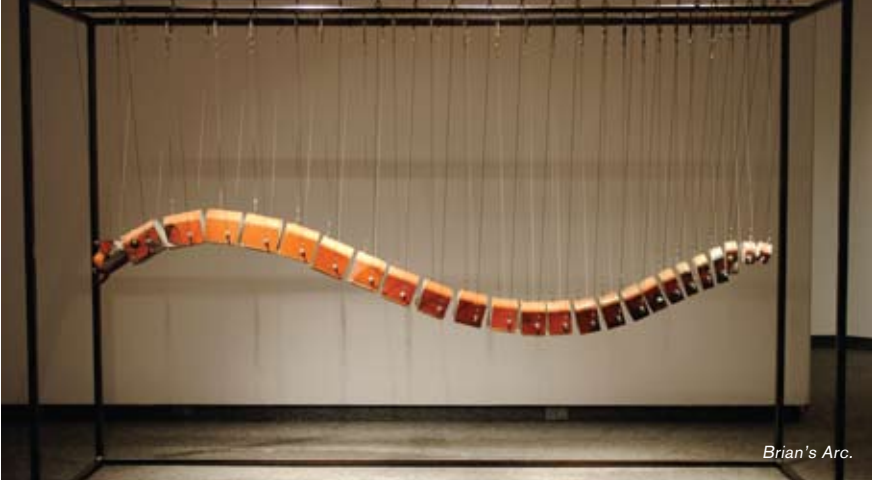
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ARTISTPROFILE

apple grown today is also made to not age; this is what the big producers are going for, the totally perfect apple. This is what's putting local farms out of business." White is quick to distance himself from polemic. "I'm not placing judgment; I'm not saying I'm right. I'm just saying this is happening and I'm working these themes into my discourse."

SEE THE COMBINE PROJECT UNTIL JANUARY 17 AT THE TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY IN OWEN SOUND. TOMTHOMSON.ORG

We move on to one of the largest pieces, entitled *Grain Bin Sound Machine*. The exterior, the grain bin of the combine, is painted in the original orange, still quite vivid, which White embellished with lithography prints of mechanical parts taken from the 1963 combine manual. Alongside these, in surprisingly harmonious contrast, he placed prints of the crops that the machine once harvested. To 'play' the Grain Bin Sound Machine you drop a steel ball into a hole in the side of the bin. As if inside an inverted pinball machine, the ball then goes through a series of unseen transits through the innards of the bin, each making a different sound; the net effect is like a large music box gone awry. White points out that he cut viewing holes in the side so you can watch the ball on its journey. After about half a minute, the ball drops out at the bottom of the bin onto



Brian's Arc.

a platform. It's infectious. You feel compelled to drop it back in again.

White leads us to a towering piece called *Buying and Selling Machine*, which he fashioned from the combine's old grain elevator. Instead of grain, White filled the elevator with pennies. Powered by a hand crank, the pennies move noisily up and down the elevator shaft in what White calls an "endless loop of money ... it buys at the bottom and sells at the top."

Other sculptures include what White calls an "insect machine" – a giant cricket – and a menacing-looking spider that calls to mind the leggy alien invaders from the film versions of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. Both make sounds somehow suggestive of some kind of thunderous insect invasion. "I want to work off the premise of insects being the enemy ... modern farming seeks to push all of that away and make everything as profitable as possible, as streamlined as possible."

White expands on this theme: "I was shooting for something that fused technology and nature. All these sculptures are responding to the premise that there's a bit of tension between the technology and the natural processes that want to break it all down. So you've got the invention, which originally replaced, say, 20 people working in the fields. It was brand-new at one point, then broke down and just sat there. Eventually it would turn into nothing. That process of nature claiming it back, that tension is what interests me." ml



Spider Bark.



Happy Apple Tree.

