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Michael's Home News

News To Help You Save Time And Money

August 2011

Four Steps for Beating Post-Vacation Blues

If your vacation should have relaxed and recharged you why can going back to work be so hard? It takes two days to come back up to speed after a two-week vacation, according to researchers.

Here are a few ideas to minimize that deer-in-the-headlights feeling when you go back to work:

Let others know your plans. Let clients and co-workers know when you'll be away and give them alternative contacts. You'll reduce the number of messages waiting for you at the office when you return.



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Don't set your alarm clock on vacation! Don't try to cram so many activities into every minute of your trip that you don't leave time to actually relax. You don't want to return to work wound up.

Ease back into it. If you can possibly arrange it, make your first day back a half-day. You can take care of the most pressing issues before diving back in.

Most importantly, it makes sense to plan your return from vacation so that you leave yourself time back home to unpack and unwind from traveling before you go back to work.

Michael Cowling

August Quiz Question

**What is the least expensive
and most popular fruit?**

Everyone who faxes, emails
or calls in the correct answer
by the last day of this month
will be entered into a drawing
for a \$25
Gift Certificate to
Starbucks.

Is it Gauche To Celebrate Left-Handers On August 13th?

Even though the French word “gauche” literally means “left,” it is also a term used to describe something tasteless. Stand up for the left-handers in your life and celebrate with Left-Handers International, of Topeka, Kansas on August 13th.

Ten percent of the population is left-handed, but since it's a right-handed world, only a few people are genuinely totally left-handed. Southpaws are forced to use their right hands at least a little to use certain tools, but most also use their right hands to do things like throw or golf, or their right foot to kick.



People who are ambidextrous are fortunate to be able to use both hands equally. This is a distinct advantage, such as for a woman who can put makeup on her left eye with her left hand and on her right eye with her right hand, or if one hand were to become injured. Many left-handers find it is surprisingly easy to write backward, or ‘mirror writing.’ A left-handed Leonardo da Vinci famously wrote his notebooks this way.

Stone Age tools show that people were once evenly divided between right- and left-handers. One theory about why the right hand became dominant is that because the heart is on the left, warriors had to hold their shields with their left hands to protect their hearts, so they held weapons in their right hands. World religions distinctly favor right-handedness. The Bible contains more than 100

favorable references to the right hand and 25 unfavorable references to the left. Wedding rings worn on the left hand come from the Greeks and Romans, who did so to fend off the evil associated with the left hand.

Besides da Vinci, famous left-handers include Julius Caesar, Michelangelo, Babe Ruth, Marilyn Monroe, Oprah Winfrey, Prince William of England, Barack Obama, Bart Simpson and Kermit the Frog.

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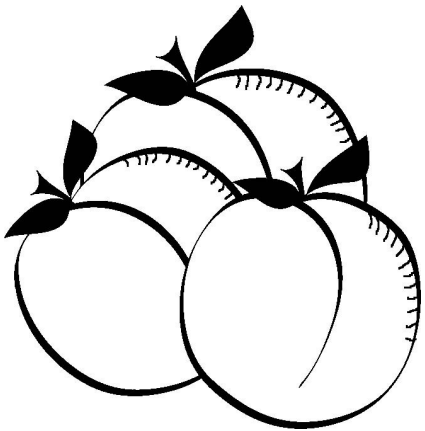
Request a free copy of my
service directory. All of the
businesses listed in it have a
proven track record for
providing the outstanding
customer service you deserve.

Don't Cut Back on These Necessities

You can't be too careful with your money these days, but no matter how tough things get, there are a few areas where the term "pennywise and pound foolish may come into play." You'll save money in the long run by continuing to allocate your funds to these items:

Medical fees. It's cheaper to see your doctor and dentist regularly so you can take care of problems before they become serious health issues. These days, more health care providers are sensitive to their patients' financial needs, too, and are working to keep their costs down.

Insurance. The premiums are expensive, but a car accident or a hospital stay will cost many times that amount. It's not worth the risk.



Home and car maintenance. Invest in the upkeep of your house and your car to avoid bigger expenses should something go wrong. Just maintaining proper tire pressure can save you money on gas, and an oil change is so much cheaper than an engine!

Good food. Prepackaged food and fast food may seem less expensive, but if they're bad for you, you aren't getting a bargain. Invest in nutrition, not just salt and fat. If you buy fresh food, you will be investing in your health, not just quieting hunger pangs.

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. My computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere in town.

Just ask me! It's all part of my free, no-obligation HomeFinder Service.

Leave the address on my voicemail, anytime, 24 hours a day, and I'll fax, mail or e-mail all the information to you on that listing within 24 hours.

