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THE DATEJUST II









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Canada Day Celebrations ~ July 1-3 Thornbury-Clarksburg, The Village at Blue

Blue Mountains Chili RibFest ~ July 8,9 Cedar Run Horse Park, Clarksburg



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Apple Harvest Festival ~ Oct 7-10 The Blue Mountains













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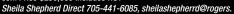


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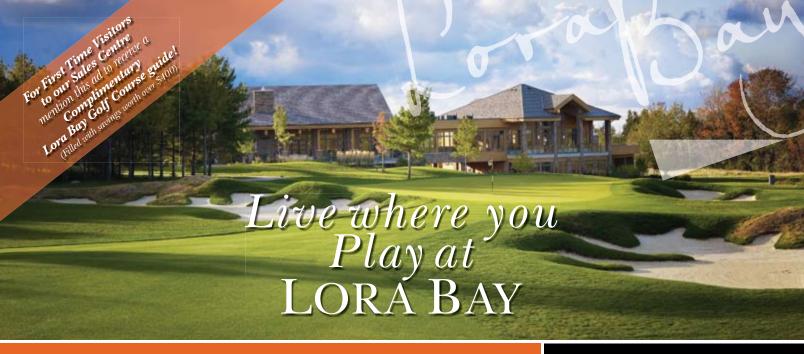
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THE ORIGINAL



#### **Features**

#### **70** Algonquin's Ageless Attraction

At 16 years of age, Leslie Anthony spent a month paddling and portaging in Algonquin. Now he returns for a two-week trip with his 16-year-old daughter. A story of generations and the allure of Algonquin.

#### **76** 12 Days of Summer

With summer in full swing, we thought we'd compile a list of 12 essential activities. One for each weekend. See you out there!

#### 82 Photo Gallery

mountainlifemag.ca

### **54** Golf

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- **60** Travel
- **64** Athlete Profile

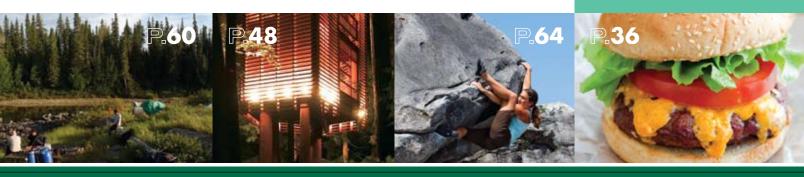
Upfront

History

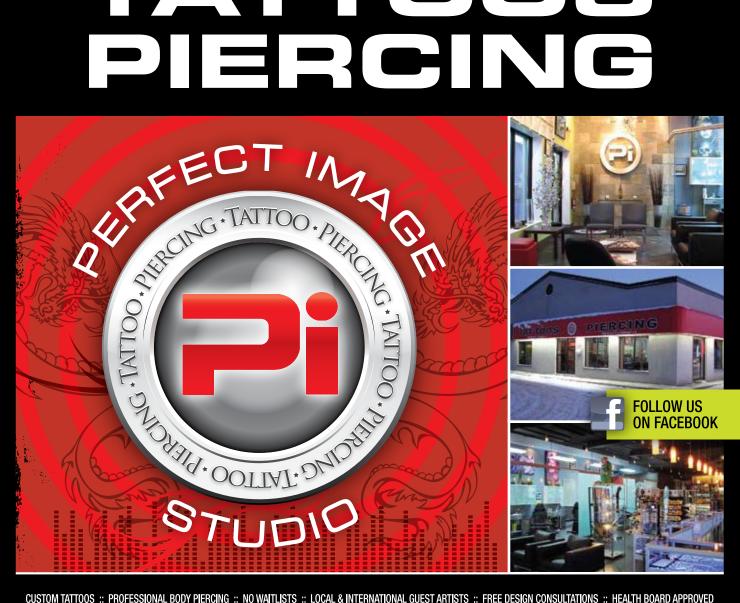
Mountain Homes

Food

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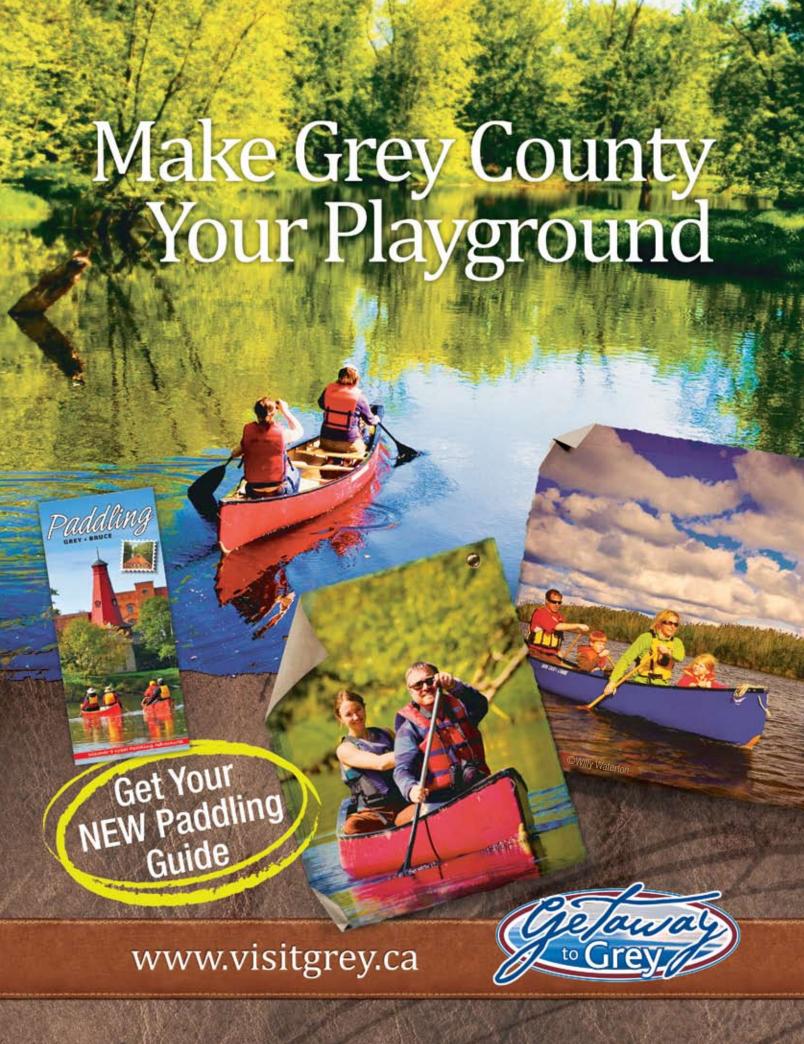
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by chance canoeing down the Beaver, or on a bike ride along

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26

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Blue Mountain

# mountain life

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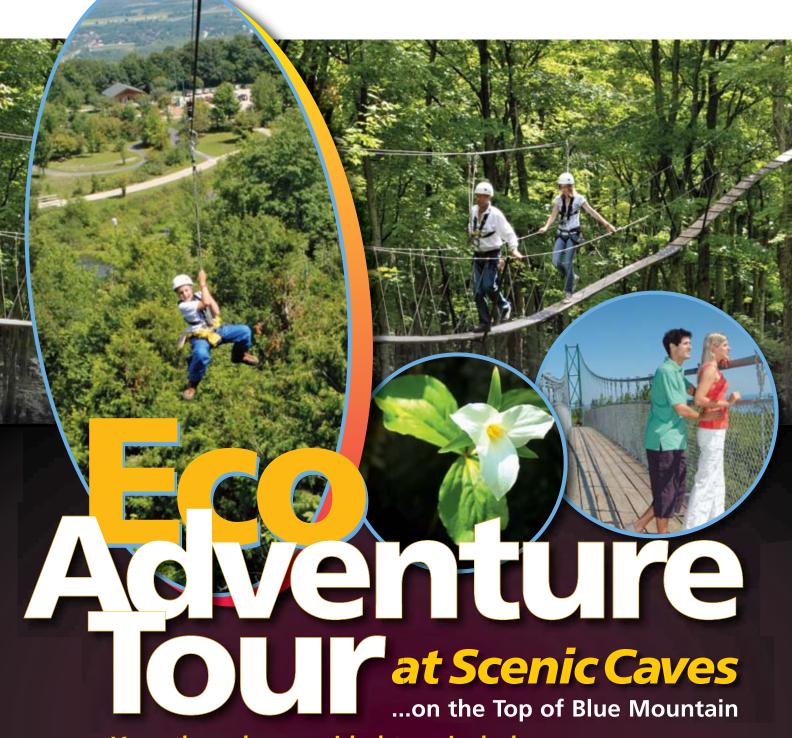
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NATURAL LEADERS is a leadership training program that challenges youth to experience two weeks of outdoor adventure and sustainable living in the Blue Mountains region.

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#### WHAT IF?

Mr. Field.

While I enjoy reading your mag, I cannot get past my own pet peeve of a parent proudly displaying their beautiful infant son in a canoe on a river while not wearing a lifejacket as you appear to have done on page 22 of the Spring 2011 issue. What kind of example are you setting for all your readers and for your son? His safety should trump all others. No excuses, kind sir.

Regards, ANDREW BARCHAM Singhampton, ON Dear Editor.

I feel compelled to add a few more "what ifs" to your list. What if the canoe had capsized? What if you were unable to rescue your child because of the numbing effect of the frigid waters of early spring? Were you and your wife wearing PFDs so you could keep your child afloat if necessary? Although there are no Transport Canada–approved PFDs for infants less than 9kg (20lb) and you are not legally required to carry one, there are many on the market which are approved by the US Coast Guard and any flotation seems better than none in the event of an emergency.

The spirit of adventure displayed in your magazine is inspiring, and sometimes awe-inspiring, but please temper that enthusiasm with common sense and be aware that you are setting an example for others. Hopefully your little one will be better equipped for this spring's Beaver River trip.

LYNDA LONG

Since the moment I considered running this shot, I knew these letters were coming.

My excuses, in order of importance:

- 1) There was a lifejacket on board.
- 2) I'm 110 percent sure that nothing was going to go wrong on the river at that time of year.
- 3) I'm 200 percent sure that if something had happened I would have been on shore, with my boy in my arms in seconds.
- 4) Life jackets are total photo killers.
  But I digress. You're both right. In my position,
  I shouldn't have run the shot. Thanks for the scolding.

− *Ed*.

#### CHAIRLIFT BRAGGING RIGHTS

Dear Editor,

As the editor of the Georgian Peaks history referenced by Paul Wilson in your winter issue I was surprised when he wrote that his source for having stated The Peaks had the first chairlift in the area was indeed, the Georgian Peaks history book.

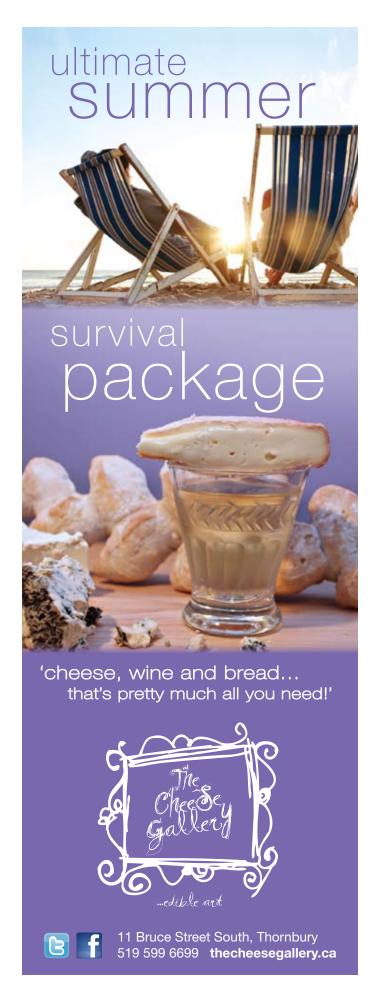
"That's something I would remember," I thought. Wanting to clear my name and research abilities, I've just spent some enjoyable time re-reading the history and nowhere can I find the reference. I think where Paul's confusion may have arisen from is that the Minute Mile chair was the first to have its towers dropped in place by helicopter; that was in 1973.

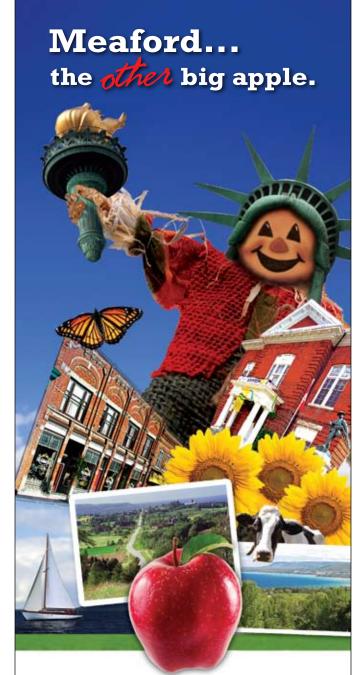
Blue Mountain had the old South Chair running in 1959 and while the Peaks opened in December 1960, with a chairlift, it was obviously not the first in the area. That distinction absolutely goes to Blue Mountain as Marg Holroyd points out [see Feedback, p.24, ML spring 2011]. The Peaks has loads of things to brag about (without exaggerating!) but that's not one of them.

Sincerely, LYNNE BARNES

Will someone please fire our fact-checker already? –Ed.







