



GreenScape.ca Gazette

“Good News & Tips for Healthy, Happy Outdoor Living...”

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Knowing your spouse’s ‘likes’...

Tom and his wife listened intently as the seminar instructor described to everyone why knowing each other’s likes and dislikes is so important in a relationship.

As he was addressing only the husbands, he asked, “For example, can you all name your wife’s favorite flower?”

Tom leaned toward his wife and whispered proudly, **“It’s Pillsbury, isn’t it?”**



Visit our website... www.GreenScape.ca

Safe at home? Well, it can be... if...

Your home should be one of the safest place you can be, but it often isn’t. It depends on what tools you might be using. For example...

Your lawn mower – the most dangerous tool you have, because it can throw debris into your eyes or those of bystanders. It can cause serious injuries to hands and feet.

Remove twigs, sticks and rocks before mowing and keep children and others away. Wear safety glasses with side shields and sturdy shoes, not sandals. Use hearing protection.

Electric hedge trimmers – every year emergency rooms see many people with fingers/toes mutilated or clipped off.

Wear sturdy gloves & shoes while trimming. Wear long pants. Don't lean over too far or you could lose your balance. Turn off to clear them.

Electric garage doors – have heavy springs on each side, and one should loosen, it can hit your head or take off a finger.

Seek regular professional garage door, tracks, and opening system service.

Poison ivy, oak and sumac – even lightly brushing against one of these can cause a painful rash.

So, if you, your clothing or your tools come in contact with them, wash the body area or the object immediately with soap and water, even beer or soda can help. Better yet, use rubbing alcohol.

Pools – never dive into water if you’re not sure of its depth. Have flotation devices available, don’t leave kids unsupervised in the pool area.

Did you know?

Samuel Bath Thomas was born in Plymouth, England in 1855 and arrived in New York at 21. He worked hard, saved money, and opened a Manhattan bakery in 1880... one of several thousand small New York bake shops.

He developed what he called an ‘English Muffin’ (completely unknown in England), which he cooked on a griddle instead of an oven. His *muffins* caught the fancy of NYC hoteliers because they were a classy alternative to regular toast, but just as easy to prepare (pop in the toaster, butter, etc.).

Thomas delivered his muffins in glass-domed cases with “S. B. Thomas” printed on them, creating enough brand awareness to begin selling his toaster-ready novelty through grocery stores as well.

When Thomas died in 1919 his daughter & nephews inherited the business. Later they sold it to CPC, a food conglomerate that eventually rebranded itself Best Foods. CPC spread his yeasty empire across the rest of the United States and Canada... **and the rest, as they say, is history.**

Today, the original Thomas business is part of George Weston Limited. And because it runs 14 eastern US baking facilities, most Americans have no idea it’s a Canadian company... **that owns Loblaws & Weston Foods**

Thank you! Thanks! Thank You! Thanks! Thank You!

We’d like to acknowledge and thank each of the following valued GreenScape.ca clients who have graciously referred other homeowners to us...

Mrs Kevin Butterfield

Mr & Mrs John Nolan

Mr David Evoy

Mr Garth Roberts

Mrs Paula Farrell

Mr Bordy Semchyshyn

Dr Elaine Jolly

Please remember... your referrals are always welcome & much appreciated...

Mrs Nancy Montgomery



My name is **Marbuls**... I'm the latest addition to the GreenScape.ca family... and each month I'll be writin' about a hot topic (*other than bones and gettin' dirty*). Since this is my first column, I thought I'd slobber & bark about the much-loved **HST** (stands for Harmonized Sales Tax).

It seems some guy named M'Guinty has been tellin' dog-owners that while this new tax is really necessary, he also promised it's going to be a "neutral" tax that won't take any more money from your pockets than you so happily shell out to the tax guy today.

Now, I'm too young to know anything about it, but my Mom told me he promised no new taxes when he was first elected a dog's life ago, too!

Just the other day, some folks from a place called NDP did a bit of digging' around (*please pardon the pun... I just couldn't help myself*) and discovered his new HST would cost the average dog-ownin' family nearly a thousand bucks a year more in taxes than last year. Then I saw him on that thing called a TV (where those cats hide and I can't get 'em) and he looked bright red and sounded like he was talking from both sides of his mouth, as he admitted those NDP folks were kinda' right... **but not really.**

Then he started talkin' about wars and patriotism... and about how they were really good reasons for my owners to happily cough up 8% more for a whole bunch of things they hadn't pay taxes on before. I sure had a hard time getting' the connection... *Is there a war in Ontario? Does M'Guinty have an army?*

M'Guinty said business owners should be cuttin' prices by the amount they'll save on PST, and passin' the savings on to consumers. He **implied** prices should come down as much as 8% to offset the new HST. I think he's tryin' to confuse everyone...

