



Michael's Home News

News To Help You Save Time And Money

October 2012

The Reward That Keeps On Giving

His name was Fleming and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to eke out a living, he heard a cry from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in muck, was a boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy that Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked.

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"Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. The farmer's son graduated from St. Mary's Medical School in London, and went on to become the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son (the one rescued from the bog) was stricken with pneumonia and was saved by Penicillin. The nobleman's son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

You never know what effects you'll have on the world tomorrow by your actions today.

Michael Cowling

Fall Into October

United Nations Day is celebrated internationally on October 24th for the purpose of informing the people of the world as to the aims, goals, and achievements of the UN. It commemorates the origin of the United Nations Organization on October 24, 1945 when the UN Charter was ratified by almost all permanent members of the Security Council.

World Teachers Day is celebrated every year on October 5th to commemorate teachers' organizations throughout the world. It celebrates the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels and focuses attention on teacher preparedness worldwide. It also commemorates the anniversary of the 1966 signature of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers.

Halloween (a shortening of All Hallows' Evening) also known as Hallowe'en or All Hallows' Eve, is a holiday observed around the world on October 31, the night before All Saints' Day. The Christian feast of All Hallows' Eve, according to some scholars, incorporates traditions from pagan harvest festivals and festivals of the dead, like the Celtic Samhain. Other scholars maintain that the feast originated independently of Samhain.

October Quiz Question

Q: *I'm full of holes, but still hold water. What am I?*

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

September Quiz Question

Q: *The person who makes it, sells it. The person who buys it never uses it. The person who uses it doesn't know it. What is it?*

A: *A coffin.*

Congratulations to:

Mike Aftergood

for winning a \$25 Gift Certificate to Starbucks.

I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells. ~Dr. Seuss

Halloween Tongue Twisters

- ◆ He thrusts his fists against the posts and still insists he sees the ghosts.
- ◆ Creepy crawler critters crawl through creepy crawly craters
- ◆ Dracula digs dreary, dark dungeons.
- ◆ Ghostly ghouls gather gleefully to golf on ghostly golf courses.
- ◆ Gobbling gargoyles gobbled gobbling goblins
- ◆ Horribly hoarse hoot owls hoot howls of horror in Halloween haunted houses.
- ◆ If big black bats could blow bubbles, how big of bubbles would big black bats blow?

6 Weird Facts About Technology

1. To have your picture taken by the very first camera you would have had to sit still for 8 hours!
2. The technology contained in a single game boy unit in 2000 exceeds all the computing power that was used to put the first man on moon in 1969.
3. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
4. Surgeons who grew up playing video games make 37 percent fewer mistakes.
5. Windmills always turn anti-clockwise. Except for the windmills in Ireland!
6. Technically speaking, crystal glass is actually a liquid that flows very slowly.

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Do you realize if it weren't for Edison we'd be watching TV by candlelight? ~Al Boliska

The Cold Facts

Cold season is coming. Most colds begin in late August or early September, increasing slowly for a few weeks, then remaining high until March or April. The increase may be due to the opening of schools and to cold weather, which prompts people to spend more time indoors and increase the chances that viruses will spread from person to person. Also the most common cold-causing viruses survive better when humidity is low—during the colder months of the year. Cold weather also may make the nasal passages' lining drier and more vulnerable to viral infection entering the body.

Hand washing is the simplest and most effective way to keep from getting rhinovirus colds. Not touching the nose or eyes is another. Other than breathing in someone else's sneeze—hand to face contact is the most common way of transferring the virus into your body.

Individuals with colds should always sneeze or cough into a facial tissue, and promptly throw it away. Also, because rhinoviruses can survive up to three hours outside the nasal passages on inanimate objects and skin, cleaning surfaces with a disinfectant might help if someone in the house has a cold.



Personal Productivity Trick

If you tend to procrastinate, or drag your feet getting a task done, here's a simple technique that might help: Start using a timer.

If you avoid tasks like cleaning the house, set the timer on your stove or phone for 15 minutes, then make an agreement with yourself to clean like mad for just those 15 minutes. The timer has a way of making the task more bearable because it has an end time. You can "bear" it for 15 minutes. It's likely that you'll keep going after that 15 minutes.

Likewise, if you drag your feet finishing projects like writing an article, you can set your timer and promise to go at 100% effort for that time, then reward yourself with a break.

Client Of The Month

Congratulations to our Client Of The Month,

Dan Chapman

This month the Client Of The Month receives a free dinner for four at The Keg Restaurant.

Take family or friends out for the evening—our treat.

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

When you write down your ideas you automatically focus your full attention on them. Few if any of us can write one thought and think another at the same time. Thus a pencil and paper make excellent concentration tools. ~Michael Leboeuf

Pumpkin Carving Tips

Transfer Your Design: Use a pumpkin template or draw your own design on a piece of paper. Affix it to the pumpkin, and trace the design by poking holes with a sharp awl, needle tool, or T-pin.