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#### ALIJA BOS

Twenty-three-year-old Alija Bos is a Muskoka/Barrie resident who has been photographing the things he loves for the past six years. His time and lens are focused on the environment, water, people and action sports. He is thankful for his family, his life, his camera, his friends, water, beer, and the sun. Check out www.alijabos.com to view some of his work.



#### KATE FOX

Kate Fox is an adventurous high school student with a passion for exploring the great outdoors and the world of journalism. She is currently enrolled in the Geoventure course at Jean Vanier High School, which has brought her to *Mountain Life* as a co-op student. With Geoventure, Kate has camped in Ontario's most beautiful parks and gone snowshoeing, skiing and rock climbing all over the Georgian Bay region. She loves to wakeboard, surf, fish, play guitar and hopes to travel the world with her snowboard and notebook in tow.



#### **BOB GRANT**

Bob Grant started hang-gliding in 1972 when he was 30 years old. He first tried a mountain launch at Blue Mountain and has been hooked ever since. He has traveled all over the USA to hang-glide, accompanied by his wife Maureen who also takes in the scenery from the air. They also enjoy windsurfing, water-skiing, biking and kayaking.





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#### **A Somber Memorial**

It arrived overnight: an all-white bike, bolted to the railing on Moore's Hill in Owen Sound. It appeared anonymously like installation art. But on closer inspection the words "Roger Smith RIP" are written along the seat tube.

On August 6 2008, it was here that Roger Smith died. The 46-year-old was on his way to a weekly club ride when a car pulled out on 2nd Avenue. He lost control of the bicycle, slammed into the curb and fell on some large rocks. He died instantly.

The all-white bike is a memorial to Roger Smith and is known as a ghost bike. The first ghost bikes appeared in Missouri in 2003. Since then they have appeared in over 150 locations worldwide.

"Ghost Bikes are small and somber memorials for bicyclists who are killed or hit on the street," says ghostbikes.org. "They serve as reminders of the tragedy that took place on an otherwise anonymous street corner, and as quiet statements in support of cyclists' right to safe travel."

This Moore's Hill memorial to Roger Smith is one of the first to appear in the area.

While there aren't many cycling-related deaths around here, they do happen. Records of accidents before 2005 are scarce, but since that time, Jean-Paul Therrien of Barrie lost his life in 2006 to a drunk driver. As did Meredith McPhee, a 32-year-old Windsor woman, killed by a pickup truck around 10 p.m, July 12, 2008

in Tobermory. Robert Lyle Armstrong was killed at 1:30 a.m. on September 25, 2010, heading east on Highway 89 in East Luther-Grand Valley township.

These are somber statistics and though miniscule in comparison to large metropolitan areas, they are unnecessary deaths.

Cycling in the region is rapidly gaining popularity, which makes it more important than ever for cyclists and motorists alike to respect one another's right to the road.

While the appearance of a ghost bike in the region is a step towards increasing awareness, it is a haunting reminder of the tragic story that unfolded here. Let's avoid any more of them. Let's share the road.

COLIN FIELD PHOTO



September 16-18, 2011

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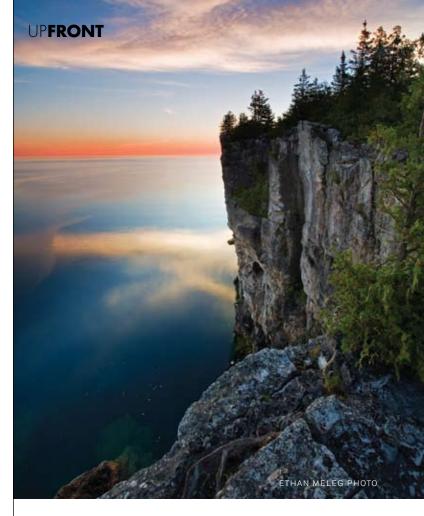
WORDSTOCK September 9-10

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Collingwood downtown



#### **Georgian Bay Forever**

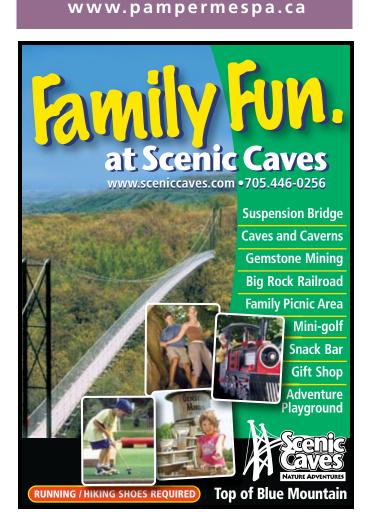
We drink, swim, and paddle it, but how much do we really know about it? Georgian Bay is a crucial resource and its future welfare is by no means assured. Happily, the charity Georgian Bay Forever is here to monitor and research the Bay for those of us without the knowledge, expertise, or time. Founded in 1995, GBF recently hired its first paid staffer, David Sweetnam, as Executive Director.

Sweetnam brings a boatload of scientific credentials to the job. A biochemist by training, he founded no less than the international UV Index program, and later owned an IT services company. As a teen, Sweetnam spent time in Georgian Bay Islands National Park. When GBF came calling, he had sold his IT company, and the time was right.

GBF is a registered charity focusing on both public outreach and scientific research. "Research exists in government agencies, but they don't have the budgets to go out and communicate it," Sweetnam says. "Our objective is twofold: one is to provide support for research. We also want to make sure our own research, and government research, gets out to the public." GBF's research includes developing water-quality monitoring programs and wetland inventories.

GBF held a Georgian Bay Vital Signs event last spring that included speakers from the International Joint Commission and McMaster University. A speaker from the MNR's Great Lakes Management Unit, Arunas Liskauskas, gave a sobering rundown of invasive species in the Bay, including zebra and quagga mussels who act "like a vacuum cleaner" by sucking nutrients out of the water. He reported a staggering 93 percent decline in diporeia, a small shrimp-like staple of the food chain. "There is a perfect storm raging beneath the placid waters of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay," he said, "yet most of the public is unaware of the transformation occurring." With the help of Georgian Bay Forever, maybe more of us will be. georgianbayforever.org







Collingwood downtown

#### **Brake for Snakes**

Though it's unlikely to replace listening to the Jays on the radio, let's imagine you're driving through this province's wild areas this summer thinking: "What can I do to help Ontario's many reptile species-at-risk?" There are several things, but if you're behind the wheel the first is this: Pay attention.

Along with habitat destruction, pollution and persecution, road mortality is the gravest threat to vulnerable species of snakes and turtles, tens of thousands of which meet a sticky end each year on Ontario's roads as they move between mating, foraging, and hibernating areas. Highly trafficked cottage-bound roads have become veritable slaughterhouses for these animals. For instance, with wild habitat and wetlands on both sides, Highway 69 is a busy place for animal crossings; being the main link between Toronto and Sudbury, it's also a busy place for humans, with few breaks between cars and not enough under-road crossings. It's no coincidence that most of Ontario's endangered reptiles inhabit this corridor along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay. When it comes to roads and cars, these slow-moving, unassuming animals have no idea of the danger they're courting; when you see them on the pavement, however, they're easy enough to avoid.

The past decade has seen an increase in signage to this effect around cottage country: Bright yellow "Brake for Snakes" and "Turtle Crossing" signs erected by local groups, who, in conjunction with the Ministry of Transportation, have identified high-mortality areas of roadway.

It's not the only thing being done to mitigate the carnage.

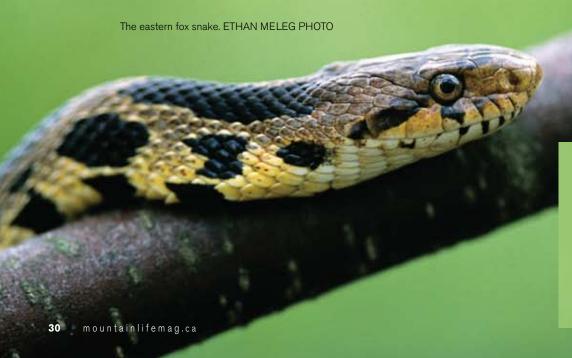
"We don't know yet how to create fencing and tunnels that are universally used by frogs, salamanders, snakes and turtles," says Megan Rasmussen, a turtle researcher and species-atrisk biologist. "Right now we throw a culvert in, but if you're [cold-blooded], sometimes a warm road surface is a more enticing place to cross than a cool, shadowy tunnel. So we're pursuing research and initiatives to create better 'ecopassages' for animals."

Despite a generally increased conservation awareness, populations of these animals are still in precipitous decline. Starting in June, turtles appear along most of Ontario's highways, largely females looking for a place (sadly, often a sandy road shoulder) to nest. This is a huge problem for turtle species, already hampered by low numbers of offspring, low recruitment (few young survive to adulthood), and an average time to reproductive maturity of between 10 - 30 years. Because they live 60 - 100 years, many turtles killed crossing roads are 40+ year-old females that can't be readily replaced, creating an instant sex bias in the population and making it even more vulnerable to extirpation. Snakes, with greater reproductive output, higher recruitment, and far less time to maturity, can show measurable recovery with conservation efforts while recovery in turtle populations is hard to study because their lifespans outlast the ability of individuals to monitor them.

But snakes have other problems. Few people are chopping up turtles with shovels because they're afraid of them. The three species in the Georgian Bay area with official Threatened status (meaning it's illegal to harm them) are the eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, the fox snake and the hognose snake. Only the Massasauga is venomous - though its shy, retreating ways mean it's not considered dangerous - but all are large, brownish and blotched, and thus regularly confused: Massasauga and hognose are stout-bodied; fox snakes and hognose can have light-coloured backgrounds; fox snakes are "rattling" snakes that vibrate their pointed tails, possibly capitalizing on rattlesnake mimicry. Add to this that the more common and harmless northern watersnake is often mislabeled a "water moccasin" and confused with all three, and you can see how they've all ended up on the endangered list. People seem to have no qualms about killing a snake on their property or on the highway.

What can you do when you see these animals on a road? Slow down and let them cross. If it's a turtle and you're comfortable with doing so, pick it up and move it off the road in the direction it was headed. Don't take it home or go out of your way to put it into water — it knows where it's going; and hopefully that's not toward extinction.

-Leslie Anthony



Info on reptiles-at-risk programs:
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve:
gbbr.ca has two excellent and
informative videos, At-Risk Turtles,
Snakes and Frogs of Georgian Bay,
and Working in Massasauga Habitat
which also contain links to other
information.

See also: massasauga.ca



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# **Hanging On**

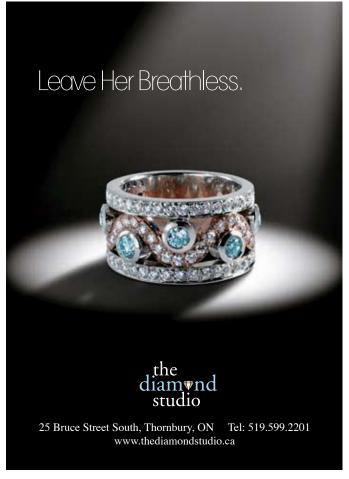
INTERVIEW BY COLIN FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB GRANT

WHEN VINTAGE GEORGIAN PEAKS HANG-GLIDING FOOTAGE SHOWED UP ON YOUTUBE RECENTLY WE HAD TO FIND OUT MORE. A LITTLE SLEUTHING LED US TO BOB GRANT, THE FILMER AND ONE OF THE GLIDERS IN THIS AMAZING FOOTAGE. NOW, AT 68, GRANT IS STILL AN AVID HANG-GLIDER PROVING THE SPORT ISN'T AS DANGEROUS AS IT MAY SEEM. HE FILLED US IN ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN HANG-GLIDING THESE DAYS.











### Mountain Life: When are these shots from and where?

Bob Grant: These shots were in and around 1974 and 1975 and most were at Blue Mountain and Georgian Peaks.

### ML: Why doesn't anyone hang-glide in these locations anymore?

BG: In about 1978 one of our pilots clipped an electric wire at Georgian Peaks. The operators decided that hang-gliding in that area was an insurance risk so we were asked to stop flying there.

### ML: Where do people hang-glide in Ontario now?

BG: Most hang-gliders in Ontario are towed up by an ultralight aircraft, similar to the way that sailplanes launch. There are a few sites that do this; two near Arthur, Ontario and another near Pickering, Ontario.

#### ML: Are you still hang-gliding?

BG: Yes, I am still hang-gliding after 39 years. Just this week a friend and I travelled to the Finger Lakes area of New York just south of Rochester. I had a three-hour-and-eighteen-minute flight after running off of an 800-foot hill there and I gained 2,970 feet in thermals on that flight. There were seven other pilots flying at the site on Tuesday. On Wednesday we tried another site and our longest flight that day was 25 minutes. My longest flight ever was from a 400 foot cliff launch overlooking Bath, New York and I stayed up in thermals for six and-a-half hours.

#### ML: How has the gear changed since these photos were taken?

BG: One of the biggest changes is that the nose angle in 1972 was 80 degrees and now they are 120 degrees. Another big change is the airfoil shape and the cross tubes are enclosed inside the sail. The gliders now are much safer as they have a built-in dive recovery system. In the early years if a hang-glider started a steep dive they could easily invert and sometimes did. That would usually break the frame, sending the hang-glider diving into the ground. On today's gliders if you try to pull in really hard the dive recovery system won't let the glider get into a steep dive and will keep the top speed from reaching 60 mph. As soon as the pilot lets out on the control bar the glider resumes level flight.

