



**You Could Win...
Dinner for 2
At Baton Rouge
Restaurant**

See page 4 for details...

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GreenScape.ca Gazette

Insiders Tips for Healthy, Happy Outdoor Living... Spring is Just Around the Corner...

And so is getting your sprinkler system ready for what we all hope will be a sunny and mild 2009 Summer season.

To that end, we'll be sending you're your Spring Opening Schedule letter later this year.

While it's important to have your sprinkler system's Spring Opening and Fall Winterizing professionally done each year, it's also important to make sure your system controller is set to reflect the actual weather conditions, rather than just leaving the same settings regardless of the weather.

Included in this mailing is your annual Maintenance Plan Package announcement... and you'll notice the Ultimate and Premium Plan options include three or one Seasonal Tune-up Visits, respectively.... These ensure all the elements of your system are working as they should, and that proper adjustments are made to your controller, to better reflect the then current weather conditions...saving water & cost.

Avoid brown patches or over-watering this summer... and put your sprinkler system on auto-pilot with either our Ultimate or Premium Maintenance Plans...

You'll be glad you did!

Quick Tips – Car Tip...

You should replace the automobile air filter at regular intervals, as recommended by the manufacturer. But, if you regularly drive on dirt roads, slushy streets, or experience a lot of stop-and go traffic, you may need to change the filter more frequently. A winter on sanded/salted roads may necessitate a new filter too. Changing the filter yourself is relatively easy, and can save you \$10 or more, plus the labor costs. Read your owners manual to find out how to swap out air filters.

Storing Your Stuff...

Before you try to put things away, decide if you might be able to do some thoughtful weeding out first. Take a good look at your closets and storage areas, and discard anything you haven't used for 12 months or more. You may find that alone will give you all the space you need.

Look for hidden storage spaces. Use the space under an end table to stack a few baskets or nice boxes. Better yet, cover your small tables with a floor-length piece of stylish, attractive fabric to make the most of this wasted space.

Use the space under your bed. Many stores sell storage boxes specifically made to fit there. Many of them even have wheels to make it easy to get them out and put them away. You can store your seasonal clothing, extra linens, gift-wrapping supplies, sports gear, or even shoes. If you want even more storage space, raise your bed a little higher. You can find products that lift the legs of your bed at most home improvement stores, though you may then need a longer bed skirt to cover the extra space.

If you plan to buy new furniture to accommodate your things, shop carefully. Plan to get tall bookcases, rather than short ones, and look for those with doors. You'll find you can get a better handle on storing things if you can close them up behind cabinet doors.

If you're thinking about new end tables or a desk, look for those with closed storage underneath, rather than just a table-style piece of furniture. Instead of a regular coffee table, look for a chest that can double up extra storage space. Finally, always look for adjustable shelves. You'll find you can fit more into your storage units if you can minimize any wasted space.

Curing the Winter Blues...

In our climate, the Winter Blues are a common occurrence. Although the best cures are time, better weather, and more sunshine, there are a few things you can do to make the best of it until spring...

- Read a book set in an exotic locale
- Rent old, funny movies
- Write letters to old friends
- Clean out all your closets
- Visit a museum or art gallery
- Plan your summer vacation
- Get/ use a new exercise video
- Try a couple of new recipes
- Eat lots of fresh fruit.



Did You Know...

Tablecloths were originally meant to serve as towels with which guests could wipe their hands and faces after dinner.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The sound of a snore (up to 69 decibels) can be almost as loud as the noise of a pneumatic drill (70-90 decibels).

The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.

Insulated Shades Can Reduce Your Heating Bills...

Since they can be a significant source of heat loss, as energy prices have bounced up and down many people are wondering what they can do about their inefficient windows. It would be nice if you could just call a contractor and have all your windows replaced with new ones, but that would be a very expensive proposition. There's another step you can take that will save energy.

A window with a single-pane of glass has an insulation value of only R-1. And installing insulated shades or curtains can be an excellent way to improve the efficiency of older windows. In fact, the insulation value of the best insulated window shades can be as much as R-6.... And they also reduce drafts.

The 'roman' shade is popular and efficient because it can be made quite thick. The best ones have four insulating layers, including one of reflective material like Mylar with a vapor barrier sandwiched between the layers. A magnetic-edge strip seals them tightly against the wall or window trim.

