

LUXE

M A G A Z I N E TM

A LIGHT SHINES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

LUXE, STOCKS & BARREL

100 YEARS OF GLAMOUR VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

CHINA'S MIGHTY YANGTZE BECKONS

VOL 1 ISSUE 1 | NOVEMBER 2006

CND \$6.95 US \$5.95 €5



québec



Mont Tremblant Resort, Laurentides



Sent in search of gold by the King of France, Jacques Cartier landed in Québec in 1534 and discovered so much more: a land of pure emotion!

For a vacation that feels like so much more, to discover great offers, download free brochures and make reservations, VISIT BONJOURQUEBEC.COM OR CALL 1 877 BONJOUR (1 877 266-5687), OPERATOR 866.

Québec 

MAUPINTOUR®

Luxury Escorted and Independent Vacations

Providing award-winning
worldwide travel for over 50 years.
Our small group size ensures
distinct luxury and guarantees
a more personal experience.

To book and for more information call
ATTACHÉ
1-866-271-4167

HOLIDAY 2006



Rocky Mountain Christmas

Spectacular winter scenery, great
outdoor activities, stay at famous hotels
in Denver and Colorado Springs
7 day escorted holiday from \$2679*
Departing December 20, 2006



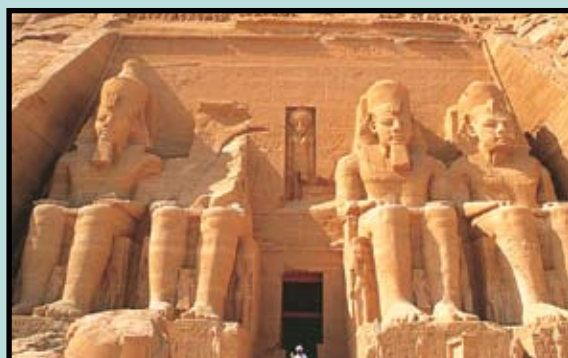
Pennsylvania Christmas

See Philadelphia decorated for the holidays.
Experience Moravian traditions in Bethlehem.
Celebrate Christmas at Hotel Hershey
in the chocolate capital of the U.S.
7 day escorted holiday from \$2259*
Departing December 20, 2006



French Canadian Christmas

Ride a horse-drawn tram through narrow streets
and experience the magnificence of frozen
waterfalls. Delve into the cultural heritage of
Montreal and Quebec City.
7 day escorted holiday from \$2599*
December 21, 2006



Egypt and the Nile

Explore the Egyptian Museum, including
Tutankhamen's artifacts, ancient temples
including Karnak and Luxor and much more.
Plus sail up the Nile on a 4 night river cruise
16 day escorted holiday from \$4549*
Departing December 19, 2006

2007 FAVORITES



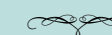
Grand Italy

Marvel at Renaissance art, stroll amid ancient
artifacts. Take in the tranquil countryside scenery
and celebrate Italian food and wine
for a truly unforgettable vacation.
14 day escorted holiday from \$5199*
Departing May 20, June 17, July 15,
October 10, 2007



The Alps by Rail

Experience the Alps natural grandeur, towering
above Austria, Switzerland and Italy. Stay in
St. Moritz, Italy's Lake Como, Zermatt at the base
of the Matterhorn, and lakeside Lucerne.
14 day escorted holiday from \$5699*
Departing June 17, July 8,
September 9, 2007



Australia featuring Tasmania

Experience the Great Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock
and Cairns, Melbourne, Hobart and Sydney.
15 day escorted holiday from \$4129*
Departing January 12, February 9, March 9,
September 14, October 12,
November 16, 2007

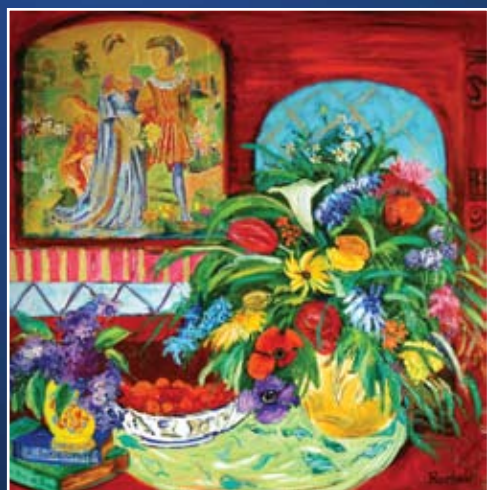


Peru & Machu Picchu

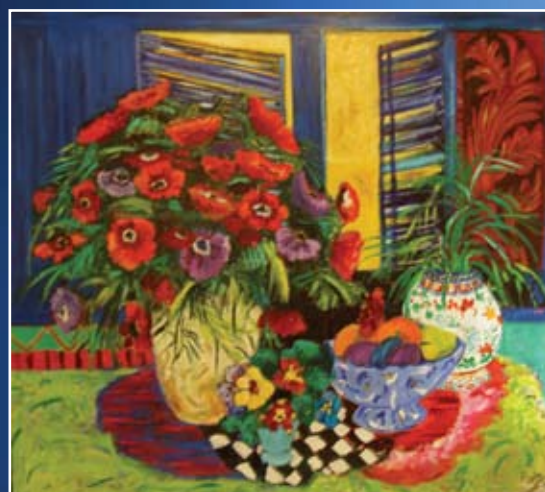
Visit Lima and the ancient city of Cuzco plus the
ruins of Sacsayhuaman and Pisac. Explore the
extensive ruins at Machu Picchu.
9 day escorted holiday from \$3,399*
Departing February 10, March 3, April 14,
June 9, August 4, October 6 & December 22

*All prices per person land only based on double occupancy. Airfare not included, but we can book it for you. CST#2019396-40.





Les tribulations du Duc de Berry, 39" x 39"



Émaux et camées, 41" x 46"



Les blés sont murs, 48" x 56"



Délires bleus, 36" x 63"



Dans le bleu infini de ta vie, 66" x 65"

Harbour Gallery...
now representing Canadian artist, **Danièle Rochon, R.C.A.**

Danièle's quest for light and beauty, shaped by her studies in Montreal, her frequent sojourns in southern France and her extensive wanderings through Asia and Africa, is revealed in her sensuous oils and lithographs.

Original Fine Art | Custom Framing

Complimentary Consulting Service | Corporate Lease-to-Own

Visit www.harbourgallery.com
for complete inventory viewing

1697 Lakeshore Road West, Mississauga, Ontario
905-822-5495

Monday to Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 Noon - 5:00 PM

46

REACH FOR THE STARS

Canadian Museum for
Human Rights

CONTENTS

- 8 FROM THE PUBLISHER
10 FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
12 A POINT OF VIEW
16 NEXT
See You There
Think Pink
Luxe Style
- 20 PLUGGED IN
Global Positioning Systems
- 24 BOUTIQUE
Van Cleef & Arpels Celebrates 100 Years
Amber, The Treasures of the Baltic Sea
- 30 LEGAL WITH MICHAEL G. COCHRANE
Property Owners Beware
- 31 FITNESS WITH DAVID PATCHELL-EVANS
What are Your Excuses?
- 32 LUXE STOCKS & BARRELLS WITH
ROBERT APPEL
Opacity at the Fed
- 34 LUXE CITY LIGHTS
Vibrant Vancouver
- 36 SPORTS
Retire in Kelowna
- 38 REFLECTIONS
Best Buddies
Special Olympics
Jerusalem Foundation
- 44 FEATURES
The United Nations
Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- 52 F. Y. INTERIORS
- 58 SPIRITS
Wine Auction
- 62 HEALTH & WELLNESS
Niagara Wine and Spa
- 66 LUXE ESCAPES & GETAWAYS
China's Mighty Yangtze
Mexico, Inside the Mayan Jungles
Old Virginia Charm
Quebec's Winter Carnival
Travel Tips: Take It or Not?
- 90 MOTORING
Audi TT
BMW M Coupe
- 96 ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Bennett and Streisand

44

40

36

The cover image is supplied by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and reflects the message, "A light shines for human rights."



imagine the most-def high-def

Imagine taking high definition to incredible new heights – or depths. Samsung's newest 1080p technology is so remarkably clear and vibrant, even real life pales by comparison. Samsung's 1080p provides twice the resolution of 720p displays – ensuring the largest screen sizes will take your breath away. And it's all possible by simply connecting one cable to the HDMI interface with 1080p input capability. A higher def hi-def, with Samsung 1080p technology, it's not that hard to imagine. 1080p DLP available in 50", 56", 61", 67" and 71" screen sizes. 1080p LCD available in 40", 46" and 57" screen sizes.

1080p DLP available in 50", 56", 61", 67" and 71" screen sizes.

1080p LCD available in 40", 46" and 57" screen sizes.

www.samsung.ca or 1-800-SAMSUNG



HL-S6187 - DLP TV



LN-S4695 - LCD TV



LN-S5797 - LCD TV



BD-P1000 - Blu-ray Player



DVD-HD960 - DVD Player


SAMSUNG

As Publisher of LUXE Magazine, I will share with you selected portions of a press release published on October 5, 2006 announcing the launch of LUXE Magazine:

“CALGARY, October 5, 2006 – Metamedia Capital Corp (TSX-V: MME) (www.metamedia.com) is pleased to announce the launch of its new magazine “Luxe.” The magazine will be published monthly and distributed through the National Post. The first issue is scheduled to appear in the October 26, 2006 edition of the National Post.”

“Based on an extensive due diligence period, the National Post was chosen as the distribution vehicle of this high end magazine because of its demographic to reach the more affluent homes across Canada and its double digit increases in circulation based on NADbank results across the country over the past two quarters.”

“Luxe Magazine is designed by North American renowned Mamone & Partners of Toronto. Mamone and Partners designed the Luxe Magazine logo and will complete the exquisite look of the publication.”

“Our entry into the mainstream media in Canada with the launch of this publication is a milestone for the publishing division of the company. Editorial integrity coupled with stable advertising revenues is expected to turn this division into a positive cash contributor to the Company’s next fiscal quarter,” Company President & CEO Alexis Kostis said.”

“About Metamedia Capital Corp. Metamedia is a global media conglomerate that produces proprietary, knowledge-based content and acts as an integrator of advanced hardware and software technologies in order to serve the needs of re-segmented global niche-markets, either identified through their interest in ethnic-descent, language, history, and culture, or their need for highly specialized content of any nature.”

In closing, I’m happy to say that we have put together an exceptional editorial and sales team. Beth McBlain is our Editor-In-Chief and is leading the editorial team with vision and integrity. Penny Dickenson is our North American Sales Manager and I welcome Joseph Galea as an integral part of our sales team. On this inaugural issue, our national advertising revenues have surpassed even our wildest expectations. What more can I say?



Tom A. Vachliotis
Publisher
LUXE Magazine

“The statements made in this Press Release may contain forward looking statements that may involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual events or results could differ materially from the Company’s expectations and projections. The TSX Venture Exchange does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.”

LUXE
MAGAZINE™
PUBLISHED BY METAMEDIA™

PRESIDENT & CEO
Alexis Kostis

VICE PRESIDENT PUBLISHING
Tom A. Vachliotis tomv@luxemagazine.ca

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Jerry Schmidt, CPA

HEAD OFFICE
16th Avenue, Suite 201
Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2M 0K6
1.403.284.3340 Toll-Free North America 1.888.638.6467

TORONTO, CANADA OFFICE
264 Adelaide Street East, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5A 1N1
T 416.778.7100 F 416.778.7706
Toll-Free North America 1.877.969.9993

ATHENS, GREECE OFFICE
Aohou 10, Ambelokipi 11523
Athens, Greece
+30.210.6984.456

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA OFFICE
2 Cook Street, Ivanhoe 3079
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
+1.613.9497.2540 Toll-Free 1.800.METOHOS (638.6467)

CORPORATE COUNSEL
Mark R. McMackin
Ricketts Harris LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
181 University Avenue, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2X7
T 416.364.6211 F 416.364.1697

PRE-PRESS & PRINTING
Quebecor World Canada

Metamedia and LUXE Magazine
assume no responsibility for any claims made by any
advertiser(s) appearing in LUXE Magazine.

Metamedia, LUXE Magazine, its officers, its directors,
employees and/or agents make no recommendations as to the
products and/or services promoted by these advertisers.
Any and all views expressed in articles appearing in LUXE
Magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of
LUXE Magazine. Any and all letters sent to LUXE Magazine
become sole property of LUXE Magazine and may be used
and/or published in any manner whatsoever without limit
and without any obligation whatsoever and/or without any
financial liability to the author(s) thereof. LUXE Magazine is
published 12 times per year and is distributed via the National
Post in the following cities:
Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver.

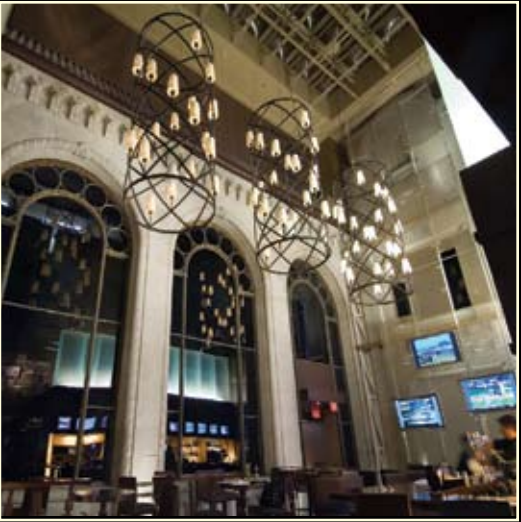
If you wish to subscribe to LUXE Magazine please call or
416.778.7100 or Toll Free 1.877.969.9993 or email
subscribe@luxemagazine.ca. Subscription requests can also be
made online at www.luxemagazine.ca

Absolutely no part of this publication may be
reproduced in any shape or form without the express
written consent of the Publisher.
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
LUXE Magazine
264 Adelaide Street East, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1N1

Metamedia Inc. is a subsidiary of Metamedia Capital Corp.
and both companies are referred to by the word Metamedia.
Metamedia is a listed corporation and its shares trade on the
Toronto Stock Exchange-Venture under the symbol
MME (TSX-V, MME)

© 2006 Metamedia Inc.™, LUXE Magazine™

Where Bay Street Comes to Play.™



turf
LOUNGE™

330 Bay Street • 416-367-2111 • www.TurfLounge.com



It is my pleasure to bring you the inaugural issue of LUXE Magazine, for those who aspire to “life & legacy.” This Fall, I feel a spring-like period of renewal rather than a descent into winter. My daughter Jennie just gave birth to her first child and, as I write this, my partner’s daughter, Rhonda, is in labor with her first. I could hardly miss being grateful when all this is happening during Thanksgiving week!

Our launch celebrates new achievements and tomorrow’s opportunities. The first feature article profiles the future Canadian Human Rights Museum (p. 46). Our editorial writers appeal to many interests: Andrew Penner golfs in the Okanagan (p. 36), A.G. Luke chills out at the Quebec Winter Carnival (p. 82), Barbara Kingstone discovers Poland’s prized amber (p. 26), Jacqueline Swartz meets up with Eric Jacolliot of Van Cleef & Arpels (p. 24), and “Patch” encourages us towards fitness (p. 34).

Margaret Swaine takes us to wine auctions (p. 58). Michael Cochrane looks at the legal scene around real estate fraud (p. 30). Automotive expert Mark Hacking introduces the new German coupes (p. 90). Peggy Weddell gives us an up-close on Calgary architectural and design team Thom Davis and Barr in *EY Interiors* (p. 52), and Aaron Dalton scores the U.N. since its 1948 inception (p. 44).

Anne Dimon experiences cycling and spa-ing in Niagara-on-the-Lake (p. 62). Catherine George deals out survival travel tips (p. 86), and Ilona Kauremszky uncovers the mysterious lives of Mexican turtles (p. 70). Robert Appel gives financial advice in *Luxe, Stocks & Barrels* (p. 32). *City Lights* highlights great Canadian destinations, beginning with Vibrant Vancouver (p. 34).

Those who know me are aware of my enduring passions for the philanthropic. Commencing this issue, we honor those who give of themselves, creating legacies for the world with their time and money. As we celebrate the Best Buddies Gala with Lou Gossett, Jr. and our ongoing commitment to the Special Olympics, we salute both organizations for their greatness of spirit and humanity (p. 38).

We have a bounty of reasons to be thankful, and are especially lucky to be living in Canada, with our human rights, our opportunities, our advantages. Between the covers of our first issue, we hope you will find many things that please you, some that resonate with you, and even a few that inspire you to explore new frontiers, reach new heights and give more of yourself to people and causes you hold dear. We wish you joyful and informative autumn reading.

Beth McBlain
Editor-in-Chief
editor-in-chief@luxemagazine.ca

LUXE MAGAZINE™

PUBLISHER
Tom A. Vachliotis tomv@luxemagazine.ca

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Beth McBlain bethm@luxemagazine.ca

MANAGING EDITOR
Mikki Fish mikkif@luxemagazine.ca

PROOF READERS
Anne Dimon
James H. Adams

REGULAR COLUMNISTS
LEGAL
Michael Cochrane michaelc@luxemagazine.ca
LUXE, STOCK & BARRELS
Robert Appel roberta@luxemagazine.ca
FITNESS
David Patchell-Evans davidp@luxemagazine.ca
MOTORING
Mark Hacking markh@luxemagazine.ca

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Laurie Cooper, Aaron Dalton, Anne Dimon,
Catherine George, Jim Jordan, Ilona Kauremszky, Janice Kaye,
Barbara Kingstone, A.G. Luke, Catalina Margulis,
Anna Miller, Anne Nelson, Mel Noodelman, Andrew Penner,
Nichola Petts, Camille Ramlukan, Margaret Swaine,
Jacqueline Swartz, Rob Terpstra, Tin Thomas,
Lizzy J. Tyrrell, Peggy Weddell

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Anne Dimon, Canadian Museum For Human Rights,
Carnaval De Québec, Dallaire Foundation, Free The Children
Foundation, Innovated Marketing Solutions,
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Jerusalem Foundation,
Barbara Kingstone, Tom Sandler Photography, Stephen Smith,
Special Olympics Canada, Rob Terpstra, Tourism Kelowna,
Tourism Vancouver/ Al Harvey, Andy Mons, Colin Jewall,
United Nations, University Of Manitoba, Van Cleef & Arpels,
Victoria Cruises

LUXE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS™
Publisher Penny A. Shore pennys@luxemagazine.ca

ART & DESIGN
ART & DESIGN DIRECTION
Mamone & Partners
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Eddie Chan

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Mikki Fish

OFFICE MANAGER & IT OPERATIONS
Howard Cramer

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
National Post
Retail Distribution “Disticor,” Elite Distribution

PROMOTION & MARKETING
CANADA
Director of Marketing
Rozana Papadopoulos rozana@luxemagazine.ca
UNITED STATES
NYC and Mid-Atlantic Marketing & Promotions
Gloria Starr Kins, Kins Group glorias@luxemagazine.ca
212.628.1743 or 212.734.8844

CORPORATE SALES
North American Sales Manager
Penny Dickenson pennyd@luxemagazine.ca

CANADA
National Sales
Joseph Galea josephg@luxemagazine.ca
Regional Sales
Andrew A. Vachliotis andrewv@luxemagazine.ca
Jenna Bryant jennab@luxemagazine.ca

UNITED STATES
Chicago Sales
Lisa A. ROSE, Rose & Associates lisar@luxemagazine.ca
312.755.1133
Florida Sales
Viveca Caldara vivecac@luxemagazine.ca 786.877.2350

KEN SHAW LEXUS

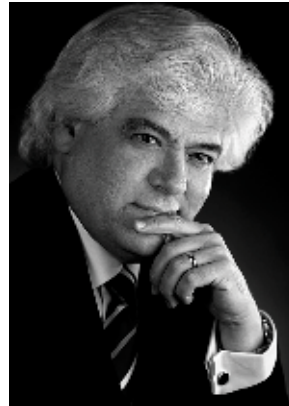
WHAT DRIVES YOU, DRIVES US.

Where Toronto's passionate drivers get their thrills.

Introducing the all-new
2007 Lexus GS 350 AWD
and the 2007 GS 450 Hybrid.



2336 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto Raphael Munro 416-766-1155 ext 153 KenShawLexus.ca



CANADA

A MODERN-DAY NOAH'S ARK?

By Tom A. Vachliotis

“And you tell me
Over and over and
over again, my friend
Ah, you don't believe we're on
the eve of destruction.”

— Barry McGuire, 1965

As this publication is exiting the launching gates, I'm taking the opportunity to share, a *Point of View*.

During this lifetime I have traveled the world and touched many different cultures. Born in South America, I grew up in Greece and immigrated to this magnificent country in 1972. During the mid-fifties I spent five years in Chicago, taking in my first foot steps into the schooling system. In 1959 I returned to Athens, then back to the U.S. in 1967. It was then, in beautiful and full-of-surprises San Francisco that I started writing my book on life – people, society, multiculturalism and human rights.

In that still iconic city, you could walk one block south and be in China or walk northbound and see the Latino influx. For me, it was a total contradiction of fascinating cultures and diverse backgrounds. It was also then that I had my first cigarette (Tareytos, “Id rather fight than switch,” as the slogan said) and, as a member of that generation, took a trip into the colorful world of pot. It was 1968 that I sat at Fillmore Auditorium and listened to the acoustic Eric Burdon and the Animals. When I returned to Athens In 1969 it was with a new attitude and a fresh look on life. My hair

was down to my shoulders and I wore an abused army jacket with a bullet hole in the left top shoulder. The song Eve of Destruction had had a strong influence on my generation. I was 19, and the whole world was ahead of me.

Because I spoke English I spent time translating (unofficially) for the U.S. Air Force. Mostly I was called upon when the U.S. soldiers would get in trouble with the Greek police during the early morning hours at the night clubs. Some of my new U.S. military friends had just returned from the battle grounds of Vietnam, many just for a brief visit. Every time I would see these guys they'd seem different. Their total persona had changed. How can we even begin to understand how it might feel to return home after being in the rice fields of Vietnam or in the desert of Afghanistan? Oh, yes, by the way, did you know that Canada is at war right now? Aren't we supposed to be a peace- making country?

I wasted part of this space with my own personal experiences. But the point I really want to make here is that I am confused. I am confused because I feel we have lost the meaning of what Canada has always stood for.

I dread to think that what the soldiers have learned in open fields around the world, target practicing toward make-believe enemies, has been replaced by hatred and a mantra to arm, shoot to kill or be killed.

We have sent our soldiers to clear out the terrorists and the Taliban, to free Afghanistan from radicals and evil choices, to bring human rights into a country where human rights do not exist. A noble gesture, but at what cost?



...problem solvers.

business law

family law

civil litigation

real estate

wills & estates

employment law



See Michael Cochrane on
ROBTV's *Strictly Legal*
every Thursday
8:30pm ET/5:30pm Pacific.



RICKETTS HARRIS LLP
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Billions of Canadian dollars will be spent on trying to achieve this seemingly impossible dream. We will never win this war because there is no tangible enemy. This enemy cannot be caught and tried, because the enemy here is an ideology — an ideology that has been created and manipulated through the years. This is an enemy that cannot be destroyed with bullets. A disaster is looming because instead of the enemy getting weaker it is getting stronger and smarter by the day.

Afghanistan may be our Vietnam. Look at what has just happened between Israel and Lebanon. Israel is the superpower of the Middle East. Israel has always massed a tremendous army not for offensive but for defensive purposes. Survival! In August 2006 what Israel encountered was an absolute miscalculation of the enemy in Lebanon. In Iraq, the Americans have made the same mistake. In the '80s and '90, the Russians, too, found out the hard way. They could not defeat the Taliban because they underestimated them. NATO thought that dropping thousands of tons of bombs and sending in cruise missiles would destroy the Taliban. All this warfare did is destroy whatever tangible was left of this country. It has also turned many of the citizens against the very people who are trying to “free” them. For the U.S., today's Vietnam is Iraq. Just as with Vietnam, one of these days some American politician will decide to bring the American troops back home and this travesty will be one more example of a total waste of innocent young lives.

I expect that by now some of you will be ready either to find my phone number or start writing me emails at tomy@luxemagazine.ca. Why did a few hundred Greeks beat tens of thousands of Persians thousands of years ago? Because the Greeks respected their enemy and they used their heads. Can you identify a parallel happening here? NATO has tried to bulldoze into Afghanistan without showing any respect for their prowess on the battlefields. The problem of Afghanistan has been passed from the Russians on to the Western world, NATO, and the Canadian men and women who fight so bravely for the cause.

Although, Canada must support NATO and our allies, what should our chosen role be in today's world? This country was once a world leader in support of peace and human rights. We have always brought some semblance of sanity between opposing sides. There are many examples of this outstanding role that Canada has played. Cyprus is just one, Rwanda is another!

Canada is far from a military powerhouse. The nature of our country — its size, comparatively small population, cultural mosaic — has determined that we must never again take an offensive military leadership role. We are a country that has been put together like a slab of mosaic — piece by piece, stone by stone, inch by inch — with each and every

piece imported from a different part of the world. Perhaps we are the real Noah's Ark. Perhaps we have assembled from all parts of the world our species in order that we can preserve humanity.

