



John and Thelma Jarvis
Sales Representatives

MAKING THE JOURNEY AS REWARDING AS THE DESTINATION

Fires in Muskoka

Again this summer fires were an issue, and it is common to have some cottages fires through the fall. This picture shows a plane water bombing the Milford Bay fire.

We all have to be vigilant to protect Muskoka from fires. In a normal summer season, caution is required, but in a very dry season like we had this summer, we must be prepared to take action if it is necessary. Sometimes visitors renting a cottage, or new cottagers, do not have enough experience to understand the dangers of a simple camp fire in the evening. They do not understand how quickly it can get out of control, with flying sparks on dry foliage. A fire is devastating. Not only would our beloved cottages be destroyed, but our precious trees would be gone, reducing the pleasure we get from our properties and devaluing our investment, to say nothing of danger to lives, and tax costs of fighting fires.

Be prepared to call the police or the fire department if neighbours are reluctant to stop burning fires when there is a fire ban in place. It may not feel like the neighbourly thing to do, but you owe it to the people who own cottages in your area. Actively protect Muskoka from fire.

I read in the newspaper that TML Fire Chief Hayes said that fires can go deep into roots and stay underground for a very long period of time, as much as a full winter, before popping up and flaming again.

Do you have cottage fire drills? Does everyone at your cottage know how to report a fire quickly?



John and Thelma's Helpful Tips

Rights of Way

If you share a road to your cottage, you may require proof of your right of way to get in to your cottage. Rather than waiting until later, when you are selling or gifting your cottage to your children, why not check now to see if a right of way is described on your deed, ("together with a ROW across ...") or if it is addressed in any of the documents

from your lawyer when you purchased, or consider calling a title searcher to confirm your right of way for you. This is much less expensive than getting your lawyer to order a search. We use Sid Aldred aldredsfive@aol.com 705-646-1909 to do title searches for us. It will likely be less than \$100.00 for your peace of mind to understand the conditions regarding your access to your cottage, and what you need to do if you do not have legally deeded access.



The Money Saving Nest Learning Thermostat is Now Available in Canada.



Last spring I told you about a very cool thermostat that looks and functions intuitively like an Apple Product, and is the most innovative and intuitive thermostat out there. It is now available in Canada. Research shows that most people do not effectively use the programs on their thermostats, due to how complicated it is, hence the NEST thermostat was invented.

The NEST thermostat, is WIFI enabled. You can use it from anywhere in the cottage. It looks at weather forecasts, and its algorithms allow it to program itself, based on your usage. It looks for patterns in the adjustments you make, so it can program itself to your preferences. Its motion sensors detect inactivity and it responds appropriately by raising or lowering the temperature to save energy. It also prods you into good habits, and rewards you with a leaf icon, to show that you are using efficient practises.

They estimate that it should pay the \$249.00 purchase price back in two years, with utility bill savings, and perhaps is worth it for your personal comfort and ease.

Head to www.nest.com and you'll find they now ship to

Canada. Install your Nest thermostat and you'll see it accepts Canadian postal codes. Then go to Canadian app stores to download the Nest Mobile app for iPhone, iPad, iPod touch and Android smartphones. The Nest thermostat works in Celsius. If you're comfortable installing a light fixture, you can install Nest yourself. Three out of four people install in less than 30 minutes. You can also buy Nest Concierge, a professional installation service, if you'd like help getting Nest on your wall. (Call 855-4MY-NEST) And as always, make sure to **check your compatibility before you buy.**

How to Combat Drought in Your Muskoka Garden

It is not good news that Environment Canada says to expect more droughts, but we were thrilled with how well our gardens survived the drought this summer. We only watered a few plants that were brand new to the garden, and only did that half a dozen times.

When we plant a new garden, or add a new plant to established gardens, we prepare the bottom of the hole with thick layers of wet newspaper, (as much as half a Saturday Star under one plant), well compacted with our feet so that there are no air pockets. We then use good composted soil to place the plant in. This creates sort of a sponge below the soil, to keep the water from running away in the thin Muskoka soil. The newspaper eventually degrades into moisture retaining compost, which encourages the roots of the plants to grow deeply towards this moisture, rather than staying towards the surface, where they can dry out more easily. In the fall we cover all gardens with a thick layer of leaves and just tamp those leaves down in the spring, using them to help keep moisture in the gardens from the top.

We also put thick layers of wet newspaper in the bottoms and sides of our fibre pot planters to retain moisture better. The planters will still require some watering, if there is no rain for 5 days in a row.



Truly Native Grasses

Last fall at this time, I planted some attractive clump grasses that I got from the fields in the neighbourhood to our cottage. They have been wonderful in our garden, especially at the lakefront, where they take a lot of wind, cold, and drought, and where some of the horticultural grasses, like Karl Forrester, did not thrive as well.

This is a perfect time of year to find hardy and attractive grasses in your area and use them in your gardens. They are out in full bloom now, and at full height, so you can judge the colours and heights you like best, and decide where they might work well in your garden. Since they grow locally to you, you are assured that they will be hardy. This is the perfect time to transplant them as the autumn rains will give their roots a good start.

