



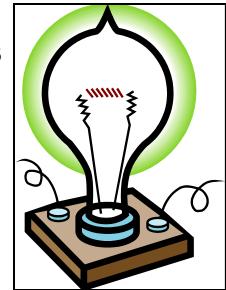
Michael's Home News

News To Help You Save Time And Money

June 2011

He Found Great Value In Disaster

Thomas Edison (1847-1931) was possibly the greatest inventor who ever lived. He received more than 1,000 patents in his lifetime, many for items we take for granted today: the alkaline battery, the motion picture camera, the phonograph and, of course, the light bulb. There's a story that it took Edison more than 2,000 experiments before he got his light bulb to work. When a reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times, Edison said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2,000-step process."



Edison opened his most famous laboratory in 1876 in Menlo Park, New Jersey. In December, 1914, the laboratory was virtually destroyed by fire. Although the damage exceeded \$2 million, the buildings were only insured for \$238,000 because they were made of concrete and thought to be fireproof. Much of Edison's life's work went up in spectacular flames that December night.

At the height of the fire, Edison's 24-year old son, Charles, frantically searched for his father among the smoke and debris. He finally found him, calmly watching the scene, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. "My heart ached for him," said Charles. "He was 67 – no longer a young man – and everything was going up in flames."

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The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. We can start anew."

Three weeks after the fire, Edison completed his first phonograph.

Edison also said, "If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves."

Michael Cowling

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See page seven for all this and more.

Different Ways To Honor Dad

Fathers play a special, irreplaceable role in our lives, and Father's Day is a great time to let them know that. On June 19, skip the tie and tell all the special, irreplaceable dads in your life what they mean to you from the bottom of your heart. Some suggestions:

Write a letter thanking your father/uncle/grandfather/brother/son for all he's done and all he means to you. Read it in front of him and the whole family. You can frame it and even add photos or other mementos.

Create a thank-you book. Buy a small book of blank pages. On each page, write why you're thankful for him.

For example, "Thanks, Dad, for all the help you provided on my algebra homework when I was a kid." Send it around to family members and invite them to contribute the reasons they're grateful.

Create a review of the dad's life. Get family members and friends to write down their memories, then assemble all the stories in a binder or scrapbook and present it to him.

Make a date. The most precious gift you can give or receive is *time*. Schedule some uninterrupted, relaxing, one-on-one time together to go for a walk, share a meal, catch a movie, or do whatever he'd most like to do.

Pool Party Precaution

If you attend a private pool party this summer without a lifeguard on duty, safety experts advise that designated adults take turns watching the kids, and wearing a sign indicating that role. Without this simple precaution, it's easy to think that someone else is keeping an eye out when actually no one is.

Should We Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide?

A high school freshman won first prize at a science fair for his experiment demonstrating people's gullibility. He was attempting to show how conditioned we've become to alarmists practicing junk science and spreading fear of everything in our environment. In his project, the student

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urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical *dihydrogen monoxide* for the following good reasons:

1. It is a major component in acid rain.
2. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
3. Accidental inhalation can kill you.
4. It contributes to erosion.
5. It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.
6. It's been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

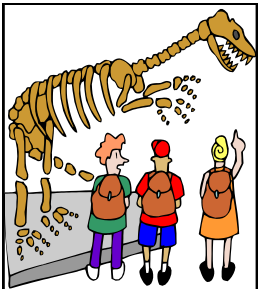
He asked 50 people if they supported a ban of the chemical:

- Forty-three said "Yes."
- Six were undecided.
- One knew that dihydrogen monoxide is another name for...water.

Have A Stress-Free Family Vacation

Summer's here, and that may mean it's time to hit the road for a vacation. Whether your idea of relaxation involves rock climbing or lounging by the pool, you can enjoy a stress-free trip (or at least minimize the hassles) with some basic planning:

Involve your children. Whether you're traveling with toddlers or teenagers, get them engaged in the preparations. Asking them what they want to see and do, and incorporating their wishes as much as possible, will lead to a smoother experience.



Pick your time. Flight delays and crowded airplanes won't improve the quality of your trip. When flying, your best bet is to travel Monday through Wednesday, early in the day. Fly direct if possible to cut the chances of your luggage getting lost, or having to drag your carry-ons from one end of the airport to the other.

Pack some snacks. Kids and adults get cranky when they're hungry. Carry along something healthy to eat: granola bars, raisins or other dried fruit, peanut butter crackers, and treats for when you or your kids need something special.

Schedule some downtime. Don't try to cram too many activities into the day. Rushing through one museum to get to the next one, and the one after that, will quickly grow exhausting. Allow some time to relax, watch TV, read, or take a leisurely stroll.

Keep some routine. For small children especially, maintaining some elements of a regular routine will keep things running smoothly. Bedtimes, regular meals, and normal rules of behavior provide a comforting sense of structure.

Client Of The Month

Congratulations to our
Clients Of The Month,
both received hockey tickets.

Ben Denis
Canucks Vs. Nashville Game 1
Tom Suto
Canucks Vs. Nashville Game 2

Call me to find out
how you can become
Client Of The Month!

Be flexible. Expect delays, so they don't stress you out. And break the schedule when something more interesting comes up. If you want to spend more time in a museum that intrigues you, do it. You may not have the chance again.

Time To Turn It Off?

It's a common complaint: The news we read, hear, and watch is chock full of negative, disturbing information. It's true – and it can be bad for your health.