Carve the Features: Remove the template and carve along the pattern with a miniature saw or linoleum carving tool. If you want to make holes in the pumpkin for eyes, use a drill with a 1/2-inch or 3/4-inch spade bit. You can start with holes, then shape the holes into different designs

Light the Pumpkin: Use string lights (white Christmas lights) wrapped around a glass jar, and secure the wires with tape. Cut a hole in the hollowed-out pumpkin for the cord, and place jar inside. If using a candle, place it in a glass or votive holder, and cut a hole in the back of the pumpkin for ventilation (or leave the top off). Prevent exposed areas of the pumpkin's flesh from turning brown by applying a film of Vaseline.



Alternative Dispute Resolution for Stratas coming

Resolving strata disputes will soon become faster, more accessible and more affordable thanks to recent provincial legislation.

Bill 44: The Civil Resolution Tribunal Act, which passed earlier this year, creates an independent body, the Civil Resolution Tribunal, which will provide dispute resolution tools as an alternative to going to court. The tribunal is expected to be operational by 2014.

This is welcome news for the Board, which together with BC Real Estate Association (BCREA) had, for many years, voiced concerns about strata property legislation.

In 2008, BCREA invited member Boards and REALTORS to provide feedback. A key concern from REGBV members was the strata dispute resolution process, which members believed could benefit from a legislated mediation component.

BCREA advocated for this change and in 2011 reiterated the industry's position during the province's 2011 consultation process on strata dispute resolution

Who can access tribunal services

Strata corporations, strata owners and tenants will be able to access tribunal service?

- If two individuals are in a dispute, both must need to agree to participate in the tribunal.
- If a strata owner or a tenant decides to use tribunal services, the affected strata corporation must participate.

The tribunal will have the authority to handle strata disputes between strata property owners and strata corporations, including:

- Non-payment of monthly strata fees or fines;
- Unfair actions by the strata corporation or by those owning more than half of the strata lots in a complex;
- Uneven, arbitrary or non-enforcement of strata bylaws (such as smoking, noise, pets, parking, rentals);
- Issues of financial responsibility for repairs and the choice of bids for services;
- Irregularities in the conduct of meetings, voting, minutes or other matters;
- Interpretation of the legislation, regulations or bylaws; and
- Issues regarding common property.

(Continued online at www.michaelcowling.com/blog)

(Source REGBV)

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Avoid 'Vicarious' Success

Success breeds more success, or so they say. But a study reported in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* seems to suggest that watching other people succeed lowers the motivation to strive for success on your own.

In an experiment, a group of test subjects watched videos of people completing a series of puzzles. Another group was shown videos where the puzzles were not solved, and a third group watched no videos at all. Then the groups were asked to complete similar puzzles themselves.



Subjects who had watched the puzzles get completed actually had the lowest rate of completion, compared with the other groups. Scientists call this "vicarious goal satiation," explaining that watching others achieve goals can provide a sense of achievement that drains the motivation to accomplish goals on one's own.

The lesson (with some skepticism): To prime yourself for success, focus on what you need to do, and don't get distracted by others' efforts, successful or not.

Much good work is lost for the lack of a little more. ~Edward H. Harriman

Liking Living Alone

More people are living alone, according to sociologist Eric Klinenberg's book, *"Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone."* Klinenberg discusses the emerging demographic of "singletons," which he calls the "biggest social change of the last 50 years."

According to Klinenberg, "Now the most privileged people on earth use their resources to separate from one another, to buy privacy and personal space."

Who's living alone? Some are young professionals who are in relationships, but prefer separate living spaces. Others report that after the death or divorce of a spouse, they prefer to live alone, often purchasing a home on their own and enjoying the benefits of not having to defer to someone else about vacation plans, or other things. Skip the mileage-boosting gimmicks. Fuel additives and devices like magnets on fuel lines probably don't have much impact on your mileage.

Thinking About Making a Move?

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Your Body Is A Laser

What if you could shoot a laser out of your body? The concept isn't as crazy as it sounds (although it may not ever be practical for use in hand-to-hand combat). Two Harvard physicists have manipulated human cells to produce a concentrated beam of light like a laser.

The scientists took cells from a human kidney and engineered them to produce molecules of GFP (green fluorescent protein), which enables jellyfish to glow naturally. Then they positioned the cells between two very tiny mirrors, and triggered them with bursts of low-energy blue light. The little mirrors forced the light produced into a coherent beam, which is more or less the definition of a laser.

These minuscule lasers could ultimately prove useful in enabling humans to control electronic implants in their brains, the scientists say, and may end up be used to destroy cancer cells—from the inside.

One-Liners

- ◆ We never really grow up. We only learn how to act in public.
- ◆ You do not need a parachute to skydive. You do need a parachute to skydive twice.
- ◆ I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- ◆ Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- ◆ How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- ◆ If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- ◆ I always take life with a grain of salt. Then a slice of lemon and a shot of tequila.
- ◆ Whenever I fill out an application, on the line that says, "In case of emergency, please notify____," I write *doctor*.
- ◆ Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

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