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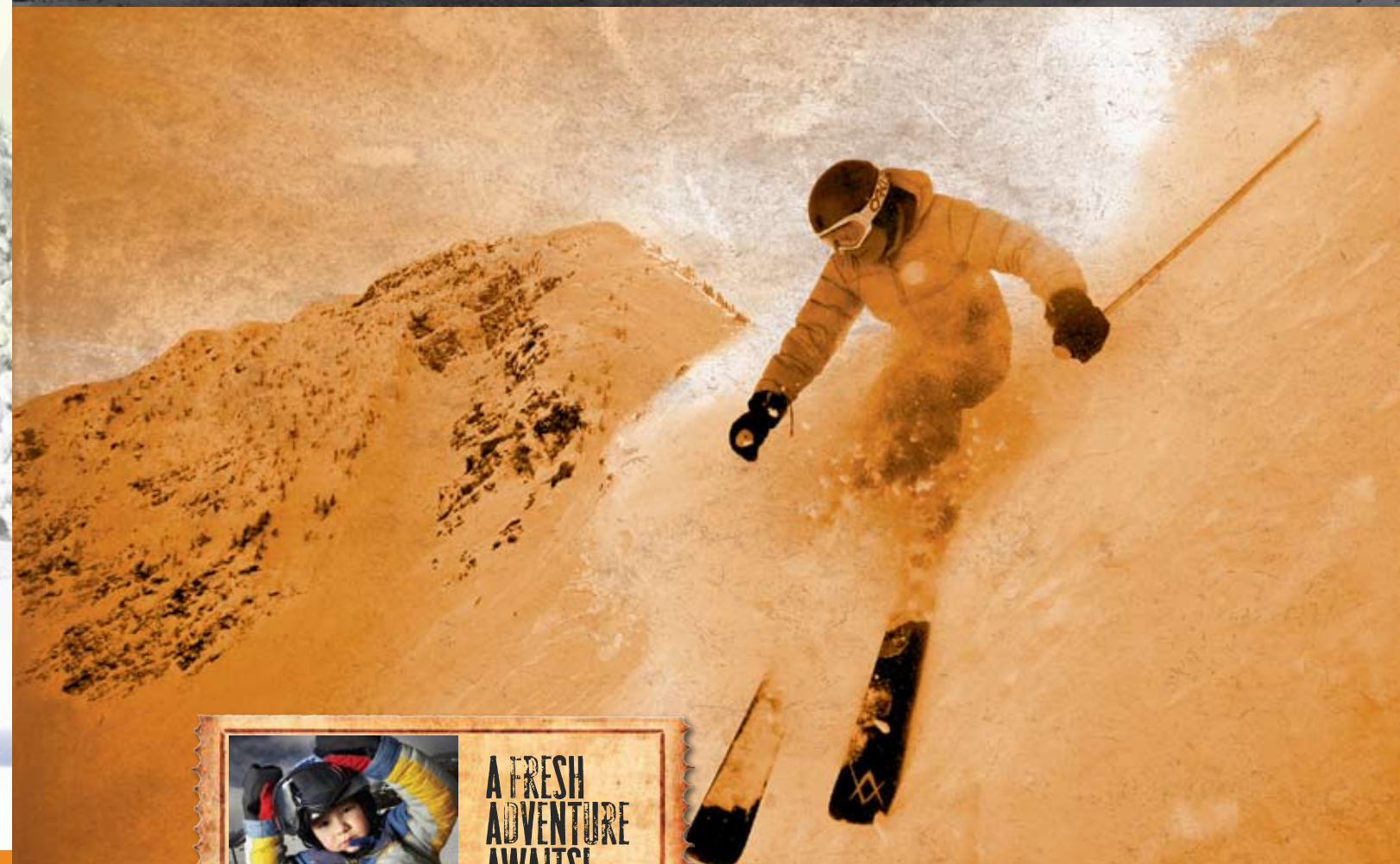
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Gear Guide ¹

BY COLIN FIELD

Coldpole (\$85)

If there was ever a reason not to snowboard, the Coldpole is it. The top portion of the handle unscrews, giving you access to that normally untapped storage vessel found within an average ski pole – about 8 fluid oz. per pole. So, go ahead and put your favourite libation in there. The fact you're drinking from aluminum may have you a bit concerned about Alzheimers, but if you don't share your drinks you'll be forgetting stuff a lot sooner than retirement! coldpole.com

Helly Hanson Atlas Flow Down Jacket (\$800)

This is one badass jacket. Bridging the gap between a down-filled puffy jacket and a shell, it features hexagonal down-filled pillows throughout to help maximize heat retention and moisture management. Add to that water-resistant zippers, a goggle wipe, wrist gaiters and a powder skirt and you've got more than you'd expect from one jacket. And to top it all off, it looks pretty cool, too. hellyhanson.com

K2 COOMBACK (\$770)

A nod to the late great Doug Coombs, the Coomback ski is probably not the best choice for Ontario's ice pack. But on that rare day when you can beat the groomers to the snow, these skis will eat it up. A slight rocker towards the tips will keep your tips above just about any snow condition around. And a wide turning radius will have you throwing about two carves into any slope on the escarpment. They are fast fun skis, built on the light side in case you have any touring ambitions. K2skis.com

