



*You Could Win...
Dinner for 2
at Baton Rouge!
See page 4 for details...*

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GreenScape.ca Gazette

“Insiders Tips for Healthy, Happy Outdoor Living...”

Taking a Vacation this Winter?

Protect Family & Home While You're Away...

Each year thousands of vacationers experience the humiliating, degrading, and sometimes frightful effects of crime. You might think I'm talking about personal assault, but statistics indicate there's a more common crime: personal theft while on vacation.

Although summer and holidays are the most popular time for vacations, anytime you travel for business or pleasure, you can become a target for burglars and thieves. Many of them are watching and waiting for just the right opportunity to strike.

Here are just a few tips to dramatically reduce your chances of becoming a victim...

Tips for Protecting Your Home...

- When leaving your home, double check all doors and window locks, and buy slide-lock protection for sliding doors – a frequent entry point for burglars. The locks cost a few dollars and simply screw onto your window frame. Because garage windows and doors are also a frequent point of entry, they should be secured as well.
- Ask a friend to check your home periodically while you are away, or to be a house sitter. Ask them to turn on lights at night, or consider buying a light timer set for every evening. Setting up timers in several rooms works best. Check with your insurance broker to find out how often your home must be checked to conform to their rules (and make sure your homeowner's policy is paid and that it suits your current needs.
- To make them less attractive to burglars, and make them easier to identify and recover if they're stolen, engrave your name or a unique identifier on your large valuables.
- Consider installing an alarm system. They not only serve as protection, but may qualify you for a discount on your homeowner's insurance.
- Unless you've made arrangements for someone to pick up your mail and newspapers every day, suspend delivery of them while you'll be away.
- If you have more than one car, park the second one in your driveway. If you'll be away for more than a week, ask a friend to move the car a few times.
- Move electronic equipment away from the windows where they might be seen.
- Don't give your home a 'closed-down' look by completely shutting drapes and blinds.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you'll be gone longer than a week.
- Never leave spare keys 'hidden' under doormats or anywhere outside your home.
- If you're leaving from a local airport, don't put your home address on your luggage tags. Use a friend, neighbors, or business address instead.

Things to Consider While on Your Vacation...

- Store valuable items in the hotel safe instead of leaving them in your hotel room.
- Keep the front and balcony doors locked – use the deadbolt & chains wherever possible.
- Even if a hotel repairman shows up, don't open the door to anyone. Instead, call the front desk to make sure a repairman has actually been sent.
- Don't leave your room keys lying around when you're at the beach or pool.
- Because tourists and travelers are frequently targeted by their rental cars, if you're going to rent one, be sure there's no rental agency advertising anywhere on the car.
- Always lock your car, even if you'll only be gone for just a few minutes.
- At night, park in a lighted, visible place. If someone seems to be following you to your car, walk past it and look for help.
- All it takes is a little common sense and forethought, and you can measurably reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

Wacky Bumper Stickers...

Here are a few strange, but true bumper stickers seen around the country...

"CAUTION! I Drive Like You Do!"

"I'm Back by Popular Demand..."

"They're Not Hot Flashes, They're POWER SURGES!"

"I Still Miss My Ex-Spouse, But My Aim *is* Improving..."

"I Almost Had a Psychic Girlfriend, But She Left Me Before We Met..."

"I Drive Way Too Fast to Worry About Cholesterol..."

"Hang-Up and Drive!"

"Pardon My Driving, I'm Reloading..."

Water Facts...

Here are a few interesting facts about water you may not know...

- Water is the only substance found on earth naturally) in three forms. True – solid (frozen), liquid, and gas
- Because water acts as an insulator, it helps regulate the earth's temperature
- Depending on conditions, you can live without water for about a week
- To maintain good health, you should consume 2-to-2.5 liters of water a day from all sources (i.e: water, other drinks, food, etc.)
- There are over one million miles of water pipelines and aqueducts in North America (enough to circle the earth more than 40 times)
- The first water pipes were made from fire-charred, bored out logs
- Nearly 20 million North American households use private wells for their water supplies
- Depending on the age of your toilet, it takes from 5 to nearly 30 liters of water to flush it
- The average 5 minute shower consumes 50-to-200+ liters of water
- The average North American consumes over 400,000 liters of water each year
- Only about 1% of the earth's water is safe and suitable for drinking in its natural state.

Quote of the Month...

"The only service a friend can really render is to keep up your courage by holding up to you, a mirror in which you can see a noble image of yourself." – George Bernard Shaw

Fast Relief for Weekend Warriors

If you ever need an ice pack for a sprain, headache, or other ailment, you can make your own easily and cheaply with simple water and rubbing alcohol.