If one really sits down and looks at what is going on right now in the Middle East, in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world, you will feel a revolution that is growing in strength and in momentum by the day. Bombs and bullets will not solve these problems. Only talking and ingenuity can veer this path from Barry McGuire's *Eve of Destruction*. New tactics must prevail. The United Nations MUST have a bigger voice. And then there is Iran and North Korea!

War now seems old fashioned because, unless we use cataclysmic weapons, the opposition can and will defeat us because their biggest weapon is not nuclear - it is passion, hatred and brainwashing. We must listen with both ears. We must listen to the reality of civilization. The super powers of today can very easily and painfully become the super powers of yesterday. We must practice the art of listening by paying close attention to some of the underlined comments coming from the mouths of these terrorists. Look at the extreme hatred that is written all over their faces. Emotions and hatred are mighty powerful bullets! More powerful than all the bombs. Wars must now become scientific and political analyses of situations, backgrounds and ethnicities. We have to address these radicals with a tactical approach. We should not be driven by stubbornness but by the understanding and insight that comes with thousands of years of history within these societies.

This brings us to our Canadian dilemma. How do we achieve our mission in Afghanistan? Can we vacate our role in Afghanistan right now? I do not know, but I do not think so! The pressure is on to do something. The only thing that I can guarantee you in this — *a Point of View* — is that things will get worst by the day. Perhaps not in all of the regions/provinces of Afghanistan, but the destabilization in on part of Afghanistan is troublesome enough to destabilize the rest. When military force must be applied, it must always be applied under the unanimous mandate of the United Nations.

In closing, I must make it clear that not a day goes by that I do not think of our troops. I, too, have felt pride watching footage on the TV channels of these young men and women going on to a mission, following their orders. And yes, I have shared a tear or two with all of you when I see our national red-and-white flag draped around a wooden box containing the lifeless body of a mother's child, a Canadian.

We have a plethora of choices, but none is guaranteed to lead to the right door. I say, Canada has to choose, right now, its rightful place in history. We are Noah's Ark. Let's take back that enviable and universally respected leadership role. **LM**

Hand-blown White crystal.

One-of-a-kind Italian design,

exclusively at Sescolite.

New from our Fall collection.

It's a Sescolite light.



SESCOLITE
CREATIVE LIGHTING • SINCE 1920

Toronto: 1461 Castlefield Ave • 416.651.6570
Richmond Hill: 150 West Beaver Creek Rd • 905.881.2808
Burlington: 4175 Fairview St • 905.632.8659
www.sescolite.com

SEE YOU THERE CASEY HOUSE & OYSTER FEST

THE ART IN HEART FOR
CASEY HOUSE

By Camille Ramlukan

Now in its 13th year, *Art with Heart* is a fabulous art auction fundraiser for Casey House taking place on Wednesday, November 1st at the Carlu, this year's auction features donated works from more than 90 established and emerging contemporary Canadian artists. Casey House is proud to offer this year's Art With Heart Gallery of Patrons Limited Edition digital output reproduction of "Art with Heart Red" from Barbara Astman's acclaimed Red Series of 1981.

The public preview will take place from Tuesday, October 24th to Sunday October 29th from 11:00am to 5:30pm at Ritchies Auctioneers & Appraisers, 228 King Street East in Toronto.

Art with Heart considered one of Canada's premier art events, has raised more than \$2.5 million.

Tickets are \$125. The reception and final viewing will be held on Wednesday November 1st from 5:30 to 7:00pm, with the art auction commencing at 7:00pm. Proceeds go toward Casey House programs that care and support people living with HIV/AIDS.

Established in 1988, Casey House is one of the world's first hospices for HIV/AIDS care, and since then it has helped more than 2,500 people live and die with the disease. **LM**

For more information visit:

Web: www.caseyhouse.com
www.artwithheart.ca
 Email: heart@caseyhouse.on.ca
 Call: 416-962-4040 ext 231



SLURP, SIP, AND BE SEXY AT THE
CLAYOQUOT OYSTER FESTIVAL

By Laurie Cooper

When your mother told you not to slurp your food, she wasn't talking about oysters. Slurping is *de rigueur* at the Clayoquot Oyster Festival in Tofino, B.C. The annual November celebration attracts shellfish aficionados from across North America to gobble and gorge on some of the 50,000 gallons of Pacific oysters harvested each year in the Clayoquot Region of Vancouver Island.

What's so special about oysters? Ask Casanova. The infamous 18th-century lover started each day with a breakfast of 50 of the delectable creatures. And recent scientific studies have proven oysters really do have aphrodisiac qualities. Oyster Festival attendees can check it out for themselves at the Oyster Gala where local chefs will serve the beautiful bivalves raw, grilled, wrapped, baked and fried.

Sipping and slurping is part of the scene at another festival event. For the Love of Oysters at Long Beach Lodge pairs B.C.'s best wines with a myriad of miraculous molluscs. And there is even an Oyster Bed Package at the Lodge which includes breakfast, a three-course dinner featuring signature oyster dishes, and an ocean-view room. Perfect if all those oysters inspire a little romance!

To get a firsthand look at some real oyster beds, the Oysters Afloat! boat tour takes in some of the area's 25 oyster farms. Or frisky festival-goers can trip the light fantastic at the Mermaid's Ball at the Tofino Community Hall. **LM**

For more information about the Clayoquot Oyster Festival, visit www.oystergala.com. To find out about the Oyster Bed Package at Long Beach Lodge, visit www.longbeachlodgeresort.com

THINK PINK RETHINK BREAST CANCER

By Catalina Margulis

In 2006, an estimated 22,000 Canadian women and 160 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Yet 80 percent of Canadian women have not checked their breasts in the last month for signs and symptoms of breast cancer. "With nearly 80 percent of all breast cancers detected by women who report unusual changes to their doctor, being breast aware is vital for early diagnosis and treatment," says MJ DeCoteau, executive director of Rethink Breast Cancer, a charity leading innovative thinking about the delivery of breast health information in Canada. Rethink is bringing a new message to women with its TLC (Touch, Look, Check) breast awareness initiative: Touch your breasts and feel for anything unusual; look for changes and be aware of shape and texture; and check anything unusual with your doctor and chat with friends if you're worried. "Remember, nine out of ten lumps are not cancerous, but by showing your breasts some TLC, you'll notice any abnormal changes," adds DeCoteau. And with October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month, there's no better time than now to get with the program.

www.touchlookcheck.com
www.rethinkbreastcancer.com

PRETTY IN PINK: Here are some ways to show your support this month.

Rethink Breast Cancer has teamed up with Roots Watches to develop a special



edition Roots Rethink Breast Cancer Watch. The Roots A La Mode Rethink Breast Cancer special edition watch is a sleek, stainless steel demi bangle bracelet, adorned with the Rethink Breast Cancer logo subtly printed on its cute pink dial – the must-have accessory this month. With every purchase of the watch, \$10 will be donated to the Rethink Breast Cancer Foundation. And during the month of October, you can receive a bonus gift with purchase: the pink Roots rubber Hope Breast Cancer Bracelet. Stylish and socially conscious – what's more fashionable than that?!

Available at Roots stores, major department stores and select jewelry and specialty shops.

\$110 www.watchroots.com

HBC is urging Canadians to give this October with their Think Pink collection, available at all HBC locations. Net proceeds will benefit the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation as well as national breast cancer research, education and community awareness programs. The campaign is expected to raise \$500,000 to help the cause. Among the items in the collection are a T-shirt with crystal ribbon (\$9.99), microfibre clog slippers (\$19.99), KitchenAid Pink Artisan Stand Mixer (\$449.99) and HBC toque (\$9.99; shown here). The HBC pink signature blanket (\$350, shown here) is part of a limited collection of 800 exclusive, numbered pink-and-white striped HBC blankets that will be available in select Bay stores across Canada. The perfect cuddle mate! **LM**

LUXE STYLE

STIMULATE THE SENSES

By Catalina Margulis

RUMEUR BY LANVIN: Designed by Alber Elbaz and created by Francis Kurkdjian, Rumeur by Lanvin is a captivating, sensual, elegant white floral bouquet of seringa, magnolia, white roses and sambac jasmine, strengthened by a woody musk note.

In designing the bottle, Elbaz was inspired by the Arpège sphere, the original perfume bottles created in the golden age of Jeanne Lanvin, and old-fashioned bottles with handmade charm, manufactured using traditional glass techniques that allow irregularities to remain, making each piece unique. The result is a charming vintage-style bottle with soft, sensual, generous curves that contrast with its contemporary square base and “rough” details, such as the hand-written logo. The final touch is the signature Lanvin taffetas ribbon, a wink at the couture world of Alber Elbaz. Sublime.

Available at the Bay, select Sears and select perfumeries. \$115 for 3.4oz

YSL RED LIPS: Exciting and dangerous, red lips are the ultimate must-have accessory this season. And who better to provide than Yves Saint Laurent, the house that brought us the classic fragrance Opium? Bold, sophisticated and ultra-feminine, the Opium woman seduces with her distinct blend of luxury and mystery. This season she turns to the brand's Fard à

Lèvres Rouge Pur in Opium Red, which provides lip color that lasts for hours even as it cares for your skin, providing moisture and SPF 8. Best paired with a flawless, porcelain complexion, black-lined eyes and red nails, this lip color comes in a gorgeous gold case ready for any red carpet clutch. Find the seductress within.

Fard à Lèvres Rouge Pur in Opium Red \$34; available exclusively at Holt Renfrew.

SWAROVSKI: Hailing from Tyrol, Austria, Swarovski has been the world's leading brand for cut crystal for more than a hundred years. For this season's Poetic Night jewelry collection, they tapped into the mystique of the fall/winter runways, offering not just bling but also a sense of mystery and humor. Pieces like the Bugs Spider's Web Earrings (\$170) delight the mind as well as the eyes. These Rhodium-plated pierced earrings take the shape of a spider's web (in clear crystal cupchain), with a removable spider in Jet crystals. In another flight of fancy, the Bird Necklace (\$510) is an elaborate ruthenium-plated necklace with crystal cupchains, clear crystal pavé and crystals and cuts in various colors, with a lobster clasp. With fanciful jewelry like this, who needs a Halloween costume?

All items are available across Canada at Swarovski gallery stores.
www.swarovski.com LM



FAIRFIELDS

THE RESERVE OUR FINAL PHASE



45 SCOTCH VALLEY DRIVE - \$3.6 Million



ARCHITECTURALLY CONTROLLED
TWO ACRE ESTATE LOTS FOR SALE

The Premier Estate Community

JUST NORTH OF THE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL IN KING CITY

Brokers Paul McDonald/Jayrene Thomson

RE/MAX York Group Realty Inc. Brokerage

Shown by Appointment

905-727-1941

www.fairfieldestates.com

GPS SYSTEMS OODLES OF OPTIONS

By Mel Noodleman

I confess. When Beth (our editor in chief) assigned this article to me, I was less than enthused. How interesting could GPS be? You have a device that tells you where you are, and how to get to your destination. Simple, straight forward, and ultimately uninteresting. A couple of days later, I found myself completely overwhelmed by the various features, applications,



you can't figure out how to use it.

Many early GPS systems were complicated and difficult to use. Recent offerings from industry leaders such as Garmin and Tom Tom are much more intuitive and pain-free. You can even skip reading the manual if you're just interested in sticking with the basic functions.

Higher end models come with some

permutations and combinations of GPS devices. Let's just say that the unseen army of propeller-heads have been very, very busy responding to our needs, real and imagined. A big shout-out to Tim Pacan at Radioworld and Jesse Sampson from GPSCentral.ca for their valuable guidance.

GPS stands for Global Positioning System. Developed for the military in 1973, it comprises a network of 24 satellites orbit the earth every 12 hours, and ground stations that monitor the positioning and status of each satellite. GPS devices use a receiver to acquire signals from at least four of these satellites to obtain a 3D fix, and can pinpoint the devices' exact location in terms of latitude and longitude. The government opened up the system to civilian use in the 1980s, and the consumer GPS industry was born.

GPS devices come in all flavors; car navigation and marine charting are

the most popular applications. There are also devices for motorcycles, hiking, fishing, PDAs, personal fitness, geocaching and aviation. We'll stick to car navigation for now.

In Canada, Garmin is the 800-pound gorilla, accounting for the vast majority of sales. Simply put, they have best-of-breed features, packaging and mapping. Tom Tom is an important up and comer, particularly in the U.S., but its Canadian mapping still needs work. Lowrance and Magellan have historically been important players, but have struggled to keep up with this rapidly changing technology.

EASE OF USE

This is probably the single most important feature in a GPS device. Like the much-maligned iDrive driver information/entertainment system from BMW, great functionality is useless if

very tempting advanced features – and you should keep an open mind. In this market, there is a direct correlation between price and functionality. Even the most expensive aftermarket units are typically less than half the price charged by automotive manufacturers, and usually much more advanced.

Models with superior user interfaces let you select learning only those advanced features that appeal to you.

ACCURACY

Keep in mind that GPS devices are connected to multiple satellites in orbit 12,000 miles above you and can pinpoint your location to within two to three metres in real time. This really is rocket science, and the technology is amazingly complex. Yet we take it for granted that it should meet our very demanding expectations flawlessly. The fact that it works at all

is an accomplishment, so don't get too upset the few times the system might get confused.

Two relatively new technologies to look for include:

- WAAS or Wide Area Augmentation System. WAAS corrects for GPS signal errors caused by ionospheric disturbances, timing, and satellite orbit errors, using a network of approximately 25 ground reference stations positioned across the United States that monitor GPS satellite data. It improves accuracy by approximately five times over previous technology, and can pinpoint your location within three metres 95% of the time.
- The new SiRF III chip. This chip is far more sensitive and accurate and, as a consequence, allows reliable GPS use in locations (downtown areas with lots of tall buildings) where signals were once impossible to acquire. This chipset locks in satellites much

faster, and usually takes seconds rather than minutes to determine your initial location when you turn the unit on.

MAPPING

Being Canadian occasionally has its drawbacks. One of them is the fact that Tom Tom uses Teleatlas for its mapping. They have only recently started mapping Canada. Major metro centers are well mapped, but many smaller cities and towns are not adequately served. Garmin uses Navteq, is the gold standard for Canadian mapping, and has excellent coverage across Canada. Maps get outdated, and you'll want the option to update yours. A couple of the devices I tested didn't have my street on the map. Vendors also continue to add more Points of Interest (POIs) with each new generation. I didn't think the POI feature would be useful, until I used it to locate the nearest Canadian Tire store, which also automatically determined my route.

FORM FACTORS AND SCREENS

There is a growing choice between sizes and forms to meet your personal preferences and needs. Increasingly popular with consumers are "shirt pocket" designs, the size of a typical PDA, with screen sizes usually in the 2" to 4" range. These can easily go from car to car, and some can run on batteries. The trade-off is smaller screens for better portability. Deluxe large-screen models such as the Garmin 7200 and 7500 boast large 7" screens. There are also models designed specifically for motorcycles, and even for running.

Advances are being made monthly to improve display quality with brighter, anti-reflective screens. Ask to see different models side by side to choose the best screen, typically the latest models with the most advanced features. New automotive grade screens are easy to read in daylight. Some models incorporate light sensors that automatically adjust to compensate between day and nighttime driving.

GPS – YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY PERSON WHO KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE!

If you're like most people, you see GPS as a helpful and harmless convenience that makes your life a little easier. Consider, however, the fact that you are also broadcasting your location on a public system accessible by others. The following story was reported in Popular Science magazine in 2004.

On a fall morning in October 2000, James Turner, a theater manager, set out to Portsmouth VA in a rental car. Unknown to him, he had a small travel companion in his vehicle – a GPS receiver, keeping in touch with satellites 12,000 miles above him. In turn, they were reporting back to the rental company.

During the trip, like many drivers, he pushed the accelerator down a little harder than he should. On his way through the town of Westport CT., he nudged his rental vehicle up to 70 miles per hour as he drove south on I-95. On the New Jersey Turnpike, James clocked in at 83 mph. By the time Turner reached Virginia, his bank

account had been debited an extra \$450 by ACME Car Rentals (\$150 for each of three speeding infractions).

It all came as quite an unpleasant surprise to James Turner.

A growing number of private companies provide satellite tracking services to anyone willing to pay. The intent is usually benign — school boards and freight carriers tracking their fleet. The National Probation Service uses the technology to monitor the movements of some parolees.

It may be possible to develop a GPS tracking system in cases of spousal abuse or stalking, to ensure that potential offenders do not violate the terms of a restraining order. Another application might see the required wearing of GPS devices by convicted pedophiles or sexual offenders. Such lifesaving technological applications could prove invaluable.

In the meantime, you may want to turn off your GPS if you're heading out to hide something.

Others let you manually choose between day and night setting.

FEATURES TO CONSIDER

NAVIGATION ROUTES. Inputting your destination can be irritating on some models, which force you to name the specific city and street. Tom Tom's models had me guessing whether to enter Toronto, North York or Willowdale. If you guess wrong, you have to start over again. One saving grace is that it offers a default choice of recently entered cities to choose from. Garmin is much more forgiving about the city name, but requires you to enter it every time. You'll also want the option to ask for alternate routes to avoid system to avoid certain routes, such as toll roads and major highways, road construction etc. You can also input 'via points' on your route, to accommodate locations you want to visit along the way (such as amusement parks, relatives etc.).

TEXT-TO-SPEECH. This is the most advanced voice-prompt system that delivers specific street names rather than more generic instructions, such as "Turn right in 0.5 miles". In practice, it actually makes a big difference over older models that could only prompt you with turn direction. This is especially true in higher traffic areas and where intersections or interchanges are confusing.

BLUETOOTH enabled devices allow you to connect the system to your car stereo or cell phone, offering hands-free talking and integrated functioning of the connected devices.

TRAFFIC REPORTS. Tom Tom and Garmin have introduced optional subscription services for traffic reports and weather related tie-ups, as well as weather info on your destination. These services actually monitor traffic conditions in real-time, and re-route you to avoid congested areas. These alternate routes can be very creative, shepherding you via streets you may never have heard of before. Not yet in Canada, Toronto and Montreal reporting is expected to launch in early 2007, gradually rolling

out to other major metro centers. Make sure your device is compatible with these upcoming services.

MP3 CAPABILITY. It had to come. Advanced models now store and play MP3s, and some add JPEG picture viewers.

WIRELESS FM AUDIO TRANSMISSION. Some Garmin Nüvi models let you hear audio, including voice prompts, MP3s and audio books, through your vehicle's stereo.



TRAVEL ASSISTANT. These are Garmin exclusive options in the Nüvi model range. In addition to a built-in currency converter, optional upgrades that can be purchased include:

- Language software that can translate words and phrases in text and audible speech. Languages include: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.
- Travel Guide gives you helpful and thorough reviews and recommendations for restaurants, hotels, shopping, nightlife, sporting events and tourist attractions.
- SaversGuide® is an electronic version of the popular Entertain-

ment® Book, but covers North America rather than the traditional single city.

REMOTE CONTROLS. If you are gadget happy, a number of high-end units incorporate a separate remote control to program your GPS.

PROXIMITY ALERTS. This allows customers to load customized points of interest (POIs) such as safety cameras and school zones, and known speed traps. A proximity alert option can warn the driver of upcoming custom POIs, and will help reinforce the importance of traveling at appropriate and legal speeds. You can search for databases of safety cameras online. Some websites offer it as a free service, others charge.

BEST BETS

GARMIN NÜVI 660. Compact, lightweight, powerful and portable. As a handheld device, battery life is approximately 4 – 8 hours. In addition to all of the advanced features you could want, it incorporates an SD memory card expansion slot and handy USB interface for loading data. Retail \$959.95 as at the time of writing. Expect price reductions pre-Christmas.

TOM TOM GO 910. This is another powerhouse. A bit larger than the nüvi with a 20 Gb hard drive, 12 Gbs of which are reserved for MP3s, photos and more. It works straight out of the box. Interesting features include speeding alerts, the ability to download funny voices, and direct connection capability to your iPOD. Battery life is about 4 hours, given the power drain of the hard drive. Caveats: Limited mapping in Canada which will improve over time. Hard drives may not be the best bet in conjunction with our increasingly potholed roads. Retail \$949.95

GARMIN STREETPILOT 2820. These boast an excellent 3.8" display, are Bluetooth enabled and XM satellite compatible. Microphone inputs and stereo headset outputs for MP3 audio. Also waterproof. Retail \$1,149.95 **LM**

Pioneer sound.vision.soul



WE'VE PUSHED THE BOUNDARIES OF HD AND TESTED THE LIMITS OF REALITY.

For those who want the purest HD experience imaginable, introducing the new Pioneer PureVision plasma display. Innovative technology, enhanced color and crisp image reproduction—even with fast-moving scenes—creating the most stunning, 3D-like picture to come out of our engineering labs. It's time to see High Definition in a whole new way. For more information and for a list of participating Dealers, visit www.pioneerelectronics.ca

Simulated screen. ©2006 Pioneer Electronics (USA) Inc.

<http://www.pioneerelectronics.ca>

PURE
VISION
PIONEER PLASMA DISPLAY

www.winapioneerplasma.ca

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

By Jacqueline Swartz



As I interviewed Van Cleef & Arpels international communications director, Eric Jacolliot, at the store at the Place Vendôme in Paris, I felt I was in the epicenter of elegance. More than that, I was aware of being in the company of master craftsmen and designer royalty. The House represents the *ne plus ultra* of jewelry.

One Hundred Years of Glamour and Excellence proclaims the banner on the Place Vendôme celebrating the centennial anniversary of Van Cleef & Arpels.

Founded in 1906, during the Belle Époque, the House, one hundred years later still embodies the spirit of creation in jewelry. The pieces express femininity and glamour – always associated with exceptional stones and unchallenged craftsmanship. No wonder Van Cleef & Arpels jewelry has graced women from Maria Callas to Grace Kelly, from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis to Julia Roberts.

Also a classic is the signature scent, *First*, an apt name for the first fragrance to be offered by a jewelry company.

“The next one hundred years, will emphasize artistry, to bring out sincerity and passion. Jewelry is about love, gifts, and intimacy. A wealthy woman can easily spend thousands of Euros on clothes,” said Mr. Jacolliot.

The classic is what lasts, while mere fashion changes with the season

“With jewelry there’s something else, something symbolic, an investment of emotion. People always notice your jewelry, and you keep jewelry for a long time. The *classic* is what lasts, while mere fashion changes with the season,” notes Jacolliot.

This year, to celebrate a century of fine jewelry, the House is presenting three collections.

Pierres de Caractère, the first collection, features diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and also semi-precious stones like garnet, spinel, tourmaline and topaz.

The last few years have seen an increased use of semi-precious stones because of the emphasis on color

Mr. Jacolliot noted, “we always use great stones, like large aquamarine and Mandarin garnet.”

One piece uses three emeralds, for earrings and a



necklace, with a total of 240 carats.

Trésors Révélés is the second collection celebrating the first century of Van Cleef & Arpels. The jewelry in this collection is based on 11 drawings of unproduced jewelry from the archives dating from the 1920s to the 1960s. Either the stones couldn’t be obtained or the pieces were too difficult to produce by the company’s workshop, which remains in the Place Vendôme. The profession is changing, said Jacolliot – optimistically. “With the use of new techniques like lasers, techniques are improving, and jewelry making is a métier that still continues.”

In the 1920s, VC & A pioneered what is known as the “mystery setting.” Jacolliot explained, “This is the essence of jewelry because you can’t see the metal, only the jewels. One piece we featured in this collection is a necklace of rubies that drapes like the red curtain of the Paris Opera.”

So...we have improved this mystery setting

The third collection, “A Day in Paris,” unveiled worldwide on October 20th is intended to be the fireworks, the culmination of a year of celebratory jewelry and a synthesis of the themes of the House of VC & A.

The fantasy day starts with the flora of the Jardin de Tuileries, with birds of paradise and butterflies, both signature designs.

Next is the Île de la Cité, with its inspiration of stained glass windows and stone bridges. Then, on this mythical day in Paris, it’s on to Avenue Montaigne, which represents fashion couture. The jewelry here includes ribbons and ties.

Next, the Eiffel Tower, with its shapes of modernity. It sparkles during the first ten minutes of every hour after dark, said Jacolliot, and this inspired a drop necklace that turns into a bracelet.

Then the Opéra, with its chandeliers, and the Ballet. In 1967 in New York, George Ballanchine, the legendary choreographer of the New York City Ballet, created a ballet called *Jewels* that was inspired by the spectacular window décor of the VC& A location in NYC.

“We’re a house that has always been connected to design, culture and technical advancement,” remarked Eric Jacolliot. **LM**

Van Cleef & Arpels is sold at Birks in Toronto and Vancouver. www.vancleef-arpels.com

AMBER

THE TREASURE OF THE BALTIC SEA

By Barbara Kingstone

Jewelry fads, like fashion, come and go. Colored diamonds were most recently beckoned by bejeweled fingers, emeralds have always been a cause for some envy, and then there's the sparkle of red rubies and the bluest sapphires. Although amber doesn't fit into the precious gem stone league, it has become fashionable again.