Ski Porn

Nothing can get you more excited about skiing than a couple of good ski videos. And just like every year before this, there are some great offerings. Since Warren Miller Entertainment is currently in a legal battle with himself, we'll go to some others for turning inspiration this season. MSP's *In Deep* is a pure soulful offering, complete with a Shane McConkey ender that will have you sending flowers to the family he left behind. The Poor Boyz' *Everyday is a Saturday* is strictly a stoke-out movie. And a good one at that. If you want some history à la *Dogtown* and *Z-Boys*, then look no further than *Swift. Silent. Deep.*, an amazing documentary about the legendary Jackson Hole Air Force.

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Gear Guide 2

Mountain Hardwear Refugium Jacket (\$490 with battery and adapters)

Another piece of clothing that needs to be plugged in, and another piece of clothing with bright red lights that spark repetitive conversations (can't these companies make these lights a little more subtle)? This jacket has a small battery pack that slips into the back, in turn heating critical areas. There is also a USB port in the left pocket where you can charge small portable devices. While definitely not a windproof garment, when the battery is set on high, this thing feels like you've got a hot water bottle in your jacket. Combine it with a windproof shell and you'll be able to handle the windiest, coldest days the top of the Silver Bullet lift can throw your way. mountainhardwear.com

Signal OG Series (\$569)

This is not your average snowboard; made with Entropy resin, a bio-derived epoxy resin, you could actually eat this stuff if you really wanted to. Combine this with Signal's Flotsam & Jetsam Rescue Project (they use reconstituted, discontinued or over runs of base material that would otherwise end up in a landfill) and you've got yourself a pretty environmentally sound snowboard. The all-mountain, freestyle shape also features a hand-painted top sheet, making every board unique. All this means you can feel totally guilt-free arriving at the terrain park in your dad's jacked-up Escalade. signalsnowboards.com

Airhole (\$30)

How do you achieve the thug look without having to breathe through an icy, saliva encrusted bandana? The Airhole is your answer. The outer shell is made with Sublimated Weather Resistant Ninja Polyester, while the inner shell is Ultra Soft Moisture Wicking Face Protecting Polyester (we couldn't make this stuff up), and there's a wee little mouth hole to let all your biting one-liners out, or the butt of your cigarette in. It'll have you talking the talk with the best jibbers around. Walking the walk is a whole different story... airhole.ca

Enviro Mountain Wax (\$16.99)

Generally it's best not to think about what you're doing to the environment while skiing or snowboarding — unless you're earning your turns, none of it is footprint-free. And the wax you're using on your skis can be made of some pretty nasty stuff like petroleum by-products, paraffin, fluorocarbons or worse. And all of that eventually gets into our water table. Not so with Enviro Mountain Wax. 100 percent all-natural, this wax is grown by American farmers and, though not condoned by the company, if you're really hungry, it's actually edible. enviromountain.com

Some mountains are shaped. Some do the shaping.

Raise 'em Jay.

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Move Up. jaypeakresort.com

Gear Guide 3

Patagonia Reversible Puffball Bunting (\$99)

Okay, so it's pretty cute. And it's made by Patagonia. So why not start your kid's lifelong brand-loyalty right? The shell is made with 100 percent recycled polyester while the inside is 90 percent recycled Thermogreen insulation. The long zipper down the front will make for some easy diaper changes, and the whole thing is recyclable through the Common Threads Recycling Program. Not only will your baby be happy in this thing, you can feel good giving Patagonia your hard-earned money. patagonia.com

Kombi Frequency Gloves (\$150)

These gloves are pretty sweet. They do, in fact, keep your hands warm, but they have a little extra, too. On the left glove you'll find a joystick remote thingy. You simply need to plug your iPod into the extra attachment, then you control your iPod remotely with your glove. Now you can skip the songs you're ashamed you downloaded, pause the tunes to see if that cute girl is actually talking to you (she isn't), or crank the volume while getting yelled at by ski patrol, all without removing your gloves or fussing around with jacket zippers. Pretty sweet, eh? kombisports.com

Crescent Moon Gold

10 backcountry snowshoe (\$269.99)

