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INSIDE

## CLASSIFIED

LISTINGS BEGIN ON PAGE G5



## LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2008

## Cover up

Here's a hot tub cover with a difference — it's fully automated. No more wrestling with covers: Just turn a key on The Covana, and the cover rises to its full height of 2.6 metres within 20 seconds. Designed to fit most 2.4-metre-by-2.4-metre (eight-by-eight) spas, it incorporates a peaked and pitched roof to shed snow and rain. Optional side screens can be added for privacy and protection. Available through Calgary's Sterling Leisure Products: [sterlingcovana.com](http://sterlingcovana.com); 403-278-1010.



## Great gardens

This hollowed-out rock effect provided a burbling respite for the eye after the busyness of the show, and is just a sample of what Countryside Landscapes and Garden Centre, near Dewinton, can do. They specialize in prairie plant material, rock gardens, water features, decks, arbours and more.

Their design help is available through [csgcl.com](http://csgcl.com); 1-888-838-5205.

## AROUND THE HOUSE

## Shred It!

**SECURITY** • If you act fast, you can enjoy free shredding at two locations here in Calgary. Think about the paperwork you have at home and the personal information that it contains, from your home's address to your social insurance number. The problem with throwing those papers into the garbage or recycling receptacles is that anyone intercepting that paper can use it to steal your identity.

Today, however, you can have it shredded free of charge between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., thanks to AMA Calgary and Enviroshred at two locations: the AMA Shawnessy at 85 Shawville Blvd. S.E. and the AMA Calgary Main Centre at 4700 17th Ave. S.W.

AMA has four more events scheduled for Mar. 29 with Shred-It at locations to be announced: Check [ama.ab.ca](http://ama.ab.ca) under Advocacy and Safety for more details.

— Calgary Herald

## Are you positive?

**WATER SAVER** • What would you do with 28 bathtubs full of water in one month? If you're not sure, consider what you could do with \$100 a year, because that's what those 28 bathtubs could cost you — and it's exactly what your toilet might silently be leaking.

The City of Calgary is issuing a challenge to all of us to test our toilets for leaks every six months, and then follow up with repairs if we test positive. It's easy to do:

1. Drop: Put a few drops of food colouring into the toilet tank and wait several minutes.
2. Peek: If the water in the toilet bowl changes colour, you have a leak.
3. Repair: Check out [calgary.ca/waterservices](http://calgary.ca/waterservices) for simple repair tips, or hire a plumber.

If your toilet is past fixing, check out the city's Toilet Truckload Sale, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at all Calgary Home Depot locations. Bring a copy of your Enmax water utility bill, and you'll be eligible for a \$50 instant rebate on a range of low-flow toilets. (The rebate's available year-round, although it's not instant: see [calgary.ca/waterservices](http://calgary.ca/waterservices) or call 311 for details.)

— Calgary Herald

## Good things come in threes

**PAINT** • Changing your wall colour is one of the quickest and cheapest ways to brighten your home — but it can be a challenge to pick the right shade. Enter General Paint's new approach to colours for 2008: trend trios. They've identified 60 top colours as their "main trend" colours, and matched them with a lighter and darker version of each — so if "In the Mauve" is a little much, you can try "Silver Shoals." (Or go more intense, with "Dilemma.")

The paints are available through General Paint stores: you'll find locations, tips and colour previews at [generalpaint.com](http://generalpaint.com).

— Calgary Herald

## Outdoor drama

Light up your outdoor world with artfully placed lighting in a variety of styles. This residential and landscape lighting from Hanover Lantern offers influences drawn from Mission, colonial, Oriental and Indonesian sources, combining safety, security and beauty. You can choose from a variety of colour palettes, and the lanterns come with a lifetime warranty. The Outdoor Lighting Company offers not only the lanterns but also design and installation.