You can even add your own material to the room-facing side to complement your decor.

You can buy window kits at hardware stores which include special adhesive strips activated with a steam iron. If you're handy at sewing, you can even make your own.

Save a Buck or Two on Your Groceries...

Don't be in such a hurry when going to the supermarket. Here are a few things to think about that can save you grocery money...

- **Before heading out, check advertising circulars carefully...** just because it's being advertised doesn't mean it's a good buy.
- **Shop without your spouse or kids...** it'll let you focus on the job at hand without distraction.
- **Don't shop when you're hungry...** always eat first to avoid impulse buying.
- **Always make a list of what you need...** then and don't buy anything else unless it's a food basic or a real bargain.
- If you see an end-of-the-aisle display featuring a product you want, check the price against prices on the regular shelf area for that item... regular display shelf prices are often lower.
- **Buy the whole melon, vegetable, cooked chicken, or cheese block...** pre-packaged, cut-up selections cost much more.
- **Try store or no-name brands...** you'll probably save money without sacrificing quality.
- **If you tend to overspend, pay only with cash...** by helping you avoid impulse buying, if you only take just a few dollars more than you estimate your purchases will cost, it'll help you stay within your budget.

On Taking Action – Quotes to Live By...

“I like things to happen; and if they don't happen, I like to *make* them happen.”
– Winston Churchill

“Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.”
– Napoleon Hill

“What moves those of genius, what inspires their work is not new ideas, but their obsession with the idea that what has already been said is still not enough.”
– Eugene Delacroix

Trivia...

- No piece of paper can be folded more than seven times.
- Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
- There are more chickens than people in the world.
- It takes 3,000 cows to supply enough leather to the National Football League in the US for a year's supply of footballs.
- It's possible to lead a cow upstairs... but not downstairs.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo... no one knows why.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.



Water Facts – Did You Know?

- A cow must drink over 11 liters of water to produce about 4 liters of milk.
- It takes 50 glasses of water to grow enough oranges to make one glass of orange juice.
- If you melt 25 centimeters of snow, you'll only get about 2.5 centimeters of water.
- It takes over 460 liters of water to produce one loaf of bread.
- The middle class did not copy the wealthy lawn aesthetic until after the Civil War.
- 30-60% of urban fresh water is used for watering lawns.
- If you're typical, you use over 8 liters of water to brush your teeth.

Why Do Onions Make Us Cry?

It's not the strong onion odor of the onion, rather the gas it releases when we cut into this member of the lily family.

The onion itself contains oil - which contains sulfur - an irritant to both our nose and eyes. Cutting an onion releases a gas contained within the onion (Propanethiol S-oxide), which then couples with the enzymes in the onion to produce a passive sulfur compound. When this gas encounters the water produced by our tear ducts it produces sulfuric acid.

In response to the caustic acid, we blink, involuntarily, producing tears to which flush the sulfuric acid away.

Rubbing your eyes with your hands - another reflex - often makes the situation worse because your hands are usually covered with that same, caustic, sulfuric acid which you're then rubbing directly into your eyes.

The only way to avoid the effects of this pungent, irritating situation is boil or cook the onion in your microwave, not to slice or dice it.

Quick Tips – Roasting Pans...

When roasting meat or vegetables, it's important to choose the correct-sized pan. If the pan's too big, food can burn. If it's too small, the roast will probably stick to the sides. The pan height is also important, because if they're too high, the food could steam instead of roast, where a low-sided pan allows the grease and juices to escape, leading to a dirty oven. It's helpful to have a couple different sized roasting pans to ensure you'll have the right size for any meal.

3 Words That Can Cause Problems...

There are people who do have a way with words. They speak in almost a prose, and they use clear words that everyone understands.

Even those who have such a talent can be defeated when they inject "**no**," "**but**" or "**however**" into what they say. Whether at home or at work, those who use these 3 words can sabotage themselves. Consider these perspectives...

"I love you, **but**..." (Never attach a complaint to a positive statement).

At work, it could be, "**No**, that idea won't work," Instead, give constructive ideas on what would work.

The third self-defeating word is "**however**," as in "That certainly has merit, **however**..." This is a usually a thinly veiled attempt to prove someone wrong. Some people feel a need to be right all the time... but no one ever really is... *right?*

Are You Our *Featured Client*?