There's a lot to like about Crescent Moon snowshoes. The binding system — made of tough-but-flexible polyurethane — fits like a custom stirrup, capturing your boot with a single easy pull of the loop strap. To close the binding, a durable buckle ratchets your heel snugly into place. The teardrop-shaped frame lends flotation in deep snow while the three-claw stainless-steel traction system grips like nobody's business. The Gold series carries a lifetime warranty. The company runs a 100 percent wind-powered shop out of Colorado and does not use toxic PVCs. What's not to like? Well, someone might try to eat your bindings, because they look exactly like cherry fruit roll-ups. But that's about it. crescentmoonsnowshoes.com

Columbia Bugathermo (\$329.99)

So once you get over the fact that this is footwear you need to plug in, you'll be a couple steps ahead of the game. Sure there's something wrong with having a battery inside your boots, but on those freezing days when your toes would usually feel like a couple of freezer-burnt hot dogs, you'll be happy you aren't saving the environment. Our biggest complaint is the glowing Columbia logo that appears when the boot heater is turned on; it draws way too much attention at night, meaning you have to guiltily confess over and over that yes, I am wearing heated boots. For a chance to win a pair, check out mountainlifemag.ca columbia.com

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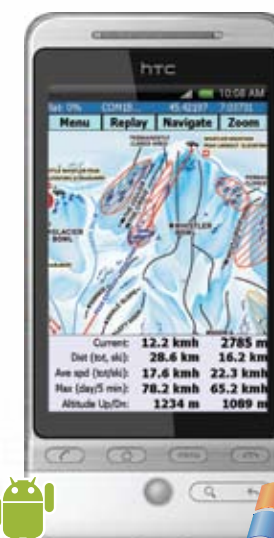
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Picks from the Locals



1) Montana Snow Cruiser
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Paul, Skis & Bikes Collingwood
(skisandbikes.com 705.445.9777)

2) The Liberty Team Edition (LTE)
Liberty worked closely with its team members to design the LTE – a ski that slays everything from park and pipe to all-mountain.
Andrea, Squire John's, Craileith
(squirejohns.com 705.445.1130)

3) MEC Merino Lightweight Turtleneck (Women's)
Super-fine merino wool, non-itchy, allows lots of natural stretch for comfortable, easy movement.
Tim, Mountain Equipment Co-op
(mec.ca 1.888.847.0770)

4) Loki Lodur Highloft jacket
Lightweight, yet packed with features. Integrated mitts and faceshield prepare you for the worst weather in seconds.
Kris, Kamikaze, Collingwood
(kamikazebikes.com 705.446.1234)

5) Remix Lulu Hoodie
Large, deep hood and high scuba collar to keep your head and neck warm.
Donna, TAG Fitness, Collingwood,
(tagfitness.ca 705.444.7TAG)

6) Kushies diaper trial packs
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7) Lilla P Origami Wrap
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Cathy, DeCorso's Fashions, Thornbury
(519.599.5315)

8) Ed Hardy Snow by Christian Audigier
French fashion designer Christian Audigier brings Ed Hardy's legendary tattoo designs to the puffy ski vest.
Aman, Madison, Collingwood
(shopmadison.ca 705.443.2000)

9) Hanro of Switzerland
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Dana, Tingle, Village at Blue (705.445.6768)

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Picks from the Locals

CONT'D


(10)



(11)




(12)




(13)




(14)




(15)



(16)



(17)



10) Columbia Mountain Tech Long Sleeve Tee
This long-sleeved technical tee is perfect for everything from everyday wear to a base layer for mountain activities.
Columbia@Blue, Village at Blue (705.443.5802)

11) X Bionic high-performance long underwear
Swiss-engineered long underwear cools when you're sweating and warms when you're freezing.
Nicole, Red Devil Sports, Village at Blue (705.443.5803)

12) Petzl Tikka XP2 headlamp
High-powered, energy-efficient LED emits a 60-metre beam. Red LED setting for night vision and flashing mode.
Sojourn, Barrie (sojournoutdoors.com 705.739.9694)

13) Maui Jim Ho'okipa MauiReaders
Unique design features a bifocal encased in polycarbonate and positioned to optimize distance views, while giving you near power when you need it.
Betty, Envy Eyewear, Village at Blue (envyeyewear.com 705.445.3168)

14) Padraig slippers
Hand-crafted in Canada with all natural materials, these sheep's wool slippers are sure to keep your children's toes toasty.
Laurie, Cardboard Castles Children's Emporium, Creemore (705.466.9998)

15) Kiss Naturals DIY Lip Balm Making Kit
Award-winning all-natural DIY kits for kids. One dollar of each purchase goes to local kids' Breakfast Club charity.
Samantha, Evolve, Meaford (evolvetoys@yahoo.com 519.538.5600)