### ML: How much is a hang-glider now and how much was one then?

BG: Today a top of the line high performance hang-glider costs around \$9,000 and in 1972 my first glider was \$500 new. You can buy a medium performance or learning hang-glider now for about \$4,000.

#### ML: How has paragliding's popularity affected hanggliding?

BG: When paragliders first came on the scene about 15 years ago there were many sold and lots of people tried the sport.

Lately the popularity seems to have slowed and many of the paraglider pilots are starting to hand-glide. The biggest disadvantage of a paraglider is it has no airframe so if the air is turbulent, a thermal can collapse the paraglider wing and it's often hard to re-inflate the wing. Many paraglider pilots have fallen to their death in those situations. I personally feel more secure with an aluminum airframe and a Dacron sail securely fastened to it.

#### ML: How dangerous is hang-gliding?

BG: It's no more dangerous that scuba, motocross or many other sports. As with all aircraft, a person needs to follow rules of the air and make flying safe for all. In the 1980s there were up to 60 deaths per year and now we are down to about five per year worldwide.

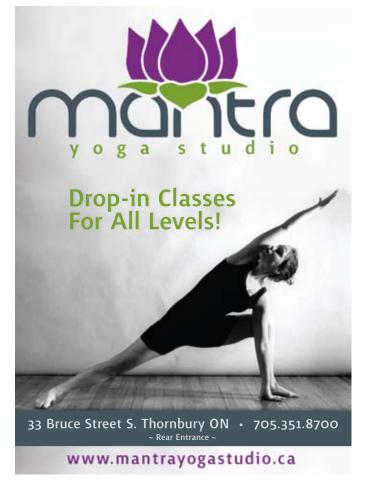
#### ML: Anything else to add?

BG: My wife Maureen and I flew tandem from the top of Blue Mountain in about 1977 taking off with snow skis and we landed in the parking lot at the bottom.









### **Ode to the Burger**

BY ESTER O'NEILL PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLIN FIELD

There is something to be said for the humble hamburger: its portability, adaptability and, of course, the soulsaitisfying flavour. Soft pillowy buns holding smokey grilled meat, topped with crisp, fresh pickles, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, oh my! Whoever was first to sandwich grilled meat between bread is certainly worthy of an award, or two.

And it is in summertime when the burger truly comes in to its own. BBQs come out, fresh tomatoes are dying to be sliced and placed on top and family picnics across our fair land are improved by the presence of this modest hot sandwich.

To help you navigate your way to this summer's best burger we've come up with a delicious recipe for your own patties (using local beef) and some inspired cheese and topping ideas. Long live the burger.



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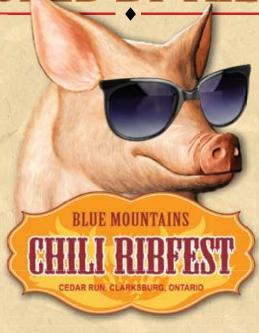
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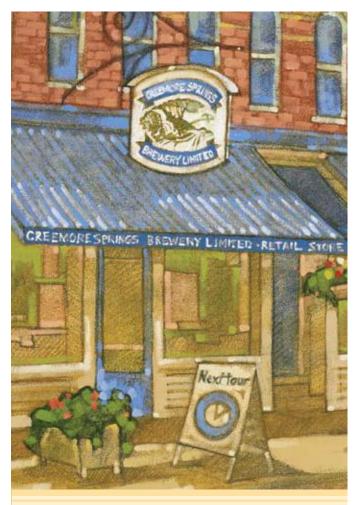
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Bring your friends, your family, your best foodie pals – everybody is welcome!
Come in a t-shirt or a tux. Oh, and bring a healthy appetite. We'll supply the gorgeous scenery, the laughs and the memories.

### August 27th & 28th, 2011.

For more information and ticket details, please email *thefolks@creemoresprings.com*.

Cheers!

# Mountain Life BUTRGIER

Good quality beef needs few additions to make an outstanding burger. Egg binds the mixture without the drying and tasteless qualities of breadcrumbs or other fillers. Make this burger your own by choosing from some of the inspiring cheese and topping ideas on the following pages.

Makes 8 regular or 6 large burgers

- 2 lb naturally-raised ground Wagyu beef (see below for info)
- 1 small yellow onion, minced
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 3/4 tsp each salt and pepper
- 2 dashes Worcestershire sauce
- 2 dashes hot sauce (or more to taste)
- 1 large egg

Mix together beef, onion, thyme, coriander, salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce and egg until thoroughly mixed.

Shape into 6 or 8 3/4-inch thick patties.

Grill over medium-high heat, turning once, until med-rare (or preferred doneness), 10 to 12 minutes.

Top with cheese, sauces and toppings as desired; sandwich between toasted buns. Enjoy!



# LUCKY FOR US, GREY AND BRUCE COUNTIES ARE HOME TO SOME OF THE BEST CATTLE FARMS IN THE PROVINCE.

For example, Wagyu beef (also known as Kobe beef), a type of Japanese cattle that has foodies drooling over its tenderness and mild but alluring beefy taste, is raised right here. Lloyd Kuntz was the first breeder of Wagyu cattle in Ontario, since 1992, and is proud to call Formosa home. Beef sales are available direct from his farm at (519-367-2913). Other fantastic, naturally-raised and local beef options include Scotch Mountain Farms in Meaford, or Meadowbrook Family Farms in Walkerton and many others. Or if you're feeling a bit wild, why not try local elk, lamb or bison?







A BURGER ISN'T REALLY COMPLETE WITHOUT CHEESE. AND WHILE MILD-TASTING, SUPER-MELTY AND ULTRA-CONVENIENT CHEESE SLICES MIGHT STILL BE YOUR GO-TO CHOICE, THERE IS A WORLD OF CHEESE OUT THERE WAITING TO TRANSFORM YOUR BURGER. TOGETHER WITH THE STELLAR CHEESEMONGERS AT THE CHEESE GALLERY IN THORNBURY, WE CAME UP WITH SOME MUST-BE-EXPERIENCED CHEESES, FROM COW TO GOAT TO SHEEP, INCLUDING A HANDFUL OF LOCAL PICKS, TO GRACE YOUR BURGERS THIS SUMMER.



8-year-old Pine River Cheddar – Pine River has been making cheese in Ripley, ON, since 1885, and they have a tried, tested and true product in this amazing Cheddar. The aging process gives this cheese a sharp tang and hint of caramel. And it melts to ooey-gooey goodness.



Beemster Premium Goat Gouda – While Beemster is most recognized by the pale orange Gouda of the same name, they also make a dreamy goat Gouda. Aged only 6 months, this pale white semi-firm cheese has an unmistakable sweetness that is truly addicting.



Brie – Nothing beats a classic French Brie, like Brie de Meaux for burgers. Keep the rind on to stop the cheese from melting right off the burger, but be prepared to be blown away but the rich, creamy and nutty aromas that develop when heated.



Wooldrift Farm Sheep Feta

- Available pasteurized or raw, this sheep feta is mild and creamy and becomes almost spreadable when heated. Owners Chris and Axel were the first sheep milking operation in Ontario and their feta is not to be missed.



Bleu Benedictine – This award-winning blue cheese made by the Benedictine Monk community in Quebec's Eastern Townships is a favourite for burgers. Its sharp, earthy flavour goes great with beef. And its soft, creamy texture is pleasing to blue cheese beginners.



Red Dragon – For those who enjoy a bit of bite with their burger, Red Dragon is a must. This Welsh cheddar is loaded with whole mustard seeds and Welsh ale. It's a buttery, spicy cheese with complex flavour and a great texture from the mustard seeds.



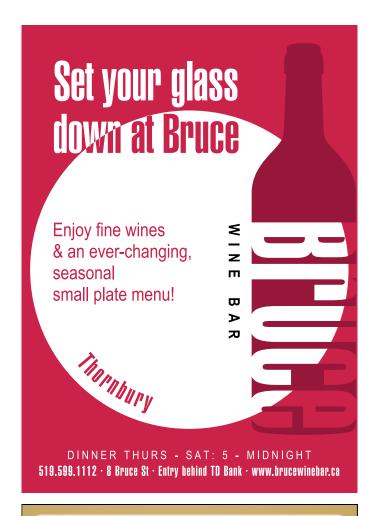
Emmentaler – This raw milk Swiss cheese, from Switzerland and most recognized by the holes, or 'eyes', makes a dreamy burger topping. It melts to irresistible stretchiness, and has a piquant, yet mild taste. Add sautéed mushrooms for an out-of-thisworld experience.



Monforte's Nika Sheep Cream Cheese – Spreadable sheep cream cheese boasting garlic scape, oregano, lavender and basil is heavenly on a burger. The flavours are delicate and subdued and the rich creaminess stands up well to the grilled meat. Needs only a fresh tomato slice and a leaf of lettuce to really enjoy.







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TOPPINGS. THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WHEN IT COMES TO BURGER TOPPINGS. SOME FAVOURITES OFFER A SHARP CONTRAST IN TEXTURE OR TASTE (CONSIDER THE PICKLE), WHILE OTHERS ARE JUST PLAIN GOOD. HERE ARE A FEW CLASSIC OPTIONS FOR TOPPINGS AND A FEW INSPIRED ONES TO TAKE YOUR BURGER TO THE NEXT LEVEL THIS SUMMER.

**Leaf Lettuce** – Soft, frilly edges, a crisp stem and a sweet, mild taste make this a great topping.





Pickled Jalapenos

- Add just a few for a subtle zing, add a few more for a sharp tingly heat.

**Dill Pickles** — From Eugenia, The Pickle Guy's Super Dills, are a favourite burger pickle. They are crisp, sharp, spicy and have just the right amount of sour.





Roasted Red Pepper

- Gives your burger
a slight smokiness
and a pleasing hint of
sweetness.

**Bacon** – Smokey, salty, crispy, what more is there to say?





**Red Onion** – A classic burger topping, but nothing quite beats the crisp, onion-y zing of a slice of red onion.

**Sauteed Mushrooms**- Add earthiness, richness and nuttiness to a burger.





**Tomato** – Meaty, sweet, juicy, not to be missed on top of your burger.

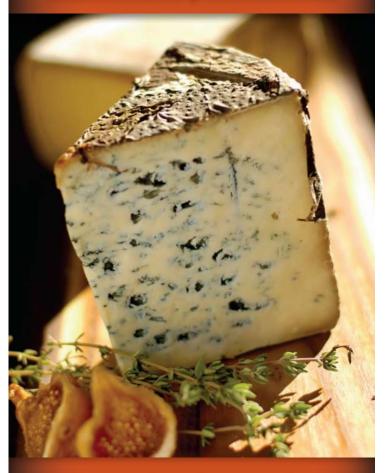
**Avocado** – Forget the mayo and add a few slices of avocado instead for a rich, buttery, creamy topping.





Fried Egg – The Aussies are onto something here. soft oozy yolk blends beautifully with rich beef. 
■

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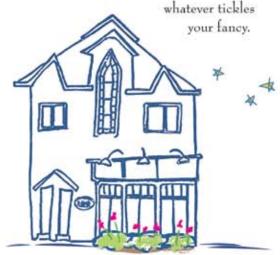


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# \*Azzurra

Just wanted to tell you about just a couple of really, really good things about Azzurra right now .... So, there is the Gusto della Cucina which is 5 courses of tastes from the kitchen. The Gusto menu changes as often as the winds on the bay. 1\$ corkage is still on Tuesdays. Pranzo! Need I say more. If you haven't tried this yet then you had best get a group of your favourite friends together and get on it. The chef's sweet potato gnocchi is still the best thing I have ever tasted. If you have an addictive personality I would not reccommend trying it. The beautiful new patio is warmer than ever on summer evenings - brought to you by fuzzy blankets, a little red wine and actual heaters. The next TasteBuds dinner is coming quickly. Azzurra's taste buddy this time is Black Angus Meats and Game, Bring a man. It will be meaty. If you are still reading this you deserve a reward - seriously. Send us an email through www.azzurra.ca to claim it. You can also visit the website about anything aforementioned. Or you could join the mailing list so that you get a heads up on events which tend to be very fun. There is always something cooking whether it be cheese classes, parties or just plain noodles. I could go on and on and on. You should just come by the restaurant and we will tell you all about everything over a good glass of wine and a bite to eat of



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### FEATURE RESTAURANTS



### The Raven Grill

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lorabaygolf.com 519.599.7500



### 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



### Kaytoo

Located in the bright yellow Mill Pond Boathouse, Kaytoo is hard to miss in the Village at Blue Mountain. Kaytoo explores what it means to be Canadian through its coast-to-coast inspired menu. With an outstanding three-level patio right on the Mill Pond, Kaytoo is one of the Village's busiest spots.

kaytoo.ca 705.445.4100



### The Tremont Cafe

The Tremont Cafe is a European styled fully licensed restaurant serving lunch and dinner six days a week (closed Tuesdays). Located in the historic Tremont building, the cafe is bright and classically lined. The adjoining Elihu Bookroom is a cozy, bookshelf lined parlour offering a boutique selection of books for sale. 80 Simcoe St, Collingwood.

thetremontcafe.com 705.293.6000



### The Huron Club Restaurant & Bar

Recently voted Collingwood's Best New or Renovated business, Best Bar and Best Cocktail. Wednesday through Sunday nights check out the areas hippest live music, including live acoustic Saturday afternoons on the patio and jazz/blues for Sunday brunch. A new summer menu includes great steaks, ribs, fresh fish, vegetable curry and mushroom ravioli. Located at the corner of Pine and 2nd street in Collingwood's restaurant district.

thehuronclub.ca 705.293.6677



### **Duncans Café**

If you don't like a fresh and diverse menu paired with suggested wines from all regions and if you really don't like original-art-covered interiors, wait staff with personality and the best dining experience in Collingwood .... then you'd better not come to Duncans Café, where every dish is prepared and served with lovel Reserve your favourite table again!

duncanscafe.com 705.444.5749



### **Empire Grill**

Collingwood's new Empire Grill specializes in certified Angus steaks and chops, chicken and pasta, and fresh local fish. The Empire Grill also boasts a tapas style pub menu and an extensive lunch selection featuring signature sandwiches. 20 Balsam St., Highway 26 (Harbour Centre West) Collingwood.