In each of our future newsletters we'll be choosing a very special client as our way of honoring good friends and saying '*thanks*' to those of you who support us with your friendship, referrals, word-of-mouth, constructive feedback... and of course, repeat business. Our first *Featured Client* for 2009 is...

Mrs. Phyllis Scott...

To us, Phyllis has always been an absolute pleasure to deal with. She is a lady who seems to really enjoy life. She's always pleasant to deal with, lots of fun and provides us with helpful feedback. Whether it is our admin staff, or service techs, everyone enjoys working for Mrs. Scott.

So, as a token of our appreciation, we're sending Phyllis our best wishes, along with a gift certificate for dinner for two at Baton Rouge fine restaurant establishment. Thanks for being such a great client, Phyllis.

You could be one of our **Featured Clients!** Watch for your name here in future newsletters.

Trees Pleeze...

- By weight, trees make up an estimated 80% of the 49 trillion tons of green plants on the planet.
- Oak trees are struck by lightning more than any other tree because they tend to grow taller than most other trees.
- Coal is formed from trees that lived and died during prehistoric times
- Less than 1% of a tree is made up of actual living cells
- It takes 30 leaves to grow a Jonathan apple and 50 leaves to grow a large Delicious apple
- Apples, pears and peaches are all members of the rose family
- There are over 20,000 different kinds of trees in the world
- When tree leaves turn upside down in a fresh breeze you can expect rain
- The pull of gravity or the force of the wind can cause a tree to grow more on one side than on the other
- Trees were once used to help fortune tellers divine the meaning of dreams
- In medieval Europe, dreaming of...
 - a green oak tree indicated a long life
 - a cypress was the harbinger of problems in business
 - a palm tree was the best of omens
 - a pine tree was a dark hint of looming problems.



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Interested in Winning a Gift Certificate For Baton Rouge Fine Restaurants?

Take Our Trivia Challenge and You Could Win!

Guess who won our last Trivia Quiz? We're pleased to announce the winner of our last Trivia Quiz... Mr. Peter Reid who was the first person to correctly answer this question by e-mail...

About how many liters of water a day does an average family of 4 use?

- a) 200 liters b) 400 liters c) 1,000 liters d) 1,500 liters e) 3,000 liters

No need to grab your Encyclopedia, the answer is "b" about 400 liters.

Congratulations Peter – you've won a dinner for two at either of Baton Rouge's, fine Ottawa locations.

Now our latest Trivia Question... for your chance to win, be the first to e-mail us the correct answer to this question...

Which discovery made it possible to accurately calculate the age of our planet Earth?

- a) fossils b) continental drift c) radioactivity d) carbon dating e) Darwin

Don't wait! E-mail your answer to Admin@GreenScape.ca

We're Always Looking for a Few Great People...

If you, or anyone you know, might be looking for something to do with your free time...

Once again this year we're going to be looking out for a few special, mature, energetic people... perhaps with some outdoor/service experience (though it's not a prerequisite), to lend us a hand with our sprinkler and landscape lighting service programs, or indoors at our Do-it-Yourself Sprinkler Store.

We offer training, a flexible schedule during our busy Summer/Fall season (5 to 7 hours a day, 3 to 4 days a week)... and of course, the promise of plenty of fresh air, exercise, good works... and the sense of a job well-done.

So, if you – *or anyone you know* – might be interested in knowing more about what's involved, don't be shy... give us a call. We be glad to give you all the details. We'd be pleased to hear from *you*...

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Q & A About Your Sprinkler System...

Q – I haven't the time to stay home from work, so, is there a way you can start my system without me being here, or remembering to turn on the water?

A – Since the deep winter frost forces us to put your main water control valve in the basement, this is has been long been a common inconvenience for our clients. But technology now offers a solution called a 'Flowtech remote shut-off valve,' and we're now installing them on most new systems. And they can be easily installed on yours as well.

We'd install a small brass valve (with an electric motor) on your existing basement sprinkler supply pipe, and run a low-voltage wire through the outside wall to a special plug similar to Hydro's meter reading plug. To open/close the valve inside, our technician would simply connect a special activator to the plug...no fuss, no muss.. You'll never again have to remember the water, stay home to meet us, or need our technician to come into your home to perform our regular maintenance again. And considering the time it can save you, it's very reasonable, too. Find out more... give us a call...

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