Native grasses along the roadsides are also wonderful to cut and use as dried arrangements, inside and outside, for your autumn season at the cottage. I put



a reminder on my calendar to do this, because I often forget to stop and cut them when I am out.

You might also want to transplant some of the beautiful pink native Joe Pye weed to attract butterflies to your garden. Like the native grasses, it is very drought resistant

Rejuvenate

Relaxing at the cottage over the summer months rejuvenates your mind and soul. Some people might want to consider facial rejuvenation to eliminate sun spots caused by tanning in years past, or to generally refresh their appearance. It is handy to be able to have this done while away from your hectic work schedules. At Muskoka Cosmetic Laser and Vein Centre, you will receive physician delivered services, such as Botox, fillers or laser treatments to enhance your look, and repair your skin. They provide high-quality products at competitive prices, with the convenience of being located where you relax and cottage. You can call their Bracebridge office for a consultation at 705-645-9888. Some of my friends have found Dr Kersti Kents to be very helpful, with a delightful manner.

Dr Kents reminds us to use copious quantities of the appropriate sun screen in all seasons, and to reapply it often, when out on the lake in the sun. She also reminds us to wear large hats, and to consider wearing clothing with sun protection for added safety. She says the most common error is to apply too small an amount of sun-screen, and to not remember to reapply it often.



Get Ready for Snow or Travel-South Auto Clubs

Our friends helped us with some research to ensure we have the best road side assistance program for our needs, so we thought we would share the information with you.

Canadian Tire Roadside Assistance

www.corp.canadiantire.ca or 1-888-7ASSIST or ask at any Canadian Tire store

Through this company there is a Roadside on Request plan which is especially inexpensive, as it is a pay per use costing \$23.88 per year and a flat rate of 44.95 per call for roadside assistance or a tow of up to 10 km. This plan applies to any vehicle you happen to be driving.

Silver membership is \$69.95 for one vehicle and \$37.95 for additional vehicles. This gives you three service calls per year with tows up to 10 km, or unlimited tows to a Canadian Tire Store. A free oil change is included. This plan is for a specific vehicle.

A Gold plan is 5 free service calls, towing up to 250 km, unlimited tows to Canadian Tire Stores, and a free oil change, for \$99.95 a year and \$69.95 for additional vehicles. This plan is for a specific vehicle.

CAA (Canadian Automobile Association) is the largest auto club in Canada

\$64.00 a year for basic coverage with tows to 10 km for the principal member and \$36.00 for additional members in the same household. You are covered in any car, not just your own, in which you are a driver or a passenger.

CAA Plus coverage is \$110.00 for tows up to 200 km

CAA Premier coverage is \$131.00 for tows up to 320 km

There are additional benefits to check out such as reduced rates at motels, and reductions on eye glass purchases.

Toronto Dominion Bank offers free roadside assistance with its Gold Elite Visa card and some automakers offer free roadside assistance





Actively Teaching Optimism Protects your Children

When I was responsible for the mood and atmosphere of a K-8 school, I used to say to the teachers and students, in the face of any adversity or challenges, "What is good

about this happening? I can think of 3 things that are good about this!" Although it was something that they rolled their eyes and all joked about, it did set the tone for having an optimistic view of life and honed the practise of problem solving productively and with a positive mindset. It brought about more resilience and creativity in the face of problem solving and adapting to the continuous calamities life throws at us. Being older and wiser is always one of the good things about having experienced a problem, and also getting off easily is usually a benefit, as things could usually be a lot worse. I laughed at seeing the song, "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" played at the Olympic closing ceremony, as that is what I would sing and dance to, to make the students laugh, when helping kids at my school deal with their problems. I figured many of them were remembering me at that moment.

Teaching children learned optimism, before puberty, but late enough in childhood that they have some level of metacognitive ability (are capable of thinking about thinking), is a very worthwhile strategy. It is like immunizing them against disappointment and depression. When the "immunized" children use their skills of optimism to cope with their first rejections and disappointments, they get better and better at adapting to life's traumas with positivity. The development from a pessimistic attitude, to optimism, is at least partly responsible for the prevention of depressive symptoms, which can be so common in teens.

Great Book for Children Coming to the Cottage in Winter

Over and Under the Snow by **Kate Messer** takes you on a journey into the white wilderness, where foxes and owls and bullfrogs play amidst the winter wonderland. This would be a great book to have at the cottage for children this winter.



With wonderfully textured artwork by graphic artist Christopher Silas Neal, known for his album covers, posters, and spot illustrations, the book is an absolute treat and a belated addition to the best children's books of 2011.

Sunday Morning

If you are not currently watching it, you may want to tune in to a news magazine program called Sunday Morning at 9:00 am on CBS . We tape it each week and really enjoy its wide variety of topics, as do many of our friends.

Need Help with Heating?

We have used Port at Port's Heating for our hot water and heating issues. Not only does he get out to us extremely quickly, and has even come here in the evening, but he also follows up with phone calls a few days later to make sure all remains well in our cottage. We could not be more pleased with his service. If you need help with your heat sources this winter, try calling Port at 705-644-1279

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@royallepage.ca
Website: JohnAndThelma.com

ROYAL LEPAGE
LAKES OF MUSKOKA
BROKERAGE

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.*

