



## John and Thelma Jarvis

Sales Representatives

MAKING THE JOURNEY AS REWARDING AS THE DESTINATION

# Great Beginnings

**We have had a great start to cottage sales in 2011!**

There have been in excess of a third more sales on Lakes Muskoka, Rosseau, and Joseph in the first quarter of 2011, than in the first quarter of 2010. This is especially a good predictor of a strong sales year, considering that there were fewer properties listed in March and April 2011 on the big lakes than in 2010. This lack of inventory was likely because the ice was in longer and the weather was frequently cold and windy, which is not conducive to people thinking about recreational cottage properties.

In our monthly statistical reports we are now including a graph showing island sales across the three lakes, as well as

the number of price reductions in 2011 compared to 2010, the price spread of cottage sales compared to last year, and cottages sales over a five year period.

If you have not been receiving your monthly Muskoka Real Estate Market Reports, or your newsletter, it may be because you have changed your email address without sending the new address to us. We have quite a few emails popping back to us because the email address has changed. Send your email address to [Thelma@royalpage.ca](mailto:Thelma@royalpage.ca) to receive our stats on a monthly basis.

ANDERSON'S MUSKOKA SERIES.



"BELMONT HOUSE," PINELANDS, LAKE JOSEPH, MUSKOKA-LAKES, ONTARIO, CANADA.



# Buy Mojito Mint Now

Delight your summer guests with a very special summer tea that tastes like a Cuban vacation. Make a refreshing summer tea by purchasing a Mojito Mint Plant at Richters for \$6.00 each or 3/\$13.50, and growing it on your deck. A mojito drink first gained major popularity when James Bond drank one in "Die Another Day". Catherine Naismith was instrumental in getting Mojito mint plants available in Toronto after a Cuban vacation. (Call Richters 1-905-640-6677)

This easily grown Mojito mint plant tastes like the rum, mint and lime drink you are used to in the islands. You can enjoy it as a tea, or as a cocktail. Remember to grow it in a container, because the roots from the mint family can run rampant in your garden. You can also purchase mojito green tea from "Stash", available in some specialty shops, if you want the tea already bagged for you. However, it is much more fun to muddle your own fresh leaves, making a very special drink.



## Helpful Cottage Tidbits

### Being Land Stewards- Don't be Too Tidy

Leave snags (partly or completely dead trees) as homes for 50 species of birds and animals to use as perches, escapes, roosts, feeding posts, dens, or food sources. Woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches will make cavities in a snag, and these cavities are used by a variety of other species. If the height of the snag is dangerous, cut it down to 6 feet high and give priority to hardwood cavity trees. One tree per lot is fine.

### Black Fly Tip

Longsleeves, light colours, long pants, and high boots are good, but you can also tuck a dryer sheet into the back of your shirt collar, better yet, wear a hat and tuck it under the hat at the back so it drapes over your neck.

### Your Passions on Display

Muskoka cottages lend themselves to whimsy. The cottage is a place to be surrounded by the passions of your life, so throw caution to the wind with your imagi-

nation. Some of the interesting choices I have seen is a downhill ski lift used as a swinging seat on a dock, a full size vintage motorcycle mounted in a bar, and Muskoka chairs handmade from the family's old cross country skis.

### Rescue for Cottage Cooking

With supplies a little less available and more time spent on fun and relaxation, putting meals together at the cottage can sometimes be a challenge, especially if company pops in. There is a great website called Supercooks.com which comes to your rescue. Supercooks is a recipe search engine. You check off the ingredients that you have on hand, and Supercooks searches a variety of excellent sites like Epicurious for recipes that you can make. There is a spot for you to exclude ingredients that you do not have, or ingredients that you do not use because of allergies and so on. You can even store recipes you like on this site for future use. Best of all it is all free. Supercooks.com



### A referral from another satisfied client of ours...

We needed a Realtor who not only knew the Muskoka Real Estate market intimately but just as importantly, one who also could effectively manage the needs and concerns of multiple sellers in an emotional situation.

Thelma Jarvis exceeded our expectations in every regard! We firmly believe that it was due to Thelma's efforts that we were able to achieve such positive results. Thelma is a true professional who operates with the highest standards in everything she does. Should we ever decide to sell or buy again, we would not even think of having anyone but Thelma as our agent.

*Chris & Cathy Halyk*

# Great Waterproof Sneakers

## For Your Muskoka Lifestyle

While in the States this winter, we discovered great new shoes, called “Natives”. They are suited for boating and other outdoor activities, being made of EVA, with a medium arch support for all day comfort. They have several varieties with the classic casual shape of the popular Converse sneakers, Vans sneakers, or Wallabees, and are breathable, antimicrobial and odor free. They are like cros, but with a more trendy shape, and are available in men’s, women’s or children’s sizes. Nordstoms sell them, but we got ours much less expensively on sale through Zappos.com, which is a wonderful online shop for shoes. (I could not find them at any other stores in Canada, on the internet, but they may come later.)

In the States, all shipping from Zappos is totally free of charge, and so is return shipping, if you don’t like your purchase. So if you have friends or relatives in the States who can receive these shoes for you, that would work well. However, in Canada, Zappos charges a flat rate shipping charge of \$ 10.00, as the shoes have to come across the border. Return shipping to Zappos is free if you are not happy with your purchase. Since we have not shipped from Zappos to Canada, we suggest you call first to ensure there are no other charges. You can call Zappos Canada at 1-888-927-7679 or go online to [Canada.zappos.com](http://Canada.zappos.com) to discuss all charges. This company is determined to satisfy its customers and always goes the extra mile in its customer service and desire to please. I use Zappos a lot.