705.444.0920



### Thornbury Bakery Café

Long established landmark business in downtown Thornbury, famous for fresh chelsea loaf, delicious, quick and inexpensive breakfast and lunch specials, bread and baked goods homemade from scratch every day. Also offers free wireless internet, dinners-to-go, frozen entrees and catering. 12 Bruce St., Thornbury.

thornburybakerycafe.com 519.599.3311



### Bridges Tavern

Celebrated as the area's first brick mansion built in 1860, Bridges Tavern is considered Thornbury's oldest landmark. Bridges offers something enjoyable for everyone with two dining rooms, two full service bars, an outdoor patio, the area's top live music, pool table, wireless internet. Specialties include Pulled Ontario lamb poutine, Pan-roasted Kolapore Springs rainbow trout, and much more. 27 Bridge Street.

bridgestavern.com 519.599.2217



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519.599.2217 bridgestavern.com



### **Bridges Summer Events & Music Series**

Live music on the patio every Friday afternoon 5pm – 7pm

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with Jay Redman - \$5 Carlsburg Pints
Sunday Brunch 10am

Fri June 10 & Sat June 11 – **Jason Redman Band** 

Fri June 17 & Sat June 18 – **Big Wheel and the Spokes** 

Wednesday June 22nd – 4th Annual Bridges Golf Tournament at The Raven at Lora Bay

Fri June 24 & Sat June 25th - SuperScott Donnelly

Thursday June30th - Lobster Cookout

Fri July 1st & Sat July 2nd – Shane Cloutier Band

Fri July 8th & Sat July 9th – Patrick Robitaille

Fri July 15th & Sat July 16th - SuperScott Donnelly

Fri July 22nd & Sat July 23rd - Graham Playford Duo

Fri July 28th & Sat July 29th - Shane Cloutier Band

Fri Aug 5th & Sat Aug 6th – Jason Redman Band

Fri Aug 12th - Big Wheel and the Spokes

Saturday August 13th

SUZIE McNEIL 9pm - 11pm; Big Wheel and the Spokes 11pm - 2am

Fri Aug 19th & Sat Aug 20th - The Rumble Bees

Saturday August 20th -

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Thursday August 25th - Lobster Cookout

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greenmangotree.com 705.443.8809



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brucewinebar.ca 519.599.1112



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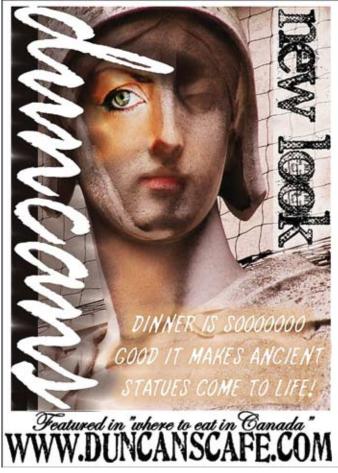
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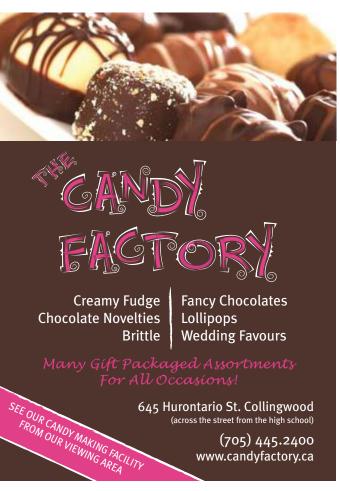


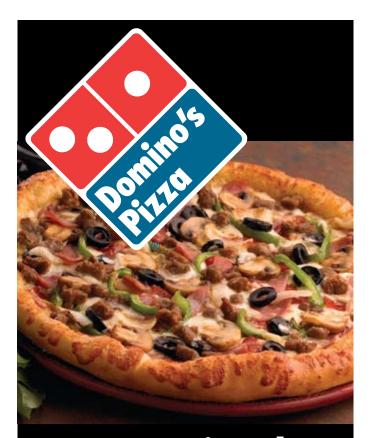
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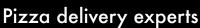
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### VERTICAL CIRCULATION

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### EXTERIOR DIAPHRAGM

A balloon-frame structural system maintains the assembly of the treehouse as one transparent unit swinging on a suspended foundation.

# A Four-Tree House

WHO DOESN'T LOVE A QUIET PERCH in which to hide away from the world and watch it go by? Who doesn't love a treehouse? It's something many kids dream of and create with lots of scrap wood and imagination. But not kids, and far fewer adults, jump into a treehouse project with the determination of Lukasz Kos and his client.

(cont'd on p.52)



LAKE SUPERIOR MACKINAC NORTH ESPANOLA KILLARNEY LAKE MANITOULIN ISLAND TOBERMORY HURON LIONS HEAD HOPE BAY CAPE GEORGIA SAUBLE SOUTHAMPTON BEACH PORT WIARTON CHATSWORTH BAY MEAFORD THORNBURY NOTT GEORGIAN PEAKS MARKDALE HEATHCOTE CRAIGLEITH BANKS FLESHERTON EUGENIA KOLAPOK BLUFF NOTTAWA FEVERSHAM MAXWELL ROB ROY DUNTROON BREWSTER'S WAREHAM HATHERTON SINGHAMPTON MINTYRE JOHN HAINES GLEN HURON - BADTEROS DUNEDIN BRUCE TRAIL LAVENDER MAPS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT MOUNTAINLIFEMAG.CA OR CALL 705.443.1323 Get your limited-edition poster-size print today. REDICKVILLE

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Maximum area and experimental diversity was achieved by creating differentiated environments on each of the three levels.

While in his first year of architecture school at the University of Toronto Kos entered a contest initiated by the property owner.

The owner wanted a treehouse design with at least two levels, one of them enclosed. The house was to be at least 26 feet off the ground and no more than 36. Out of the 40 entries, a jury consisting of university professors and the homeowner's wife chose Kos' design.

Now known as the 4Treehouse, the project cost \$50,000 and took three-and-a-half months to build.

"This is a three-storey retreat," says Kos. "The client sleeps in it all the time with his grandchildren. The first floor is waterproof. The treehouse gets progressively more porous as you move up to the third level."

With horizontal clear pine slats, the first floor of the 410-square-foot building is enclosed, lined with Douglas fir. Four large poplars act as columns to support the structure and are wrapped within the structural skin of the project. In order to maintain the trees' health and growth, Kos designed the building to have minimal impact on them. Using a traditional Muskoka balloon frame was the solution. One high-strength steel cable was attached to each of the four trees. From these single attachments, the four steel cables suspended two Douglas fir beams (one for each pair of cables), literally creating two giant swings on which the frame sits. When the wind blows, the structure sways in the breeze.



The lattice-like skin of the structure acts like a tree canopy, filtering sunlight into the interior spaces while at night the surface of the treehouse looks like a lantern suspended in the forest.

"It's used for a number of activities, anything from children playing in a make-believe world in the trees, to a retreat for reading, to a swaying structure that lulls you to sleep at night," says Kos. "It's amazing up there."





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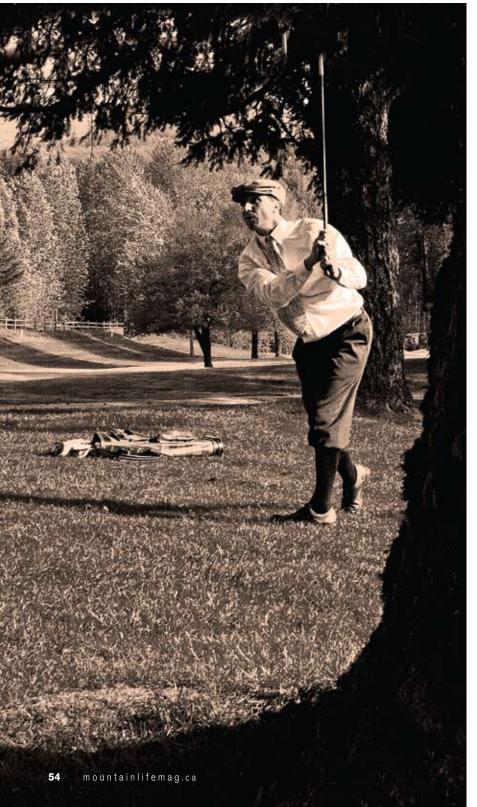




# Forget High-tech, Take Me Back To The Old School

BY TODD LAWSON PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM MARTINELLO

An ex-professional hits the links, vintage '40s-style, and discovers that it's all about the swing, baby.





Just last month I came across a family heirloom – a set of 1940s forged irons that belonged to my late grandfather. After spending an afternoon getting rid of 50 years of dust and rust, I realized these prized pieces of family history weren't meant to be placed in a special glass case – they were meant to be played. Being a lover of the game I knew just what to do.

### THE PREMISE

What could I shoot on a modern-day golf course in 2011, using vintage equipment and clothing from the '40s? Could I at least hit a couple of shots that would do the game's pure swingers any justice? Could I even *think* about breaking 80?

### THE EQUIPMENT

**Irons:** *Wilson Ryder Cup Model 2* iron with no grooves, just dimples hammered into the face.

Wright & Ditson Lawson Little "Related irons" 3-9. Circa 1945. Steel shafts painted to resemble the old Hickory-style shafts. Three-inch hosel. Extralong leather grips.

Woods: 1-3-5 Spaulding Top-Flite persimmon heads (Circa 1958) with ceramic inserts, brass screws, steel shafts.

**Putter:** A blade-style Wilson with soft insert (definitely not vintage, but at least *looked* like the blade putters of old).





THE CLOTHING: I not only had to play the part, I had to look the part. I sport wool "plus-fours," knee-high socks, button-up cotton dress shirt, tie with "Vicious V" knot, wing-tip leather golf shoes and a wool golf cap from Tote's of London.

### THE EXPERIENCE:

I've been both humbled by (and addicted to) the game for more than 25 years, during which I've played thousands of rounds of golf. The intense high-tech battle for distance and accuracy in the golf industry is mind-boggling, and although I respect what the equipment engineers have done for the game, I also appreciate a genuine challenge. Could I emulate the great swingers from the golden age of golf who relied on pure feel (rather than technology) to get them around the course?

"Swing the club, don't let it swing you," they used to say. I was about to find out why.

First hole. The clubs look funny to my eye, feel weird in my hands. The grips are worn and smooth. I snap-hook my drive into the big trees on the left, hit three more terrible shots and threeputt for double bogey. On the short, dogleg third hole I finally hit two good iron shots and give myself a chance at birdie, but leave it disgustingly short. First par of the day at least. I'm starting to feel better, but it doesn't last long. I sky my drive on four, skull my tee shot on five and can't get up and down to save my life. I'm six over after five and any hopes I had of breaking 80 are diminishing quickly.

But on the sixth tee the light bulb goes off. "Just swing the club, don't try to hit the ball," I say to myself. Visualizing the

tempo of Ben Hogan and the fluidity of Bobby Jones, I slow it down a notch and catch it between the screws, smack dab on the sweet spot. Bam! The feeling that runs from the then a little links-style pitch that runs just past the flag, but I miss the 10-footer coming back.

Stepping onto the next tee, I can still feel the sensation of the

of three holes I go triple, double, double. Not bad if you're drinking, but not so good for the scorecard. They say golf is a humbling game. No shit.

I need to get loosey-

# Striding happily down the fairway with my clubs in a bag over my shoulder I feel like my ancestors might have, playing on the classic links courses in Ireland.

wooden clubhead and into my hands is indescribable. No loud ping or smash like a new-age metal driver, just earthy pureness.

"Now that was Bobby Jones-esque," says Rooster, one of my playing partners. "That was pretty to watch." I manage to poke it 275 yards down the middle.

Striding happily down the fairway with my clubs in a bag over my shoulder I feel like my ancestors might have, playing on the classic links courses in Ireland. I hit another crisp iron shot, persimmon in my fingers. I hammer it down the left side, but the feel doesn't stay in my brain for the next shot, and I hit it thin; on the dance floor but a long way from the band. I three putt again and make bogey. I finish off the front nine with a total of 43 strokes.

On the back nine I make two great pars out of the gate, but then the wheels come off. The whippy shafts and too-quick swing equal a few bad hooks and more skulled iron shots that sting my fingers. In a stretch goosey again, to instill the old shotmaker's mentality into my brain. "Swing the club Todd, stop trying to control it." On #15 I just let it flow. Another smashed drive down the middle, a pitch shot to eight feet and finally, a circle on the scorecard – birdie. I finish par-birdiebogey for another 43. A pleasing total of 86.

