



DON'T THROW THAT OUT
If it's broke, fix it
See Page G4

LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

EDITOR: LISA MONFORTON 235-7428 FAX: 235-7379

WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007

AROUND THE HOUSE

Your very own veggie patch in the city

CONTEST • Garden-fresh fruits and veggies taste best and are a summer treat, but some produce lovers live in condos or don't have access to a garden plot. To the rescue is mayonnaise maker Hellmann's.

Hellmann's Urban Gardens initiative, part of its Eat for Real campaign, will give some lucky city dwellers the opportunity to grow their own lettuce or strawberries as part of a healthy lifestyle. Interested gardeners can apply online at Hellmanns.ca for a chance to win access to a garden plot at Eau Claire Market in Calgary, one of five Canadian cities involved in the campaign.

Plots may be applied for until May 9, when Hellmann's will review applications and select winners. Urban green-thumbers will then be able to nurture their plots from late May until early September.

— Calgary Herald

Design seminars mark 75th anniversary

EVENT • Furniture and design store Ethan Allen celebrates 75 years as a style authority today at its 32 Mayfair Place location off Elbow Drive S.W.

To mark the occasion, the store is holding free, short design seminars at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The seminars will cover seven new lifestyle/interior-style looks, from metro to villa to loft, to help customers figure out the design style that best suits their tastes.

Guests can also peruse Ethan Allen's new Hollywood-inspired Modern Glamour collection, or meet with a design consultant to bounce around decorating ideas or discuss design challenges.

For more details, contact Doug Cook at 651-7274.

— Calgary Herald

Old windows become art

TIPS • You should never throw away old windows. And, if you see them at the curb in front of your neighbour's house, you should retrieve them, because there's always something to be done with them.

For proof, check out the April issue of Better Homes and Gardens. A homeowner painted a window frame red and suspended it above a short wall that runs around the patio. The six-paned window has no glass; instead, heart-shaped pieces of stained glass hang in place of each pane. The repurposed window helps lend a sense of enclosure to the patio, serving as a wall to the outdoor "room." It is also a unique piece of garden art.

— McClatchy Newspapers

Consumers are asking where their home furnishings are made and by whom, as they become more aware of the global economy



Feathering the nest WITH A CONSCIENCE

LISA KADANE
CALGARY HERALD

Where's that carpet from? Who made it? Did he get a fair wage? These are questions consumers are starting to ask when shopping for home furnishings and accessories.

Call it feathering the nest with a conscience. More Canadians want to know their dollars are doing good

instead of, say, perpetuating child labour in developing countries.

"People are caring more and more," says Beverly Hiebert, national sales manager for Ten Thousand Villages stores in Canada.

"There's a growing awareness among Canadians, I think, in caring about how they spend their money."

Proof of that is the fact Ten Thousand Villages, a certified fair trade organization that deals primarily in home accessories, has dou-

bled its sales in the last five years. Consumers are realizing they can buy fair trade handicrafts, textiles and tablewares, not just the foodstuffs more commonly associated with the movement, such as coffee and sugar.

But, as with any label, it's hard to understand exactly what fair trade means, or whether it's being applied appropriately (think of the term organic as it applies to food).

TransFair Canada, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting fair trade, defines fair trade products as those purchased for a fair

price, and produced and brought to market under high-quality environmental and training standards. Since such standards vary by country, local non-governmental organizations usually act as negotiators between buyers and sellers.

Ten Thousand Villages is the face of fair trade home accessories in Calgary. It's an American chain that sells photo frames from Indonesia, baskets from Uganda and hand-blocked kalamkari pillows from India, among other items.

The company works with non-profit organizations in countries from Peru to Pakistan to find adult artisans (who are often underemployed or unemployed), buy their wares and fairly compensate them for the work. A fair wage is a living wage appropriate for the country in question, says Martha Wieler, who manages the company's Crowchild Trail location.

Artisans are paid half the money up front, so they have funds to get started. The remainder is paid when the product is ready for shipping — not exactly a best business practice, says Hiebert, as the money is spoken for, but the items might not be visible on store shelves for up to a year.

SEE NEST, PAGE G2



Photos courtesy, IKEA

These pillow covers are made as part of a program between UNICEF and IKEA where craftspeople are paid fair wages for their work.



Clean and toss products dominate shelves

Greener options slowly hitting market

LISA KADANE
CALGARY HERALD

OK, I admit it. I was seduced by the Swiffer lady, that woman from the commercials who dances her way around the house dusting and sweeping and revelling in the prospect of a clean home.