Paralyzed Patient's Thoughts Control a Computer via a Brain Implant

A brain implant that enables a paralyzed woman—identified in medical journals only as S3—to control a computer cursor has passed a big test: it's still functioning after 1,000 days in the patient's head.

The implant is a silicon electrode array that is about the size of an aspirin. It senses electrical signals given off by neurons in the part of her brain that plans her body's movement.

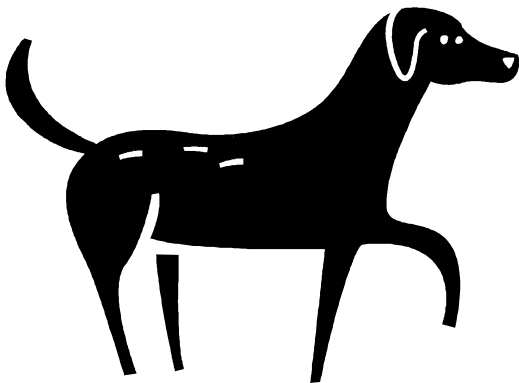
If she thinks about moving a computer cursor with her hand, the implant actually follows her thoughts (by following the electrical trail through her brain) and moves her hand in that direction.

This technology is being developed to help patients communicate who are unable to manipulate a computer mouse with their hands. Scientists say that the durability of the implant is a crucial component, especially since it would require brain surgery to access it if any problem were to occur.

Quick Pick-Me-Ups

Heat got you down? Is your elevator not going all the way to the top? If you have a few moments, these simple things might help snap you out of it:

- Spritz your favorite scent in your living space. If you save your best fragrance for special occasions, smelling it can take you back to a fun time and put a smile on your face. Why let it sit in the bottle?
- Pop a multi-vitamin. If you have been dragging lately, you might not have been eating properly for a while. A multi-vitamin can give you a burst of energy from the B-complex vitamins, potassium, and trace minerals you may be depleted in.
- Straighten up a little. Seeing smooth, unbroken surfaces like a made bed or a de-cluttered desk can give you a feeling of calm.
- If you have a pet, give them some quality time. They can get you moving and give your self-esteem a boost. They think you're the most wonderful thing since sliced bread!



Dogs Need a Break from the Sun, Too

When the temperature gets up there and you're wearing shorts and a tank top, remember: your best friend has a fur coat on. Besides panting, do you know what dogs do to tell you when they've had too much fun in the sun?

- Heavy panting
- His tongue and mucous membranes are bright red.
- His saliva is thick and sticky.

July Quiz Answer

Question: Who conquered the Persian Empire??

Answer: Alexander the Great

Source: www.Wikipedia

**Congratulations to
Natalie Beaudoin.**

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to Starbucks.

**Watch for your name
in a coming month!**

It's important to act immediately if a dog has any of the above symptoms.

First, move your dog out of the sun (or heat) to an area where there is cool air circulating, such as into an air-conditioned room or at least in the shade where there is a breeze. Cool air will help your dog to reduce his temperature. Give him water, but don't let him drink too much. Cool him off with cool water by immersing him in a bath, gently hosing him off, or applying cool towels to his body. Importantly, *do not leave wet towels on your dog and do not use very cold water*. These things will keep your dog's body from being able to cool off and recover.

Advanced signs of heat distress include vomiting, unsteadiness on his feet, and if the dog's lips and mucous membranes turn gray, it is going into shock. Life-saving measures must be undertaken immediately. Follow the guidelines above to bring down the dog's temperature as quickly as possible while summoning help to get the dog to the nearest animal hospital.

Client of the Month

Congratulations to our Client of the Month, Sandy Chambers. This month's Client of the Month receives a free dinner for two at the The Keg Restaurant and may bring, as our guests, another couple of their choice.

Call me to find out how you can become Client of the Month!

A special thank you RE/MAX International for informing me of my Status as a top 100 agent in all of Canada for January through June 2011. That's over 10,000 agents. I am the 1st to recognize that I could not do it without all of your support. I truly appreciate it.

I would like to help you with your business. Please let me know if you would like to be listed in our referral directory

We would love to receive your input for the finest individuals and businesses including any home care or personal care services: a carpet cleaner, electrician, attorney, fitness instructor, dog groomer, gardener, etc. To be included in our directory, you or your referral must be able to answer "yes" to the following three questions:

1. Did the business provider exceed your expectations, not just meet them?
2. Did the person providing the service treat you with respect?
3. Does the service provider exhibit the same high standards over time?