16) The Little Black Book of Style
From cultivating good taste to guarding against fashion faux pas, author Nina Garcia offers readers the ultimate guide to dressing their best.
Jane, Furbelows, Thornbury (519.599.5422)

17) Kazuri African Beads
Handmade, fair-trade African beads in a wide array of colours and patterns.
Neil, Cecile Beads, Gemstones & Findings, Meaford (519.538.1229) [ml](#)

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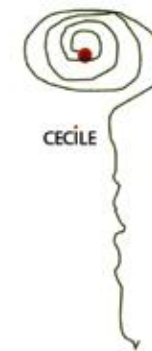
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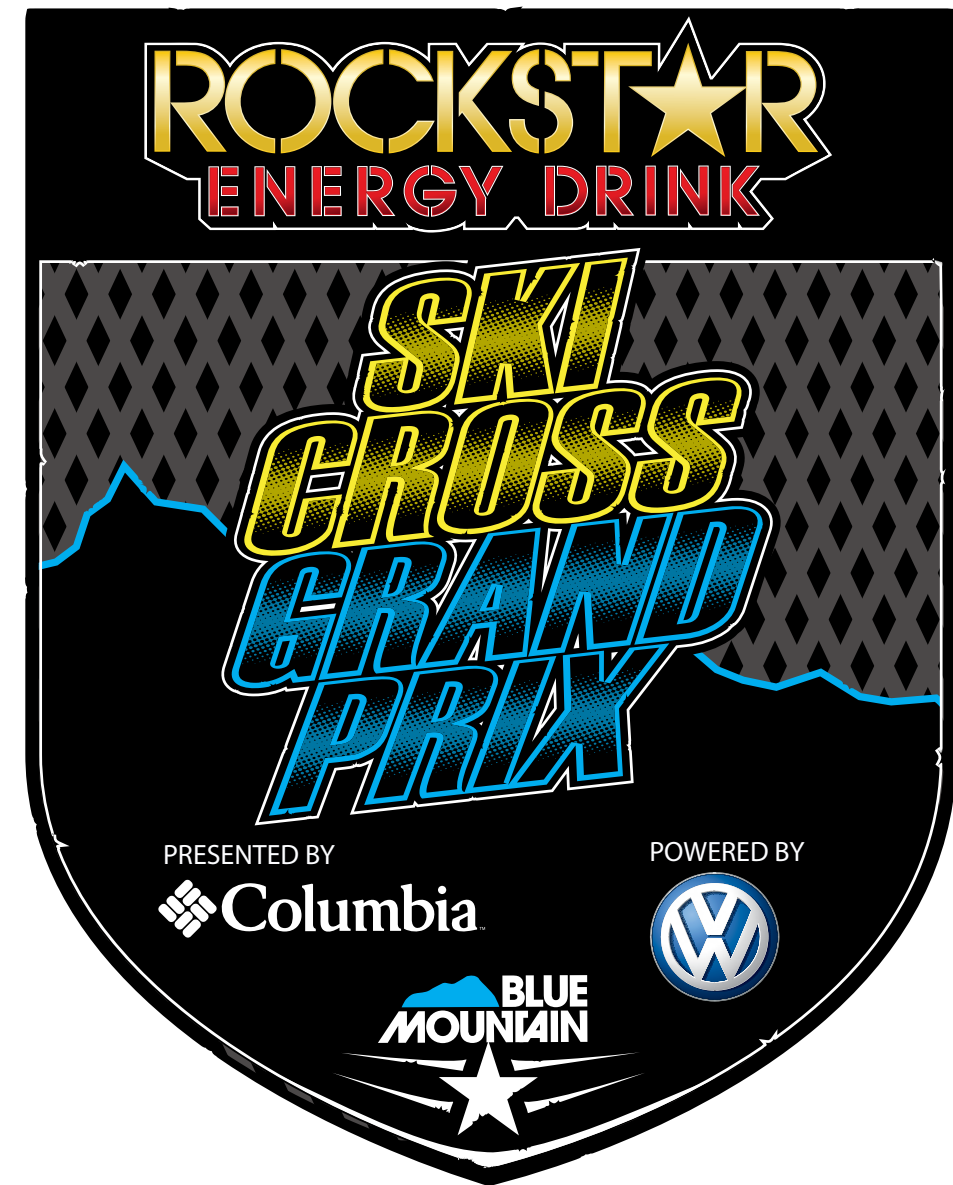
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