Available through the Outdoor Lighting Company: [outdoorlighting-company.net](http://outdoorlighting-company.net); 403-256-1605



## SEEN AT THE HOME SHOW

Innovative ideas offer solutions for tricky problems indoors and out

YVONNE JEFFERY  
CALGARY HERALD

Judging from the busy booths at the Roundup Centre last weekend, there were more than a few footsore inspiration seekers around the city come Mon-

day morning.

The Calgary Home + Garden Show offered more than 450 exhibitors, along with plenty of advice from expert speakers such as Sarah Richardson and Kelly Deck. Here's just a handful of some of the innovative ideas discovered along the aisles.

## An easier wheelbarrow

If you're looking to make life in the yard lighter and easier, the Fold-A-Cart can help. It's a collapsible but sturdy cart that's designed to distribute the weight of its contents in a way that helps you both manoeuvre the cart and up-end it.

Testing at the show revealed it was easy to move, even when loaded. The tires incorporate tubes for easy maintenance and replacement.

Available through the Internet at [foldacart.com](http://foldacart.com).



## Not so D-I-Y

You know they sell paint, but did you also know Benjamin Moore offers at-home colour consultants and even painters? If you need help choosing colours, their consultants will come by, assess your home and provide a step-by-step plan for achieving your vision. You can then do it yourself, or not, by hiring one of their painters.

Available through [benjaminmoore.ca](http://benjaminmoore.ca) or 1-866-PAINT-AL



## Distinctive doors

The rich detailing and historic glass effect in these doors was a definite eye-catcher at the show. Custom designs use traditional mortise and tenon joinery methods, a choice of solid woods, and finishes in rustic, distressed, antique or faux. You can also choose from a range of hardware to suit the door's style. The company is based in Fernie, but is happy to install in Calgary, and also offers custom kitchen and bathroom cabinetry, trim and furniture.

Available through River City Woodworks in Fernie: [rivercity.ca](http://rivercity.ca); 250-423-3331.

## Don't try this at home

## HGTV's Kelly Deck shares our top garden design mistakes

YVONNE JEFFERY  
CALGARY HERALD

It looks so easy on television. A yard goes from drab to dapper in just 30 minutes, transforming from sparse brown grass to a gorgeous entertaining area that creates a whole new living space for friends and family.

Of course, the reality is just slightly different, as Kelly Deck knows. The host of HGTV's Take It Outside was talking to Calgary garden fans last week-

end at the Calgary Home + Garden Show, finding out just how challenging Calgary yards can be (having grown up in Calgary, the now Vancouver-based interior designer remembers well our cold, dry, windy winters).

She talked to us about the mistakes that often happen when we try to match an outdoor space with our dreams. Since it's now the perfect time for planning, save yourself some time, money and frustration by avoiding these common garden traps.

## Not having a long-term vision

Deck says that people often don't stop to think about how they want their outdoor space to look. "They have a moment

of inspiration and they run to Canadian Tire or Home Depot and buy whatever suits their fancy at that moment rather than having a long-term vision for their garden," she says.

Then they get their purchase home and discover that it doesn't quite fit the space or the aim, but instead of taking it back and starting again they go out to buy more items, hoping to make it all work together.

"What you end up with is this Band-Aid approach," she says. **■ Solution:** Take the time to establish your vision so that you know what you're working towards.

## Not measuring spaces for furniture

Mistake No. 2 is building decks or putting in patios with-

out carefully planning their size. "People don't actually draw it up and 'drop' furniture on it before they build it," she says. "Then when they've built it, they realize they can't put two chairs and a sofa on it — it's kind of like an architect designing a house without putting the furniture in it, you end up with these little useless patios that you can't put enough furniture on. It's an expensive mistake to move back from."

**■ Solution:** Put together a deck or patio drawing and cut out the dimensions of the furniture that you want to place on it: Play with the design to make sure that you have enough space for both furniture and traffic.

SEE MISTAKES, PAGE G2



Courtesy, HGTV

Designer Kelly Deck hosts HGTV's Take It Outside and knows the reality of planning and maintaining a garden.