On a recent trip to Poland I learned that the natural beauty comes in more than just various hues of yellow, but also multicolored compositions. I discovered that amber has long been a highly desirable commodity in both art and culture; for example an amber goblet known as the "hobler," since it doesn't have a stem, is housed in Krawkow's Wawel Cathedral.

The fossil resin's transformation into amber is a very difficult process to understand. Words like isomeric, polymerization and oxidizations all play a part in this complicated, ancient process where bacteria are also involved. Even researchers and professionals find it difficult to define the formation. Baltic amber, also known as succinite, in which numerous plants exist, is known for its high amber-acid content.

Records show that as far back as 12,000 BC pendants were found. Then during the Neolithic period (5,000-1,800 BC), amber was used for decorative purposes. It was at the end of the Bronze Age (1,800-700 BC) and the beginning of the Iron Age (700-400 BC) that amber



ATMOSPHERE HOME & COLOUR

In trade with

*Your store for
fusion furniture,
custom drapery,
original Art
& Exquisite
paint and papers*

FARROW & BALL®
Manufacturers of Traditional Papers and Paint

128 Trafalgar Rd, Oakville 905.337.2424



artifacts appeared in great abundance and even then was made into amber beads and rings. Amber fell out of favor and didn't return until the Middle Ages (AD 700-1,300) when it became a favorite raw material for fashionable jewelry and ornaments.

Fast-forward to the 19th and early 20th centuries when there was another decline and amber workshops closed. Amber's popularity dwindled.

The polishing and working of this resin is one of the oldest crafts practiced in the coastal regions of Poland. And in the ship-building city of Gdansk, artisans once were among the most highly acclaimed in the world. In fact, Janina Grabowska, a leading authority of historic technique, says that it was "due to the interest of the nobility and ruling classes" that amber made its first big impact.

Even with the passing of centuries, this stone didn't completely lose all its glitter. And these days, beautiful, perfectly crafted designs are being snapped up and credit is due mainly to savvy German and French tourists. Amber jewelry for fashion-forward designers and consumers has become a noticeable accessory.

Throughout Poland, jewelry stores featuring famous Baltic amber are omnipresent - some pure "schlock," others exquisite pieces of art.

Once shunned by the locals, its new creative concepts now have variation from polished to rough unfinished-looking stones, often irregularly shaped and in a bewildering range of colors - blue, green, black and ivory-white.

It was most interesting to see that many top Polish jewelry designers use amber stones without altering their natural form.

Trend-setter Marcin Zaremski owns Metal Jewelry Boutique in Warsaw's famous and beautiful Old Square. His boutique is the antithesis of the original few buildings left standing after World War II and the perfect replicas that were erected. Even through the façade is of the period, glass vitrines and the name sake modern brass-colored metal is part of the ultra cool décor of this small shop. Almost single handedly, Zaremski changed the look of amber with his keen sense of design and style.

Zaremski has given new dimension and components with his integration of brushed silver. "Silver" he says, "was

the cheapest of all metals after the war. Therefore, it's rare to see any amber set in gold." Besides, he thinks silver is more complementary to the colorful gems.

The Nowinska family, mother, father, daughter, all contribute to their very up-market clientele, each with a different take on their all hand-made jewelry. It's here that the designs of young, beautiful, blue-eyed, twenty-something Katarzyna (Kate) Nowinski are easy to identify, especially when you witness the variation of colors she uses. In many of her pieces seen in the smart shops in the fashionable 5-star hotels, Bristol and Le Regina, her choice is the purest, transparent yellow. See-through amber is rare, so for added definition, she uses faceted stones as pendants. The day I met her, she was wearing an entire and stunning translucent, large-stoned strand around her neck. Her father's designs are more sculptural, often heart-shaped with a dash of shining stylized silver, worked with traditional amber with inclusions.

Above the café where Frederic Chopin, the Polish-born composer/hero would come for his coffee, is Gallery Marki. Bozena Marki, the owner of the two-storey gallery, has several yearly exhibits of her contemporary jewelry designs. I was at the opening exhibit of her amber statement. Designer Danuta Czapnik showed two large, oval-shaped, clear yellow pieces splashed with milky white through the center and set on a thick, curved, silver, cable neck piece, with large stones at each end. Imagine my delight when I spotted the matching bracelet. Spectacular.

Sylwia Gobszewicz's irregular large amber beads were combined with oxidized silver cubes and contrasted with turquoise. Using black amber, Zbigniew Kabski also combined various tones of rough, unpolished yellow amber attached to black leather strands.

Prices are constantly rising for these artistic amber designs. Knock-offs or fakes are getting so good, that they can even fool the pros.

One of the only ways to know if it's the real thing is... "if it floats, it's the genuine, thing". If it sinks, don't bother diving for it. **LM**

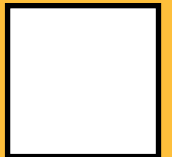


LINDA FRUM
Columnist

“There is no history – only biography.”



AGREE



DISAGREE

Share your opinion at
nationalpost.com

Linda Frum is back. Watch for her new Saturday column. It's a look into the lives and minds of some of the world's most captivating people.

For an unconventional take on the world, your country and your city, turn to one newspaper – National Post.



Subscribe today for only \$9.99*/month

1 800 668-POST (7678) Quote offer #58

*Delivery is Monday to Saturday. National Post 6-day subscription offer is exclusive to Luxe magazine readers. A monthly pre-authorized payment of \$9.99 (plus applicable taxes) will be charged to your credit card. This price is guaranteed for 6 months from the date the subscription begins. Offer applicable only where National Post home delivery is available. Offer is limited to readers who have not had home delivery in the past 45 days. Client may cancel subscription at any time and has no obligation to subscribe once the term is complete. This offer can not be combined with any other offer. Offer valid until February 28, 2007.



LEX IN THE CITY

PROPERTY OWNERS, BEWARE REAL ESTATE FRAUD!

By Michael G. Cochrane

As if Canadians didn't have enough on their plates looking after their families and their jobs and their busy lives, here is something new for property owners to worry about – real estate fraud. Some recent court decisions have raised the alarm among the legal profession and the public about the growing trend of this billion-dollar problem emerging across North America.

How does real estate fraud happen? A number of different ways, but primarily through what are known as “value frauds” and “identity frauds.” A value fraud can occur when a potential purchaser with a criminal motive offers to buy a property for, say, \$350,000 from a legitimate property vendor. After coming to terms, but before closing, the criminal sells the property again to another crook for \$500,000. Of course, the property is not worth \$500,000, but the bank/lender does not know that, so they advance the mortgage proceeds which are, in part, used to pay off vendor number one. After a few months of making mortgage payments, the criminal duo abandons the property. When the bank moves to collect on its mortgage, it realizes that it advanced more money than the property was really worth. Score one for the criminals and zero for the banks.

The second type of fraud is called identity fraud and it occurs when the

criminals simply forge their way onto title to your home. In some cases, they have tapped into the electronic registry system and have simply taken your name off the property and put their name on. They then go to the bank and get a mortgage and, again, disappear with those mortgage proceeds. A few months later, you get a notice from a mortgage company asking about payments that have been missed. They threaten to sell the property and wave around a mortgage that, lo and behold, is actually registered on title to your home.

Identity fraud has even gone so far as to include criminals creating fake law firms and faking or stealing legitimate identification of real people. In one shocking case in Ontario, they faked a Power of Attorney to sell an elderly man's property to innocent buyers who had obtained a legitimate mortgage. Both the innocent buyers and the innocent mortgage company were left out in the cold. Score one for the criminals and zero for the buyers and the banks.

This problem has become so prevalent that alerts have been sent out to lawyers along with checklists to keep us alive to some of the patterns to these frauds. Lawyers are now asking clients to produce photo identification. Real estate lawyers are scrutinizing transactions, such as when a client wants to purchase on an “all cash” basis,

but is subsequently placing a mortgage on the property. Lawyers are also being told to keep their eyes peeled for clients who jump from lawyer to lawyer on real estate transactions and where there is no real estate agent involved. The list of clues to discovering a fraudster is some three pages long, but that has not stopped these rip-off artists from slipping through the system.

What can be done? Unfortunately not much, other than to be aware of situations that can be tempting for criminals. Elderly people seem to be victimized because they are vulnerable and often have a lot of equity in their homes. Lawyers are recommending title insurance, whereby an insurance policy is purchased, often for less than \$500, to indemnify the property owner against any mischief with his or her title.

The Ontario Government has recognized the problem and has proposed new legislation to protect the title to property that has been victimized by fraudsters. Lawyers are well aware of the problem and are doing what they can to ensure their clients are not exploited, but there is no substitute for Canadian property owners' keeping a watchful eye on the very title to their property.

Just one more thing to worry about, it's well worth a little time and effort. **LM**

Michael Cochrane is a Toronto lawyer who is a partner with Ricketts, Harris LLP. He is the author of several books, including *Surviving Your Divorce*, published by Wiley & Sons. He is the host of ROBTV's “Strictly Legal”, which airs Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. Eastern time and 5:30 p.m. Pacific time. Mr. Cochrane can be reached at his e-mail mcocchrane@rickettsharris.com or visit his website at www.michaelcochrane.com. Mr. Cochrane welcomes your questions and comments or suggestions for future columns in Luxe. “Lex in the City” is the copyright of Michael Cochrane.



FITNESS

WHAT ARE YOUR EXCUSES?

By David Patchell-Evans

Your body is designed to move. You need exercise as much as food and sleep. But a modern lifestyle often leads you into sedentary patterns. As a result, you don't get much physical activity. You drive to work, sit in front of a computer, watch TV and use elevators.

Fitting regular physical activity into your life is not something to add to your problems. It's a solution to many of your problems. Exercise makes you look better, feel better, and function better, and it helps prevent many diseases. All you need is 30 minutes three times a week. That's just an hour-and-a-half.

So what is your excuse for not exercising? Let's see if I can identify some of them.

I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY: Guess what? Being active gives you more energy! You're going to be far less tired if you are active than if you spend your time parked in a chair all day.

I'LL HURT MYSELF: If you have been inactive for a long period of time, begin exercising with moderation. Gradually increase the resistance on strength-training pieces or your duration, speed or incline on cardio equipment. Walk more briskly. You get the idea. It is not necessary to jump into activities beyond your capability. Begin where you are. Regular exercise strengthens your muscles and bones, so the more you exercise, the less likely you are to get hurt. People who do not exercise

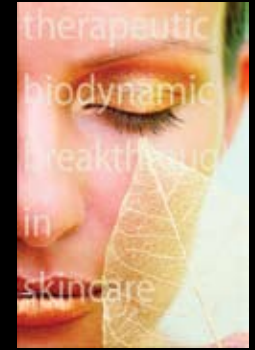
regularly have many more aches and pains than exercisers do.

I HAVE TO BE SO DEDICATED — IT TAKES A LOT OF WILLPOWER: Not true! All you need is 30 minutes three times a week. This can get you to a great level of fitness within six months. It's easy to make those 30-minute periods into a habit that becomes part of your lifestyle. You don't have to force yourself into some kind of demanding routine.

I CAN'T AFFORD EXPENSIVE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT: You don't need any. Many exercises do not require special kinds of equipment. Exercise tubing, for example, is very inexpensive. Some exercises, such as walking or running, don't require any equipment other than a good pair of shoes. And if you happen to be a member of a fitness club, all the “expensive equipment” is there for you. You don't need to own any of it for yourself.

I DON'T LOOK GOOD IN SHORTS: Then don't wear them. You can exercise wearing any length workout pants and other loose-fitting, comfortable clothing. You don't have to look like a fitness model in a magazine photoshoot.

I'LL START TOMORROW: Ah, but tomorrow never comes, does it? There is only today. **LM**



BIOCOLLASIS™

SKIN CELLULAR RENEWAL THERAPY

After 4 weeks of using Biocollasis, the following results were observed*

- 100% saw increased hydration
- 95% saw improvement in wrinkle depth
- 90% saw increased firmness
- 95% saw increased elasticity
- 95% saw increased skin smoothness

* percentage of women who noted visible improvement during 4 week consumer test



Elizabeth Grant Skincare

www.elizabethgrant.com



STOCKS OPACITY AT THE FED?

By Robert Appel, B.A., B.C.L. L.L.B

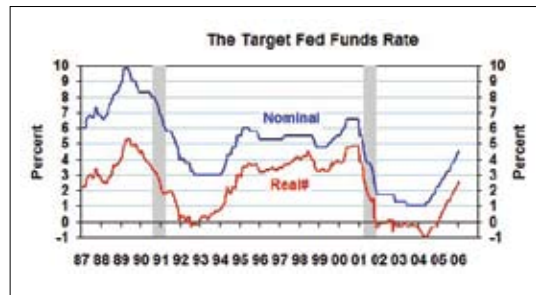
Founded in 1913 as a pseudo-public body (it is actually very private, but let's save that interesting tale for another time), the U.S. Federal Reserve has gradually become the single most powerful force in the economies of the western powers.

As the saying goes, "The U.S. sneezes and the rest of the world catches cold." Not as true as it once was, but still a surprisingly workable metaphor.

Market old-timers (essentially anyone over 50) are continually surprised by this. "Fed-watching" is a modern phenomenon, they will tell you. Back in the day, no one really cared that much what the Fed did.

But all that changed toward the end of the 20th century. The late internationally bestselling author Charles J. Givens *Wealth Without Risk* actually devised an investment system for his readers, the antithesis of traditional portfolio balancing, in which you put all your assets into one single sector of the economy at one time. That's right – you backed up the truck and loaded up on only one single asset class (stocks, bonds or money-market instruments) entirely based on what the Fed was up to at the moment.

In the early 1990s, Givens retained the services of a forensic accountant to retroactively model or "back-test" his approach. The results confirmed what millions of his readers already knew. It worked. Investing based solely on current Fed shenanigans was a completely valid way to make some serious money.



That led to yet another concern, best enunciated by W.C Fields about a century ago: "Never give a sucker an even break... and never smarten a chump."

As our financial gurus progressively gave more of their attention to the Fed than, say, Jessica Alba, a curious thing happened.

Taking a lesson from the Michael Douglas character in Oliver Stone's 1986 classic movie *Wall Street*, the formerly stodgy and boring Federal Reserve suddenly grasped the importance of

prevarication. Saying one thing and doing another. Going for the head fake. Lying.

As recently as August of this year, we witnessed the bizarre spectacle of the Fed seemingly pausing their long and brutal series of hikes – ostensibly to cool down an economy which, aside from housing, never really got that hot – while broadly hinting that they might have to "re-raise" come September.

Many commentators, this one included, were gobsmacked. "C'mon," I wrote somewhat inelegantly in one analysis of August's Fed-speak. "That would be like recent-hire Ben Bernanke wearing a sign on his back saying, 'I'm incompetent. Fire Me.'"

This brings us to the present, where, not surprising in a world where the US "credibility gap" is now outpacing its trade gap, the experts are just about equally divided as to whether the Fed will re-raise rates, or begin to lower them, in '07.

Whatever the resolution proves to be, one thing is certain. The odds that the Fed will tell us precisely what they are going to do before they actually do it are slim, to none. And Slim just left town... **LM**



Why have four wheels if you're not going to use them?

The Subaru Legacy, IIHS Top Safety Pick Gold Award Winner*, comes standard with Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive. All four wheels working together. For more traction and more control.

subaru.ca

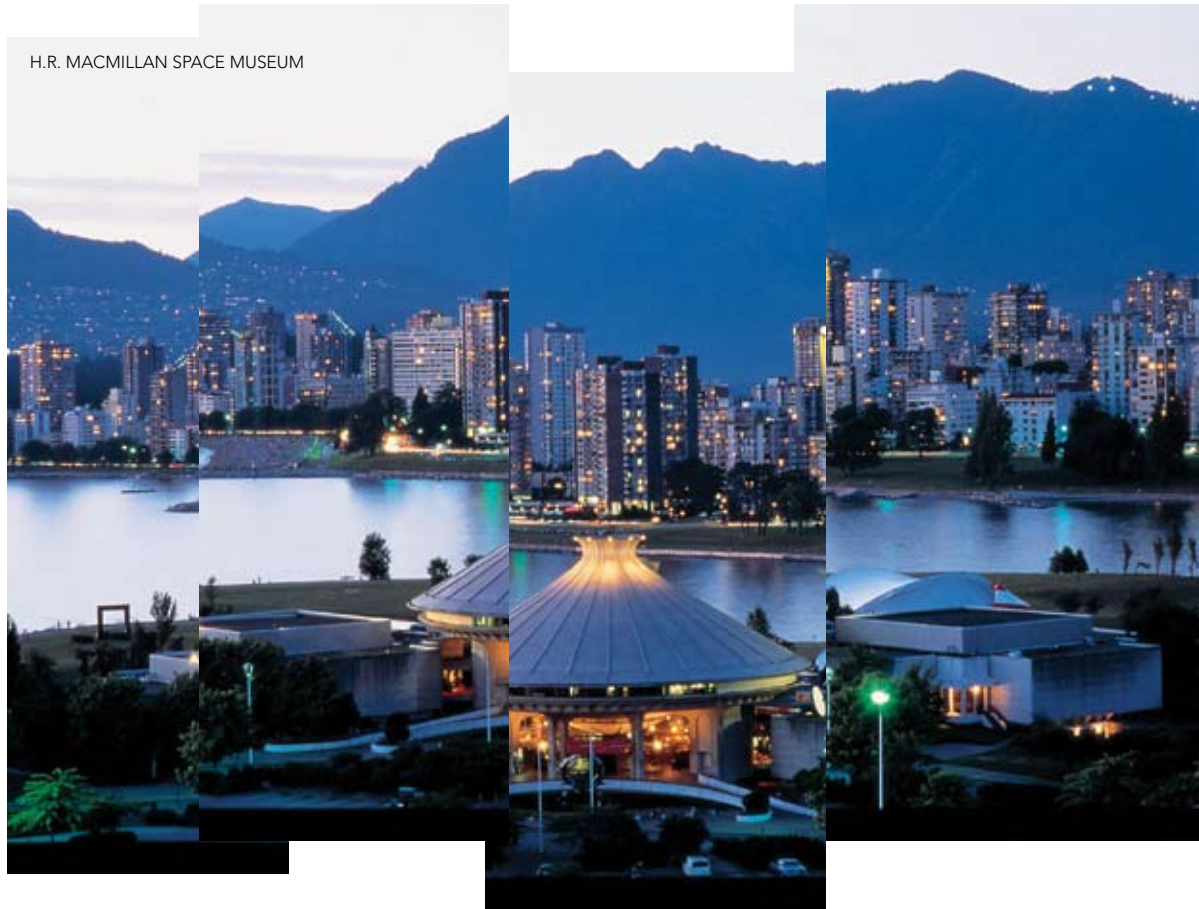
* Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). See iihs.org for more details.

Think. Feel. Drive.



SUBARU

H.R. MACMILLAN SPACE MUSEUM



TOURISM VANCOUVER / AL HARVEY

VIBRANT VANCOUVER

By Penny Shore with Anna Miller

While Vancouver joins the world-class circle of cities selected to host the Olympics, it continues to win prestigious accolades. Condé Nast recently voted Vancouver the “Best City in the Americas” and the Economist ranked it the world’s most liveable city. What is it about Vancouver that makes it so special?

From west-coast cuisine to culture and the arts, from skiing and surfing to a bustling downtown with spectacular skyscrapers, Vancouver has something for everyone. Experience whale-watching only 10 minutes from downtown. Many festivals, focussing on wine, film, comedy, fireworks and more, are scattered throughout the year. For those wishing to explore the urban side of the city, its rich diversity of neighborhoods highlights a

unique history of social inclusion. Sample the fashion boutiques on South Granville Street and more than 100 art galleries across town. Explore the University of British Columbia’s Museum of Anthropology to see the world’s finest display of First Nations art. Don’t forget to save some quiet time to indulge yourself — in one of the city’s famous gardens or many luxurious spas.

Vancouver’s natural surroundings make it one of the most picturesque cities in the world. Comfortable year-round temperatures allow easy access to rainforests, ocean beaches, and majestic mountains, where you can enjoy some of the finest skiing, hiking and golfing. With its blend of spectacular scenery, sophisticated restaurants, galleries, arts venues and cosmopolitan culture, Vancouver is an unbeatable place to visit or live. **LM**

For a calendar of events in Vancouver 2006/2007 go to: www.tourismvancouver.com, www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/visitors.htm or www.vanmag.com.

THE 2010 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES QUICK FACTS:

- The Olympic Winter Games will be held on February 12-28, 2010.
- The Paralympic Winter Games will be held on March 12-21, 2010.
 - A total of 6,700 athletes and officials will attend both Games.
 - More than 80 countries will participate in the Olympic Games.
 - More than 40 countries will participate in the Paralympic Games.
- Five new and four renovated venues are currently under construction for use in the 2010 Olympic Games.
 - The Olympic Arts Festival, starting three weeks before the games, will showcase Canadian art and culture as well as the best of other participating countries.
 - The Games will be held on the traditional territories of the Lil’wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations; these four host First Nations will be active partners in the planning and hosting of the Games.

LUXE PICKS TOP HOTELS: Four Seasons Hotel Vancouver, Metropolitan Hotel Vancouver, Opus Hotel, Pan Pacific Vancouver, The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, The Sutton Place Hotel Vancouver, The Westin Bayshore, Wedgewood Hotel & Spa

LUXE PICKS TOP RESTAURANTS: Bishop’s, Bistro Pastis, Brix, C Restaurant, Feenie’s, Il Giardino, La Terrazza, Lumière, Nu, Provence Marinaside, Raincity Grill, Sequoia Grill at the Teahouse, The Fish House in Stanley Park, Tojo’s, Vij’s, Villa del Lupo, West

BEST SHOPPING AREAS: Burrard Street at Alberni, Robson Street, South Granville Street, West Hastings Street

BEST ART GALLERIES AND ANTIQUING: Granville Island, South Granville Street

BEST GARDENS: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden, Natobi Japanese Garden, Queen Elizabeth Park, UBC Botanical Garden, VanDusen Botanical Garden

BEST HIKING AND BIKING: Grouse Mountain, Stanley Park, The Seawall

BEST DAY TRIPS: Gulf Islands, Okanagan Valley, Vancouver Island, Whistler



SALMON DINNER: TOURISM VANCOUVER / AL HARVEY. INUKSHUK ENGLISH BAY / ANDY MONS. VANCOUVER CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE: TOURISM VANCOUVER / COLIN JEWELL. STANLEY PARK & TOTEM POLES: TOURISM VANCOUVER / AL HARVEY

RETIRE TO GREENS AND GRAPES IN KELOWNA

By Andrew Penner



GALLAGHER'S CANYON



GRAY MONK VINEYARD

If your weaknesses are grapes and greens, Kelowna — that perfect little city pinched between the crystal-clear lakes and sun-soaked hills of British Columbia's famed Okanagan region — is about as good as it gets. Retirement home? Second home? Lakeside cottage? Take your pick. It'll work.

Before you hop on a flight (Kelowna is serviced by Air Canada, Westjet, Horizon, and Central Mountain Air) and drop into this pristine, fruit-filled valley, you'll need to pack a few things, namely 14 of your straightest golf clubs. A handful of the 15-odd courses in the Kelowna area alone is worth the flight.

Of course, if your intentions are to stay a while — like the rest of your life — you might want to bring a few more items. For instance, a few wine glasses for entertaining friends would probably come in handy. With 65 wineries in and around Kelowna, there are bound to be some bottles you'll want to

stash in your new cellar. Even if you're only staying a week or two, a visit to some of the best wineries is in order — Mission Hill, Gray Monk and Quail's Gate. Not only will these fine wineries provide you with a titillating tasting experience, but executive chefs will also pair the wines with some of the finest food in the country (everything grows well in the Okanagan). Add the outdoor patio, the gold and red reflections dancing on the lake far below, and you've got an evening for the ages.

The wine here seems to get better every year. Even some of the smaller wineries, such as Burrowing Owl and Red Rooster, are making some of the best reds in North America. Meanwhile, the golf has matured just as nicely. As with the wines, there are diverse offerings.

Swerving through the orchards just minutes from downtown is the Harvest Golf Club, a slick Graham Cooke design that, in my opinion, epitomizes what resort golf should

be. The course is easily walkable, infinitely playable, and you won't lose a dozen balls, unless perhaps you've done the wine-tasting *before* the round. There are plenty of stellar lake views along the way — like the whole way. Best of all, beautiful orchards frame every hole. Eat one of the pumpkin-sized apples. The course advocates the “eat at will” philosophy, and you'll soon have enough swing power to get you through two rounds.