My owner sounded upset talkin' to his accountant about how, up to now, he only paid PST on the wholesale price of **just the material** part of a job... and when you factor in all the inflationary stuff goin' on too (higher costs for labor, materials, gas, etc.), his true savings will be so small (a fraction of 1%, **at best**), the actual price difference will likely be negligible.

Meanwhile, after July 1st, his clients will have to pay the full HST (5% GST + **8% PST**) on **both** materials **and** labour for all work. It seems to me M'Guinty's tryin' to make someone else look like the bad guy... or, he's pretendin' he doesn't understand his own tax system **and is tellin' an outright lie.**

My owner promised he'd try to pass any tax savings he could on to his customers, because he remembered how, when the GST came out in 1991, many of his customers seemed to blame him. But he didn't impose the tax then... **or now... and he hopes his customers will understand that.**

And I hope so, too!

Lookin' forward to chasin' frogs in the yard this summer... **Marbuls**



Seen on a plumber's truck...

We repair what your husband fixed.

Seen on a maternity room door...

Push! Push!. Push!

Seen in a department store...

Bargain Basement Upstairs

At a tire shop...

Invite us to your next blowout.

Seen at an Optometrist's office...

If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

Seen in a restaurant window...

Don't stand there hungry; come on in and get fed up.

Seen at a diet center...

It's no accident that "stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts!"

Seen in a non-smoking area...

If we see you smoking we'll assume you're on fire and take appropriate action.

Spotted in a restroom...

Toilet out of order... use floor below.

Ever-bearing raspberries are fruitful in the Fall...

Fruit lovers are in their glory in spring time, with berries of several kinds decorating their landscape... but the party's usually over by mid Summer.

But now, Fall-bearing raspberries come to the rescue. Sometimes called ever-bearing raspberries, they produce berries from July until cold weather... and are available from www.GreenBarnNursery.ca in Montreal.

If you plant an ever-bearing bush in June, you may be able to harvest a few berries in the Fall of that first year. Because the canes can grow up to six feet tall, you'll need a substantial trellis to support them.

As with other raspberries, the canes of ever-growers last 2 years... while the canes are producing fruit, new ones are growing that bear fruit the next year.

Canes that have produced the current year's crop of raspberries should be cut to the ground as they die off in late Fall or early Winter.

The new canes may produce a few raspberries the first year and grow tall by season's end, when they should be cut back to the point where they bore fruit.

There's an easier way to prune that takes less effort than shortening new canes & cutting off old ones – just cut the entire plant to the ground each Winter.

It'll come back in the Spring, but won't bear fruit until late in the Fall.



Mel's Twice-cooked French Fries...

Twice-cooking French Fries gives them the great texture and flavor we used to enjoy at the roadside 'ship stands' of years ago... and makes it easy to time them so they're served steaming hot with a meal, too... especially helpful when making several batches for a large family or a crowd.

For best results, use older, softer potatoes.

Serves four to six.

Ingredients...

- 1 kg (about 2 lbs.) potatoes
- vegetable oil for frying
- salt

Prep Time – 20 minutes

Cook Time – 20 minutes

Total Time – 40 minutes

Preparation...

Peel and cut potatoes into sticks 1/4" to 1/2" thick. Cut them all the same size, because consistency is important for even cooking.

Wash them several times, each time in fresh water. Drain, then dry them on a towel.

Heat a generous amount of oil in a deep pot to 160°C (325°F). Fry potatoes in batches for five to seven minutes (don't crowd them), or until they're pale yellow and soft. Drain and leave them to cool until you're ready to serve them. (*you can cover and store the cooled fries and refrigerate until the next day.*)

For the second cooking, heat your oil to 190° C (375° F) and fry them for several minutes, or until crisp and golden. Drain, add sea salt, vinegar, etc. as desired. Serve immediately

Customer, Pay Up?