Here's how – Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of water, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cup of rubbing alcohol into a zippered freezer-type storage bag and seal it. Put it into another zippered bag, seal it, then freeze them. Because alcohol doesn't freeze, you'll end up with a nice, cold, flexible, slushy ice pack. Be sure to label the contents clearly so no one will mistake it as edible. For larger packs, double or triple the recipe.

Could Antibiotics Prevent Heart Disease?

Everyone knows cholesterol, high blood pressure, and lack of exercise are factors in heart disease. Now a new player has entered the field: infection. Researchers have found a bacterium that causes pneumonia (**Chlamydia Pneumoniae**) in the arterial plaque present in obstructed coronary arteries.

Patients with atherosclerosis given antibiotics against Chlamydia fared better in preliminary studies than those who weren't. Some doctors suggest taking an antibiotic long enough to eradicate any Chlamydia infection present if you've had a heart attack.

There are many studies underway, and if they turn out to be valid, we may have a new tool against heart disease. For more information see your doctor, or go to www.heartandstroke.ca.

Has Your Sprinkler System Been 'Kaizenized?'

Actually, since you're a GreenScape.ca client it has been. So, what does Kaizen mean and what does it have to do with your sprinkler or lighting system? Well, the word 'Kaizen' describes the Japanese philosophy of 'Continuous Improvements,' and for nearly two years your GreenScape.ca team has been training to provide even better, smarter, more effective service delivery to you.

Early last year we began the first phase of the '**Working Smarter Training Challenge**,' an exciting program of weekly meetings & training designed to build a stronger sense of team, develop innovative ways to reduce/eliminate waste in our day-to-day activities, and improve our overall company processes.

Since then we've been working to improve our company performance standards, as well as track and sustain those improvements. To benefit you, our clients, we're providing on-going team training with a view to continuously improving *how* we do *what* we do, and providing you the most efficient service possible... all the while seeking ways to make our performance standards even better.

We've just begun Step 2 of the **Training Challenge**, and we're excited to begin to build on those basic Kaizen techniques by learning to apply 'Lean Management' concepts to both our professional and personal lives. Stay tuned!

Announcing Our New Referral Incentive Program...

As a valued client, you understand how your sprinkler system enhances your leisure time and the value of your home.

Like most companies, we spend lots of money each year advertising and promoting... and it works well for us.

But we'd rather spend those advertising dollars with you!

So, from now on when you refer someone to us, we'll give you the credit you deserve.

And when they go ahead with their own, custom GreenScape.ca Sprinkler Systems, we'll send you \$50 in colorful **GS Sprinkler Bucks for each of them – for you to use on any future purchase of GreenScape.ca products or services.**

Call us for details – Today...

613.723.8528

Mind Teaser...

What falls but does not break, and what breaks but does not fall?

(Answer at bottom of page 4)

Thrifty Tip of the Month...

Here's a great way to buy quality paint for your home at pennies on the dollar.

Many paint stores have paint that didn't exactly match the color the customer really wanted, or the customer who ordered it never came back to get it.

These paints are called 'mis-tints,' and you can buy them for only a few dollars for a 4 liter can. There's nothing wrong with it... they simply can't sell it as regular stock because it's a special mix. If you can use the color, it's a win-win situation for you and the store.



Little-Known Plant Trivia...

- Did you know that bamboo is actually a grass? There are at least 700 varieties around the world and some grow over 100 feet tall
- In England, the dandelion has been declared an endangered wildflower
- A watermelon is actually classified (by fruit type,) as a berry
- Vanilla comes from a vining orchid (Vanilla Planifolia)
- Did you know that the spines on a cactus are really or form of leaf?
- During the growing season, 25 square feet of healthy lawn provides enough oxygen for one adult for a day
- In just one teaspoon of soil, there are nearly as many bacteria as there are people on the entire planet (about 5 billion).

Find **FREE** tips to enhance your lawn & garden at our website... www.GreenScape.ca

Getting Your Landscape Ready for Winter...

What you do now to prepare for Winter will make all the difference in the way your landscape will look next Spring. Here are a few ideas to get you started...

Early Fall Activities...

- If the late summer has been relatively dry, you'll want the roots of your trees and shrubs to store plenty of moisture and create food reserves for the coming period of Winter dormancy... so be sure to water yours as much as possible.
- Because the Fall temperature and natural rainfall is usually ideal, top-dress and over-seed thin or damaged lawn areas and start new turf areas.
- Begin dividing perennials and rearranging your gardens to suit your personal tastes and aesthetics.
- Fall is the perfect time to visit your local garden centres for Fall mums, bulbs, end of season sales/specials, and additional materials.
- List the seeds, plants, vegetables, shrubs, etc., you'll want/need next year.
- Make notes/drawings of what you'll want to change for next year, or for projects and ideas you plan to look into over the winter months.
- Move tender plants indoors and dig up your summer bulbs (Gladiolas, Dahlias, Cannas, etc.), and store them in a cool dry place.