Whatever happens at the Harvest Club, you'll definitely want to play twice at the Okanagan Club, where 36 holes lie in wait. The Quail course, quite a bit tougher than the newer Bear course, parades through the pines and throws numerous twists and turns your way. The Bear course, designed by the Nicklaus outfit, features more holes along the edge of the canyon and affords dramatic views of the valley.

For the ultimate “canyon” experience, one must visit Gallagher's Canyon, one of the best

layouts in Western Canada. The fantastic routing and inspiring terrain at Gallagher's is tough to beat. Even the shorter 9-hole Pinnacle course here is worthwhile, especially if you're happier devoting more time to the wine than the whine. Another tip: keep a lookout for “for sale” signs while in this fantastic area.

Last, but certainly not least, the final must-play is Predator Ridge. Cruising through the alpine meadows near Vernon, Predator's three nines are all strong. Host to the 2000 Export ‘A’ Canadian Skins Game, the course and surrounding residential development certainly had an impact on the contestants. One of them, Sergio Garcia, was so inspired he bought a house on the property. Two, actually. Of course, like Sergio, you might have a few things left to accomplish (like winning a major?) before hunkering down in the Okanagan for the long haul. My advice: get them done quickly.

LM



MISSION HILL FAMILY ESTATE



KELOWNA GOLF CLUB



DEATH OF A LEGEND

by G. Douglas Hall

The record he set in 1945 by winning 11 consecutive tournaments has never been matched. The golf world lost a legendary gentleman when Byron Nelson died September 26th at the age of 94. I had the distinct honor of meeting Mr. Nelson in Texas while researching a story at the Byron Nelson Golf School in Las Colinas. He gave me a copy of *Byron Nelson: The Little Black*

Book, a golf bible to many. Not only was he renowned for his long, fluid swing, still considered the model of how to strike a golf ball, but he was also one of the best-liked sportsmen because of his kind and caring ways with fans and competitors. He was elected to the PGA Hall of Fame in 1953 and to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1974. His wife, Peggy, survives him.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOURISM KELOWNA

Academy Award® and Emmy® Award-winning actor Lou Gossett, Jr. was honored by Best Buddies Canada at the elegant 12th Annual Best Buddies Gala on Wednesday, September 13, 2006. The prolific film and television star accepted the *Best Buddies Legend Award* at a star-studded event at the historic Carlu venue. Past recipients include former Heavyweight Champion Muhammad Ali, screen legend Lauren Bacall, distinguished director Robert Evans and prominent broadcaster Maria Shriver, among others.

Co-chaired by Barry Avrich, Daniel Greenglass, Penny Shore and Jeffry Roick, the spectacular evening celebrated the thousands of Canadians with intellectual disabilities who benefit from Best Buddies friendship initiatives. The event helped raise funds to expand the reach of its critical programs that currently operate in 135 high schools, colleges and universities across the country. Founder and President of GoodLife Fitness Clubs, David Patchell-Evans received the Employer of the Year Award. The evening, which was hosted by Global Television News' Leslie Roberts, also featured special performances from Juno Award-winner Jimmy Rankin and celebrated recording artist Cindy Gomez. This event raised over \$600,000 to support Best Buddies Canada.

Best Buddies Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing our communities through one-to-one friendships between individuals with intellectual disabilities and students.

In 1995, Daniel Greenglass and Penny Shore co-founded, and now co-chair, this national charity. Best Buddies matches individuals with intellectual disabilities with volunteers who are university, college or high school students. Since its inception, this organization has helped over 20,000 participants nationwide and has quickly expanded across the country with chapters in every province. This year there will be 135 chapters nationwide (70 chapters at university campuses and 65 at high schools). Best Buddies Canada has raised over \$ 4 million since its inception and in the next three years is on track to expand to 250 chapters. **LM**

1.888.779.0061 www.bestbuddies.ca

12TH ANNUAL BEST BUDDIES GALA BEST BUDDIES CANADA HONORS LOU GOSSETT, JR.

By Anna Nelson and Nichola Petts



PHOTO BY ANNIE LEBOWITZ



1. Leslie Roberts, Co-Anchor, Global News; Jeff Roick, Gala Co-Chair, Managing Partner, The Carlu; Penny Shore, Gala Co-Chair, President and CEO, Shore Publishing; Lou Gossett, Jr.; Danny Greenglass, Gala Co-Chair, Partner and CFO J.F. Brennan Design/Build Inc.; Barry Avrich, Gala Co-Chair, President, Endeavor Marketing
2. Tom A. Vachliotis, Publisher, Luxe Magazine; Lou Gossett, Jr.; Penny Shore; David Patchell-Evans, President and CEO, GoodLife Fitness
3. Paddy Ann Burns; Marlene Del Zotto
4. Lori McBurney, Gene McBurney, Tom Higgins, Deb Robinson, Richard Potts
5. Jonas Prince, Max Avrich; Barry Avrich, Lynda Prince
6. Lou Gossett, Jr. with Best Buddy Annie Liles
7. Lionel and Sandra Waldman
8. Irene and Gregory Aziz
9. Max and Heather Gotlieb
10. Elise and Harvey Kalles
11. Jeff Mason; Susan Towell; the Hon. Lincoln Alexander; John Elwood
12. Heather Hurst; Sinclair Russell
13. Sloan Mauran; Jimmy Molloy, Cawthra Burns-Bruun
14. Dusty and Joan Cohl
15. Vanessa and Ron Kimel
16. Singer Jimmy Rankin
17. Singer Cindy Gomez
18. The Birks-sponsored cocktail reception at The Carlu
19. Dinner table design at the Best Buddies Gala

THE VERY SPECIAL OLYMPICS WINNING AT LIFE

By Jim Jordan

Special Olympics Canada was born in 1969, the result of a confluence of three powerful forces: the innovative research of Dr. Frank Hayden, a research scientist then at the University of Toronto, the promotional genius of Harry “Red” Foster, founder of Foster Advertising, and the moral urgency both men felt to create a world of promise and opportunity for children and adults with an intellectual disability. That world was rooted in sport and community-based athletic

numerous administrative volunteers, as well as by the ardor and devotion of tens of thousands of parents and family members.

The Special Olympics Canada organization is in large measure a manifestation of the broader human rights movement in our country. It was created to address the societal neglect and disregard of this special population, by using sport as a vehicle and a stage to liberate and demonstrate the



clubs throughout Canada. Their idea was that skills could be mastered through regular training and expert coaching to enrich the lives of people with an intellectual disability. That in turn would lead to an elaborate competitive structure, through provincial and national championships, ranging from inter-club competitions to games on a world scale.

Today, more than 30,000 Canadians have found a level playing field through Special Olympics, made possible by the dedication of 10,000 certified volunteer coaches and

dignity and capability of people with intellectual disabilities.

The phenomenal growth of the movement around the world confirms that sport is a particularly apt agent for the development of people with special needs. By providing an entry point into a new community of interest and endeavor, sport immediately addresses one of the primary effects of intellectual disability — isolation.

Moreover, Special Olympics sport provides its population with important relationships outside their peer group,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA

SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES COMPETE IN 14 OFFICIAL WINTER AND SUMMER SPORTS IN CANADA. THERE ARE OVER 31,000 ATHLETES REGISTERED IN THE 10 PROVINCIAL AND 2 TERRITORIAL CHAPTERS.

the most important of which is the coach-athlete relationship. This connection between a disabled and a regularly-abled person provides a gateway into a wider world for all. In the Special Olympics community, in a way not possible in the classroom, nor in the world of generic sport, the athlete is fairly measured, understood and appreciated, first by his or her coach, and then by the broader community.

It is hardly surprising then that several recent studies indicate a correlation between the Special Olympics experience and improved self-image and social development in its athletes.

Not only does the movement provide an invaluable service, but it also speaks well of the Canadian people. It is the grassroots product of the generosity of citizens who recognize the obligation we all have to sustain those among us who negotiate life with fewer resources, compromised health or a deprived upbringing. Special Olympics enhances the lives of the athletes and their families. It also enriches our society by calling forth the best in people. **LM**

www.specialolympics.ca



JERUSALEM COUNTRYSIDE

JERUSALEM AN ISRAELI JEWEL IN THE TURBULENT MIDDLE EAST

By Rob Terpstra

Descending upon Jerusalem and its holiest sites, one sees the three religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam converge, resulting in a unique setting and forming a blessed jewel in the turbulent Middle East.

The city's holiest Islamic shrines, the Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques, stand alongside the courtyard of the Temple Mount where people pose for pictures, play soccer and simply relax in the afternoon shadows. Barely five minute away stands the Kotel or Western Wall of the city, the only remnant of the great temple of biblical times. Here at the Wailing Wall, segregated by gender, Jews from all over the world pray, sacred texts in hands, speaking softly in the language with which they communicate with their Creator.

On closer inspection, between the rabbis blessing foreigners, Orthodox

Jews meditating, and little children handing out prayer books, one sees the tens of thousands of prayer messages scribbled on tiny pieces of paper wedged in the many crevices of the holy site. The view, first witnessed, can send chills down the spine of believer and atheist alike. The sheer scale and importance are almost unfathomable.

A short walk up the many, dirty steps of the tight living quarters of the city, thousands of shop owners tempt tourists to buy bracelets, silverware, religious keepsakes, spices, candy and every imaginable gift. There lies the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus is believed to have been crucified. The immaculate church, Christianity's holiest, is built on the rocks of Golgotha and lined with the splendor and beauty of crucifixes and mosaics. Along the Via Dolorosa, the heavily hilled path over

which Jesus carried the cross, lies the rest of Jerusalem, Israel's largest city, built upon breathtaking mountains.

The population of 725,000 lives among a development project, with cranes and construction visible in every direction. Complete with impeccably clean landscapes and streets, three squares along Jaffa Street, the main thoroughfare, constitute a popular hangout for residents and a destination for tourists. Scheduled to be completed in the next few years, Jaffa Street will be redesigned into a state-of-the-art rail system, with trains stopping at each of the three squares and heading underground near the perimeter of city hall and the outskirts of the old city's wall. A major contributor to the development of the project is the Canadian philanthropic Jerusalem Foundation. The foundation's flowered wall emblem can be seen emblazoned on park signs and buildings throughout the city.

The night-life resembles that of any westernized city, with many of the homeless, a large percentage of whom are minors, spending their time among the Jaffa Street crowd.



GOLDEN DOME ROCK

PHOTOS BY ROB TERPSTRA, COURTESY OF THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION



WAILING WALL

A drop-in center, sponsored by the Jerusalem Foundation, has been successful in creating an outlet for disadvantaged youth and finding them places to eat and sleep. Ian Leventhal, a Canadian artist and Foundation board member, has inspired Israeli youth, with his own mural, to paint the remainder of the center.

The face of Jerusalem is mostly a young one, reminiscent of a boundless, energy-filled and excited resident who works hard, plays at night and subscribes to parents' religious ideologies. While the current and past crises of the Middle East seem to have little evident effect on most of the population, this city and

country may always be considered a holy shrine clouded by problems.

The notion that three religious factions could possible embrace an enticing melting pot attempted by much of the rest of the planet presents a glimmer of hope that a sociological trial of this magnitude can indeed work and provide others with formulae for success.

Because so-called clashes of

civilization and uprisings unfortunately do occur, it is not surprising that, with the degree of inspection and magnification currently concentrated on Jerusalem, this jewel of a Middle Eastern city will never go unnoticed. It is with perhaps with a combination of hope, prayer and diplomacy that Jerusalem remembers its past, mitigates its present and strives for a better future. **LM**



HOLY SEPULCHRE ROOF

Your Invitation to
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION'S

sneak preview of
SOMEONE TO RUN WITH

Israel Wine Reception and Hors d'oeuvre 7:00 p.m. (Kashrut Observed)
Film 8:00 p.m.
Monday, November 20th, 2006
at The Sheppard Grande, 4861 Yonge Street

Opening Film
JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL 2006
12 Nominations
ISRAELI ACADEMY AWARDS 2006
Including Best Picture, Best Director,
and Best Leading Actress

★★★★ "A magical cinematic voyage"
Yair Ravah, Cinemascope

★★★★ "A charming and captivating piece"
Ynet

★★★★ "Stirring and thrilling"
Yair Hóchner, Seret

★★★★ "This film is a success"
Uri Klein, Haaretz

Based on the Best selling novel by David Grossman, "Someone to Run With" captures the original's unrelenting pace, suspense and heartfelt drama as it sends viewers on a riveting ride through the streets of Jerusalem at the end of a Labrador's leash.

The Jerusalem Foundation of Canada
Board of Directors
Naomi Azrieli
Patrick Benaroch
Raquel Benzaac-Savatti
David Berger
Julia Koschitzky
Boris G. Levine
Lewis Mitz
Maureen Appel Molot
Jean Ouellette

Honourary Board Members
Charles Coffey, O.C.,
Senator Yoine Goldstein,
Gina Godfrey
Moshe Safdie

President Jerusalem Foundation Canada
David J. Azrieli,
C.M., C.Q., M.Arch.

Immediate Past President
Mandel G. Batschaw

Toronto Friends of the Jerusalem Foundation
Michael Buckstein
Sara Horowitz
Debbie Kanel
Anita Recht
Sharon Recht
Jonathan Richter
Rochelle Rubenstein
Stuart Schoenfeld

Event Co-Chairs
Debra Alexander
Simmie Antlick
Janice O'Bright
Nonie Plener

Canada Desk, Jerusalem Foundation
Steve Solomon

National Executive Director
Monica Berger

Executive Director, Toronto
Ian Leventhal

JERUSALEM FOUNDATION PRESENTS
a sneak preview of
SOMEONE TO RUN WITH
A film by ODED DAVIDOFF
Based on the best selling novel by David Grossman

OPENING FILM AT THE JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL 2006
NOMINATED FOR 12 ISRAELI ACADEMY AWARDS

5165 Queen Mary Road, Suite 204, Montreal, Quebec H3M 1K7 • toll free 1-877-464-1289 • f: 514-484-1289 f: 514-484-3847
mberger@jerusalemfoundation.ca www.jerusalemfoundation.org

267 Champagne Drive, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2C6 • f: 416-635-5491 • f: 416-484-9129
jerusalemfoundation@toronto.ropet.com www.jerusalemfoundation.org

Gina and Paul Godfrey
Roberta Beiser and Allan Black
Barrday

Torkin Manes Cohen Arbus LLP
Arnie and Sharon Recht
Canada Israel Cultural Foundation
Canvar

Lorac Wines
Lewis Mitz and Wendy Posluns & family

Canada Israel Committee
Incredible Printing
Al Gilbert Studios

LUXE
MAGAZINE

THE UNITED NATIONS WAS BORN IN 1948

HOW DOES IT SCORE ON UNIVERSAL GOALS?

By Aaron Dalton

In more optimistic times, people dreamed that World War I would be the “war to end all wars.” In the aftermath of that terrible conflagration, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson spearheaded a drive to create a community of nations that would strive for disarmament and peaceful conflict resolution. That organization, the League of Nations, came into being in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles.

Tragically, the League was unable to stop the march of history toward another cataclysmic conflict, World War II. Determined to create a more robust international organization with a mandate to act as a force for world peace and development, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco in 1945 to write a charter for a new institution. The United Nations officially came into existence later that year and set about working as a force for good in the following arenas:

HUMAN RIGHTS

On December 10th, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Eleanor



THE UNITED NATIONS QUARTERS, CIRCA 1951

Roosevelt, wife of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, had addressed the assembled delegates the day before, telling them, “This Declaration is based upon the spiritual fact that man must have freedom in which to develop his full stature and through common effort to raise the level of human dignity.” Developed in large measure by a Canadian law professor named John Peters Humphrey, the Universal Declaration contains 30 articles that include the rights to freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, free-

dom of movement and marital equality between the sexes. Across the world, the struggle continues for the realization of these rights.

CHILDREN

Nations may squabble over some U.N. programs, but one can admire some of the work the world body has achieved on matters of health, particularly through UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund. Through widespread vaccination campaigns, UNICEF has nearly eradicated polio and made great strides in the fight against pertussis or whooping cough, childhood tuberculosis, tetanus, measles and diphtheria. Millions of children are alive today because of UNICEF’s vaccinations and more have survived thanks to simple interventions such as the distribution of Vitamin A pills. Today, UNICEF continues to work toward protecting children from HIV/AIDS and enrolling them in school with a view to a better future.

CULTURE

Through its educational, scientific and cultural branch, UNESCO, the



MRS. ROOSEVELT HOLDS A DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS POSTER, 1949



MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION FROM CANADA



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

VIEWS OF EAST TIMOR DURING THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE, AUGUST 1999

United Nations promotes literacy and education. By designating places of exceptional natural richness as Biosphere Reserves and sites of historic human importance as World Heritage Sites, UNESCO helps us realize what we need to preserve in a fast-changing world.

PEACE

The United Nations continues to serve as a force for peace, both by promoting dialogue as an alternative to conflict and by sending its own peacekeeping troops from member nations to monitor ceasefires, assist with disarmament, protect civilians, train police and help with de-mining and reconstruction in countries as diverse as Haiti, Lebanon, Bosnia, Sierra Leone and East Timor. Contrary to the best intentions and actions of many good people, war may always be with us, but a 2005 report from the University of British Columbia’s Human Security Centre suggests that more robust U.N. peacekeeping activities may have helped achieve a 40 percent drop in armed conflict over the course of the decade 1992 to 2002.

More needs to be done. While the United Nations is by no means a perfect institution, it is one of the few major international institutions working not for profit or politics, but for the furtherance of the universal goals of human rights, children’s health, cultural and environmental preservation, and peace. **LM**

From correspondents in the United Nations

BAN KI-MOON TAKES OVER FROM KOFI ANNAN.

THE UN General Assembly has formally elected South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon as the world body’s eighth secretary general, to succeed Kofi Annan overnight. The 192-member assembly adopted a resolution appointing the 62-year-old South Korean career diplomat to the high-profile diplomatic job. Ban will take up his post in early January, once Annan steps down at the end of December, after 10 years in office.

The late Dr. Israel (Izzy) Asper had a dream. As a true down-to-the-bone Canadian and Winnipegger, it was to create the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMRH), a national and international destination that would act as a center of learning and history — a center of excellence that would reflect the “reach for the stars” theme.

According to Charlie Coffey, O.C., Executive Vice-President of RBC Financial Group, chairman of the Advisory Council of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, “This museum, through the telling of our human rights history and stories, will honor Canada’s human rights heroes and help us to better understand our human rights journey. Most importantly, however, it will enable tens of thousands of high-school students, through a special endowment program, to participate in a life-changing experience and become human rights leaders and advocates in their own communities.”

The aim is to create a center of learning and history where Canadians and people from other countries can experience Canada’s human rights journey, a place where people can engage in a dialogue and give a voice to those who wish to take action to combat the forces of hate, repression and intolerance. Dr. Asper believed Canada should be home to the first and the largest human rights museum of its kind in the world.

As it turns out, thousands of people agree with him. Since he proposed the vision in 2003 as a public/private partnership, private donors, as well as ethno-cultural, community, and human rights groups and three levels of government, have come together to support this Museum and help it become a reality for Canada and the world.

Since Izzy’s untimely death in 2003, people from across

Canada have rallied to help realize this dream. His daughter Gail has stepped into the role of Campaign Chair for the \$311-million project.

Gail, mother, wife and corporate lawyer, has deftly taken the reins and her enthusiasm for this project has become more than a fulltime job. Those who know Gail will tell you that her passion is contagious. With her father as her mentor and a superlative role model, Gail’s sense of obligation, responsibility and tireless personal commitment to complete the CMHR is staggering. In addition, Gail has generously contributed and lent her name to numerous charitable causes and has won countless awards for her efforts.

“I met Gail when I hired her for her first legal position with my firm when I practiced in Halifax,” recalled Toronto lawyer David Ehrlich, now at Toronto’s Stikeman Elliott. “She was a good lawyer and, even then, an outstanding person.”

Gail immediately lets it be known that, contrary to what some people believe, this is not a Holocaust museum but an homage to the people who have made Canada a great, peace-loving country — people such as Nellie McClung, the suffragist, author and legislator who improved working conditions for women; Sir Wilfred Laurier, who was vehemently against religious prejudice in the 19th century; and Westerner and Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, who defended the rights of minorities and initiated the first federal Bill of Rights in 1960. Latter-day heroes include Roméo Dallaire, who exemplified the best in the Canadian peacekeeping tradition by serving as UN commander in Rwanda and ensure that some sense of humanity outlasted the human carnage of the 1994 genocide.

“We Canadians
have a tendency
to aim for the middle,
not the top,
not for the stars.
Here, we are reaching
for the stars.”

– Israel Asper

By Barbara Kingstone and Beth McBlain

REACH FOR THE STARS

CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



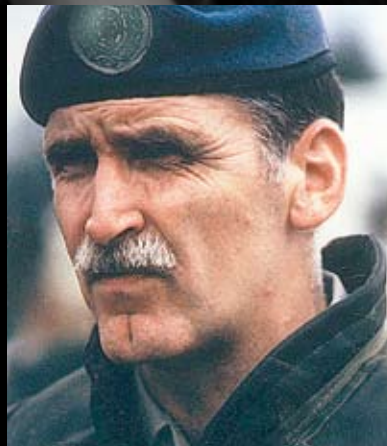


MUSEUM ART:
(clockwise from top)

Gail Asper

LGen the Hon. Roméo A. Dallaire,
O.C., C.M.M., G.O.Q., M.S.C., C.D.,
(Ret'd), Senator

Nellie McClung



Pierre Trudeau modernized divorce and reformed the criminal code in 1967 by removing prohibitions against homosexuality and abortion, passed the Official Languages Act in 1969, and is the father of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that came into being when Queen Elizabeth II gave royal assent to the Constitution Act, 1982. In 1996, 12-year-old Craig Kielburger created Free the Children, an international network to abolish child slave labor. Kielburger is currently a member of the National Advisory Council for the Museum.

Looking for more Canadian examples as leaders in Humans Rights? The list is impressive and long. How about Aboriginal woman Sandra Lovelace, who appealed to the United Nations of Human Rights Commission in 1977 about the injustice of Canada's Indian Act? To her credit, in 1985 Parliament passed a bill ending a century of legislated discrimination against Aboriginal women.

And the list goes on. As proud Canadians, we must recognize and be proud of the outstanding citizens who fought for and continue to fight for our rights. "Where can we go to learn about Canadian human rights, heroes and our peace-keeping efforts around the world?" commented the energetic, effervescent Gail Asper. "No place that I know, so we decided to create one." Canadians are able to take many human rights for granted, thanks to those who have come before us and who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. The journey to learn about Canada's values, heroes and human rights failures and successes is an important journey and one which is long overdue – but will soon begin.

CMHR will be built at the historic Forks in Winnipeg, where two great rivers converge. The Forks is a crossroads of Canada and the place that served as a ceremonial meeting place for Aboriginal people for hundreds of years. In true Canadian fashion, there was a hue and cry that a national Museum of this magnitude should be in the nation's capital, Ottawa, or major cities such as Toronto or Montreal. Izzy's contention was that the badges of federalism should be spread across the nation. Winnipeg is also the geographical center of Canada – an important consideration when funding the national student travel program for the Museum.

"We're trying to build an awareness of and excitement for the educational component of this project," said executive director Moe Levy. He added, "Youth involvement is a key initiative of this Museum. The Museum's elaborate interactive technology will ensure young people will be fully engaged in learning about our social history. Using dioramas, collections, audio-visual testimony, photographs and dramatic re-enactments, the Museum will feature never-before-told Canadian stories and document the experiences of groups as diverse as Aboriginal peoples, women, French Canadians, Jews, Ukrainians, African-Americans and Canadians, Acadians, the disabled, labor, Chinese, Japanese, Doukhobors, Sikhs and many more. The goal is to have a place where, for the first time, Canada's human rights stories

In 2003, an international design

competition was launched.

With 60 firms from more than

21 countries on

5 continents



GARDEN OF CONTEMPLATION



MUSEUM ART:

1. Craig Kielburger
2. The Honourable James Richardson, Joe Guay and Izzy Asper greet Prime Minister Trudeau as he arrives in Winnipeg
3. Izzy Asper, public relations chairman of the University of Manitoba Students' Union

"The new Museum will be an architecturally stunning monument to the importance of the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. It will be a vital and constant reminder of the places we have been and the places we should never go again," said Rob MacLellan, Executive Vice-President and Chief Investment Officer, TD Financial Group.

will be documented so Canadians can learn, benefit and improve in the area of human rights. It will be the largest human rights center in the world with a special focus on equipping and educating young people to become human rights leaders and advocates. After all, by gaining a greater knowledge of past human rights failures and triumphs, a new generation of young Canadian human rights leaders will, in time, play a significant role in further developing Canada's society, charting a brighter future and setting an even better record of respecting and honoring all peoples' rights.