The salesperson for a residential window company phoned a customer. "Hello, Mr. Brown," said the salesperson, "I'm calling because we replaced all the windows in your home with our newest, triple-glazed, low-E argon, weather-tight windows over a year ago, and you haven't sent us a single payment."

"But you said *they'd pay for themselves in 12 months!*" he replied.

Are You Our Featured Client?

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

Mrs. Mera Goldstein

Doing work on her property, **the City** damaged Mrs. Goldstein's sprinkler system. We promptly fixed it... and Mrs Goldstein filed a claim with **the City**... which they rejected, refusing to accept any responsibility.

Our administrators, Bev & Mel went to work on the situation, causing **the City** to 'step up' and became accountable, settling with Mrs. Goldstein.

Not long after, Bev & Mel were very touched when Mrs. Goldstein visited our office to give them each a beautifully wrapped gift in thanks for their help with the claim... a first for the GreenScape.ca Team

We're sending **Mrs. Goldstein** our heartfelt best wishes, and as a token of our appreciation, a handful of our **Green Backs** to use on any future GreenScape.ca products or services. Thanks for being a great client!

You could be our next **Featured Client**... watch for your name here in a future newsletter.



TSE Toronto Stock Exchange



"RIGHT NOW THAT POSITION IS FILLED BY A BEAR...
BUT THINGS CHANGE... SO I'LL KEEP YOUR NAME ON FILE."

Things we learned at the movies...

- The Eiffel Tower can be seen from any window in Paris.
- If a large pane of glass is visible, before long someone will be thrown through it.
- A detective can only solve a case once she's been suspended from duty.
- If you decide to start dancing in the street, everyone else will know the steps.
- At least one of a pair of identical twins is born evil.
- Should you decide to defuse a bomb, don't worry which wire to cut – you'll always choose the right one.
- When they're alone, all foreign military officers prefer to speak to each other in English.
- Computers screens don't display a cursor, but will always say, "Enter Password Now."
- All grocery shopping bags contain at least one stick of French bread.
- Once applied, lipstick never rubs off... even when scuba diving or smooching.
- If you're a pretty blonde, it's possible to become a nuclear fission expert at 22.



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What's in a name?

Leave it to the Aussies down under in Bondi Junction (hey, wasn't there a song...) to think of this one. You've probably heard about those websites designed to help you choose your baby's name, but now there's one that can help you do the same for your pet.

Just visit www.BowWow.com.au to give it a try... but don't let the name fool you... it's not just for dogs – it works for all kinds of pets.

BowWow really does it all... you can even learn what your pet's name means.

There are only two ways to get around the site... so navigating **BowWow** is simple, yet robust. There's the side menu... and the links in the middle of the page. In the latter is the link to find out what your pet's name means. There's also a place to sign-up for the free newsletter and a link to the photographer's gallery (there's sure to be something for every pet lover). There's even a link to the current featured article.

The side menu includes a pet name search engine, the 20 most popular pet names, names of the month, single name search, e-cards, paired name search, alphabetical search, a photo gallery, naming tips... and more.

Consider exterior or landscape lighting to add safety and beauty to your home & landscape...

Lighting can do more for your home than just make it look absolutely awesome to people on the street... it can make it safer in many ways too.

Some areas to consider... Identify those areas of your property you & your family use at night and check for familiar things that might become a hazard in the dark. You'll probably want to light up the steps and door you all use most often so you can easily put your key into the lock (and not trip getting to the door).

Make sure your various walkways are well-lit so no one trips on whatever you forgot to pick up. Uneven or sloped ground is also a potential problem area for falls and should be lit.

Think about your driveway and garage areas. Use lighting to direct people to the safest routes around your property by placing lights along the pathways you want them to follow. If you have a pool, then areas around the pool and leading to it should be well-lit.

Research confirms that having an area lighted helps deter prowlers and crime... so be sure to check for dark spots around your home that could be used as hiding places for thieves. Test these areas by asking yourself if you'd be uncomfortable walking there in the dark. Selecting LED light bulbs is a good investment. They produce more light per watt than any other bulbs. They last up to 100,000 hours compared to incandescent bulbs which last only 20,000 hours or less. That also means you won't have to change them as often.

It just so happens that GreenScape.ca is your leading Eastern Ontario source for landscape lighting. We'll walk your property with you, listen to you, design breath-taking lighting effects for you... then install and service it for you.

Call for your **FREE** property assessment **TODAY** – **613.723.8528**