Later Fall Activities...

- Help prevent snow mold and other winter turf diseases, by mowing your lawn one last time, cutting it to a close height of 2-to-2½ inches.
- Be sure to wrap any shrubs requiring winter protection.
- Spray an anti-desiccant emulsion on your evergreens and shrubs to reduce the loss of moisture over the winter. Your garden centre horticulturalist can give you advice on what to use.
- Protect your roses with soil, mulch, rose cones etc.
- Apply layers of mulch as an added protection layer wherever possible.
- Stay up-to-date on new trends by reading and listening to various radio call-in shows, or by attending Ottawa Horticultural Society meetings, typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Avenue (at Scott Street) at 7:30 pm. Visit their website at www.ottawahort.org, or e-mail them at – membership@ottawahort.org.
- Find some good books and magazines at the library and then dream about spring and the riot of colors that will follow.
- Make plans to attend the largest Consumer Horticultural show in Canada – **Canada Blooms** – being held March 18-22, 2009 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Visit their website at – www.canadablooms.com

Are You Our Client of the Quarter?

Each quarter we choose a very special client as our way of honoring good friends and saying 'Thanks' to those of you who support us with referrals, word-of-mouth, constructive feedback... and of course, repeat business.

Our Client of the Quarter is Mrs. Dale Esdaile

Mrs. Esdaile has been plagued with issues this year. First her roof caved in from the snow load, then her air conditioner packed it in this summer... not to mention the endless rains of June & July and their implications to her sprinkler system. And through it all, she has still been great to deal with... always pleasant and positive despite all the indoor and out-of-doors challenges she's endured this year. *So we're sending a handful of Sprinkler Bucks to her as a token of our appreciation. Thanks, Mrs. Esdaile!*

You might be our next **Client of the Quarter** too! Watch for your name here in a future newsletter.

Did You Know...

- ◆ Hershey's kisses were so named because the machine used to make them appears to kiss the conveyor.
- ◆ The longest recorded chicken flight is thirteen seconds.
- ◆ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- ◆ "I am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
- ◆ A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

Thanks for Thinking of Us!

Did you know we can help you or any of your friends, family or acquaintances save time and hassle when looking at sprinklers, landscape lighting, and water gardens? Thanks for keeping us in mind with your referrals...and spreading the word!



Answer to Our Mind Teaser...

(Night & Day)

Thank You for taking the time to read our **GreenScape.ca Gazette** newsletter. We strive to produce a newsletter with great content that's fun, interesting, and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.



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“Who Else Wants to Win a Dinner for 2 at Baton Rouge Restaurant?”

Take Our Trivia Challenge and You Could Win too!

Guess Who Won Last Month's Trivia Question? We're pleased to announce the Grand Prize Winner of last month's quiz. And the winner is... **Mrs. Sherry Gibson of Ottawa**, was the first person to correctly answer our quiz...

“How many toothpicks can be produced from a cord of wood?”

- a) 75,000 b) 750,000 c) 7,500,000 d) 75,000,000 e) 750,000,000

No need to 'Google it...' the correct answer is 'c,' 7,500,000 toothpicks. Thanks for your answer Mr. & Mrs. Gibson, you've just won this month's Trivia Challenge Prize – a dinner for 2 at Baton Rouge, famous for their steaks and melt-in-your-mouth ribs. Now...let's move on to this month's trivia question...

Almost Everyone Knows Neil Armstrong Was the First Person to Walk on the Moon... But Who Was the last Person to Walk There?

- a) John Glenn b) Buzz Aldrin c) Gene Cernan d) Major Thom e) Frank Borman

Don't wait! E-mail us your answer now! – 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...

We're always looking for a few mature, energetic people, perhaps with some outdoor/service experience (though it's not a prerequisite), to lend us a hand with our sprinkler, landscape lighting, and water garden service programs.

We offer training, a flexible schedule during our busy Summer/Fall season (6 to 7 hours a day, 3 to 4 days a week)... and of course, the promise of plenty of fresh air, exercise, and the sense of a job well-done

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

613.723.8528

Q & A About Your Sprinkler System...

Q – I understand there might be something even better than a rain sensor to save water.

A – True. And while a rain sensor is an important part of your system, it only measures the rain that falls, not the actual moisture levels in the ground under your lawn and gardens. Recent advances have resulted in an improved system that actually does sense the moisture in the ground around your home. Called a Moisture Sensor, the device evaluates the actual moisture levels in the ground, and, should it be sufficient, prevents your sprinklers from coming on when normally scheduled.

Since they provide a more effective and accurate reading, sprinkler systems with moisture sensor controls have been known to reduce water consumption by 35 to as much as 50%.

Essentially the unit consists of a durable buried sensor that feeds moisture readings to your sprinkler controller. Find out more... give us a call...

613.723.8528