In 2003, the Museum launched an international design competition. With 60 firms from more than 21 countries and five continents responding, the winner was announced on April 15th, 2005 to correspond with the 20th anniversary of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Architect Antoine Predock won the international design competition and was chosen by an international Architectural Review Committee comprised of architects, distinguished Canadian public servants and representatives of Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Inc. Predock's design was seen by the committee as one that "could fulfill the objectives for an inspirational building that achieves a complexity relating to the diversity of human experience." Predock presented his idea as "an architecture of dualities: light and shadow, ephemera and stone, gravity and weightlessness,

reflection and opacity, earth and sky. He goes on to say, "It's a symbolic apparition of ice, clouds, earth and stone set in a field of sweet grass."

Since winning the competition, Predock has been awarded the prestigious American Institute of Architects' 2006 Gold Medal – putting him in the company of Frank Lloyd Wright and I.M. Pei.

The Museum's masterplan will be executed by world-renowned exhibit designer Ralph Appelbaum. The cost is slated to be \$311 million and will have significant economic impact on Manitoba for years to come.

In November 2005, soon after taking the job, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, announced that her first patronage will be with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. "When Her Excellency spoke to the nation on the occasion of her installment, it became strikingly evident that her vision, values

and aspirations so closely mirrored those of the Museum," said Gail Asper, Campaign Chair of the CMHR. Our Governor General said "that *hope* had been a beacon for her since her childhood and that hope was *embodied* in this country with its unlimited possibilities...this country that we sometimes take for granted." This statement struck a chord with all of us associated with the Museum because the underlying principle of the CMHR is hope."

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is envisioned to be built and operated with provincial, civic and private support. Kim Jasper, director of communications, stated, "Our targeted opening date for the Museum is 2010. We have raised over \$200 million of an approximate \$311 million capital project goal. The Government of Canada has confirmed a capital commitment of \$100 million, the Province of Manitoba has contributed 10% of project costs, and the City of Winnipeg has committed \$20 million. In addition, the private sector has contributed approximately \$65 million to date. We have less than \$100 million left to go," she adds with a twinkle in her eyes and a smile in her voice.

Many corporations have stepped up to help meet the financial requirements to make the museum a reality. Mrs. Babs Asper, spouse of the late Dr. Asper, speaking on behalf of The Asper Foundation at a press conference to announce the TD Bank's donation, said, "The CMHR is a very unique community, corporate and government initiative. We are so pleased to have the likes of TD Bank Financial Group as an integral partner in bringing this museum to all Canadians."

"The new Museum will be an architecturally stunning monument to the importance of the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. It will be a vital and constant reminder of the places we have been and the places we should never go again," said Rob MacLellan, Executive Vice-President and Chief Investment Officer, TD Financial Group. "We're proud to support a museum that aims to advance our society by nurturing and encouraging the discussion of human rights issues." A donation of \$750,000 towards the capital campaign was committed from the TD Bank Financial Group in July 2005.

Gail hopes that the Museum, once built, will feature the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, a document now stored in an office in Ottawa. Her commitment is to give these very important papers a home in Winnipeg for all Canadians to see.

While the vision may have begun with Dr. Asper, it has quickly ignited the passion of people across Canada. The Aspers are leaving their mark as proud Canadians with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. For more information visit the Museum website at www.canadianmuseumforhumanrights.com.

As Canadians, we must dare to dream and reach for the stars. This Canadian Human Rights Museum can and will change the world — one citizen, one community, one nation at a time. **LM**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FRYERS

EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR MAKEOVER

By Peggy Weddell

Building a million-dollar home can intimidate most people. Carrie Sheftel Fryer and spouse Dominic, however, breezed through their year-long construction and even managed the birth of their son two weeks before moving in. Carrie, 29, is a veteran builder, having built her first house at the age of 20 in a burgeoning west-side Calgary suburb. It was a funky, contemporary place that she says became a kind of a frat house for her university pals and three roommates. She sold it to her sister and partnered with one of her original roommates, Dominic Fryer, to build a second house in the same district.

When their partnership expanded to include two puppies, they cast their eyes towards Calgary's inner city where the lots are generally bigger and commuting time is negligible. Predicting correctly that inner city prices were about to skyrocket, in 2000 they purchased a newly renovated, '50s-era bungalow in Elboya and began planning both a wedding and extensive rebuild.

They liked the quiet street in an older neighborhood characterized by non-descript bungalows, the surrounding parks, and especially the spacious lot with a southwest exposure. Soon after moving in, they met their neighbor,



For every reason and season

Decorator's Gallery
HOME OF FINE TRADITIONAL FURNITURE

8400 Woodbine Ave.

Markham, ON L3R 2N8

Tel: (905) 940-8400

Fax: (905) 940-1291

www.decorators-gallery.com



The streamlined structure brings to mind the cubic, Art Deco style that revolutionized architecture in the early '30s.

Thom Davis, a young architect, of Davis Designs Inc., whose bold modernistic designs were exactly what they had envisioned. They contracted Davis and within 36 months watched their old bungalow being hauled away while they rented the house next door to oversee the construction of their new home.

The difference between the old and new house is striking, the design preceding the mid '50s-era of the neighborhood. The streamlined structure brings to mind the cubic, Art Deco style that revolutionized architecture in the early '30s. An equal amount of glass balances the structure's austere geometric walls and flat rooflines. It seems suspended on an off-center rectangular central column which encloses the chimney.

Stepping inside, one feels the luminescence and space instantly. The ground floor living spaces flow together and radiate in natural and reflected light. Every surface and fixture was carefully selected to complement and enhance the light.

The Fryers relied on Calgary-based interior designer Laurie Barr, of Swish Interiors Inc. Natural light bathes the upper level master spa bathroom, which features a wall-to-wall window recessed from the main roofline for privacy. Glossy white mosaic tile, white fixtures and a large soaking tub combined with a complete entertainment system all work to create a soothing retreat.

Barr partners regularly with Davis, working closely with his clients to put together an interior palette, advising on colors and materials. "Thom always has a strong and bold vision and influence. I try and help realize his vision and please our clients as well," explained Barr. She learned that Carrie and Dominic like to entertain at home and chose interior finishes to reflect their lifestyle and retain the elements of Thom's design. "They also desired continuity within the



DRAGON HEIR

TORONTO'S FINEST SOURCE FOR
ORIENTAL FURNITURE, ANTIQUES,
HOUSEWARES, ACCESSORIES,
ART, AND COLLECTABLES.

WITH A FAMILY CURATING AND MANUFACTURE
TRADITION OF OVER 30 YEARS IN BEIJING, IT IS OUR
MISSION TO BRING THE FINEST SELECTION AND
QUALITY IN ANTIQUES AND FURNISHINGS
TO THE CANADIAN MARKET.

PLEASE VISIT OUR SHOWROOM TO EXPERIENCE
THE DRAGON HEIR DIFFERENCE.



SHOWROOM

388 CARLAW AVE. GROUND FLOOR,
TORONTO, ON. M4M 2T4
TEL 416.461.9088



WWW.DRAGONHEIR.COM

home, with each room flowing into the other and also to the upper floor master bedroom and spa bathroom,” said Barr. They also chose neutral colors in shades of gray and pristine white; textures capture and reflect the natural sunlight that floods into the home most days, especially through Calgary’s sunny but cold winter season.

“Beautiful light reflects in the kitchen and I was really excited about using a high-gloss white lacquer finish on the cupboards and was pleased with the result. The finish is very particular. Technically, it is difficult to accomplish,” said Barr.

Barr worked with few materials. With the exception of charcoal-toned carpet in the bedrooms and on the stairs, Italian-textured porcelain tile is used throughout. It is ideal for radiant floors because it retains heat and is low-maintenance. All the kitchen and bathroom countertops are custom-made, gray-toned, “Caesar Stone” quartz, polished to a satin sheen. Barr says it is a very desirable surface for countertops because it’s durable, low-maintenance and non-staining. Stainless steel appliances and chrome faucets were a natural choice. The six-burner Viking gas range is perfect for entertaining.

Having guests to their new home will be a breeze for this young Calgary couple. **LM**



“Caesar Stone” quartz is a very desirable surface for countertops because it’s durable, low-maintenance and non-staining.



Peggy Weddell is a Calgary-based writer who also likes to entertain. In addition to lifestyle articles, she is a well-known travel and outdoor adventure writer. Her articles on destinations around the world have appeared in many national magazines and newspapers. In December, Weddell takes our readers to one of her favorite ski destinations, Sun Valley, Idaho which she says is the crème de la crème of North American ski resorts.

EBEL BRASILIA
Bold. Beautiful. Brilliant.
Available at La Swiss
888 Swiss Made



EBEL

THE ARCHITECTS OF TIME

For more information visit www.ebel.com or call 800 499 6292



GOING, GOING, GONE HOW I CAUGHT WINE AUCTION FEVER

By Margaret Swaine

I knew I was hooked when I found myself sitting in the brightly lit room of a private club, glued to my chair. There wasn't much to see — just the backs of about 100 heads, one man on a podium and, around the room's periphery, women on phones or in front of computers. I'd arrived early evening, it was nearly 10:00 pm, my bladder was screaming, but I couldn't move. I'd caught wine auction fever.

My affliction began at a charity auction for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. It could have started, however, at any of a multitude of charity or commercial auctions that take place annually throughout North America and Europe. Wines at auction are sold in numbered lots. That particular night I'd already bagged Lot #136 of eleven Burgundies, including a 1995 Clos de Vougeot and two Gevry-Chambertin from Jadot for \$550, well below the appraisal price of \$1,182. I'd also snapped up Lot #142 of six Leflaive Chassagne-Montrachet for half their value. Lots in an auction can move at the pace of 80 to 100 per hour. That's why I couldn't leave. My persistence paid off as the hammer came down in my favor a few more times. My original intention was to capture a magazine story. In the process I was lured into the hunt.

Charity auctions represent an important and ready way to raise dough for such cash-trapped sectors as the arts, or medical services. The most famous charity wine auction, and likely the one that started it all, is that of the Hospices de Beaune in France. The Hospices charity was set up in the 15th century to assist the poor and the sick of the area. Since 1859, every third Sunday in November they have auctioned off barrels of the latest vintage from dozens of hectares of Grands Crus and Premier Cru Burgundy vineyards. Last year when Christie's auction house took over the running of the celebrated auction, they modernized and now offer sales of bottles as well as barrels.

Wine auctions historically began as a way to sell young wine in barrel. In Ancient Rome and in the Middle Ages, wine was shipped by barrel to a trading post where it would be auctioned. Centuries later, when bottled wine became



the norm, wine gained status as a commodity that could be labeled, aged and collected. Hence a market for older wines grew based on vintage, producer and reputation. In this century, wine-collecting has become so popular that by the late 1960s the world's two leading auction houses had established specialized wine departments. Christie's and Sotheby's, both headquartered in England, have also now set up branches in North America.

Auctions are the best way not only to acquire rare wines and older vintages but also to turn a wine stash into cash. As an observant new addict, I'll pass on a few things I've learned. First, however, the basics of wine auctions: An auction date is announced. Wines get donated or consigned. An appraiser gives them a value. An auctioneer sells them. Bidders buy. Now let's get to the spicy details.

THE AUCTIONS

In 1969, Heublein, Inc. held the first American commercial New World wine auction in Chicago. The charity wine auction boom in the U.S. has been led by the now-famous Napa Valley Wine Auction, which raises millions annually for local health care.

Today, both charity and commercial auctions abound. The fall's commercial auction scene begins in September with flurry of major wine auctions. Houses such as Acker Merrall & Condit, Morrell & Company, Zachys, Sotheby's, Chicago's Hart Davis Hart, Christie's and Edward Roberts International all offer fine old reds and other gems at auction.

While you can find commercial auctions by receiving auction house catalogues or visiting their websites, charity auctions can be trickier. Friends and acquaintances of the particular cause tend to make up the majority of the bidders. These may be the social elite of the city who are on the invitation lists and have the wealth to bid generously. Whom you know matters. If you want to be included on such lists, cultivate the right friends and be prepared to spend.

THE CELLARS AND SELLERS

In a charity auction, people donate their wine. Many do it for the good deed alone. The less philanthropic do it for the tax receipt. The less scrupulous do it to "wine flip," buying wines at a low price and donating them to auction for a guaranteed high appraisal price. Sometimes the auction hammer price is so far below the appraisal, they buy back their own donation. The deduction and the drink secured, they're on to the next charity. In some jurisdictions those schemes are now "toast," as laws are brought in, some even retroactively, to put severe restrictions on such "tax-shelter" arrangements.

Death, debt and divorce are breeding grounds for commercial auctions. People who consign their wine to be sold by an auction house include former spouses of the

wealthy, restaurateurs in need of cash, people who inherit cellars but have no taste for wine, or even collectors who have lost interest in the hobby. Some sell just so they can buy other wines or because the value of the wine has increased beyond their desire to drink up the liquid asset. The unprincipled could sell off product past its prime or offer wines that have suffered the indignities of faulty storage conditions, including Caribbean-hot warehouses without air conditioning, fire-damaged restaurants, or frozen waterfronts.

Buyers, beware both types of auction. While auctioneers inspect the cellars of some sellers, they rarely take back the liquid assets after a sale is made. Buyers must do their research, watch the ullage (or fill) levels of bottles and if possible learn about the cellar of the seller. Wine auction catalogues are the key source for ullage levels (usually specified with words like "bottom neck" along with illustrations). They'll also give details such as the condition of the label and whether the wine comes from a cellar of pedigree. At one commercial auction I attended, two bottles of 1820 port I bought had only sketchy details in the catalogue. When I picked them up, I found they lacked labels and were in completely different styles of bottles. The only identification was the word Harvey and the date stamped in the old wax covering their corks. Said a companion who agreed to split the purchase with me, "We overpaid."

THE APPRAISERS

Wine appraisals are about as scientific as the practice of medicine, which is to say that, in principal, practitioners do the best they can based on current knowledge and research. The value of an item is no more certain than the exact course of a cancer. Pure charlatans aside, some people are quite frankly better at their jobs than others. Wine agent and appraiser Rob Jull is considered among the best in Canada. His methodology is based on replacement cost determined by international price with added tax and transport. His main source of data comes from auction houses in the US and the UK. Even the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency crosschecks wine appraisals with him.

According to Jull, there is corruption in the appraisal business for charity wines. "I'm looking at some appraisals that are absurd," he said. "I saw one bottle appraised at \$500 that I put at \$165." Even honest appraisers can be coerced by donors into overly generous assessments. Jull often fends off calls from people who try to pressure him into appraising their wine higher than market value. While he claims never to be intimidated into this, he added, "They can be convincing. They are lawyers, doctors — powerful, brainy people.

Some appraisers eventually fall under their spell.”

Commercial auction houses have their learned staff do the appraisals. While there are fewer shenanigans in the business side, I’ve still found many appraisals to be, shall I say, “optimistic.” The higher the hammer prices, the more commission money the auction house makes. They charge the consigner of wine a fee that generally amounts to ten to 20 percent of the hammer price. They also collect a commission from the buyer of 15 to 20 percent.

THE AUCTIONEERS

Auctioneers learn how to goad impulse buyers gently. A good one can raise the price by at least 20 to 30 percent. It’s as though they’ve taken a Dale Carnegie course in psychology, one auctioneer told me.

“You’re out, Sir. He’s in. Now you’re back in,” and “Are you going to let him get away with that?” — the patter of skilled masters at work.

Testosterone-led bidding can raise the price of lots well beyond their worth. At charity auctions, the bidders, most often well lubricated

beforehand with generously poured wine, tend to lose self-control as the evening progresses. It’s part of the fun to watch two presumably intelligent bidders get caught in a classic ping-pong of ever-higher prices until the hammer comes down at a vastly inflated sum. The same wine in earlier or later lots may barely draw interest. I’ve seen commercial auctions boast in press releases about their skills at extracting fortunes. One reported that “eight bottles of Amarone sold for \$2,600, three hundred per cent over their high estimate of \$900.” I’ve got caught myself and should be savvy by now. At a hospital fundraiser, I ended up paying double the retail price for six bottles of port because the desire to win overran my common sense. I barely managed to save my pride by picking up 12 bottles of the very same port in a subsequent lot for just \$50 dollars more.

THE BIDDERS

Bidders are the other essential element of an auction. Once they fill in the forms with credit card details or other guarantees of payment, they receive a paddle with a number and they are in the game. When they want to bid, they raise the paddle. At every auction there are dealers, professionals and hobbyists, as well as the merely curious.

That said, auctions have been called a blood sport for the rich, and rightly so. A third-generation auctioneer told me there were many wild stories in the auction world. “You wouldn’t believe the drama that goes on behind the scenes,” he said, pointing out several tell-all books in his office written by retired auctioneers. No active auctioneer would go on record about his wealthy clientele. One of the traditional appeals of auctions is that they have been a cash business. The money can go in both directions, either to pay the consigner or from the buyer to the auction house. The same auctioneer told me, “If you buy a Rolls for \$200,000 cash, it looks weird. But at an auction it’s legit. The old-timers do this regularly.”

The treasurer of a charity auction confided to me that she has never forgotten the man who handed her about \$10,000 in cash for his purchases of the night. Totally unprepared for

such an occurrence, she had to rent a safety deposit box in the hotel because the banks were closed. The official in charge of the first commercial wine auction in Ontario had a similar experience. “We had one guy who paid his \$60,000 in cash at the auction at the table. It was pretty weird,” he told me.

Of course many auction-goers attend because they love the scene, the collecting and maybe even the drinking. Then there’s the reward of hearing the auctioneer say, “Nice work, it’s a bargain.” One buyer who received such praise had acquired a bottle of 1978 Romanée Conti that hammered down at \$3,400. Its appraised auction book value was \$13,728.

THE SALE

There are reserve bids at commercial auctions. If the wine doesn’t make a certain price, then it’s not sold. The auction house sets the reserve with the seller, but there’s always an amount below which the hammer never bangs. In this case the seller can lose on several fronts. A handling fee of about five percent of the reserve price must be paid and the errant wine picked up — no small task if the seller lives in another country. A distant sale isn’t unusual. Those in it for the money go where they think they’ll get the best return. The biggest seller at the second commercial auction in Ontario was a New Yorker who tendered about \$400,000 in wines. At this auction I overheard one consignee lamenting that his vertical collection of Sassicaia had failed to meet reserve. He was pacing around muttering, “They’ve got to go for it.” He was clearly hoping it would sell later at the post auction.



(Wines that don’t make reserve can be offered to perspective buyers after the event, by phone or Internet.)

At charity auctions no commissions are charged and all wine must sell, regardless of low price. The auctioneer may or may not be professional. For these reasons charity auctions offer greater chances of a deal. If no one seems interested, the price drops so low that someone in the room is finally unable to resist, whether or not they need, want or can afford. “Oh, I spent too much,” is often heard at charity auctions, spoken much like a person exiting a buffet groaning and holding their stomach.

On the other hand, there are fancy American charity auctions where buyers happily bid way beyond estimates because they get a tax receipt for all amounts paid above 20 per cent of the appraisal price. Members of the moneyed crowd attending the Naples Winter Wine Festival in Florida regularly bid this way with gusto. A case of 1961 Latour recently sold for a stunning US\$180,000 — just one of 68 different lots, most which achieved five-figure sales. This auction has become a way to donate big, have fun and still leave with wine.

THE PAY-UP

At commercial auctions, taxes are collected. The sum of commissions and taxes can raise the price 30 to 40 percent above the hammer price. It can be a shock. Fellow wine writer Tony Aspler exclaimed to me, “I bought one lot at a

commercial auction last year for \$1,000 and it was \$1,541 when I picked it up.” I had my own sticker shock when I bid on a case of Thirty Bench Pinot Noir. I thought I got a bargain at \$250 but the final tally of \$342.13 took away the boasting factor.

At charity auctions, what you bid is what you pay. Charity auctions can therefore offer much better deals to the wine lover. You must be invited to attend and most often pay money, sometimes a great deal, to the charity to do so. Commercial auctions are open to the public and are mainly free.

THE ADDICTION AFFLICTION

Regarding the behavior of those with auction fever, it’s primal. Logic plays little part in the pursuit. Ritchie’s auction house has people who paid for their wine years ago and have neglected to pick up the goods. Rather than pure consumption, hunt-and-capture is the game for many. I have no such compunction. I’ve cracked open a good number of my purchases. Unlike art or antiques that take up space unless they’re resold, wine is a liquid asset in more ways than one. When my husband and I drink up the cellar, I smile. Empty spaces mean more auctions for me. I have wine auction fever. What a perfect affliction. **LM**

Margaret Swaine is a wine, food and travel writer happily addicted to her chosen craft.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

March 2007: The Bacchanalia Gala Dinner and Auction is the crown jewel of the Playhouse International Wine Festival. Featuring a delectable five-course dinner paired with wines from around the world, the evening is highlighted by silent and live auctions of rare and valuable wines. www.playhousewinefest.com

ONTARIO

October 2007: Next year marks the 17th anniversary of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra Fine Wine Auction. It’s one of the most successful fundraising events for the TSO, raising more than \$4 million in funding since its inception.

www.tsvc.on.ca

October 2007: Vintages Auction (2002 was the inaugural year) held in association with Ritchies Auctioneers features the largest and most extensive commercial fine wine auction in Canada. www.vintages.com

QUÉBEC

The Société des alcools (SAQ) in Quebec is involved in a multitude of wine auctions in the province including the Sports Celebrities Festival event in the spring. www.saq.com

AUCTION HOUSES

Christie’s www.christies.com
Sotheby’s www.sothebys.com

Bonhams & Butterfields www.butterfields.com

The Chicago Wine Company www.twcw.com

Winebid (Internet-based) www.winebid.com

Ritchies www.ritchies.com

Hart Davis Hart www.hdhwine.com

Zachys www.zachys.com

Acker Merrall & Condit www.ackerwines.com

Morrell & Company store.morrellwine.com

Edward Roberts www.eriwine.com

PERFECT PAIRINGS

SPA AND CYCLING GO TOGETHER LIKE WINE
AND CHEESE IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

By Anne Dimon

In keeping with the boutique wineries Niagara-on-the-Lake is famous for, the recently upgraded Oban Inn has just opened a boutique spa. The new OSpa is no strategic attempt simply to jump on the spa bandwagon. Hotel and spa manager Celia Liu says owner Siwai Lai wanted to create a space that reflected some of her personal tastes, style and interests – and those included a spa. Guests who appreciate a sophisticated but comfortable design and décor will love the historic inn's new look and ambience – earth tones and textures offset by rich, mahogany furnishings, objects d'art that reflect an international feel, and clean, uncluttered lines. It's obvious that everything in both the hotel and the spa has been carefully chosen to create the desired effect.

Steps from the hotel and spa reception, glass doors separate the hotel sitting room from the spa. Offering just four treatment rooms, a lounge and a mosaic-tiled, co-ed steam room, the spa is as intimate as the 26-guest room hotel that embraces it.

I'm booked for the signature Aromatic Body Treatment by Comfort Zone. The all-natural product skincare line from Italy is a perfect pairing with OSpa. Both offer the feeling of stylish comfort mixed with exclusivity. The 90-minute treatment includes an exfoliation, wrap and therapeutic massage. There's the bonus of a mini-massage for both head and feet, all delivered via the hands of Brian Fulton, a Registered Massage Therapist. It's a true head-to-toe treatment and certainly does a body good.



WEAVERS ART
TIMELESS WORKS OF ART | WOVEN FOR THE SOUL™

"We weave to make a difference."™

Michael Pourvakil

IIDEX / NeoCon
Product Innovation
Award Winner 2004 - 2006



FURNITURE COURTESY OF STUDIO B

CAPRICE TAUPE BLUE

Tibetan, Old World Vegetable Dye, Persian and French Aubusson Collections.

ASK ABOUT OUR CUSTOM PROGRAM. OPEN EXCLUSIVELY TO THE TRADE.

Main Showroom 348 Davenport Road Toronto, Ontario T 416 929 7929 | **Designers Walk Showroom** 162 Bedford Road Toronto, Ontario T 416 923 7929
Mid-Town Showroom 1400 Castlefield Avenue Toronto, Ontario T 416 787 7929 | **TOLL FREE** 1888 228 2456 | **E** info@weaversart.com www.weaversart.com

© COPYRIGHT 2006 WEAVERS ART INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



TRANQUILITY ROOM, OSPA

It was raining outside, yet so serene and comfortably snug was I in the spa lounge that I didn't want to venture beyond the glass doors. Taking advantage of the moment, I sit wrapped in the arms of an oversized, linen-covered chair sipping a steamy, vanilla-flavored tea and letting the mind wander back to yesterday and the sipping of local wines.

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful fall day to cycle Canada's premier wine region, home to more than 50 wineries. I joined a small group of other visitors outfitted and guided by Niagara Wine Tours International. Heading from downtown through parkland, across an old railway path and along the trail that weaves its way along the Niagara Parkway, we soon arrive at our first stop, Maryniss Estates. The vineyard boasts some of the oldest Cabernet vines in Canada and is best known for its full-bodied wines. The Cabernet Sauvignon, we're told, accompanied a former governor general to Iceland for an official dinner. It's also a wine on which the Rolling Stones are said to have partied hardy.