## The Cottage Drive You Can be Asleep without Knowing it

Yes, tired eyes, constant yawning, a foggy brain, and a nodding head are clear signs that you’re too sleepy to drive safely. But here are a few other less obvious clues you have highway hypnosis:

- Frequent squinting and blinking
- Missed streets or exits
- Difficulty picturing previous turns or stretches of road

If you ever experience any of these situations while driving, pull over, park, and grab a short sleep in a safe place.

**Even 15 minutes of sleep could save your life.** How fast do you really need to get to the cottage?

Driving while drowsy is far more common — and dangerous — than you might think. In a recent poll, it was revealed that 60 percent of drivers reported driving while sleepy in the previous

year. And 37 percent confessed to actually *nodding off*. Yikes!

Researchers suspect many motorists simply don’t recognize the signs that they’re too drowsy to safely drive. Or worse, assume they can stay awake anyway. But *feeling* sleepy is just as dangerous as *being* sleep deprived, research shows both are associated with slow reaction times, and reduced ability to see dangers on the highway, possibly resulting in a dramatic increase in crash-related critical injuries or death.

Cinammon gum and mints to suck on can help you to stay more alert. Keep some in your glove compartment for your late night drives. Remember, even a very short nap can greatly increase your alertness, and save your life.





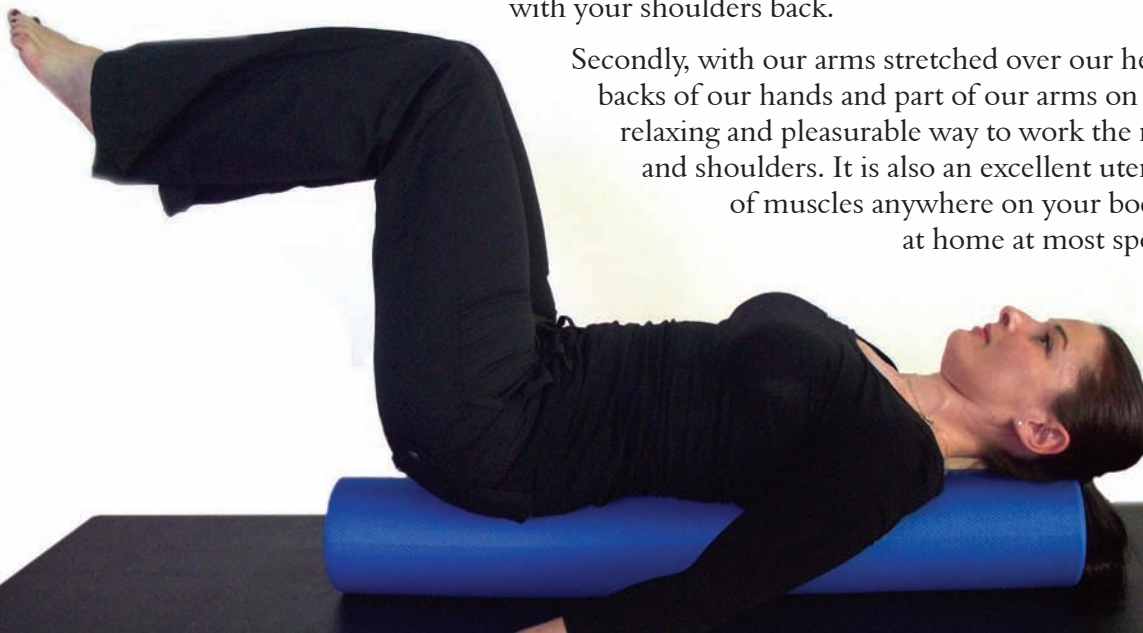
# Look More Youthful *by Straightening Your Posture - A great little helper*



This year, while on holiday, we had some personal training designed for our particular needs, and found some effective strategies to help us to straighten our posture, which helps to make one appear more youthful.

As we age, we have found that we do not stand as straight as we used to. Our trainer taught us to use a Styrofoam roller that is about 6 inches across and 36 inches long. Lie on it, from your tailbone to the top of your head, balancing yourself with your feet on the floor. When you spread your arms out to the side, gravity helps you to stretch the muscles across your chest and shoulders, which need to be open to allow you to stand with your shoulders back.

Secondly, with our arms stretched over our heads, we work at getting the backs of our hands and part of our arms on the floor. This is a very relaxing and pleasurable way to work the muscles in your chest, back and shoulders. It is also an excellent utensil to roll the tensions out of muscles anywhere on your body. You can buy one for use at home at most sports shops.



## We are ready to work for you. Call us for all your real estate needs.

**Thelma and John Jarvis**

Sales Representatives

Port Carling: 705-765-6855

Bracebridge: 705-645-5257

Home: 705-645-2110

Email: [thelma@royalpage.ca](mailto:thelma@royalpage.ca)

Website: [JohnAndThelma.com](http://JohnAndThelma.com)



Royal LePage, Lakes of Muskoka Brokerage  
is Independently Owned & Operated.

*We make it our business to know the Muskoka Real Estate market, thoroughly.*

*We are never too busy to receive your referrals.  
Count on us to work hard for your family & friends.*