While it's good to be well-informed about the world around you, keep in mind that gloomy news is like eating junk food. It's okay, as long as you don't overdo it. Here are some tips to avoid overexposure:

- Cut back. Start by eliminating all news for a day. Then slowly build up exposure until you find a level that suits you best and leaves you less stressed.
- Try reading or just listening more and watching less. Negative images flashed on TV and computer screens often have more depressing results than reading about or listening to the news.
- Put it into perspective. You're less likely to fret over a plane crash, for example, if you keep in mind that it is statistically safer to fly than to drive.
- Exercise your options. If you find yourself watching hour after hour of depressing news, ask yourself how important that information is to you. If it's not, switch the channel or skip the article.
- Go easy on the trash. Junk television, like junk food, may provide instant gratification, but it has no long-term benefits.

Approach ATMs With Care

ATMs make getting your money easier – for you, and for thieves. One technique: a device called a “skimmer” attached to an ATM's card slot, which allows crooks to capture account information from your card's magnetic strip.

Experts recommend examining the ATM's card slot. Most slots have a flashing light, and if you don't see one, the machine may have been tampered with. The safest ATMs are in bank lobbies and other areas with

As an added service to our clients and due to the overwhelming demands made upon myself and my staff each month, we are compiling a Service Directory of businesses we feel comfortable referring to you, your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

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.

May Quiz Answer

Question: What is the only rock that floats in water?

Answer: Pumice.

Source: www.mii.org

Congratulations to Kelly Yamake. 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!

constant video monitoring.

In addition, be sure to hide the keypad as you enter your PIN, in case a hidden spycam is watching your movements.

Changing Lives And Attitudes

The Special Olympics 2011 World Summer Games – the world's largest sporting event for athletes with intellectual disabilities – take place from June 25 to July 4 in Athens, Greece, and will draw 7,500 athletes competing in 22 Olympic-type sports. Those athletes hail from more than 180 countries and will be joined by 3,000 coaches and officials, 25,000 volunteers, 40,000 family members and thousands of spectators.

Special Olympics originated with a day camp started in 1962 at the Rockville, MD, home of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the sister of President John F. Kennedy. In just a few years more than 300 similar camps were serving children and adults with intellectual disabilities, and in 1968 the first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Chicago. The first winter games debuted in Steamboat Springs, CO, in 1977, and since then the winter and summer games have alternated, with two years between each.

According to the summer games' website www.athens2011.org, the Special Olympics athlete oath is:

*Let me win!
But if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt!*



Special Olympics has been changing lives and attitudes for more than 40 years, so...Let the games begin!

They're Stuck On You

The BAND-AID® Brand Adhesive Bandage is commonplace in medicine cabinets and first-aid kits around the world. It was invented in 1921 by Earle Dickson, an employee of Johnson & Johnson.

Dickson was concerned for his wife Josephine, who suffered frequent cuts and burns in the kitchen. They originally tried to wrap Josephine's wounds in gauze and adhesive tape, but the dressing usually fell off in a short time. Dickson tried placing some gauze in the center of a piece of tape, and covering the whole thing with crinoline to keep it sterile.

June Quiz Question

Who invented chocolate chip cookies?

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.

The invention worked so well for his wife that he took some examples to work to show to his colleagues. The company owner, James Johnson, caught wind of the idea, asked for a demonstration, and ultimately decided the company should manufacture them. And Dickson went on to have a successful career at Johnson & Johnson, becoming a vice president before his retirement in 1957.

It's Good To Laugh A Lot

Are you laughing less often? Some surveys show that many of us are, indeed, laughing less often. In fact, over the last 12 years, the average response to the question,

"When did you last laugh hard?" has fallen from a near-immediate answer to 30 seconds. It's gotten harder for people to remember the last time they had a good belly laugh.

Yet laughter releases endorphins, and an endorphin rush makes you feel better. So, rent a funny movie, go to a comedy club, visit humor websites, and laugh well and often. It will translate into better health and a better outlook on life.

Steps To Success And Happiness

Success and happiness depend as much on your attitude as on your resources and advantages. To develop the right mindset, keep these precepts front and center:

Control. Ultimately the only control you have in life is over yourself: your thoughts, actions, responses, and behaviors. Don't obsess over what you can't control; concentrate on what you can.

Results. It's easy to fall into routines and patterns that emphasize the *process* instead of the *outcome*. Learn the rules, but apply them with an eye on what you want to achieve.

Gratitude. You'll stay positive if you remind yourself of what you already possess. Spend some time every day thinking about your health, your family and friends, and the advantages you have, instead of focusing single-mindedly on what you lack.

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.

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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

www.michaelcowling.com [email: mc@michaelcowling.com](mailto:mc@michaelcowling.com)

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Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal: _____ Fax: _____

Please send me the requested free information selected below via () Mail () Fax () Email.

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- () Five Deadly Mistakes Home Sellers Make
- () Making the Move Easy On the Kids
- () How Sellers Price Their Homes
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- () How to Sell Your House For the Most Money In the Shortest Possible Time
- () 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.
- () Send me the special computer report showing the features and sale prices of up to 15 of the most recent home sales near the following address:

_____, City: _____

or in the _____ area.

- () Please let me know the listing price and features of the home at the following address:

_____.

- () Please let me know the selling price of the home at the following address:

_____.

- () 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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