Nearby Reif Estate Winery, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2007, is one of the area's founding wineries. Klaus Reif, a 13th-generation winemaker from Germany, has won more than 400 awards, half of them for their Vidal Icewine. We learn that the underlining acidity cuts the sweetness in the finish, giving this particular Icewine its unique characteristics.

Another stop is Lailey Vineyard, a farm that has remained in the same family for more than 65 years and where grapes are hand-harvested. While a more labor-intensive way to harvest, it's a good way to be more selective about what gets picked, and avoids MOG – the acronym for “matter other than grape.” The advantage to the consumer is better quality fruit and taste.

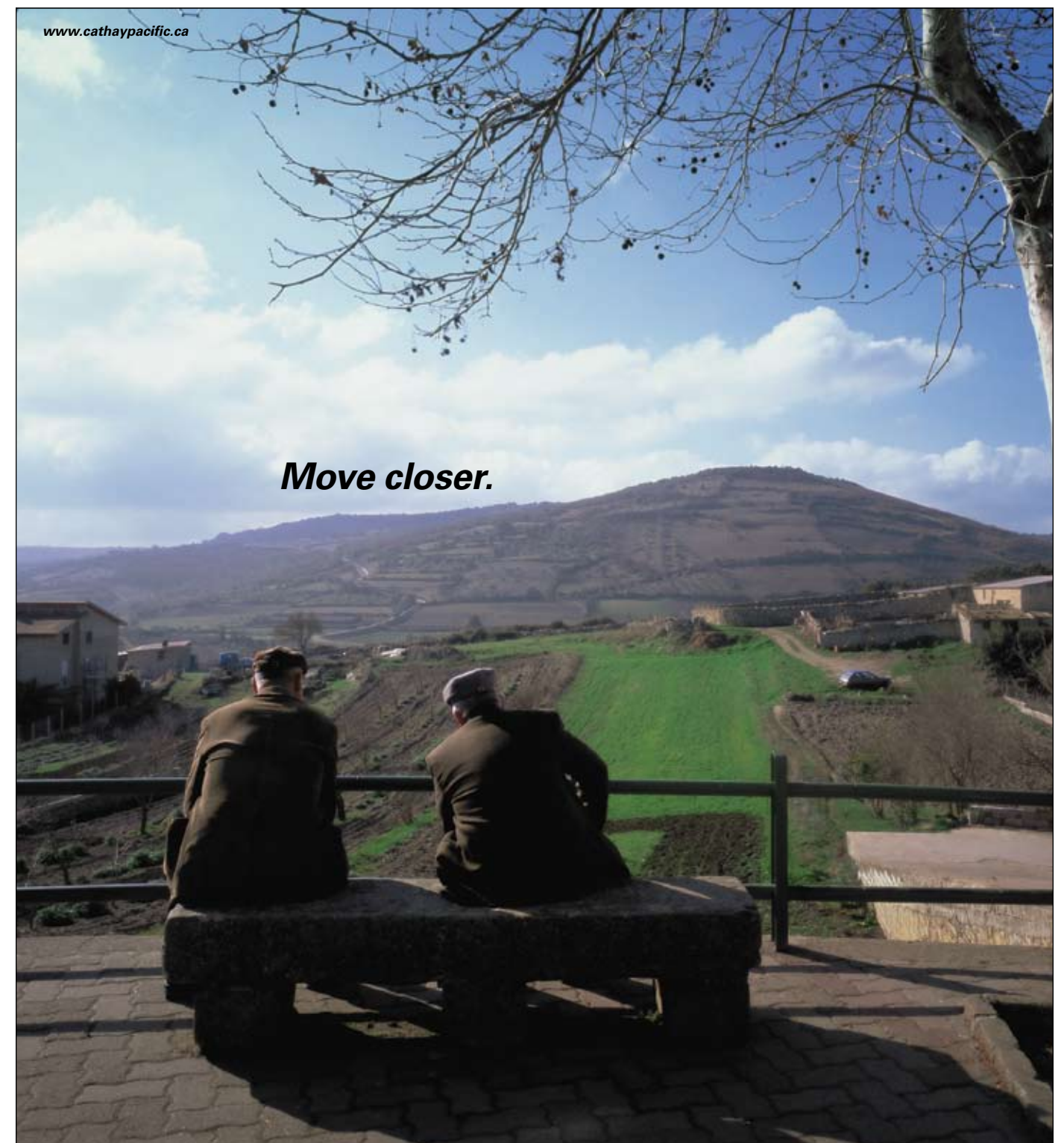
Although a half-day cycling tour is too short to get a full taste of the region offerings, it's just enough of an appetizer to leave one wanting more. More cycling, more wine and definitely more spa. I want it all! **LM**

The editor of www.traveltowellness.com, Anne Dimon is a world traveled spa and wellness travel writer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE www.niagaraonthelake.com
 ONTARIO WINERIES www.winesofontario.org
 OBAN INN www.obaninn.ca
 1.866.359.6226 or 905.468.2165
 NIAGARA WINE TOURS www.niagaraworldwinetours.com
 1.800.680.7006 or 1.905.468.1300

www.cathaypacific.ca



Move closer.

Remember being best friends when you were young? Times change but people don't — they're still your friends and you'll still have fun together. Cathay Pacific Airways flies to over 90 destinations worldwide so you can meet old friends and make new ones. The next move is yours.



Asia Miles



ATW Airline of the Year 2006



CATHAY PACIFIC

Now you're really flying

MISTY GORGES, MIGHTY CITIES CHINA'S MIGHTY YANGTZE BECKONS

By Tin Thomas

It's a grey and misty morning with an autumn chill that pinks the cheeks. Vertical granite cliffs rise from the murky waters of the river and disappear into the mist. A barge loaded with coal heads towards us, going downstream. Astern, muffled passengers on another cruise boat search for warmth in their morning coffee and hope for better weather.

It's another typical late-in-the-year day on China's mighty Yangtze River, 4,000 miles long. Only the Nile and the Amazon are longer. We are passing through Xiling Gorge, one of the famed Three Gorges through which the river runs between the cities of Chongqing and Wuhan. One of the great beauty spots of this vast country, the Gorges are arguably the prime reason for the popularity of Yangtze cruises.

But things have changed around here. The world's biggest dam, built to create one of the world's largest reservoirs, now blocks the river, just downstream from the Three Gorges. As a result, the water level in the gorges has risen substantially and the dramatic tall stone cliffs flanking one of the narrowest stretches of the river have lost much of their awe.

The Gorges do retain an ethereal beauty, perhaps more so on a misty day than on a bright, sunny summer morning, and the cliffs and the carved mountaintops are as imposing as ever. It is, in a way, a shame that the gorges are not as deep and mysterious as they were, but the dam's fervent supporters call it a small price to pay for the modern-day benefits it will bring to China.

Cruising the Yangtze is an important way to gather an understanding of China. The pulse may throb in Beijing and Shanghai but the Yangtze gives you the rural life that is the soul of the country.

The cruises are packaged variously by many tour companies, some including such exotic destinations as Tibet and the fabled Silk Road. We chose a straightforward, ten-day package that Pacific Delight Tours has constructed, sandwiching the cruise between two big city visits to Beijing and Shanghai.

We spent our first two nights in the capital city, seeing the sights and marvelling at the immense changes wrought in the 15 years since my first visit. A million bicycles replaced by a million cars, the ubiquitous Chairman Mao blues replaced by knock-off Gucci and Versace. The city has gone vertical, the shops have become westernized and communication has enthusiastically and universally entered the cell phone age.

We flew to Yichang to board our river cruiser. The Victoria Katarina is operated by American-managed Victoria Cruises which has one of the most modern fleets on the river. Modern, and with tons of natural light flooding its interior, the Victoria Katarina is a remarkably comfortable river cruise boat. The entire experience designed with North Americans in mind.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA CRUISES

The crew was friendly and helpful and most spoke acceptable English.

While regular cabins measure 295 square feet, our deluxe suite on promenade deck had a generous 405 plus the standard narrow balcony. Cabins have a TV with English-language movies, a house phone and a fridge, with hair dryers available at the purser's desk. The bathrooms are a good size and have a tub. The vessel is fully air-conditioned.

It's single seating for all meals in the bright, roomy dining room. Western breakfasts are served, lunches include a combination of Chinese and western foods, and the dinners are Chinese, served from a turntable by an efficient team of waiters.

There are a number of on-board activities staged: tai chi classes; lectures on acupuncture, acupressure and traditional Chinese medicine; demonstrations of Chinese traditional painting techniques; a lecture on freshwater Chinese pearls, and another on the delicate art of Chinese snuff-bottle painting; and a demonstration of kite flying.

We sailed early in the morning and were soon ready for a shore excursion to the Three Gorges Dam. Whatever the pros and cons, this is a monumental and highly controversial undertaking. China put the dampers on domestic opposition by declaring criticism of the project unlawful.

Work began in 1994 and will be completed in 2009, although the turbines are already generating some electricity. The finished dam will be one-and-a-half miles wide and 600 feet tall, creating a reservoir nearly 400 miles long. It will provide power for a huge area of southeastern China, flood control in the lower Yangtze, where floods have killed more than a million people in the past 100 years, and make navigation of the Yangtze easier and safer. It should also reduce China's massive reliance on coal-generated power.

Strong opponents of the project, both domestically and abroad, have been forthright in their criticism of the need to relocate some 1.3 million people from more than 100 towns that will eventually lie under water. They are concerned possible water pollution from unsecured industrial sites that have been drowned, and decry the inundation of some 395 square miles of river valley, much of it fertile agricultural land.

The locks alongside the dam are an engineering wonder in themselves. They can hold four ships at a time. Passage

through the five stages that lift the ships into the Upper Reaches of the river takes around three hours, plus waiting time to enter the locks. It's not exciting. It's a good opportunity to take a nap.

Alongside is another amazing piece of technology, the world's largest elevator. It cradles ships, one at a time, in a giant box and lifts them up 575 feet in just 30 minutes. While faster than the locks, it is also a much more expensive transit.

The river shrank from more than 3,000 feet in width to about 500 as we passed through the Xiling, the first and longest of the gorges, while the granite mountains on either side grew progressively higher. Once through Xiling, we tied up in Badong, the entrance to the Wu Gorge, where we disembarked next morning to explore the Shennong Stream, one of 700 tributaries of the Yangtze. We saw it from water level in a frail-looking and grubby sampan (don't wear white

pants!) poled along by a team of six men, four working at a time, one steering, one resting. The locals call it a "pea-pod" boat. We were the peas.

The Shennong runs through lovely pine forests with waterfalls and jade green pools. As it became shallower the polers waded into the stream and manually hauled the sampans upstream at the end of a long rope, passing returning

sampans loaded with Chinese tourists waving cheerfully to us and sometimes bursting into song for our benefit.

The second of the gorges, the Wu, was our afternoon destination. This is the location of the famed Twelve Peaks, probably the river's most dramatic natural feature. River traffic was heavy with cargo vessels, coal barges and sampans heading in both directions between the sheer stone faces and rocky peaks carved into weird and wonderful shapes.

The last of the Three Gorges, the Qutang, is considered the most beautiful of them all — twisting and turning as it does through the heart of the Witch Mountains.

The land is fertile between the gorges and beyond them. Small farmsteads and isolated houses and trees stand in a concerted effort to minimize soil erosion. Every scrap of arable land for hundreds of feet up the hillsides is put to work in neat terraces. Much more land, where small farmers have toiled and sweated for generations, is gradually disappearing as the reservoir's waters continue to rise.



From the Qutang we headed for Fengdu, the last major town before Chongqing. We had spent our final night aboard the Victoria Katarina tied up at the pier in Shibozhai, a community already moved to higher ground. Left behind is a beautiful, 12-storey red pagoda, built in 1662 of wood and glazed tiles, and designed to lean against a massive rock. A gem of Chinese architecture, not one nail was used in the structure. By the time the Three Gorges Project is complete, the pagoda will be protected and preserved by a coffer dam of its own, creating a tiny island with the pagoda standing defiantly at its centre.

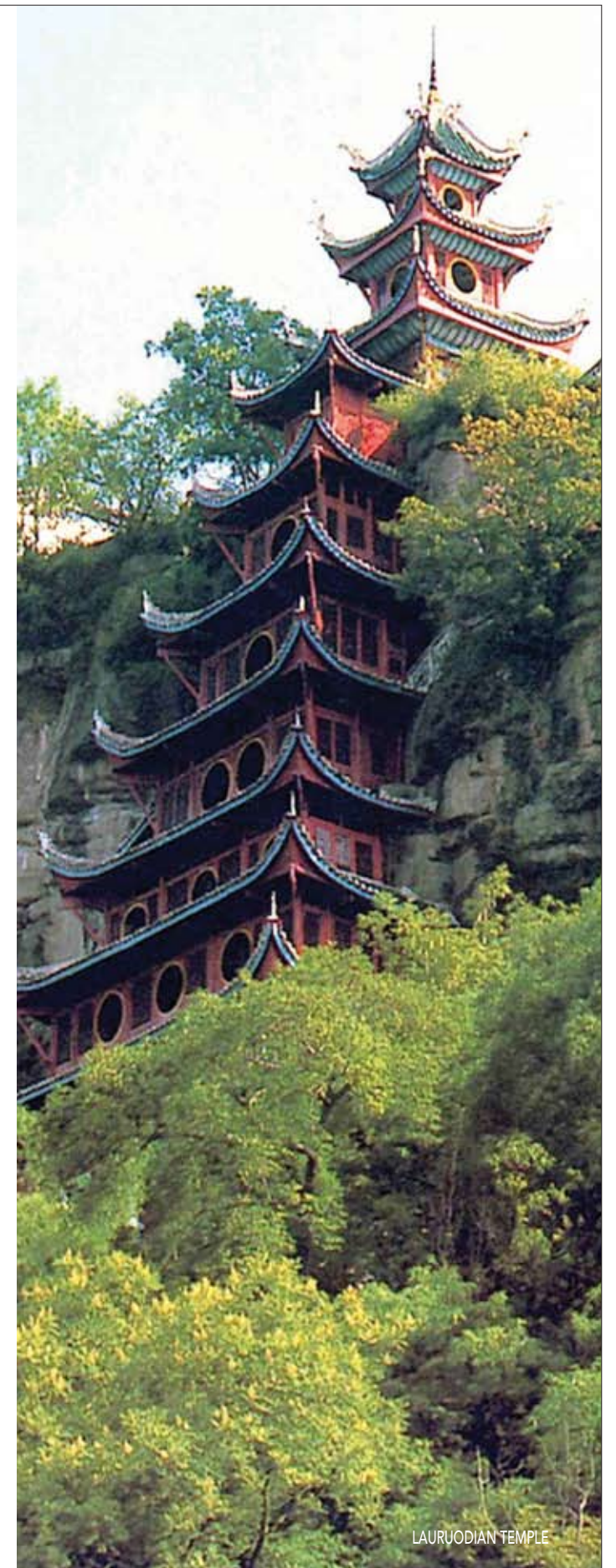
To reach the pagoda, we had to run the gauntlet of a hundred eager traders. They plied their trade in rudely built tarpaulin shops lining each side of a pathway of stones, laid down to provide reasonably dry passage through the mud. Gifts for the folks at home? Buy them here. We saw the same tourist goods everywhere we went — richly embroidered ladies' jackets, carvings, fans, lacquerware, cloisonné goods, pottery, children's toys and, inevitably, T-shirts. They were priced lower here than anywhere else and, if you love to bargain, this is the place.

We finally arrived at Chongqing, a densely populated industrial city whose principal tourist attraction is a museum dedicated to the memory of General Stillwell, the U.S. officer who played a vital role in keeping China fighting against the Japanese during World War II by flying in supplies from India. It was famously known as the "Over the Hump" operation carried out by U.S. military cargo aircraft. While his name may have disappeared into the mists of WWII, the Chinese have not forgotten him.

The final leg of our journey took us to Shanghai, a city that continues to amaze observers with its astonishing growth. Shanghai today is towering buildings, traffic-choked streets and busy highways. Today's skyline is as dramatic as that of Hong Kong and, depending on who's telling the story, the city has between 3,000 and 4,500 buildings more than 15 storeys high, including the fourth-tallest in the world. Construction goes on non-stop. There are truly magnificent hotels, shopping in shiny modern stores and traditional markets, fascinating museums and galleries, and the best of Chinese and western cuisine in a huge array of restaurants.

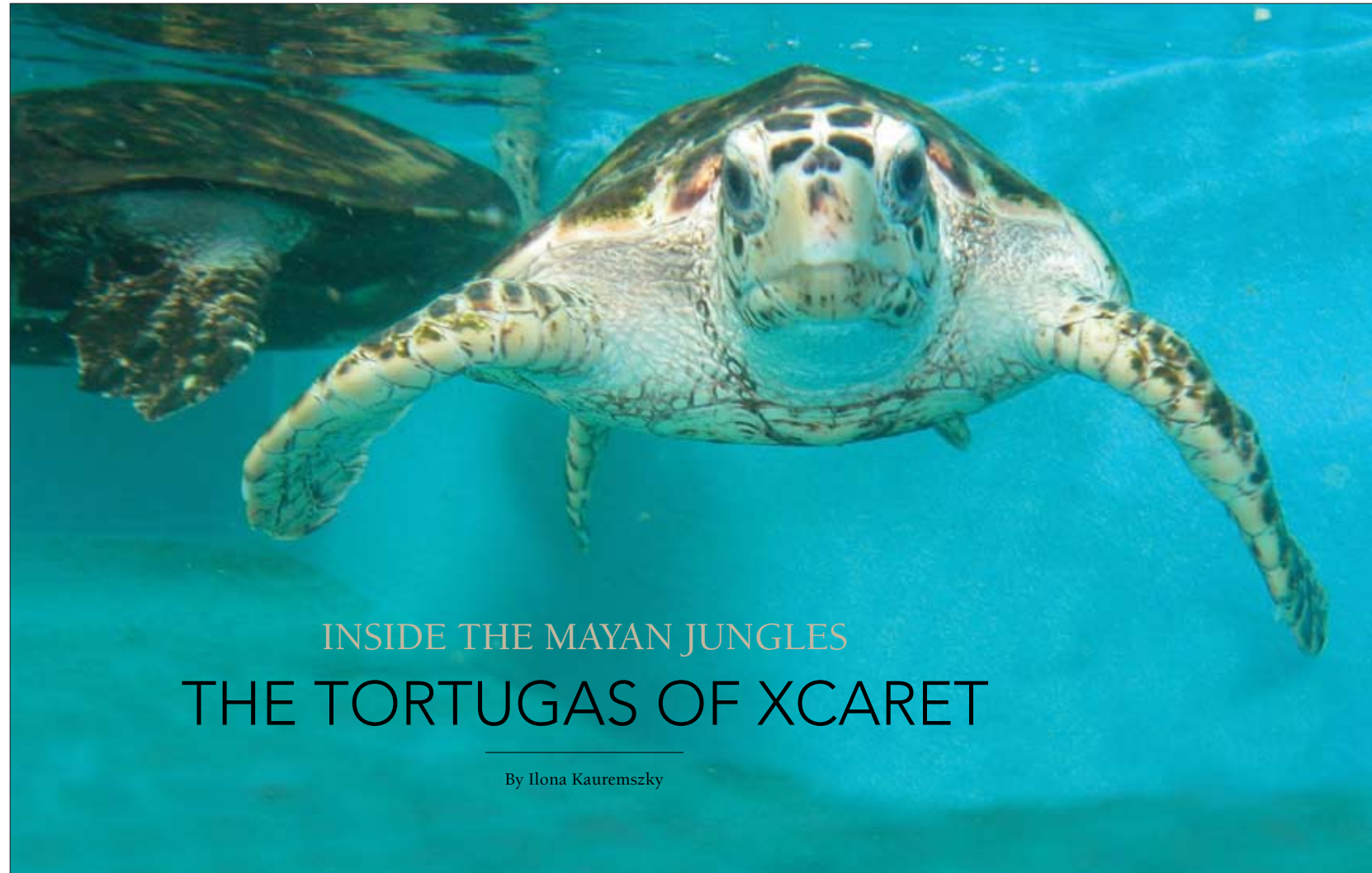
A visit to China is not as easy and uncomplicated as a trip to Barbados or Britain or Hawaii. The ancient country is in the throes of re-inventing itself as a member of the world community, with the certainty of becoming a dominant member in the coming years. Visitors should be aware of the laws and customs of a land whose traditions extend beyond the history of North America and which should be respected and enjoyed.

Take your preconceived notions of China along with you. Then prepare to ditch them in the Yangtze. China's probably not what you expect at all. **LM**



LIAOJI TEMPLE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VICTORIA CRUISES



INSIDE THE MAYAN JUNGLES THE TORTUGAS OF XCARET

By Ilona Kauremszky



KAMINA PALACE

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAMINA PALACE

Huddled over an outdoor gigantic tank along the Mayan Riviera, I'm watching the nippy moves of the local residents inside this ultra luxe water condo, the endangered sea turtles. These dinosaur-like creatures with their wrinkly arms and feet, not to mention the rock-hard shell they sport for their mini-home, are now poking their heads as they seamlessly stroke their unmanicured feet into the salty seawater.

While it was too early to see all the turtle action, we managed to get a bird's-eye view of some swimming in the turtle tanks at Xcaret Park. Considered Mexico's largest and best-known eco-archeological park, the park celebrates culture, history and the ecological diversity for which the Riviera Maya is known.

Opened in 1990, the resort is the brain child of architect Miguel Quintana Pali, who purchased this part of the Mayan Riviera for his own mini-oasis, that changed quickly when it was discovered the property contained an ancient underground river system and loads of Mayan ruins. Along with a consortium, Pali created the 80-hectared Xcaret Park which in Mayan means "small cove." It houses 4,000 species

of wild and marine flora and fauna and was just a 15-minute drive from our resort, the Barcelo Colonial Maya, which is its own splendid Mayan village that debuted this past January.

Although we craved the sun and relaxation the resort offered, it was exploring the rich bio-diverse area that got us wanting to trek deep into the Mayan jungles. Still, I wasn't prepared for the extreme adventure from some of the tour operators, so we opted for something softer and lighter — the rich and beautiful enclosed jungle eco-park, perfect for families and the children in us all.

With sun scorching above, bathing suits, sun hats, suntan lotion and plenty of bottled water as part of our daypack, we entered this magical Mayan kingdom. Park map in hand, we marked the must-see places and started our own Crocodile Dundee journey. Thick vines clung to the palm trees as butterflies fluttered in the colorful tropical flowers and orchids. We made it to our own jungle fantasy.

"Where are the flamingoes, dolphins, jaguar and other turtles?" I pleaded as we traipsed deeper into the complex, past penned-in bulls, donkeys and colorful macaws.

Before you could bat an eye, a flock of flamingoes gathered beneath canopied trees overlooking a mirrored pond. A Kodak moment -- we snapped a photo, decided the blazing sun was getting the better of us, and we continued on our quest for the mighty turtles.

The Mayan Riviera, in the state of Quintana Roo and part of the Yucatan peninsula, is where marine turtles make their annual pilgrimage to the sandy beachfront. Leading a solitary life, they are quickly orphaned and never know their mothers. Rightful hermits, the hard-backed animals journey into the sea, going as far east as Australia, it is believed. Marine turtles are an endangered species and it has been estimated that, for every 1,000 born, only one will reach the adult stage.

In Mexico, marine turtles are protected under national and international law. The state of Quintana Roo receives the largest nesting of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*), hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriaca*) on its beaches.

Since 1996, Xcaret Park, in coordination with the

Mexican Secretary of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fishing (SEMARNAP), the National Institute of Ecology (INE), the National Institute of Fishing (INP), the Foundation Flora, Fauna y Cultura de México and Ecosur, has operated six turtle camps for the protection and investigation of green and loggerhead turtles.

"Xcaret looks over six beaches of smaller incidence to count the nests to determine what may kill the eggs (floods, contamination and depredation, for example) and patrols the coast to avoid poaching," noted Ana Almazan, the park's publicist. She added, "It is now estimated that from 1996 to 2004 over 24 thousand marine turtle nests have been protected and close to two million hatchlings have been released, thanks to this program."

At the turtle aquarium, we watch some more big beasts tirelessly shift their mammoth girth through the clear waters. "Shhhhhh," I heard in the silence. I turned quickly to see a hawksbill pointing his face in my direction, almost as if he were saying "hello." "Buenos dias," I smirked and watched him descend deep into his aquatic home.

XCARET PARK

has operated **SIX TURTLE CAMPS**
for the protection and
investigation of

green and loggerhead *turtles*

Afterwards, we watched the Papantla birdmen from Veracruz perform the ancient dance to the Sun God, walked around the *Isla de Jaguares* where lazy jaguars snoozed in the shade, and ambled into the butterfly pavilion bursting with tropical flowers and colorful butterflies.

Throughout the Mayan Riviera, superlatives and ancient traditions seem to brim from the *palapas* rooftops. Containing the world's second-largest natural coral reef, the area is home to one of the largest underground river systems. It was also home to the ancient Mayas whose abandoned villages are seen today in Tulum, as well as farther into the Yucatan Peninsula where Chichen Itza reigns supreme.