She made it look so fun. She made it look so easy.

It hardly took her any time to achieve white glove-worthy results. Not surprisingly, I haven't been alone in my Swiffer envy.

Since hitting store shelves in 1999, the Proctor & Gamble product has gained a 75 per cent share of the quick-clean market, which is made up primarily of consumer wipes that do everything from dust to sweep to mop to scrub before being thrown away. That household cleaning category was worth more than \$1 billion US in 2006, according to the Nonwovens Industry website, which provides information on engineered fabrics from dryer sheets to personal wipes.

It's now possible to vacuum without a vacuum and flick away the debris, clean glass with pre-treated Windex wipes, scrub the tub with Mr. Clean use-once pads, and cleanse the commode with a flushable Scrubbing Bubbles brush.

"Simply flush the germy mess away!" proclaims a page on the S.C. Johnson website.

That, really, is the over-riding message.

Disposable cleaning products are marketed as convenient no-mess solutions for busy families. And they are. But they also generate a lot of waste and are expensive (once you buy the Swiffer broom/mop, you're supposed to keep shelling out for sweeping or mopping cloths refills).

Combined with the other household disposables that have been around for decades — think paper towels, diapers, plastic wrap and Ziploc Baggies, to name a few — our garbage cans are beginning to look a lot like temporary landfills.

Even though results from a Decima Research poll conducted in late 2006 placed the environment as a top public issue (ahead of even health care), the majority of Canadians, seemingly, still think nothing of using and tossing instead of using and re-using.

It makes a conscientious consumer wonder: whatever happened to the original staples of the utility closet?

SEE DISPOSABLE, PAGE G2

samcorea

Marketing your home for all it's worth™

403-870-8811

www.samsluxuryhomes.com

RE/MAX
HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE



Downtown \$439,000

#2, 1339 - 14th Avenue, SW
Wilshire Estates, Walk to work & trendy 17th Ave, 2 bdrm + home office townhouse, single garage, 1382 s.f., hardwood floors, fireplace, French doors looking south over courtyard, vaulted master suite, jet tub ensuite. Condo fee \$180/month.

Downtown \$625,000

#1814, 1111 - 6 Avenue, SW
Tarjan Pointe, new, sub-penthouse, sleek & contemporary, 1363 s.f. on 2-floors, incredible views over the river, soaring 20-foot ceilings & high windows, 2 balconies, 2 indoor parking stalls, 2 bdrms & 2 baths, condo fee includes electricity.

Strathcona \$650,000

138 Strathridge Place, SW
Ideal for a large family, 2319 sf home with 4 bedrooms upstairs, main floor den, developed basement with 5th bedroom, island kitchen w/ oak cabinets, traditional plan w/ living/dining & main floor family room, quiet cul-de-sac location.

Wentworth \$675,000

88 Wentworth Crescent, SW
Wentworth in the estates, quiet crescent, sunny west backyard, walking distance to new Co-op shopping mall, 2145 s.f. 2-storey with hardwood floors, maple kitchen with stainless steel appliances, 3 bdrms, main floor den, bonus room.

Wildwood \$799,000

100 Wedgewood Drive, SW
Rebuilt from the basement up! 1500 s.f. bungalow, wonderful location, north of Spruce Drive, absolutely like new, oak kitchen with granite counters, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, 3 + 2 bdrms, energy efficient home, big lot!

Signature Parke \$810,000

115 Signature Terrace, SW
Large 5 bedroom home, lovely location backing a greenbelt, 2700 s.f. + basement development, huge pie lot w/ sunny SW exposure, beautiful master suite w/ lofted dressing room, basement developed to include 6th bedroom w/ ensuite!

Strathcona \$895,000

1482 Strathcona Drive, SW
Beautiful walkout bungalow backing onto the ravine in Spring Haven! 1672 s.f. + fully developed walkout, 4 bedrooms + main floor den, soaring 12-foot stepped ceilings w/ large skylights, big windows w/ peaceful views overlooking the treed ravine.

Patterson \$895,000

10 Patterson Green, SW
Renovated 2400 s.f. home with walkout basement, views, cul-de-sac, backing a greenbelt, gourmet kitchen with 36" Wolf gas range, media room with drop down movie screen, 3 bdrms + den, walkout developed as nanny suite w/ separate entry.