

THINGS TO DO, BUY, AND SEE THIS SPRING

Innovative items for people with disabilities

Here's an innovative source of quality products for people with disabilities. COARE Enterprises of Oakville, Ont., distributes products that are practical, easy to use, affordable, and designed to improve the lifestyles of people with disabilities. Products can be ordered by phone or via COARE's web site at www.coare.com. The organization, operated by six partners with varying abilities, has the goals of promoting positive self worth, an independent lifestyle, entrepreneurial spirit, and pride for people with disabilities.

The line includes Soap Factory, a superior line of biodegradable liquid cleaning products that are free of pollutants, artificial dyes and fragrances. It features the novel Ecology Cleaning Kit.

Another unique item is the Book Clip for those with difficulty keeping the pages of a book open.

As well, Paradigm Medical items include sheepskin products that are aimed at preventing pressure sores, special cotton underwear for those with incontinence, and seamless socks for diabetics with circulation difficulties. Additional items include fleece-lined foot warmers, crutch covers, elbow pads, wheelchair pads, and more.

COARE offers a 100% satisfaction guarantee. All the products can be ordered from the web site at www.coare.com

(click on the Store button to view the catalogue or order on-line) or by telephone at (416) 460-7876.

The web site also offers links to useful



resources for those with disabilities, as well as a handy Tips & Helpful Hints section for household hints.

The Secret World of Gardens

Tune into the Secret World of Gardens on HGTV Canada when the series launches with a one-hour special the week of March 21 and you'll discover a fascinating world you can hardly believe. You'll learn that the beautiful blossoms in your garden are in fact incredibly sexy and even manipulative. You'll see that right now, in your backyard, there's an army of creatures awaiting the warmth of spring to call them back to action – wolf spiders, woolly-bear caterpillars, ladybugs and bumblebees are the first on the scene each Spring. A 13-episode documentary series in the following weeks explains how these crafty creatures survive the cold with antifreeze proteins in their bodies, and much, much

more. More than three years in the making, The Secret World of Gardens uses time-lapse and macro photography to give you a ringside seat to experience the life and death battles taking place in your yard. The series is hosted by Toronto horticultural expert Martin Galloway.



Hand-made furniture links to the past

You might fall asleep if you read a book while relaxing in this hand-crafted, reclining Morris Chair, considering its lush brown leather seating.

The Magazine Pedestal can be set nearby to hold books and knick-knacks. Both are from the Harvest House Mission Collection. The Ontario-based company is donating a percentage of furniture sales throughout 2000 to the Big Sisters of Toronto (the goal is \$15,000). Big Sisters is a not-for-profit organization that matches girls aged 8-16 with adult female volunteers who provide friendship and guidance. Harvest House has showrooms in Schomberg, Richmond Hill and downtown Toronto. Call (416) 862-9449 or visit www.harvesthouse.on.ca for more information.

Stud finders are colourful and practical

Find wood and metal studs quickly and accurately to securely hang pictures and mirrors or install shelves with the Zircon iSensor Compact Electronic Stud Locator, featured at the Canadian Hardware Show in

Toronto in February. It can scan up to 2 cm deep, and has a single, recessed light that indicates the stud edge. It comes in red, purple, green, turquoise, blue and amber translucent housings and is available at local hardware stores. For more information, call 1-800-245-9265 or visit www.zircon.com.

For wine and cheese lovers

The 17th annual Toronto Wine & Cheese Show takes place at the International Centre on Airport Rd. at Derry Rd., March 24-26, 2000. More than 200 purveyors of foods, wines and other little luxuries of life will be on hand to tempt your taste buds. Admission is \$14 (restricted to those over 19). The show opens at noon each day.



New style for old-look thermostats

Do you think the most old-fashioned item in your house is the round Honeywell thermostat on the wall? It's been a standard item in many homes since

it was introduced in 1952. Well, the design lives on, but it's been updated a bit. Now you can choose from among six decorator colours for replacement cover rings, and snap one into place for a new look to match your decor. It's part of "The Round Creative Series," a new control device, but the replacement rings (in orange, teal, red, green, pink or blue) also will fit any existing Honeywell The Round thermostat. It's available in local hardware outlets. For details, call 1-800-345-6770 or visit the web site at www.honeywell.com/yourhome. ❁