If you know of a business that meets these requirements, email me at mc@michaelcowling.com or call me at 604-276-2335. We'll contact your referral for possible inclusion in our directory.

We will publish the Service Directory for you and our other valued clients. In this way, we'll all share the advantage of dealing with businesses that exceed your expectations by consistently providing world-class service.

Don't forget that when the ground is too hot for your bare feet, it's also too hot for your dog's feet.

A drug is that substance which, when injected into a rat, will produce a scientific report.

- Unknown

Surrounding yourself with dwarfs does not make you a giant.

- Yiddish proverb

Take pride in how far you have come. Have faith in how far you can go.

You cannot prevent the birds of sadness from passing over your head, but you can prevent them from nesting in your hair.

- Swedish proverb

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Midsummer Garden Care

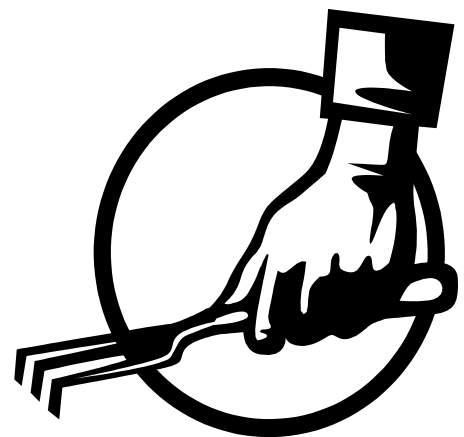
By this time of year, your plants could be looking tired and awful. Although the heat may make working in the garden a daunting prospect, whether you have a few acres or a few potted plants, a little love this month will keep your plants looking nice until the Fall, when the days start getting shorter and the garden slows down.

Deadhead: Cutting off the spent blooms on your plants will tell them to make new ones. If you have roses and it's late in the month, you can give them a mid-season pick-me-up by snipping back about a quarter of the summer's growth. Remove all of the dead or diseased foliage to stop problems from spreading.

Come on, you know you have to: Pick up all of the leaf litter around your plants and pull any weeds out by the roots. Put the debris into containers and clean up the area to keep weed seeds, pests and diseases from going back into the ground and into your plants. Make sure you put rose cuttings in a hard-sided trash can, not a plastic bag.

Manage diseases and pests: Spraying the foliage regularly with a strong blast of water and keeping your plants well hydrated is your easiest and cheapest approach to disease and pest management. When the weather gets hot, spider mites often show up. Check for tiny spider webs and small dark spots. Pesticides are not recommended for treating spider mites and can make them worse. Consider buying beneficial insects like ladybugs, preying mantis or green lacewings to control common garden pests.

Fertilize: As long as the day's high temperature is under 29°C, you can continue the regular feeding of your plants. Use according to the manufacturer's directions for the usual N-P-K mix, and don't forget to give your plants iron, too. Feed the foliage as well as the roots by pouring the fertilizer over the whole plant. You can overfeed plants nitrogen, though, so if you notice odd or burnt-looking foliage or flowers, water thoroughly and skip a couple of cycles of the fertilizing program.



Mulch: The last step is to till a layer of fresh mulch into the clean, fertilized soil. Deposit some mulch and, using a claw-type tool, break up the surface of the soil and mix it in with the mulch, keeping it away from the main stems of the plants. Top off with more mulch, to bring the total coverage to 3" (8 cm). This will feed the soil, keep the roots of your plants cooler, hold moisture longer, it will keep the weeds down, and it looks nice.

MICHAEL'S HOME NEWS

Free Information Request Form

Please complete the box below and place check marks next to the free reports and information you'd like to receive.

Fax this form to 604-271-2311 or mail it to:

Michael Cowling, #160—6086 Russ Baker Way, Richmond BC, Canada, V7B-1B4 or just call me at 604-276-2335, or email me at mc@michaelcowling.com
www.michaelcowling.com

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- () The 10 Dumbest Mistakes Smart People Make When Buying or Selling a Home

Free Information

- () Send me information about your free, no-obligation HomeFinder service.
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_____, City: _____
or in the _____ area.
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_____.
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_____.
- () Please call me to arrange a free, no-obligation market valuation on my house.

Do you have a family member or friend who would enjoy a free subscription to MICHAEL'S HOME NEWS? Just provide me with their contact information, and I'll add them to my mailing list.

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MICHAEL COWLING
www.michaelcowling.com
604-276-2335

RE/MAX
Michael Cowling & Associates Realty
110 - 6086 Russ Baker Way, Richmond, BC V7B 1B4
Office: 604-276-2335 Fax: 604-271-2311
mc@michaelcowling.com / www.michaelcowling.com

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