I'll probably go back to playing with my modernday gear, but I can still feel that old-school feeling in my fingertips. I hope it never goes away.





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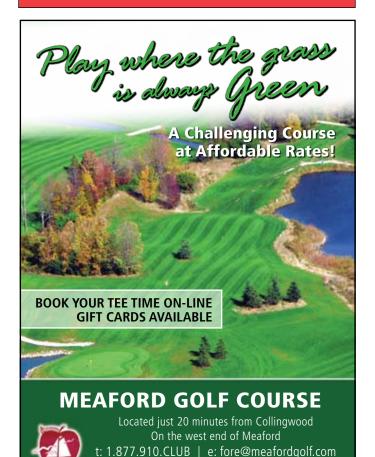
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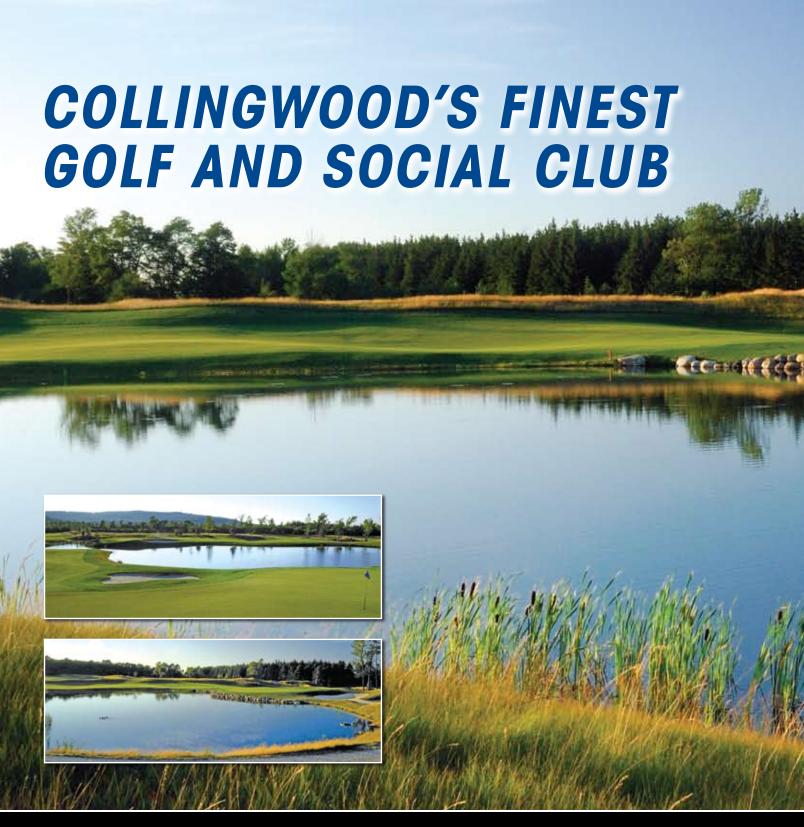
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GOLFAND COUNTRY CLUB

# **A Missinaibi Diary**

A paddler can never be fully prepared for the northern Ontario wild river and Voyageur route. BY NED MORGAN

#### **PROLOGUE**

This is no place for a canoe. There's no water, for one thing. We just finished a two-kilometre portage into Brunswick Lake only to find no lake. We stand in a field of bog-grass.

There's only one thing to do. In the distance, flanked by more bog-grass, is an island. The lake must be on the far side of this island. We begin to drag the loaded canoes, Jonny pulling the bow, me pushing the stern. It feels a lot harder than portaging, especially when our feet begin to sink into the mud.

We spot what appears to be a river to our left. When we get there, we find an un-navigable bog in the shape of a river. A bog-river. Our paddles stick in it like skewers.

#### **AUGUST 20-21**

Jordan Pritchard, my cousins Josh and Jonny Morgan and I are on the CNR train en route to the Missinaibi River crossing where we will begin our paddle. The Missinaibi flows northeast from the lake of the same name about 60 km north of Chapleau, continuing for 500-plus km before emptying into the Moose River, then James Bay. We're paddling just the upper section, from the CNR crossing to Highway 11 at Mattice.

We strike up a conversation with a weathered old trapper sitting across from us. He says that bear numbers are up in the region since the government banned the spring bear hunt, while moose are down; bears are eating the moose calves, he says. He seems to know what he's talking about.

It's a grim image. Every one of us has his

Do you spray him? Spray inside your tent? Or do you unzip the screen and let him have it?" We decide that the bear, if so inclined, would probably just tear open your tent with one casual paw-swipe. Then you'd let him have it.

Our first stretch of river is swampy and quiet. As the river becomes rockier over the next few days it dawns on me that I've made a mistake in paddling the Missinaibi in late August during a dry summer. Though we can avoid most of the portages because the water level is so low that otherwise impassible rapids can be lined over, normally runnable rapids are too shallow to paddle. Constant lining - not to mention slipping on rocks every few seconds and puncturing one's canoe hull daily - slows us down. The rapids we do run are rock gardens and our boats get frequently hung up. The happy trade-off is the lack of bugs at this time of year.

### **AUGUST 22**

At one point as we're paddling a quiet section I think I see a gap in the forest some distance in from the bank and we stop to investigate. I recall seeing a clearcut in this area back in 1984 when I paddled this same route as a 13-year-old. The shock of the denuded landscape has never left me. We pull our canoes over and walk in past the drooping cedars on the bank but after making very slow progress, I can't see anything like a clearing ahead. The boreal forest, choked with deadfall - gloomy, damp and uninviting - is no place for a walk. Clearcut logging seems like a distant rumour. We turn around - back to the



### **AUGUST 23-26**

Our detour into Brunswick Lake has so far revealed no lake - only bog-grass and a bog-river. Josh and Jordan opt to float their canoe on the bog-river and line it. We watch them repeatedly fall, their legs plunging into the unstable muck, though they make some

We follow suit, and the deep muck claims our legs, too. Waistdeep, Jonny says calmly: "I thought I felt something nip at my foot." After falling several times, we begin to have laughing fits - the point of fatigue is past, and next is delirium.

Eventually we line out around the island where the lake opens up. We paddle to a small island and spend the whole next day there. We dry out our things and I patch the holes in my PVC-andaluminum-frame canoe, which so far has proven no match for the sharp Missinaibi rocks. The guys play cribbage on a flat rock on the pebble beach.

We paddle the length of Brunswick Lake and hook back up to the Missinaibi. Every turn in the river reveals a new sharp-rock garden. My canoe's hole-count increases daily, hourly. I resort to duct-tape patching, for we have no time to use the patch kit.

### **AUGUST 27-28**

At Wilson's Bend where we camp on a dry, boulder-strewn grassy floodplain I take my SPOT satellite GPS messenger, as I've done every evening, to an open place and send my beacon signal. This is supposed to relay a pre-programmed message along with GPS location via email to the contacts I set up beforehand, which include more than a dozen of everyone's friends and family. I find out later that only one such signal, on the first day, ever hit home. For the next eight days for all anyone knew, we were drowned, or eaten by bears. Before the trip I had cautioned everyone not to worry, since I was new to the SPOT and might well fail to master the device. Of course, everyone did worry.



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### **AUGUST 29**

Little Beaver Rapids run in two sections, which I don't realize until we're in the middle of them. The first section is a swift, while the second section is a shelf that I see only when Jonny and I are nearly on top of it. I see several submerged rocks but no obvious line through them, so I focus on keeping the bow straight. As we drop over the shelf, our aluminum-rod frame buckles like a Slinky toy, but we stay afloat.

As we continue on, we're shipping more water than ever and I worry the PVC hull will tear in half. I count at least 10 holes, some of them the size of a sandwich.

We stop for lunch on the sand beach below Glassy Falls, only several hours' paddle from the highway at Mattice where our ride awaits. We had planned to spend the final night at Glassy, but the possibility of sharing the campsite with ATVs (who can access the site via trails from Mattice) dissuaded us. The surrounding woods are garbage-riddled and torn up by the machines, and we find recently discarded beer cans on the beach. Josh sums it up: "No way I would spend my last night on the river with douche-bags."

The weather is bright, warm and breezy and we paddle shirtless while finishing up the last of our tetra-paks of wine. We talk about the poutine awaiting us in the francophone town of Mattice to break our vacuum-sealed diet. Our muscles are finally toned for the work of paddling and we could keep following the river to James Bay, if we were hardcore. I guess we're not. We stop at Mattice and have our poutine under the bronze statue of a Voyageur.





### 

You can start your trip in Missinaibi Lake, or take the CNR to Peterbell where it crosses the river. Either way, you'll need a shuttle to pick you up at Mattice. If you have the time you can paddle the whole river to where it flows into James Bay and then return south on the Ontario Northland train. The river is inside a provincial park so you'll need to make reservations here:

ontarioparks.com/english/miss.html

Any trip on this river requires expert paddling skills. For guided trips, check missinaibi.com

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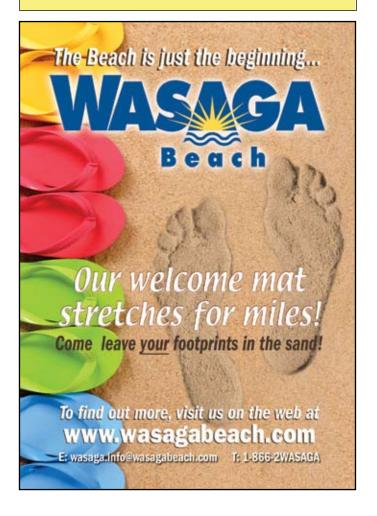
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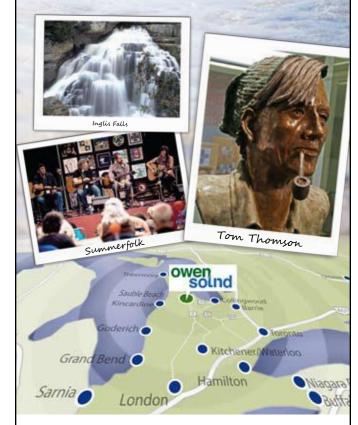
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# Life Exploring Stone: An Interview with Leslie Timms

INTERVIEW BY KATE FOX PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLIN FIELD









### A YEAR IN THE LIFE

reads like a climber's fantasy: May to October in Clarksburg, Ontario, October to December somewhere exotic and warm (like Turkey), then January to May in

Joshua Tree, California. Then back to Clarksburg to repeat.

She recently became the first Canadian woman ever to get her Professional Climbing Guide Institute Lead Guide certification. Through dedication and perseverance she has become one of the country's top female climbers.

### Mountain Life: How did you get into climbing?

Leslie Timms: My friends (including my now husband) brought me out to try rock climbing at a boulder that was close to our college. I remember trying to get to the top of this thing about 25 times, until my fingers were bleeding. Finally, I understood the move and I reached the top. The natural high that I felt was incredible and I really enjoyed the personal challenge. I bought all of my own gear that weekend.

## ML: What goes through your mind when climbing a challenging rock? Do you have any mantras?

LT: When I'm "in the zone," nothing goes through my mind. That is the beautiful thing about climbing; it can be like a meditative dance in which you react to the rock instinctually. However, thoughts of doubt, fear and fatigue are definitely mental battles that I encounter and are usually overcome by positive self-encouragement.

### ML: Tell me about the scariest experience you've had.

LT: My scariest fall happened very early in my climbing career. I was climbing a relatively unsafe route to chase a first ascent. We were probably 900 feet off the deck and I was very far above my last piece of protection. The hold that I was resting on suddenly ripped out of the wall, with me on it. As I was falling, I threw the rock to the side so that it wouldn't hit my partner and then I flipped upside down. I fell about 40 feet and landed on a ledge head first. I was knocked unconscious, cracked my helmet, but somehow only suffered a mild concussion. It shook me up for a while.

### ML: What is your funniest rock climbing story?

LT: Usually they aren't that funny when they are happening, but they make great stories afterwards. I've definitely had some pretty funny situations that involve taking a poo while 800 feet up on a cliff.

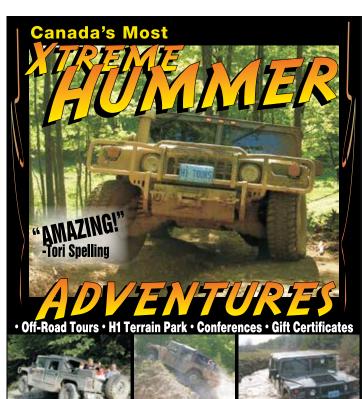
### ML: What would you say has been the most challenging rock you've faced?

LT: Maxi Pista (5.13c), a sport climb at Lions Head, Ontario that was put up by Gus Alexandropoulos. It is a long, relentless and powerful line that is so inspiring.

# ML: You got your PCGI (Professional Climbing Guides Institute) Lead Guide certification, last winter, making you one of the first Canadians to accomplish this. What did the course entail?

LT: It was the PCGI Lead Guide certification and rope rescue technician. It certifies that I am qualified and insured to lead guide all over North America, meaning that I lead up the route first and bring clients up to me, then descend down safely. I spent seven weeks in Joshua Tree, California, prepping, studying and practicing for the exam. It was especially challenging because the majority of my previous experience had been on bolted sandstone and limestone sport climbs and this certification's focus was on pure traditional climbing (placing your own protection in cracks) on granite. I not only had to learn the ways of a "rope magician," but I also needed to get comfortable with the style of climbing. I was so thankful to take the course with my good friend Chris Pegelo, it made it much less stressful.

