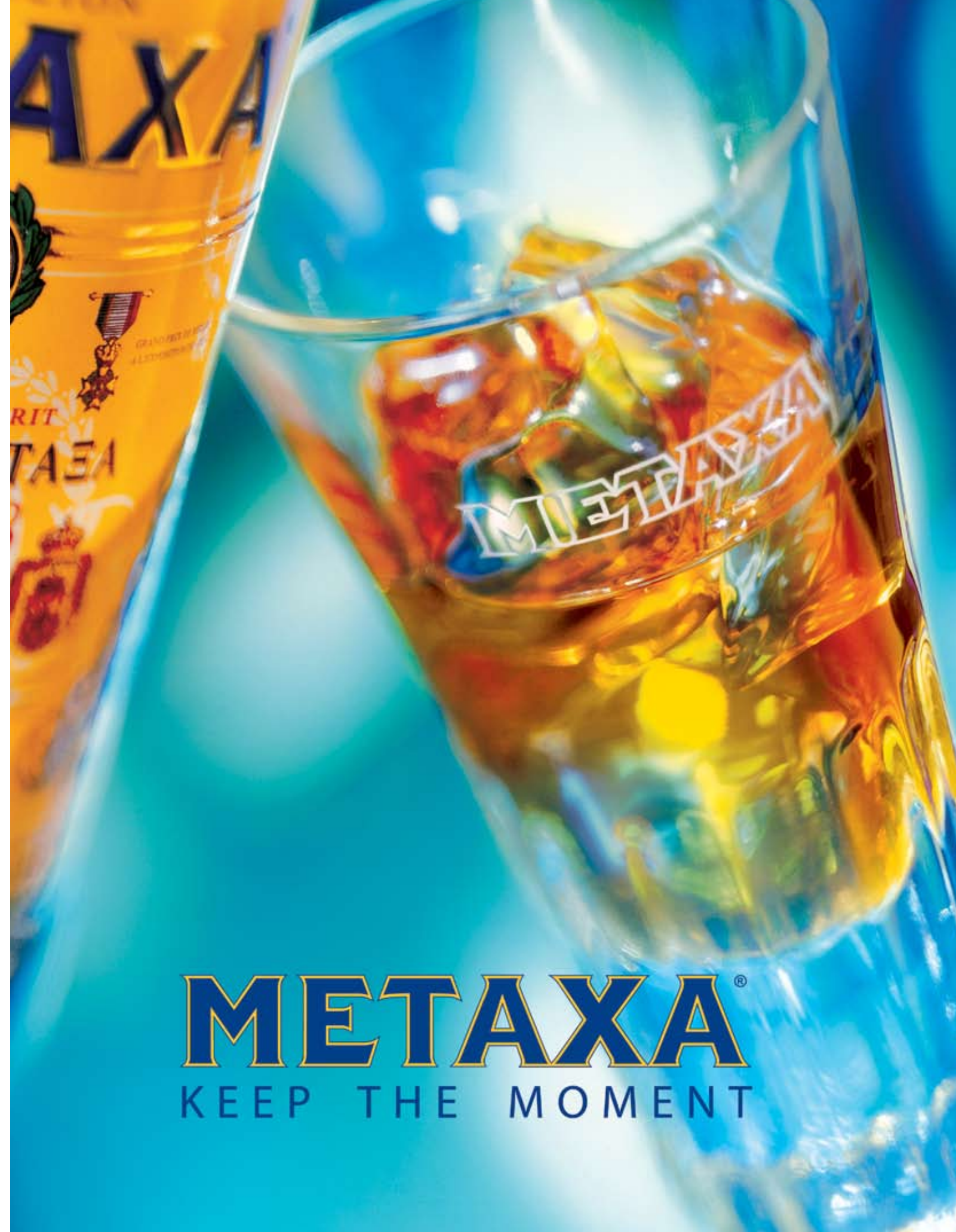
We decided to leave the big tourist sites for another day. We headed back to our Mayan paradise, reflecting on the lush bio-diverse paradise that lurks inside the jungle, ready for everyone who wishes to spend the time to discover its beauty. **LM**

TO KNOW:

- For travel information on the Riviera Maya, visit www.rivieramaya.com
- Barcelo Maya Colonial Beach Resort has all-inclusive packages. See your travel agent for details.
- For details on Xcaret Park, visit www.xcaret.com

Factoids on Xcaret's Tortuga Program:

- From 1996 to 2004 the program has protected 23,821 turtle nests, 12,156 loggerhead turtles and 11,665 green sea turtles. The Xcaret Turtle Project has released nearly 2 million turtle hatchlings.
- More than 1,600 people participate in the release of hatchlings every year in the Turtle Festival.
- Details on Xcaret's Volunteer Marine Turtle Protection Program can be obtained at www.xcaret.com/flora-fauna/turtles.php



METAXA®
KEEP THE MOMENT



The exciting world of modern Arabia is now just a short and luxurious flight away. Since 2005, when the bold vision of a new national airline came to fruition, Etihad Airways has attracted travelers to the captivating destinations of the United Arab Emirates, a stunning part of the globe.

The new national airline of the United Arab Emirates is headquartered in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE. Its founder and chairman, Dr. Ahmed bin Saif Al Nahyan, now counts more than 40 cities along its global network, and plans to increase the number to 70 by 2010.

Etihad, which launched in Canada a year ago, now represents the fastest way to get from Canada to the UAE. Flights run non-stop from Toronto to Abu Dhabi, via Brussels, three times a week. An increasingly popular and intriguing tourist destination, Abu Dhabi is known as “the garden city” of the country. The capital has come a long way since its humble beginnings as a small fishing village, to become one of the wealthiest cities in the world, with the finest in hotels, shopping and cultural attractions. The Abu Dhabi international airport is less than an hour from Abu Dhabi and 90 minutes from the large and bustling business hub of Dubai.

An experience in one of the planes in Etihad's modern fleet is distinguished in many ways. Through exceptional

service and attention to detail, the staff aims to make every guest's experience special. To that end, even the seating sections are glamorous, with Diamond and Pearl Zones, instead of First and Business Class, and a Coral Zone miles above other standard coach seating. The warm and luxurious services don't stop at the planes. Diamond and Pearl Zone guests receive complimentary limo transportation to Dubai, while Coral Zone guests enjoy a comfortable shuttle between the two cities.

The airline launched its loyalty program, Etihad Guest, in the summer. It's one that is more flexible, less restrictive, more responsive and much more rewarding than some others. This Fall, a new two-class fleet will be ready for take-off. The new setup will seat 262 passengers in all, 240 in the Coral Zone and 22 in the Pearl Zone.

In 2006, Etihad Airways received, for the third consecutive year, the prestigious World's Leading New Airline Award at the 13th World Travel Awards. It also won the World's Leading Flat Bed Seat in addition to being named the “world's fastest growing airline.”

For an airline experience unlike any other, to dreamy destinations you may not even have imagined, a ticket on Etihad Airways to Abu Dhabi, Dubai and the rest of the United Arab Emirates may change the way you see the world. **LM**

ATTACHÉ

EXTRAORDINARY TRAVEL & CONCIERGE SERVICE

presents...
a line of luxury travel products.



Our alliance with a team of outstanding cruise and tour companies offers you a customized travel itinerary and personalized service with an accent on elegance.

We cater to all your needs. Our world travel experts will meet with you in a one-on-one consultation to customize your trip of a lifetime.

In this issue we present a taste of what we have to offer. Our luxury getaway packages will make your wildest dreams come true.

Call us today at
1-866-271-4167

**Attaché Extraordinary Travel & Concierge Service,
70 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto, Canada M5R1B9 416-962-3580**



ONTARIO TRAVEL INDUSTRY ACT TICO REGISTRATION NO. 4669057

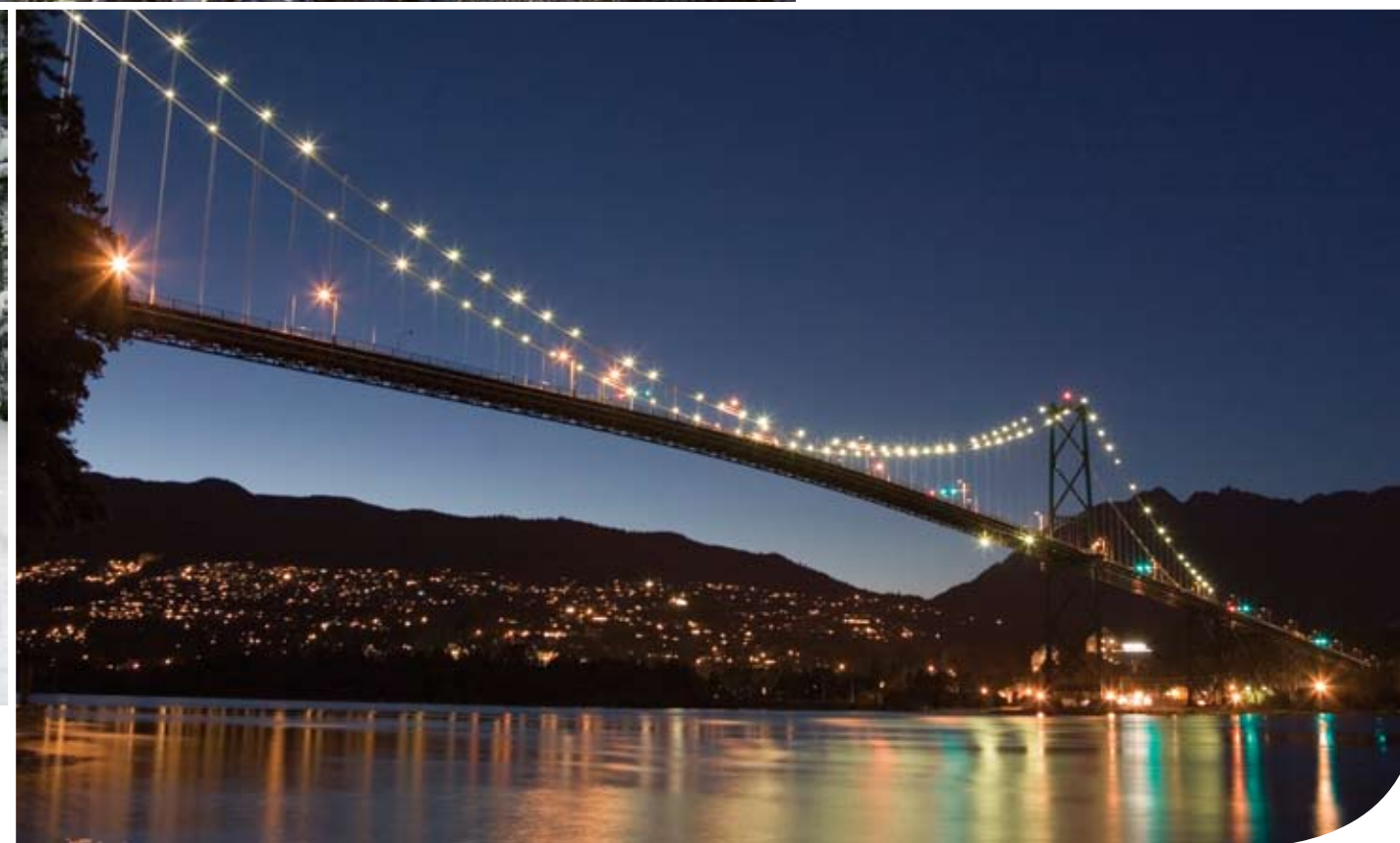


extraordinary
VACATIONS GROUP



Vancouver, Coast & Mountains gives you the best of all possible worlds for winter fun, rejuvenation and relaxation. Winter pastimes abound - from downhill and nordic skiing, heliskiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing, to sleigh rides, tobogganing, tubing, ice climbing and skating - it's all here!

Winter is also a great 'breakaway' time for romance and relaxation - try one of our bed and breakfasts, rustic inns or resorts located throughout the region. Or, indulge yourself and retreat for an afternoon to one of the many spectacular spas in the region. End the day sampling some of the region's finest wine and cuisine in one of our countless world class restaurants. Come soon... your winter wonderland escape awaits!



**VANCOUVER
COAST & MOUNTAINS**
All things are possible!

visit www.vcmbo.com/luxe for amazing winter escape ideas and discover why all things are possible in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains.



OLD VIRGINIA CHARM LACED WITH A BOLD SPIRIT OF INVENTION

By Ilona Kauremszky

In the heart of the Atlantic coastline, between the fast-paced energy of Manhattan and the condo lifestyle of Florida, sits the gracious state of Virginia — a beacon of warm southern charm. Celebrated author Tom Wolfe, that white-suited dandy, hails from there. Not only did he explore the American Dream in prose, he is also one in a long line of Virginians who has lived it. Despite Virginia's laid-back nature, a resoundingly bold spirit of invention and innovation were strongly imbued in the state's cultural landscape from the beginning. That makes sense, because they say Virginia is the birthplace of America.

When three British ships arrived on its forested shores in 1607, commerce and discovery fueled their purpose. They

settled along a river, built a fort and fended for themselves in Jamestown. Considered the first British settlement in North America, Jamestown is already throwing a two-year celebration party commemorating the 400th anniversary of its founding.

Named after Queen Elizabeth I, known as “the Virgin Queen,” the southern state was also the setting of one of the greatest ironies of American history. It gave birth to both the rise and fall of British rule. On the grassy knoll of Surrender Field outside Fort York, 23 miles from Jamestown, the Redcoats led by General Cornwallis surrendered in 1781 to George Washington, marking the end of the American Revolution. “The Siege of Yorktown

was the pinnacle of an eight-year struggle that started by accident in Massachusetts, but eventually became a global war that resulted in our nation's birth,” said Mike Litterst, spokesperson for the Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown.

To grasp clearly the fruits of this history, however, one might sip the fruity wines of Patrick G. Duffeler, another independent spirit living the American Dream. The former Philip Morris executive, who once spearheaded a Formula One racing team, ditched his über-chic lifestyle of fast cars and Monaco to start the Williamsburg Winery, Virginia's largest, which hit the state's viticulture circuit in 1985.

Situated in a French-style chateau with European antiques culled from Duffeler's international jaunts, the 21-year-old winery appears to be an ancient rustic farm on the outskirts of Colonial Williamsburg. Inside, however, the latest winemaking techniques are employed for vintages with such monikers as Two Shilling Red, Governor's White, and Susan Constant Red, the latter appropriately named after one of the three colonial ships.

In the massive banquet room, we dined on French cheese, baguette, pork and crème brûlée, topping the meal with a dessert wine of Duffeler's Late Harvest Vidal. “I want everyone to feel at home,” said the accomplished Belgian-

born entrepreneur, adding, “Now my son is leading the operations and I can enjoy the beauty around me.”

Between hills of vines nestled in the fabled Historic Triangle region, one need only take a leisurely drive across the Colonial Parkway to imagine how the first Europeans might have felt surrounded by this wild beauty. Our first stop was the Jamestown Settlement, a museum which opened in 1957 with the Royal Visit of Queen Elizabeth II. A reproduction of her famous portrait by Pietro Annigoni greets visitors in the banquet hall. I traipsed outside to visit the docked replica vessels and to partake in the lively reenactments with costumed interpreters who explained Powhatan Indian techniques.

Meanwhile, along the sandy shores amid thick overgrowth, a glass-blowing hut was in full swing. The crumbling foundation of a stone kiln dating from the 1600s reveals the early colonists' commitment to industry and art. Glass-making is believed to be the earliest industry tried on American soil.

With that in mind, we continued into the thick brush where a white Cirque du Soleil-like tent was cast beside an archeological dig in operation the day we visited. Archeologist Bill Kelso, director of the Jamestown Rediscovery excavation project, and his team have been

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT'S RE-CREATED SHIPS – “SUSAN CONSTANT”, “GODSPEED” AND “DISCOVERY”





Innovative Marketing Solutions

ABOVE LEFT: A fire warms Wessex Hall which is flanked by two fireplaces brought in from Bordeaux. ABOVE RIGHT: Lunch at the Gabriel Tavern, on the grounds of the Williamsburg Winery.

excavating the actual site he discovered in 1996. "I'm proud to say I was the one who put the first shovel in the ground," he explained of his muse operation. It began as a fascination when as a visiting college student he was told the original settlement was lost, washed into the James River. He always believed it was still there.

Vestiges of a well, a cellar, a stone fireplace and several walls are laid bare. I wandered inside the remains of a 17th-century church salvaged by a team of women who started the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) in the spring of 1888. "When it comes to preservation, these girls started the whole thing," said Beverly Straube, the site's chief curator, holding up one of the ancient porcelain pieces found in the well, part of the more than half-a-million artifacts found to date. "We're very excited about discovering Jamestown and now know the local Indians and English were working co-operatively for a long time," she said, noting the deluge of Indian artifacts revealing strong trade between the two cultures.

En route to Yorktown, we drove past the red-bricked culvert headwalls and parkway underpasses of the Colonial Byway, a three-lane river-graveled highway. It has no traffic lines and the center sightseeing lane offers remarkable views of the landscape winding through the great historical landmarks of Colonial America. The byway is one of the most unusual roads in America and is designated as part of the prestigious U.S. Scenic Byway program.

"Here's the famous white house you never heard of," declared Mr. Litterst as he opened the door to Moore House. The home of merchant and gentleman farmer Augustine Moore served as the setting for the historic negotiation and signing of the agreement of the English surrender to the Americans.

Knowing we had barely scratched the surface of this storied past, we drove past the facades and turreted

buildings of the former capital, Williamsburg, opting to keep that whole experience for the following day as we arrived at the opulent Williamsburg Inn for a nightcap.

So it is true. Wherever you roam across these 23 miles, Old Virginia is alive and well. Standard Oil tycoon and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller saw to that when he saved Colonial Williamsburg in 1926. If it weren't for his vision and the efforts of Reverend Dr. W.A.R. Goodwin, the world's largest living history museum would probably be a highway. Until his death in 1960, more than 80 original structures were preserved and many more reconstructed because of the personal funding of Mr. Rockefeller — another man who lived a larger-than-life American Dream. **LM**

The editor of www.mycompass.ca, Ilona Kauremszky writes frequently on heritage travel and is the founding president of the Ontario Chapter of Travel Media Association of Canada.

TO KNOW:

WILLIAMSBURG INN 1.800.HISTORY or 1.800.447.8679
COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG restaurants 1.800.TAVERN
WILLIAMSBURG WINERY www.williamsburgwinery.com
 757.258.0899

JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT is located at the intersection of Virginia Route 31 and the Colonial Parkway. Open year-round 9am-5pm, 9am-6pm June 15-August 15. Museum closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission \$11.75 for adults, \$5.75 for children ages 6-12. Combination ticket and annual pass available with the Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution. Parking is free at both museums.

www.jamestown2007.org
www.historyisfun.org
 1.888.593.4682

exvg Rewards

EXTRAORDINARY VACATIONS REWARDS

3 Money Saving
Travel Offers!

Pick the rewards package that's right for you and receive one of these **FREE** 4 night resort stays!

SILVER PROGRAM

For only \$199 you receive:
\$500 Rewards Dollars, plus an additional \$50 more per month...

and a **FREE**
4 night vacation stay
in **FLORIDA**



FLORIDA

Spend 2 nights in Orlando and 2 nights in your choice of Daytona Beach or Fort Lauderdale. Ideal for the traveling family that prefers to take an extended vacation by car.

GOLD PROGRAM

For only \$249 you receive:
\$750 Rewards Dollars, plus an additional \$50 more per month...

and a **FREE**
4 night vacation stay
in **ST. THOMAS**



ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The phrase "island paradise" will take on new meaning when you visit the spectacular jewel of the Caribbean. Enjoy sparkling azure waters, golden sand beaches, and local charms far away from the crowds.

PLATINUM PROGRAM

For only \$299 you receive:
\$1000 Rewards Dollars, plus an additional \$50 more per month...

and a **FREE**
4 night vacation stay
in **HAWAII**



OAHU, HAWAII

A land rich in legend, history and spectacular beauty, Hawaii is everyone's dream destination. Welcome to Oahu, home of famous Waikiki Beach world-class dining, shopping and attractions. This is paradise ... and it's all waiting for you.

Or, if you prefer, you may choose the **BRONZE PROGRAM** for only \$99 and receive: \$250 Rewards Dollars, plus an additional \$50 more per month.

Rewards Dollars can be used to purchase travel, merchandise, dining and entertainment for less than market price. Take a look to find out just how much you can save, then try it out and compare our prices against other online travel companies or your favorite retailer. You won't believe the savings!

For more information visit www.exvgrewards.com.

For more information, or to join and reserve your vacation, call now

1-877-973-9273



THE WORLD'S COOLEST QUEBEC WINTER CARNIVAL

By A.G. Luke

Quebec City has made a permanent pact with Mother Nature to become a snow-laden wonderland while hosting the world's largest wintry winter carnival.

The annual Carnaval d'Hiver de Québec (Quebec Winter Carnival) runs for a 17-day period over three weekends in February. Most of the major events occur over the weekend, such as the night parades, soapbox derby, local and international ice sculpting, a canoe race across the St. Lawrence River and La Grande Virée, a dogsled race through the streets. The latter features 30 four-dog sled teams competing for cash prizes. They complete the 3.75 mile / 6 km circuit in less than 15 minutes.

Carnival produces proud public participation reflected by such popular traditions as wearing a ceinture flechée. This colorful arrow sash is tied tightly around one's waist

as a fashionable symbol of carnival-goers' pride. While you are doing the sash sashay along the historic streets, do not be surprised if you are amicably approached by a resident offering assistance.

The biggest booster of Carnival pride and merriment is without doubt the mysteriously mystical mascot, Bonhomme. The ever-present smiling snowman appears yearly, yet Quebec Tourism representatives maintain that nobody knows exactly where the "good man" originates. Small rubber replicas or effigies are purchased and used to obtain admission to assorted carnival activities and sites. An eight-inch tall beanie-baby-like Bonhomme, which I affectionately refer to as the Bonhomme-gnome, are popular souvenirs. Other commonplace souvenirs carried by revelers include a hollow red plastic walking stick generally filled with a libation known as Caribou.

COURTESY OF CARNAVAL DE QUÉBEC



FAIRMONT LE CHÂTEAU FRONTENAC HOTEL
COURTESY OF FAIRMONT HOTELS & RESORTS

This is a dark red mixture of grain alcohol and Canadian port, creating a 24-percent alcohol concoction. Originally derived from an American sanguine solution of alcohol and Caribou blood, this drinking cane makes a portable potent potable. Served warm or chilled, it is rather sweet and savory. I experienced it with a meal of caribou meat available in many restaurants. A nice blend of Caribou à la Caribou, as it were.

The Winter Carnival, formerly a serious sub-zero swill session, has been truly transformed into a festive family fun fair, part of which unravels on the Plains of Abraham. Mr. Christie, the carnival's premier sponsor, has created a veritable playground utilizing the icy terrain. The Christie Village offers public snow rafting, ice slides, snowmobiling and sleigh rides. Even ice fishing and an Amerindian encampment can be experienced.

The area also features a row of several professionally carved ice sculptures from ice blocks originally ten feet high, eight feet deep and eight feet wide. The creations are completed within two days for the national competition. Directly across from the carvings are the international sculptures carved from even larger rectangular blocks of ice.

An equally exquisite ephemeral exhibition is at the nearby Place Loto-Québec.

Bonhomme's Ice Palace displays one dozen amateur ice sculptures in the palace itself, with its icy arched entrance, adorned with carnival flags. Nocturnally illuminated by multi-colored lights, the frigid edifices attract both tourists and residents, day and night.

An additional unique icy encounter debuted in 2001. North America's first Ice Hotel — Hôtel de Glace — was created adjacent to Montmorency Falls Park. In 2002, the popular attraction was moved to the western shore of Lake St. Joseph, 30 minutes west of Quebec City. Now more than twice as large as the initial ice hotel complex at 3,000 square meters / 10,000 square feet, it still provides the coolest accommodations, in more ways than one. It consists of 500 tons of ice and 15,000 tons of snow and has 36 rooms and suites accommodating up to 88 guests. You need not pay cold hard cash to experience a chilly reception and the hardest waterbed on the continent. Simply make reservations well in advance of your arrival.

Actually, a sheet of plywood lies atop a block of ice and deer pelts cover a thin padding. This is your bed in your très froid boudoir (very cold bedroom). One slips into a silk sheath and then into the chlorophyll sleeping bag which permits only the face to be exposed. Jacques Desbois, known as Mr. Igloo, is the hotel's creator and explained that the battle is not against the cold but against humidity. He highly recommended not breathing into your sleeping bag, to prevent condensation and sweating. Once you are mummified, you can fall asleep counting, ah...er...ice cubes in your cozy cocoon.