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## Prominence - \$325,000

85 Patina Park Hill, SW - Immaculate condition, 1198 SF, 3 bdrm townhouse, with bayed windows, corner fireplace, cheater ensuite, backing onto a greenbelt. Terrific value!

## West Springs - \$535,000

47 Weston Park, SW - Wow, heated drive & heated garage, backing onto a park! 1790 + 710 SF with dev'd basement, 3 + 1 bdrms, backing park. Granite counters, double-sided fireplace, a "must see"!

## Springbank Hill - \$575,000

6 Springbluff Blvd, SW - With a walkout basement! 2016 SF, bonus room, hardwood floors, island kitchen with raised eating bar, master bedroom features a 5-pc ensuite with a corner tub.

## Strathcona Park - \$639,000

174 Strathridge Close, SW - Updated! 2075 + 865 SF with dev'd basement, 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, island-style kitchen with raised eating bar & granite counters, 5-pc ensuite with jetted tub.

## Aspen Woods - \$667,000

9 Aspen Stone View, SW - Quiet cul-de-sac, steps from park, like new, 2353 SF, 3bdrms + bonus room, island-style kitchen open to great room, double sided fireplace in great room/den.

## Wentworth - \$819,000

1141 Wentworth View, SW - Throw a skating party, this one is steps from the pond! 2388 SF, 4 bdrm, backing greenspace with pond, maple kitchen w/ granite counters & hardwood floors.

## Discovery Ridge - \$925,000

32 Discovery Ridge Rise, SW - Backing greenbelt, developed walkout! 2761 + 924 SF, 4 + 1 bdrms, backing linear park. 3-way f/p in breakfast nook, master bedroom & ensuite also share a fireplace.

## West Springs - \$950,000

27 Westpark Crescent, SW - on a beautiful street, 2767 SF, 3 bdrms + bonus room & den, hardwood, granite counters, Stainless steel appliances, island-style kitchen, ensuite w/ jet-tub.

## Springbank - \$1,095,000

55 Springside Street - 2 acres, amazing mountain views! 2374 + 1003 SF with dev'd walkout, 3 + 2 bdrms, set on 2 acre parcel. Beautifully renovated kitchen w/ granite counters & stainless steel appliances.

## Wildwood - \$1,275,000

76 Woodlark Dr, SW - A new home in Wildwood! 1580 + 1073 SF split level with dev'd bsmt, 3+1 bdrms, rebuilt home on a quiet street w/ Brazilian cherry hardwood, granite, Jack 'n Jill ensuite & top floor master bdrm.

## Elbow Valley - \$1,275,000

103 Whispering Woods Terrace - 3053 + 1398 SqFt, 4 + 2 bdrms, backing greenspace & pond, with dev'd walkout featuring media room & wet bar, granite counters, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances.

## Cougler Ridge - \$1,295,000

32 Coulee Park, SW - Estate area, backing a park! 2585 + 1353 SF, 3+1 bdrm, stunning river valley views, hardwood floors, granite countertops, SS appliances, walkout w/ nanny suite.

## Elbow Valley - \$1,550,000

7 Golden Aspen Crest - Extra large family home! 3518 + 1543 SF with dev'd walkout, 3 + 2 bdrms, backing greenspace, main floor master suite, high ceilings, library, loft, extensive built-ins.

## Inglewood - \$1,600,000

1206 & 1212 8th Ave, SE - 2 BIG LOTS BACKING DIRECTLY ON RIVER: 2 lots side by side, on the River, in trendy Inglewood, total of 132' frontage, ideal site for future development, R-2 zoning.

## Elbow Valley - \$1,695,000

47 Golden Aspen Crest - The best mountain views on the street! 2074 + 1790 SF with dev'd walkout, 1 + 2 bdrms, backing greenspace, amazing views, heated oversized 4-car garage