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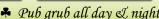




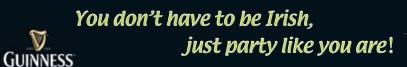




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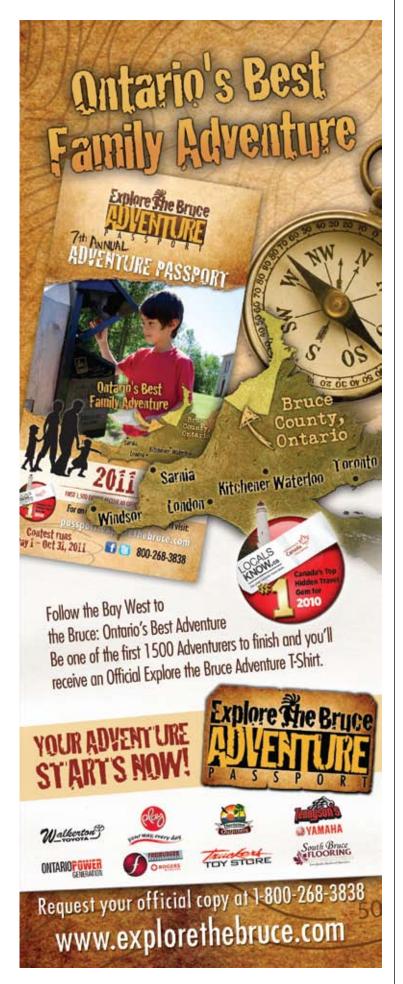












### ML: Why have so few Canadians attained this certification?

LT: Actually, up until now, they had not certified anyone in Canada. Out West the ACMG (Association of Canadian Mountain Guides) has control over the certification market.

ACMG is much more alpine and multi-pitch focussed and they encourage progression into ski and mountain certifications. Ontario's terrain is much different; short approaches and shorter routes; it seemed that such a certification wasn't really necessary. I did research for months and found PCGI. I was really impressed that they were a purely rock climbing-based certification, with several levels of certifications that you can apply to what you're guiding. I approached them about the possibility of beginning to certify guides in Ontario, with hopes to make PCGI a standard in Ontario, as a lot of guides in Ontario are not certified to lead guide. After working through the logistics, they were really excited to begin certifying in Ontario.

### ML: Has this been a long-time goal for you?

LT: Yes. However, I was hesitant about investing the time and money into it because I wasn't 100 percent certain that I wanted to be a climbing guide. I was fearful that guiding climbing would take away from my love of the sport and that I would burn out. After testing the waters for the past few years, I have found that it is the opposite. Guiding and coaching have really helped me appreciate the sport on a new level.

### ML: What was the biggest obstacle you faced?

LT: The biggest obstacle was definitely the technical rescue systems and proficiency and efficiency level that was expected. I was completely overwhelmed during my first few days of the course. I only gave myself 11 days to prep for the exam after the course. I got cold feet and I tried to extend the dates, but my mentor advised me to see it through. It was stressful; I had to work really hard to hard wire this stuff, as there is zero room for mistakes in such an environment. In the end, it was a blessing that I had given myself so little time; the pressure forced me to really give 100 percent.

### ML: Why was it important for you?

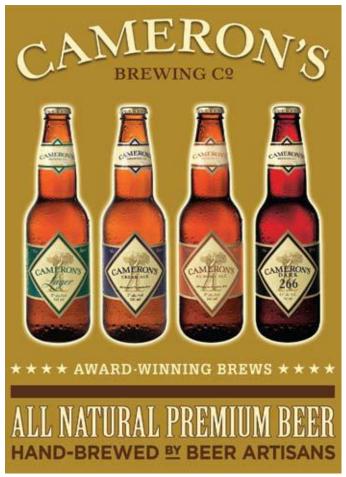
LT: I have always wanted to learn this stuff; with the climbing I would like to do it is really important to know that I could get myself out of any situation. I have dreamed of opening a climbing school for a while, but I wanted to be sure that I can offer top-notch knowledge and expertise. This certification has given me so much more confidence in myself as a climber and guide. I also needed insurance and being an accredited guide saves you huge with insurance. This course inspired my friend Chris and me to partner up and open our own climbing school called "On the Rocks." We are in the process of getting it all up and running for the summer. For more information, check out ontherocksclimbing.com (our site) and leslietimms.com (my site).

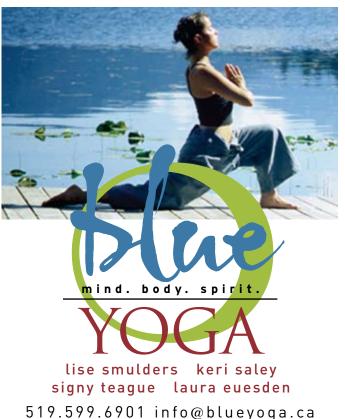
### ML: What advice would you give to someone who wanted to get into climbing?

LT: Try it first with a guide or in a climbing gym. It is super important to learn how to climb safely before you do it on your own.

### ML: What are your hopes and goals for the future? Any massive rocks in mind?

LT: Always. I have a "life list" of climbs that I am truly inspired by and that I would love to accomplish one day. Travelling is always a short term goal; I would love to go to Armenia, Australia and Spain for climbing. I also want to continue my education as a guide and perhaps guide in some cool places around the world.





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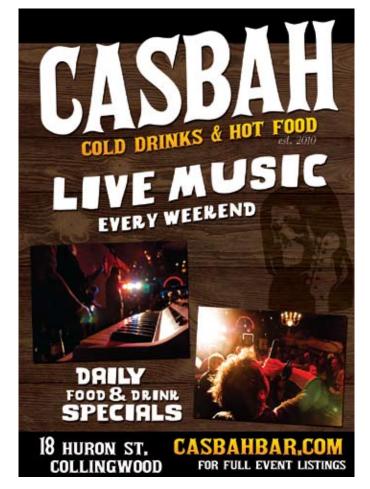




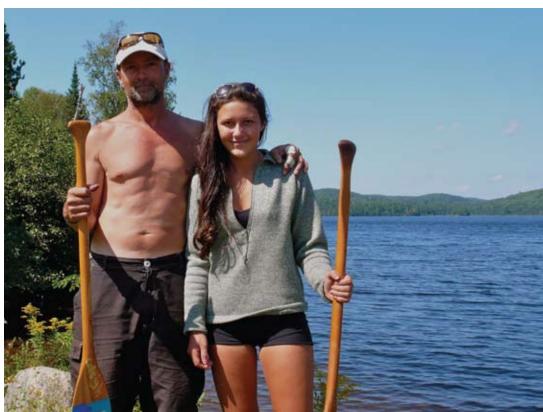
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WORDS AND PHOTOS BY LESLIE ANTHONY

# Algonquin's Ageless Attraction

IN WHICH A FATHER

AND DAUGHTER SET OUT TO TEST THE WATERS.

IT'S A MOVIE-SET MAELSTROM, the air churning with water and flying greenery, wild swishing and snapping branches. As we scramble toward the tent, a huge gust yanks it up with such force that every peg pulls out save the one closest to the bags we've tossed inside. Barely tethered, it's a hot-air balloon set to launch as we grab wildly at the straining fabric and force it to the ground. Soaked in seconds, water spouting off our noses, breathing is like opening your mouth in the shower. We yell over a roar so loud we can't hear each other at a metre. Myles keeps an eye on the trees while I grub for rocks, logs, and the pegs that flew into the bush. Lightning rips through the tempest. The trees edging the clearing snap gracelessly upright then jackknife over in ferocious winds that lift and flatten us as well; it takes every bit of our collective strength to hold down the tent. It's only 2 p.m. but sundown-dark. Focused on her toppling-tree security detail, Myles doesn't register the surreal chicken-bone sounds of trunks snapping and trees uprooting in the gloom; a good thing given the scope of danger we're courting – the chance of being crushed, impaled, or electrocuted.

And we haven't even put the canoe in the water yet.



DEPENDING WHO YOU ASKED, the concept was either heartwarming, crazy or just plain dumb. Firmly the latter if you questioned my 16-year-old daughter, Myles, who was, not by choice, its central tenet.

After a decade of us living on Canada's west coast, far away in time and space from my youthful years of canoe tripping through Ontario's amphibious landscape, where endless forests greeted dark lakes with Tom Thomson pines anchored to rocky points, I'd decided to do something about the growing separation anxiety. The idea: Retrace, together with Myles, half of the monthlong route through Algonquin Park I'd undertaken at her same age, in the same cedar-strip—canvas canoe. It would constitute both a paddle down memory lane and an unparalleled bonding experience. Or at least some father-daughter fun. And so here we are, at Kiosk in the northwest corner of the park in the first hour of our first day, soaked to the skin and about to lose our shelter for the next two weeks.

Much to our relief, the taps turn off, the wind dies, and the storm – a bona fide "downburst" – moves off as quickly as it descended. A similar fast-moving downburst on July 17, 2006, wreaked massive destruction in Algonquin's northern tier; here at Kiosk a canoeist was killed and his partner severely injured. Myles and I just dodged a similar bullet but, ironically, the 2006 storm already influenced our trip. An acquaintance who makes frequent forays into the park mentioned there was so much downed timber that he no longer carried an axe. I'd heeded his suggestion but now, facing a stack of wet wood that would best be split to ignite properly, I already regret the decision.







WITHOUT WIND THERE'S ALSO NO SOUND; TOO FAR FROM SHORE TO HEAR BIRD OR BUG, EVERY WOODEN TICK OFF THE GUNWALE, EVERY SOFT GURGLE OF THE PADDLE, EVERY SHUFFLE IN THE BOW IS ODDLY AMPLIFIED. IT'S UNUSUAL AND ARRESTING. AND THOUGH MYLES HUMS ABSENTLY UP FRONT, I CAN'T RELAX.



RINGED IN TREES, LITTLE MINK LAKE proves far calmer than wind-wracked Kioshkokwi, and we slide quickly across to the next portage of 450 metres. Another simple carry, another transect of the rail line we've been following for the two days following the storm. Soon we're afloat on lengthy Mink Lake, a light breeze at our backs, the sun slick upon scalloped water.

We've planned on camping toward the far end of Mink, but when we pass an open campsite on a beachy isthmus, we agree it's time to stop. Since we're done early on a sunny afternoon, we set up camp, down a leisurely lunch, then take a swim. Bobbing just offshore, the water seems preternaturally warm, artifact of the very hot summer the region has experienced. The latter also explains the dearth of berries along shorelines where the ground-hugging shag of blueberry that should offer a never-ending supply yields not a single indigo orb.

Afterwards there's not much to do save gather wood. We scrounge around and within minutes Myles reports back with a heavy chunk of scarred metal. It's a small axe head, a good one of Swedish steel, strangely abandoned. Stranger still, because we need an axe.

Equally fortuitously we find the perfect maple spear for a handle: a sapling of about 4 centimetres diameter. With a collapsible saw we cut a section – long enough to swing the head's weight, short enough not to take up too much room in the pack – that will taper from butt to headpiece. We saw a split into the top end, and shave bark off with the knife on a Leatherman, our only non-kitchen blade and a wholly inadequate tool for what becomes a protracted whittling job. Nevertheless we're both in awe when the axe head slips smoothly down into place. Myles scrounges a wood chip for a wedge, I pound it in, and voilà. We beam with pride at The Axe and, after testing it, pose for photos à la Grant Wood's *American Gothic*. It instantly becomes a symbol of our burgeoning partnership.

# DAYS LATER WE SLIDE EFFORTLESSLY INTO THE QUINTESSENTIAL ALGONQUIN photograph on Hurdman Lake, mist peeling from quieted waters like candy floss.

Waking to this picture, I'd instantly felt the desire to be in it, to slither the canoe's prow through diaphanous wisps before they burned off, and so rushed to get on the water before the sun crested an eastern shore horizoned in spruce. Delighting in the stillness and certainty of a sunny day, Myles' grouching over being roused early evaporates in the prospect of the canoe becoming her personal tanning salon.

Myles slices her paddle sideways through a vaporous tendril attempting to sever it, but the marriage of condensation and undisturbed air simply disintegrates in the vortex of her playful movement. We float quickly into the first portage, and just as quickly clamber over.

Laurel Lake spreads before us as placid as Hurdman, likewise Aura Lee, the carries into both welcome punctuation in a smoothly rendered sentence. It's something both body and mind tap into: Yes, the gym-workout of a good portage happily interrupts the hunched slog of paddling, but it's also cool, shadowed, claustrophobic, laden with the odors of a world between the waters – the complete opposite of an open lake on a hot day. It offers particular sensory inputs: As you near the end, usually before you actually see any water, breezes reach from it up the trail, drying sweat, drawing you onward. Portaging then, grunt work that it is, can also be sublime: It takes you places other than where you're going.