If you have only a fleeting frozen fascination, then a visit to the ice hotel's two art galleries will suffice. Then there's the N'Ice Club reception room and courtyard, with impressive ice sculptures and the ice bar and lounge. Indulge in a frosty brew or liquor in, rather than on, the rocks. That's right, a hand-sized ice block is drilled, providing a rectangular glass to hold your shot. Then do not be shy about smashing it in a nearby corner. For those who want to avoid the cold shoulder and solidify a relationship, the Ice Chapel is available for weddings. The average number of altar appearances is usually about 30 annually. It is a shame that this expensive crystalline creation has only a three-month life expectancy, but that is all water under the bridge...or will be.

The area hosting the habitat is the 560 square miles (895 square km) Duchesnay Ecotourism Station, an ideal location with facilities appealing to both business and public interests. It offers 94 miles (150 km) of marked trails for cross-country skiing, including 14 groomed and patrolled circuits.



COURTESY OF CARNAVAL DE QUÉBEC

BONHOMME CARNIVAL EXCITES THE CROWD

There are three snowshoeing trails (9 miles / 15 km), two skating circuits (15 miles / 25 km), snowmobiling tours, snow sliding, snow-boarding, ice fishing and the newly offered snow golf. Plus there is an Interpretation Centre and even a Sugar Shack on the resort.

The popular Cabane à Sucre (Sugar Shack) serves a traditional Québécois meal. This

generally consists of indigenous fare such as French Canadian pea soup, baked beans, ham, tortière and crêpes. The Sugar Shack name is more directly related to the maple syrup it produces. Maple trees are tapped for the sweet clear liquid that is converted into a brown syrup and then poured from metal jugs into lines in troughs of snow. Simply roll a stick along its length and you have yourself a pure taffy stick treat.

These palatable landmarks are sometimes overshadowed by Québec City's number one palatial landmark. The prestigious Le Château Frontenac, with its 600-plus rooms, has been prominently perched over the St. Lawrence River since 1893. The world-renowned hotel features Victorian and French Renaissance-style architecture with the brickwork also reflecting a baronial Scottish touch. Its beguiling exterior is bedecked with mansard roofs, verdigris-colored turrets and cornices that complement the asymmetrical design. This

former sprawling railway hotel is reminiscent of a majestic medieval fortress.

In August 1943, Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King hosted Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill for their discussion of the D-Day invasion. An Alfred Hitchcock film, *I Confess*, was shot at the hotel in 1953. A 50-minute guided tour of the Château is available to the public. Tour guide extraordinaire, Gaston Bolduc, describes the history of the hotel, as well as offers an obligatory ghost story. During the Winter Carnival, a lengthy three-lane toboggan run occupies a section of the boardwalk beside the Château. Known as the Dufferin Terrace, this wooden walkway overlooks Le Quartier du Petit-Champlain, the oldest commercial district in North America. A nearby funicular transports people from the upper to lower sections of Old Québec City. One may prefer to use the Breakneck Steps (Casse-Cou) to explore bountiful boutiques, comfortable cafés, and assorted artisan and souvenir shops. Replete with les volutes (overhanging signs) and narrow cobblestone streets, the area echoes the essence of 17th-century Europe.

While the inimitable joie de vivre and esprit de coeur of the people may seem clichés, I can attest that your icy escapades will manifest as a fun-filled winter-fest, a perfect mix of ingenuity and Mother Nature. **LM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: QUEBEC WINTER CARNIVAL runs from Jan. 26 - Feb. 11, 2007 www.carnaval.qc.ca; QUEBEC AREA TOURISM & CONVENTION BUREAU 418-649-2608 www.quebecregion.com; DUCHESNEY ECOTOURISM STATION 418-875-2122; ICE HOTEL 418-875-4522 or 877-505-0423 www.icehotel-canada.com; LE CHÂTEAU FRONTENAC 418-692-3861 www.fairmont.com



INGREDIENTS:
COCOA, COFFEE,
TEMPTATION

~ ENCOURAGE LA SÉDUCTION DEPUIS 1848 ~





THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAFE AND SORRY

By Catherine George

Regardless of how carefully we plan a holiday, it's a good bet that somewhere in the journey something will go awry. We've all experienced it. Glitches are inevitable and even the savviest traveler will tell you to expect the unexpected, whether it be a flight delay, a missed connection or dealing with unfamiliar languages and customs. Maybe a piece of luggage goes missing. Or that pricey bottle of perfume you packed so carefully leaks all over your brand new travel wardrobe. At least you'll smell good.

Now, thanks to the latest terrorist threats, airlines are insisting we transport aerosol cans, gels, liquids and creams in checked luggage. There go the plans for limiting our belongings

to carry-on. Don't despair. With a little planning there are ways to lessen the stresses associated with travel. Here are some tips to help ease the way.

Planning

Good travel guidebooks and the Internet are wonderful planning sources. An invaluable website is Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs at www.voyage.gc.ca. It provides information on virtually everything you'll need to know about a prospective destination, including entry requirements and safety and security issues.

Make sure your passport is up to date and make photocopies of it as

well as of your medical and eyeglass prescriptions and credit cards. Pack them separately from the originals and leave extra copies, along with an itinerary and the emergency number for Foreign Affairs Canada, with someone you trust.

If traveling in countries where you could run into problems, notify Foreign Affairs of your whereabouts. You can do it online at www.voyage.gc.ca. Make a list of phone numbers of Canadian government offices in countries you plan to visit and carry them with you.

Purchase supplementary health and travel insurance and, if applicable, arrange for necessary vaccinations and international driving permits.

STUFF NEWSPAPER IN WET FOOTWEAR. NEWSPAPER ABSORBS MOISTURE FASTER THAN PLACING THEM NEXT TO A HEATER.

Arrange for pet care or a house-sitter while you're away. Check with your insurance company; some refuse to pay loss or damage claims if your home is left unattended for more than a few days.

Saving money

Book early to take advantage of airfare discounts and early-booking packaged holidays.

Consider swapping homes or staying in university residences or self-catering apartments to beat the high cost of hotel stays.

You can often get better rates by pre-paying for rental cars and transportation passes before you leave Canada.

Avoid making phone calls from hotels with surcharges. Prepaid phone cards will save you money. With a Canada Direct access card you are billed in Canadian dollars at Canadian international long distance rates.

If you're a senior, ask about special rates on almost everything.

Travel in shoulder season. For example, Europe is cheaper in spring and fall and not as crowded as in summer.

Packing

List items you think you'll need. The checklist not only makes for painless packing but also can be filed for future trips.

Buy some currency of the country where you'll first land. It will come in handy for taxis and tips until you find a bank or ATM.

With new airline restrictions on carry-on packages, it's more important than ever to minimize the possibility of lost luggage. Make sure your name and a phone number appear on both the outside and inside of checked luggage. Best not to include your address in case your luggage gets stolen.

Don't pack glass bottles. Use plastic containers for creams and liquids. Most drug stores have sections that sell travel-size toiletries. Because of their possible expansion in flight, make sure the containers are no more than three-quarters full and place them in sturdy plastic bags in case of leakage. If you must pack fragile items, use bubble wrap and try cushioning them with clothing or between shoes. Face cloths, soap and toilet tissue can be a godsend in countries where they may not be provided. A small flashlight or candle stubs can also be lifesavers when electricity fails.

Pack comfortable cottons and the new breathable synthetics that drip-dry and don't crease. The most essential item in your luggage may be a comfortable pair of walking shoes.

Remember that less is more. Stick to a simple color scheme, accessorize and layer. Don't pack anything that doesn't serve double duty. Leave the expensive jewelry at home. At least one

woman I know has bought her travel wardrobe at Goodwill and disposed of it along the way.

Pack plastic bags for laundry and wet clothing. Don't forget you'll need adapters and converters for foreign travel. Always have extra batteries.

Flying

Confirm your flight and hotel reservation 72 hours before departure.

Save airport check-in time by checking in for your flight before leaving home. Many airlines, including Air Canada, offer online check-in service up to 24 hours before boarding. With your boarding pass pre-arranged, you can go directly to luggage check.

If you're really intent on avoiding the hassles of transporting luggage, you can always send it ahead. For a price, FedEx and UPS will deliver it to your arrival hotel. The Luggage Club also will ship your luggage ahead. Check it out at www.theluggageclub.com.

Remember that air is very dry on planes. Since you can no longer carry on liquids or gels, plaster on the body cream and lip balm before boarding your flight.

Inflatable neck rests can be a good choice for long flights.

Wear loose clothing and take along a pair of warm socks and a sweater in case it gets cool during the flight.

Include a good book, some earplugs and a sleep mask. The plugs will serve double duty at noisy hotels.



Going solo

Join a club that caters to solo travelers. Traveling companions are the answer to paying high-cost single supplements.

Women should be especially careful when traveling or sightseeing alone. Dress in clothing that isn't too revealing and skip the jewelry, although a wedding band sometimes wards off wolves.

Walk with purpose and be aware of your surroundings. Give the impression of knowing where you're going. Stick to crowded areas after dark and, if accosted, scream or attract attention to yourself. Threatening to throw up has worked for some women.

Foreign customs

Read up on the customs of countries you'll be visiting. In Thailand, for example, it's rude to point your toes at anyone. In Tibet, sticking your tongue out at someone is considered polite and respectful.

Be aware that in some countries tipping is considered an insult. Guides in many developing countries ask that you not give gifts such as pens and candy to children because it encourages begging.

Sightseeing strategies

At attractions such as Disney World, avoid starting your sightseeing

at the front gate. Arrive early and head to the back of the park where lineups will be shorter.

Carry the name and address of your hotel with you, especially in countries where language is a barrier. If you get lost or forget you can show it to a taxi driver.

If you must carry a purse or wallet, never put all your cash and credit cards in it. Use hotel safety deposit boxes and carry money and valuables in a pouch beneath your clothing.

On road trips, you can avoid rush hours in urban centers by driving past them prior to stopping for the night. That way you'll be heading in the opposite direction to morning traffic approaching the city.

Staying healthy

International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (IAMAT) is an excellent organization of English-speaking doctors around the world who will treat members needing medical care on their journey. Membership is by donation, www.iamat.org.

Avoid raw foods and dairy products, especially in the tropics. Peel fruits yourself. "Boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it" should be your rule of thumb.

Drink bottled water and avoid ice cubes. Use bottled water to brush your teeth or add a couple of drops of iodine to tap water.

Veteran travelers swear by Pepto-Bismol for warding off the dreaded "tourista" disease. A couple of the anti-bacterial tablets taken four times a day can cut the chance of getting traveler's diarrhea by 60 percent. If you're still nervous about tourista, doctors can prescribe antibiotics.

If you're prone to jet lag be sure to get plenty of rest before the trip, avoid alcohol, drink plenty of water and eat lightly.

Ginger in capsule form is said to aid against motion sickness. Numerous over-the-counter remedies are also available.

Other useful tips

Stuff newspaper in wet footwear. Newspaper absorbs moisture faster than placing them next to a heater.

Always have sunscreen and insect repellent handy. Eating certain foods, such as bananas, attracts mosquitoes, while garlic repels them.

Never transport items that don't belong to you across borders and never let anyone else pack your luggage for you.

Myth or fact?

Can flat batteries be temporarily revived by rubbing them in your hair? Do two aspirins dropped in a dead car battery provide one last charge? Some claim these methods work. Hey, if all else fails, it's worth a try.

Have a safe and healthy trip. **LM**

FURNITURE OF CONTEMPORARY DESIGN AND SUPERIOR QUALITY



Create a living and working environment that is more enjoyable, comfortable and functional.



Our designers work with you customizing your unit to suit your space and lifestyle.



NEOSET[®]
FURNITURE

Toronto North

1970 Avenue Rd. (South of 401)
Tel: (416) 789-5598

Toronto South

35 Jarvis Street (At King)
Tel: (416) 203-7173

Woodbridge

7979 Weston Rd. (In Mobilia Centre)
Tel: (905) 856-4107

Mississauga East

1425 Dundas St. E.
Tel: (905) 629-3783

www.neosetcanada.com

REVVING UP A NEW AUDI ICON

HAIRPIN TURNS AND TURBO-CHARGED BEAUTY IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS

By Mark Hacking



There's a mountain in the Austrian Alps that towers above all others — the Grossglockner. It is, after Mont Blanc in France, the highest and most prominent in the entire Alpine range. It lies south of the postcard-perfect resort of Zell Am See, along the Hohe Tauern National Park or High Alpine Road.

Like all great Alpine roads, the one that winds its way to the top of the Grossglockner is a spectacular stretch featuring tight hairpin turns, magical views and breathtaking drop-offs. It's also an awe-inspiring road for testing out the latest and greatest sports coupé in the Audi fleet, the 2007 Audi TT.

In that there is still some question over which versions of the Audi TT will comprise the final line-up for Canada — the models hit the road in the spring

of '07 — we were encouraged to test two specific models.

The first was a front-wheel drive iteration with a 6-speed manual transmission connected to a 2.0-litre turbo-charged engine. The direct-injection, 4-cylinder turbo develops 200 hp and 207 lb-ft of torque. The second was a quattro all-wheel drive TT with a 3.2-litre V6 linked to the dual-clutch gearbox formerly known as DSG and now called "S tronic." This engine develops 250 horsepower and 237 lb-ft of torque. Its estimated 0-100 km/h time is a reasonably swift 5.7 seconds. The strength of the package though is the 6-speed S tronic, simply the most refined "semi-automatic" transmission on the market.

Physics being what it is, the turbo-charged model proved to be the better

choice for scaling the Grossglockner. While the V6 ran out of breath as the atmosphere got thinner, the turbo kept right on spinning right up to the peak. In terms of pure power, neither engine is capable of pushing the TT up a category from sport coupé to sportscar. Then again, that's not the car's intent.

On the handling and ride front, the new TT offers a more involving and all-round better driving experience than the original. The first TT was imperfect on bumpy roads, displaying a tendency to hop that detracted from its overall appeal. The new version, courtesy of a completely redeveloped suspension system, offers vastly improved ride and roadholding.

The steering, too, is more direct and the side-to-side transitions when

taking high-speed s-turns is far better. The front-wheel drive TT naturally exhibited some understeer when launched into and accelerated out of extremely tight bends, while the quattro version showed a distinct edge in terms of its ability to carve corners and respond to a series of directional changes.

For improved high-speed handling characteristics, all the new TTs feature a rear spoiler that automatically deploys at about 80 km/h. Optional will be the Audi magnetic ride system, which features Sport and Normal settings. This system adapts to road conditions and the driver's shifting habits within a few milliseconds to create the proper damping effect at each individual wheel.

Performance characteristics aside, the *raison d'être* for the Audi TT is to be a stylish, high-tech ride that will still look fresh for years to come. That was true of the original TT, introduced as a 2001 model, and it's definitely true of the new coupe.

The Audi design team has done masterful work in giving the new TT a bold, new shape, while managing to retain its inherent "TT-uity." In the new design, the substantial Audi grille is framed by a pair of piercing, angular headlights that set the stage for the sweeping hood. The second-gen model is longer and slightly taller than the first, but the four wheels are still pushed far to the corners. The net effect is a coupe that looks less bulbous and more muscular, less playful and more serious.

On the inside, the new TT retains much of its original charm. The round air vents return, but the tunnels extending from the vents to the vanishing point



on the dashboard are gone. The gauges are familiar from other new Audi models, so they're logical and clean, and the controls have been angled more towards the driver. My only complaint with the interior layout is that the brake pedal is positioned too far to the right to encourage left-foot braking. (All rally drivers out there will know what I mean.)

Because the TT has more generous exterior dimensions, there's more interior space for both driver and passengers. The back seat still offers too little

headroom for anyone except children — the TT is 2+2 in the truest sense — but with the seats folded down, there's actually a decent amount of luggage room. Prices for the 2007 Audi TT have yet to be finalized.

In the final analysis, the new Audi TT is better, faster, stronger and more appealing. Only time will tell if the second-generation TT is able to replace its predecessor in the hearts and minds of style-mongers around the world. My guess is that it will. With ease. **LM**



POWERFUL ARTISTRY IN MOTION BMW DELIVERS HIGH PERFORMANCE IN LISBON

By Mark Hacking

I get a kick out of the undiscovered — a new restaurant in a new town in a different time zone. It's the thrill of throwing caution and conservatism to the wind for just a moment and being rewarded by an enriching experience that, over time, segues into a warm memory. An early summer trip to sample the 2007 BMW M Coupe was just such an experience, and for many reasons.

First, the location of Lisbon: Although hardly uncharted territory to seasoned travelers, Portugal had remained a mystery to me. Secondly:

the related activities, which included numerous gastronomic diversions, a sailing race on the Atlantic and a meet-and-greet with Joshua Davis, one of New York's most celebrated digital artists. Last but not least, there was the car itself, the latest creation from the mad scientists in BMW's M division.

The program was filled to the brim with activity. After touching down in Lisbon, we enjoyed a light lunch of local delicacies in the World's Fair Pavilion right on the waterfront. A half-dozen examples of the Coupe lounged under a

canopy of sunshine and BMW banners. Their sculpted lines seemed in perfectly harmonious contrast to the pavilion's modernistic edges.

True confession time: I've never been president of the BMW Z4 fan club. I haven't even been the treasurer. Or the social director. To me, the lines of the convertible Z4 seem overwrought and, at times, indiscriminate — design for design's sake. On the other hand, the M Coupe, the two-seater hardtop is based on the self-same Z4, looks both sleek and muscular. The rear hatch brings



FIGURE 8 COLLECTION
204 DIAMONDS (3.75ct)



AMASWISS™
www.amaswisswatches.com

21 Dundas Square
Tel: 416.956.9735
Toll Free: 1.866.821.5534
www.amaswiss.com

cohesion to the overall design and the bulging sections of the roof, designed to accommodate a driver and co-driver wearing race helmets, are flat-out cool.

So the 2007 BMW M Coupe has the bases covered in the looks department, but what about its performance? It's powered by the same, 3.2-litre, inline 6-cylinder engine as is found in the redoubtable BMW M3. In the M Coupe, the engine produces 330 horsepower and 269 lb-ft of torque. To place even greater emphasis on these impressive figures, 80 percent of the engine's

power is available from 2,000 rpm. The estimated time to travel from 0 to 100 km/h therefore comes in at just five seconds flat. Nice.

First impressions of the coupe were gathered in and around the Portuguese countryside — up the Atlantic coast and inland towards Sintra, the charming town that remains a favored artists' retreat. In this environment, the M Coupe displayed superior driving dynamics combined with a decent amount of everyday livability. You'll never be able to wedge more than two

people in the two seats or carry stacks of luggage in the back. But as far as pure sports cars go, it's compatible with weekend getaways and blasts down an open stretch.

To learn about the car's more aggressive characteristics, we took to the former Grand Prix track at Estoril. In such surroundings, unburdened by worries of speeding tickets or tourists in slow-moving caravans, the BMW truly springs to life. The track itself, undulating and in possession of a number of blind apices, was the perfect canvas upon which to test the artistry of the car's engineering. Rest assured, there's an abundance of artistry at work here.

Selecting the Sport button on the center console gives more immediate contact with the full impact of the new coupe's power. Switching off the Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) enables you to explore the outer reaches of grip found on the car's Z-rated tires. The net effect is intoxicating right from the start. The M Coupe leaps out of pit lane and gallops towards the first turn, classic BMW exhaust note barking from four tailpipes and echoing off the cement barriers.

Entering turns with too much gusto produces easily controllable power slides that reward a smooth touch. With near-perfect 50/50 weight distribution, the balance of the M Coupe is superb. Power is controlled through a six-speed transmission with precise and short throws. Braking is handled by massive discs, 345 mm in the front, 328 mm in the back. As is the case with all new BMWs, the steering is sublime, its ability to respond to driver inputs as close to magical as you'll find in a road car.

In the M Coupe, the manufacturer has yet another ultra-desirable, high-performance sports car in the line-up, and a great vehicle for experiencing genuine driving pleasure. Prices for the 2007 BMW M Coupe start at \$68,900 (CDN). To view artwork based on the car's design created by Joshua Davis, visit www.z4byjd.com. **LM**



SOUTH AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA – 12-Day Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires from \$1,399*

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHILE & ARGENTINA – 21-Day Valparaíso to Buenos Aires from \$2,399*

CHILEAN FJORDS – 12-Day Ushuaia to Valparaíso from \$1,999*

Orient Lines offers you the wonders of South America, from the Andes to Argentina. Sail past mountains and tropical forests and go ashore by Zodiac landing craft.

Our award-winning CruiseTours give you the added bonus of hotel stays and city sightseeing before or after your cruise. Join us and discover why Orient Lines is known as

“The Destination Cruise Specialists.”


ORIENT LINES®
THE DESTINATION CRUISE SPECIALISTS

Attaché Travel Special Offer:
Book by 11/30/06 and receive
up to a 2-category upgrade**



1-866-271-4167
ATTACHÉ
Concierge Services

*Fare is shown in U.S. dollars, for CruiseTour only, per person, based on double occupancy, for a minimum category inside stateroom, and applicable to 12/12/06 – 2/1/07 sailings. Government fees, service fees and taxes are not included. Airfare is additional to CruiseTour fare, available from select U.S. cities, and departure taxes may apply. **Upgrades are limited to 2 categories and apply to categories B – K only. Upgrades are subject to availability, capacity controlled and apply to new FIT bookings only. Please reference promo codes MPOSAES, MPOHCAES or MPOCFCSO at time of booking. All offers are based on availability, capacity controlled, not combinable with other offers, subject to change without notice and may be withdrawn at any time. Orient Lines is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Ship's Registry: Bahamas. ©2006 NCL CORPORATION LTD.

By Janice Kaye



BEND IT LIKE BENNETT

THE MASTER TONY BENNETT COLLABORATES WITH 19 NEW ARTISTS IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

he did, it worked spectacularly. The splendid new *Duets* CD includes Smile with Barbra Streisand, recorded in her Malibu home studio, as well as *The Very Thought of You*, mastered in the historic Abbey Road studios with Sir Paul McCartney, *Rags to Riches* with Elton John and *The Good Life* with Billy Joel. The sexiest crooner in the world, however, didn't stop there. Deliberately choosing contrasting voices, he sings more classics with stars as diverse as Celine Dion, Tim McGraw, James Taylor, the Dixie Chicks, Elvis Costello, Michael Bublé, Sting, George Michael, Juanes and John Legend. Golden with talent, even these 18 tracks of classic Bennett wouldn't be complete without a solo performance of his signature tune — *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*. He never disappoints. Happy 80th, Tony! We see more Grammys in your future.

Duets: An American Classic: Dazzling disc produced by Phil Ramone

and executive produced by Tony's son and manager, Danny Bennett. Features many of today's greatest voices bending it like Bennett. 5-star collection a music lover's delight and must-have for collectors. Available at most record stores. SONY/BMG label.

www.columbiarecords.com

Less well known than his musical prowess is Tony Bennett's dedication and talent as an artist whose formal training includes a New York art degree. Bennett created a stunning hard-cover coffee-table book, published by Rizzoli in 1996, called *What My Heart Has Seen*. In addition to watercolors, oils, and pencil sketches on hotel stationery, he includes album photographs along with personal recollections of people and places that have inspired his art. Fans of his music will be rewarded by a visit to his website devoted to his other, equally prolific passion. www.benedettoarts.com

BARBRA STREISAND TOUR KICKS OFF OCTOBER 4TH

SHE WELCOMES THE MULTI-PLATINUM QUARTET IL DIVO AS HER SPECIAL GUEST

BARBRA STREISAND has begun her Fall concert tour, which will provide millions of dollars to organizations concerned with the environment, education and women's health.

With a commitment to direct dollars to charitable organizations, Streisand has kicked off her first national tour in more than a decade. The engagements consist of 20 concerts in major U.S. and Canadian cities in October and November. One of the greatest popular singers of any era, Streisand has accomplished the near-

impossible feat of winning the Oscar, the Emmy, the Tony and the Grammy.

She opened in Philadelphia and plays New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Detroit, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Boston, Montreal and Toronto as well.

Ms Streisand notes, "The increasingly urgent need for private citizen support to combat dangerous climate change, along with education and health issues, was the prime reason I decided to tour again. This will allow me to direct funds and awareness to causes

that I care deeply about."

Designated proceeds in support of philanthropic initiatives will be distributed through The Streisand Foundation.

Streisand chose Il Divo, the quartet with members from four different countries, as her opening act.

Tickets available online at Ticketmaster: www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 1.800.736.1420.

For Tour and Ticket information, visit: www.barbrastreisand.com



Jacobean Dining Table 10-13ft. \$10,026

WHEN *the* COMPANY DROPS BY.

Handcrafted in solid black walnut, our Jacobean dining table begins with a two inch thick top, set on a trestle base with carved barley twist posts. Extendible breadboard ends make it the perfect table for your next feast. And a feast for your eyes.

HarvestHouse

MASTER CRAFTSMEN.

PREMIUM HARDWOODS.

BUILT TO ORDER.

Toronto 416 862-9449

harvesthouse.ca

Schomberg 905 939-8606



Balanced
global and
alternative
broad-based
wealth management
strategies

Serving demanding clients with
portfolios of \$5,000,000+