#### CEDAR LAKE, THE BRAWLING 20-KILOMETRE SLASH

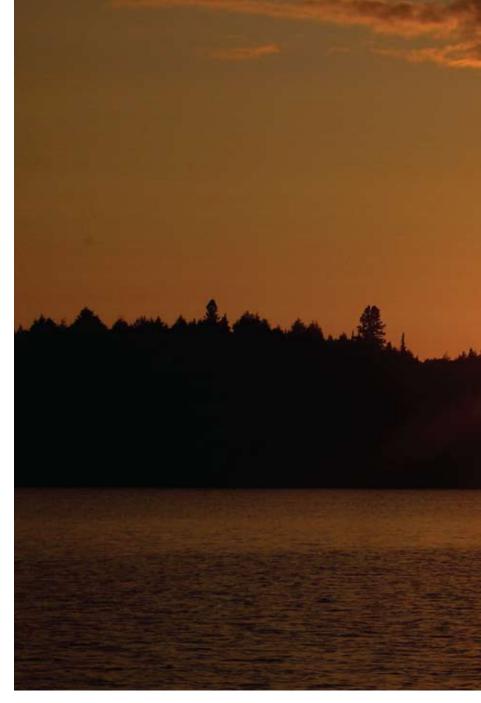
where the Petawawa, Nipissing and Amable du Fond Rivers converge is, like its predecessors today, as pellucid as a beaver pond. Without wind there's also no sound; too far from shore to hear bird or bug, every wooden tick off the gunwale, every soft gurgle of the paddle, every shuffle in the bow is oddly amplified. It's unusual and arresting. And though Myles hums absently up front, I can't relax.

Expecting trouble to stir down at any moment, I'm aiming us safely along in a point-to-island-to-point kind of way, meandering to avoid larger exposed crossings, prudent and anticipant, certain of past battles waged with wind and wave without remembering any in particular. But despite a few white puffballs hanging like smoke signals in the high azure, nary a ripple materializes until, noonish, hours ahead of schedule, we pull into the dock of the Brent outfitting store (Myles has decided we need more cheese) with only the faintest zephyr to ruffle the glass.

When we get back on the water to make the twokilometre crossing to the mouth of the Petawawa, it's little more than breathy, but we still paddle as if trouble were imminent, reaching far ahead with each stroke, digging deep and pulling hard. Myles hangs tough, but it's grueling and her effort soon wanes. The canoe now surges with my strokes, the bow lifting from the water on each for a dolphining effect. Halfway across Myles gets her second wind. She digs in hard again and I match her rhythm. We fly across the water.

The crossing is quick and painless. We pull up to the 750-metre portage where the river debouches into Cedar to note a worry of boulders exposed in garden after terraced garden. The rocky expanse of dribbling channels raises a concern: If the Petawawa is overly shallow above, numerous portages over these next days might be extended. I suppose we'll find out.

On the trail under enormous packs, it feels good to be moving upriver, skirting the rush and roar of rapid and falls, sounds that pry their way through the bush muffled by thickets and diluted by a dozen corners. We're on a mission, channeling the Voyageurs' determined passage through this same land. At trail's end we're reminded of how other such missions ended: Tucked into the







trees and lodged in a stone cairn stands a simple white cross. It reads "A. Corbeil, June 1, 1888," homage to a lumberman who perished here.

The water follows the land, and we follow the water. Between carries, the Petawawa offers the quintessence of everything riverine: Speeding up, slowing down, bending, bottlenecking, bloating here and there into quasi-lake; limned in olive, emerald, pea and lime; leafy, viridescent, glaucous and dark. On outside bends, weeds wave conspicuously in the certainty of a current that can't hold back a well-trimmed canoe, a marvel of low-drag efficiency against water's forceful march to the sea.

The river, in fact, undulates in three dimensions – from the bottom up as well – so that we're never sure how close to the surface its bed lies: Time and again rocks loom from Archean depths, spackled in the canoe-hull palette of red, green, yellow and silver. In the bow, laboring against a coppery reflection yielding little

visibility, Myles works nobly to avoid contact with each granite challenge, her paddle flashing from side to side as she calls out directions.

Above the Timber Slide falls we paddle a reed-rimmed lake so eerily tranquil that it's a postcard of everything north. You expect a moose cupped in every wobble of the shore, late-afternoon light grazing the treetops to catch it broadside, belly-deep on stilted legs, a great, dripping, weed-filled muzzle raised from the golden surface. If there are no such sightings – one of her stated desires and something I'd felt was a certainty given that Algonquin is the best place in all of North America to see a moose – Myles may well have to settle for a postcard, a crime for which I'll receive a massive FAIL.

I'll take that small defeat, however, because, as we sit now on a waterfront log at our campsite, hoovering burritos while a full moon rises to meet the descending sun, I realize this: Downburst be damned, already this heartwarming, crazy, dumb trip has been a success.

\* \*

(Adapted from *The Kid in the Green Canoe: A Journey into the Father-Daughter Wilderness*, due April, 2012 from Greystone books.)



# DOMNHILL MOONTBIN BIKING Downhilling gets a bum rap; people see guys and gals ripping down the hill in full-face helmets, body armour, massive bikes and their immediate response is, "those guys are crazy." But it simply isn't true. Anyone who can ride a cross-country trail can ride a downhill trail. And anyone who has ever enjoyed the thrill of going downhill on a bicycle will love the feeling of this sport. With lifts and full rental options at both Blue Mountain and Horseshoe Resort this summer, Ontario may finally be embracing a sport that is exploding throughout the continent. DAYS OF SUMMER Depending on how you do the math, there are about 14 weekends this

Depending on how you do the math, there are about 14 weekends this summer. Sacrifice a couple of those to weddings and family reunions and you're down to about 12. So here's our guide to make the most of those precious summer days. **See you out there.** 



# KITEBOARDING AT OLIPHANT

Oliphant must be the ultimate place to learn kiteboarding. With shallow water as far as you can see and islands situated to funnel wind from two different directions, this really is the spot to get initiated. There are kite schools popping up all over Ontario, and kiterider.ca really has the Oliphant lessons down to a science.

COLIN FIELD PHOTO



Whether you're getting fully kitted out in flippers and regulator, or just fooling around with a snorkel and mask, Tobermory has some incredible diving. Known as the Shipwreck Capital of Canada, at least 26 shipwrecks lie scattered throughout the relatively small region. Combine all this with the Fathom Five National Marine Park, and this is some seriously world-class diving. You can swim out to a couple of the wrecks, or work with an outfitter like adrenalineadventures.ca to get further out and deeper down. ALIJA BOS PHOTO



# CLIFF JUMPING

Jumping off rocks into deep water is a really good time. It's the kind of thing that can keep kids of all ages yelling, "just once more," over and over and over. It's a tough one for us to condone for obvious reasons. Don't be stupid. Make sure the cliff is sheer enough, the water is deep enough and there's nothing dangerous below the surface. Our advice: Don't give'r quite as hard as Fubar's Farrel.

ALIJA BOS PHOTO









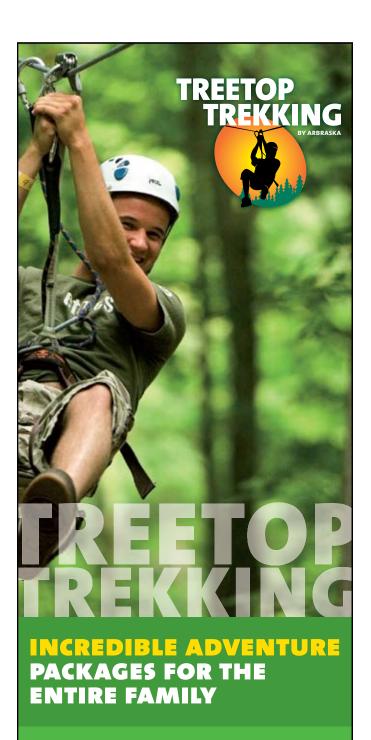


Neil Kearns on the Bruce Peninsula. GLEN HARRIS PHOTO



Sid Slotegraaf at the infamous Rexdale Dirt Jumps.
MARC LANDRY PHOTO

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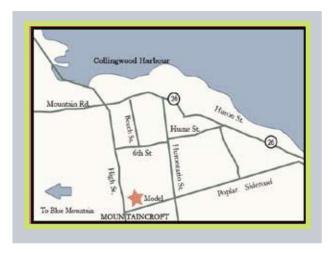
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## NORCO JUDAN BELT (\$1935)

There are fanatics out there who preach that 29-inch-wheeled bikes are the future. And while not quite fanatical about it, I agree. Getting used to the wagon-sized wheels takes a bit of time, but the payoff is an overall smoother ride. Compared to the more common 26-inch wheel, 29ers roll over roots and rocks without hesitation. And certainly, when it comes to single-speeds, these wheels are a must.

The Norco Judan sports both the giant wheels and the single speed with one other feature from the future: a belt drive. (l.e., no chain.) While many are skeptical about belt drives, the benefits are obvious: a bit lighter, less wear and less maintenance required. You can also forget about the days of oil stains on your pant leg. Hell, if BMW motorcycles have belt drives surely they'll work for a mountain bike, right? Well, the jury is still out. There aren't many companies getting into belt drives quite yet and during my first ride on it, I did encounter some difficulties. Front and rear gears need to be perfectly aligned for the belt to stay on, and after some minor tweaking, the belt is holding tight.

My only other complaint would be bottom bracket height. Sure it's nice to have a lower BB to eliminate the intimidation of larger wheels, but when it comes to rocky and rooty terrain the height of your pedal during the lower end of the stroke becomes really important. If you're not conscious of your pedal placement during technical trails, you'll likely get caught up.

Overall, this is a solid offering from Norco. With Avid Elixir 5 hydraulic brakes, RockShox front fork with 100mm of travel, the chromoly-framed ride weighs in at just over 25 pounds. Welcome to the future.

norco.com

#### MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR CORNER 6 TENT (\$450)

Quickly dubbed the Party Tent, this tent is big. Real big. Standing about seven feet in the centre, it folds up to the size of a courier bag, complete with a strap to throw over your shoulder. With only two poles, this tent sets up like a standard dome tent with a couple of additions; four hubbed poles attached to the main poles set up intuitively, pulling the ceiling out and up creating a spacious inner area. Vestibules and entrances on two sides help keep your gear dry and venting throughout provides plenty of cross-breeze ventilation. At 20 lbs this is not the tent for an overnight trail hike. However, if you're car-camping it's the perfect tent for letting everyone know that comfort takes precedence in your world.

Don't forget that choosing Mountain Hardware helps support their athlete Ueli Steck. And if you don't know who that is, look him up on mountainlifemag. ca. This guy climbed the freaking Eiger in two hours and forty-seven minutes.

mountainhardware.com



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# gear guide<sup>2</sup>

#### GIBBON JIBLINE SLACKLINE (\$98)

What is slacklining? Glad you asked. It's basically tight rope walking, only, well, you guessed it, on a slack line. You can set them up between two trees, lamp-posts or whatever, and it only needs to be a foot or so off the ground to get started. The climbing community has embraced slacklining wholeheartedly over the last couple of years. This Jibline set is 50 millimetres wide and 15 metres long and sets up easily and quickly. Learning to walk on it is the hard part. And sure I'll admit, it's not the coolest looking 'sport' in the world, but it is a great way to spend an afternoon with family and

mountainlifemag.ca

#### FELT COFFEE CUP HOLDER (\$19.99)

Believe it or not, there was a time when vehicles didn't come with cup holders. Can you imagine? Where would you put your cup of joe on your morning commute? How uncivilized. Well, Felt bicycles is bringing the future to bicycle technology. I firmly believe that in ten years we'll look back and be flabbergasted that all bikes didn't come standard with one of these - the bicycle cup holder. It mounts right onto your handlebars to make sure that your java is right at hand at all times. Pure genius, straight out of the future.

feltbicycles.com

## IBERT SAFE-T-SEAT (\$99.95)

Although this seat only fits one of my several bikes, once I got it on I loved it. It seems to fit a standard mountain bike with straight handlebars best. It clamps tightly and easily to your handlebar stem, putting your child right between your arms, safely strapped in with a five-point harness. While riding you can share the experience with your loved one instead of being separated by a trailer, or having them ride along in a seat behind you. My boy hangs his tongue out like a joyful dog in the back of a pickup when we cruise down hills and he points and chatters about everything he sees. I love this seat. And so does he.

# **VUARNET CATEYE SUNGLASSES (\$185)**

Obviously the circle of life just made another full rotation: Vuarnet is back. These Cateye models are exactly the same as the ones you wanted but couldn't afford back in the late '80s, with some modern upgrades. The Skilynx lenses feature anti-glare and silver bi-shaded coatings. Vuarnet has teamed up with Alain Mikli, the renowned French designer who brought us 'shutter shades' in the early '80s. Mikli has also designed a number of modern frames for the brand's worldwide relaunch.

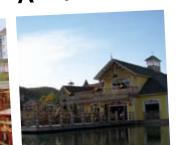
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#### Cricket Kayak by Dimension

A compact, stable sit-on-top kayak that is very durable and easy to handle. It is lightweight, inexpensive, and tracks well on flatwater. Canoe and kayak sales and rentals available. John, Gyles Sails & Marine, 4 King St. West Thornbury (gylessails.com 519.599.7050)

## BluWave Paddleboards

Launching in Southern Georgian Bay and Toronto this summer, BluWave offers a selection of vintage-style wood veneer paddleboards. Ride the waves this summer or harness the great fitness benefits of flat water paddling. Sales and Rentals available. Aaron, BluWave Paddleboards (bluwave.ca 1.866.404.3155)

## MEC Aegir Sling Pack

A paddleboard-ready submersible pack with welded seams and a fully waterproof zipper. When you're back in the city, the stylish design makes it a versatile product that looks good while protecting your kit from summer showers. Deb, Mountain Equipment Co-op (mec.ca 1.888.847.0770)

#### GoPRO HD Helmet HERO Camera

This compact waterproof camera can be mounted on your helmet or your bike to record your next epic mountain bike ride. Re-live your last ride in HD; you'll be impressed. Kris, Kamikaze, Collingwood

(kamikazebikes.com 705.446.1234)

# Rudy Project sunglasses with FreeForm TEK Rx inserts

Rudy Project offers the ultimate in design, engineering and performance. The revolutionary FreeForm TEK Rx is the world-leading sports lens.

Betty, Envy Eyewear, Village at Blue (envyeyewear.com 705.445.3168, direct Toronto line 416.238.2743)

# Women's Pearl Izumi P.R.O. Jersey

Inspired by the Garmin-Transitions time trial speed suits, this jersey incorporates advanced In-R-Cool® technology and stitch-free mesh panels for the ultimate on-bike performance. P.R.O. Transfer fabric provides optimal cooling and reflective UV sun protection.

Andrea, Squire John's Craigleith (squirejohns.com 705.445.1130)

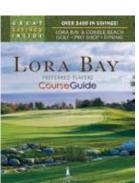
# Mountainsmith Kenosha sleeping bag

New for 2011, this -6C° synthetic bag features a relaxed mummy fit (fits to 6'4" with shoulder girth up to 65"). Includes sil-nylon compression stuffsack, full-length draft tube, anti-snag zipper, contoured footbox and more. Ingrid, Mountainsmith

(mountainsmith.com 1.800.551.5889)











# Columbia Women's Switchback

Slip into the Switchback for low-profile support that looks as good on the street as it does on the single-track. Techlite heel provides a cushioned and conforming fit. Columbia@Blue, Village at Blue (705.443.5802)

## Kicking Horse coffee

A Canadian company that uses only organic Fair Trade Arabica beans for the besttasting cup around. Kicking Horse sources the beans, roasts and packages them for maximum quality and freshness. Trish and Dave, Thornbury Bakery (thornburybakerycafe.com 519.599.3311)

#### Recycled Patio Chair

This Ontario-made chair of high-quality recycled plastic is a hybrid design using traits of the Canadian Muskoka chair and the American Adirondack. Backed with a 40-year warranty. Many colours available. Abbey, Garden's Nest, Collingwood (gardensnest@hotmail.com gardensnestcollingwood.com 705.444.1712)

#### The Golf Club at Lora Bay Preferred Players Program

Available for purchase in the Golf Shop is the new Preferred Players Program and Course Guide. For just \$40 including taxes, receive a course guide plus over \$400 of savings for golf and dining at Lora Bay, including savings for golf at Cobble Beach.

Steve, The Golf Club at Lora Bay, Thornbury (lorabaygolf.com 519.599.7500 ext. 407)

## Creemore Kellerbier

Fresh, unfiltered beer that is naturally cloudy, distinctly flavourful and refreshing. German whole-leaf hops are added late in the brewing process, producing a beer that is wonderfully aromatic with a hint of citrus and spice.

Stephanie, Creemore Springs Brewery, 139 Mill Street, Creemore (creemoresprings.com 1.800.267.2240)

# Arterro Eco Art Kits

No two kits are exactly alike! Each features a unique assortment of beautiful materials, patterns and colours vary from kit to kit. The Bookmaking Kit includes assortment of 100% recycled papers, beads, needles and craft thread.

Samantha, Evolve Toy Store, 25 Sykes St., Unit 2 Meaford (519.538.5600)

local picks<sup>3</sup>

#### MyPakage Underwear for Men

Made from a modal and spandex blend, MyPakage is the most comfortable underwear experience for men. The 3-dimensional internal pouch provides unparalleled support. KeyHole Comfort Technology™ allows absolute freedom and eliminates the need for adjusting.

Leslie and Scott, Evolution for Men, Thornbury (evolutionformen.ca 519.599.5013)

#### **Hickory Cheese Board**

Made from old and recycled wood, Dags & Willow has been making and selling their own cheese boards for as long as they have been selling cheese. This particular board is a one-of-a-kind Hickory with silver stainless handles.

Steven, Dags & Willow Fine Cheese & Gourmet Shop, 60 Pine Street, Unit #10, Collingwood (dagsandwillow.ca 705.444.9100)

# Hanna Tweed Cap

From famed Hanna of Donegal, this timeless Tweed Cap is beautifully handcrafted in Ireland and can be worn by young and old, male or female.

Karen, Grey Heron Designs, Collingwood (greyherondesigns.com 705.444.0370)

## Tuso Sandals

These fashionable yet comfortable sandals have 27 interchangeable scarves to choose from. Each design offers a variety of hand-woven scarves that fit snug to your foot and tie at the ankle.

Cathy, DeCorso's Fashions, Thornbury (519.599.5315)

# Prehistoric Trilobite cast

Fossil replica of the ancient sea creature found on Craigleith's shores. This unique plaster wall hanging is made by local artist Ted Sivell. For sale at Craigleith Heritage Depot.

Suzanne, Craigleith Heritage Depot, corner of Hwy 26 East and Grey Road 19 (thebluemountains.ca 705.444.2601)

## Fatboy Buggle-up beanbag chair

The tough and durable Fatboy Buggle-up is a multipurpose chair and lounger that suits any landscape. It goes off-road without wheels and survives with its protective rain, stain and UV resistant coating.

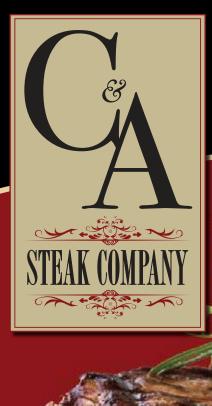
Fran, Macdonald's Countrywide Furniture & Appliances, Meaford (macdonaldsfurniture.com 519.538.1620)

#### **Squirrel Buster Bird Feeders**

The Squirrel Buster breaks new ground with design features available for the first time on any bird feeder. Over a million happy clients (and well-fed birds) confirm that the patented Squirrel Buster system is truly squirrel proof!

Mary, The Bird House Nature Company, Collingwood (705.444.7890)





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# **Listen Up**

A local musician's perspective on our expanding live music scene

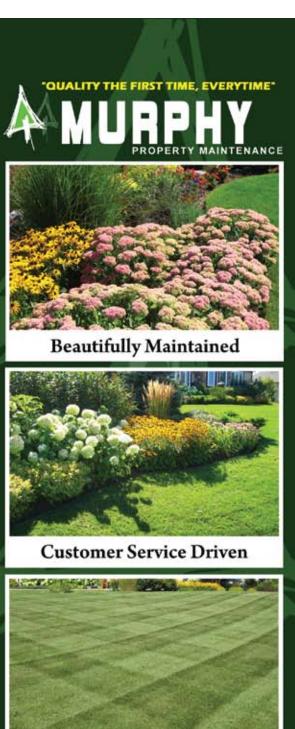
BY TAMARA DAWKINS

NOT SO LONG AGO if you wanted to hear decent live music around here, you didn't – you went to Toronto. With only a few exceptions, live music happened elsewhere, and you got used to driving a long way to hear it. Over the last few years, though, music has started coming our way. The scene has attracted talents that in previous years might have moved elsewhere. A case in point is singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Drew McIvor, who moved to the southern Georgian Bay region a few years ago to find a thriving scene sprouting talent and venues all over the place.











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"When I made the move up here, it took the pressure off and I could concentrate more on the music that made me happy."

McIvor spent his highschool years in Meaford before leaving for the University of Guelph; in 2008, he returned with his wife and three children, settling on a farm and converting the barn into a concert space. Recently his side-project Latin-jazz combo Mambo Nation performed there for a 100-plus crowd.

McIvor's rare musical ability first manifested itself in high school, where he wowed his friends with his ability to pick out any tune - ragtime, rock or reggae - on the piano or guitar. As a university student, McIvor went through a musical coming-of-age and began to listen to world beat, Afro-Cuban and other music. This led to the formation in 1992 of his eight-piece band, House of Velvet, in which he sang and played keyboards. "This was a college pop band but we were listening to a lot of reggae, acid jazz, old hip-hop. We gigged between Guelph, Toronto and London."

The band released a CD that made the college charts. After he amicably departed HoV around 2000, he started up two related bands, Mambo Nation and NiceHaus. "Mambo Nation is an homage to the frenzied rhythms of Afro-Cuban music," says McIvor, "especially the pre-Revolution stuff. NiceHaus is a musical tribute to the sounds of DJ club culture and electronica, performed live by a revolving cast of musicians."

Since moving up here, McIvor has segued from the collaborative band format and his forthcoming album is a solo, largely acoustic set of melody-driven songs entitled *The View From Here.* 

Moving north has led to other positive changes. "When I made the move up here, it took the pressure off and I could concentrate more on the music that made me happy, music that I wanted to play for its own sake – not because I needed to present it to an audience."

McIvor is in a unique position to compare urban areas with the scene up here. "In the city," he says, "there's more music than you can shake a stick at and it's all very well advertised. Up here there's a lot of music and some of it isn't advertised at all. Plenty of musicians have made the move away from a city and they're hiding out in the woodwork. If you keep your ear to the wind you can hear them."

Having played in taverns and in house concerts, McIvor understands what they mean to musicians here. "Playing in taverns, you have a responsibility to give the audience what they want. But a lot of people are now producing their own concerts in Collingwood, Thornbury, Meaford, Owen Sound and small in-between towns. There's a growing community wanting to hear singer-songwriters playing what they want to play."

House concert venues – small, informal spaces, not taverns and not purpose-built concert halls, include Collingwood's Bay Street School of Art, Thornbury's Bruce Street Social Club, Meaford's Irish Mountain Music, and Owen Sound's Second Avenue House Concerts. More pop up all the time.

Lots of taverns offer live music and always have, while several niche bar-restaurants – including Collingwood's Casbah and Huron Clubs, Thornbury's Bridges and Eugenia's Flying Chestnut – exist as much for musicians playing original live music as for food and drink.

The region's established concert halls, meanwhile, are angling for bigger fish, with Meaford Hall bringing in Sloan this summer and Collingwood's Gayety recently landing Ron Sexsmith. The festival circuit gets a jolt in the arm in August with Peak to Shore Music Fest, held jointly in Blue Mountain Village and Thornbury, with Sarah Harmer headlining.

Owen Sound's Summerfolk and Meaford's Electric Eclectics have been happening for years and pull in surefire crowds. As McIvor explains, "For every genre that's popular, people are looking for a new thing, the next thing, and if pop or rock music is hot, people want to hear that. But people also want to hear weird electronic sounds, or folk music. There's an audience for all of it right here."



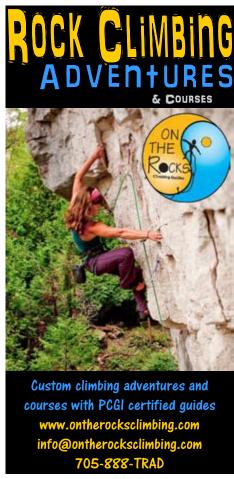
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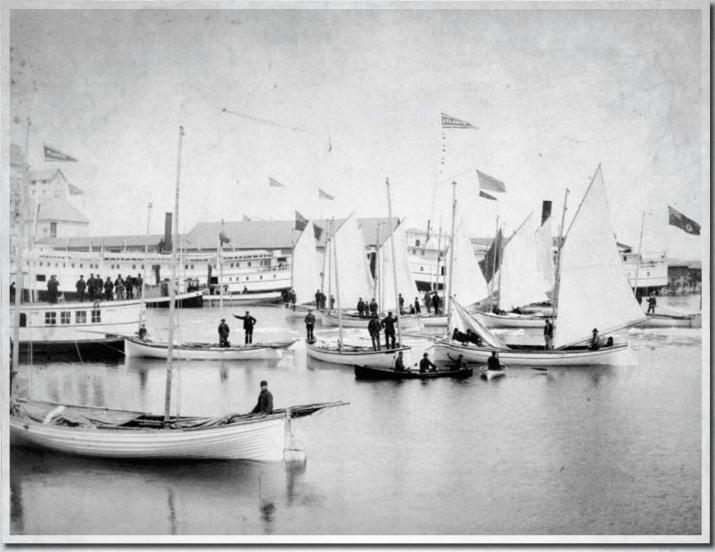
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# **Collingwood Skiff or Watt's Skiff**

These skiffs were built in Collingwood in the 1860s, by William Watt and his family, whose boat-building business operated for over 135 years. Known as Collingwood or Watt's skiffs, the boats were two-ended sailing ships widely-used and prized by fishermen for their stability in the rough and unpredictable waters of Georgian Bay.

The earliest Watt's boats were about 20 feet long, sharp-sterned and equipped with one or two spritsails. They were quite light in construction, fast and powerful with shoal hulls, little drag, and a keel almost parallel to the waterline.

They took much of their design from the traditional Irish fishing boats called "Drontheims." By the mid 1860s, fishing skiffs of the Collingwood type were common everywhere on Georgian Bay.

BY JON GREEN



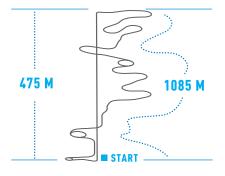


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