

CLASSIFIED

LISTINGS BEGIN ON PAGE G5



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Picture the difference

CONTEST • If you're dreaming about a renovation and would like to enter the "Picture the Difference" contest from Home Hardware and Renoworks software (profiled in Life at Home on Sept. 15), visit homeworkscontest.ca.

That site will get you right to all the details: along with weekly prizes, there's a grand prize of a \$5,000 Home Hardware gift card — just for sending a photo of your home (inside or outside) and imagining how the renovated version could look.

— Calgary Herald

Calling all crafters

EVENT • We may live in the era of instant gratification, but some folks obviously still enjoy doing things the old-fashioned way — with their own hands.

That's why the Creative Stitches & Crafting Alive show, which attracts 10,000 people each year, returns to Calgary today at the Roundup Centre from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors can peruse hundreds of booths and displays showing the latest trends in knitting, sewing, quilting, crafting and needle art.

The show is a supporter of the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank. Bring a non-perishable food donation and the coupon from the show brochure (downloaded from CanWest's website) and you'll receive \$2 off admission at the show.

For more information, visit canwestshows.com.

— Calgary Herald

Prewashing thing of the past

PRODUCT • Hate having to pre-clean your dishes before putting them into the dishwasher? Maytag claims to have a solution — its new Jetclean dishwasher with a steam-cleaning option. The company says the high-heat steam loosens residue to improve cleaning performance. The appliance comes with the most powerful motor and greatest number of jet sprays — 30 — of its tall tub dishwashers. A stainless steel food chopper blade pulverizes food to prevent particles from plugging the system, the company says. Due in stores in October, the dishwasher will retail for \$1,049 in white or black, and \$1,149 for stainless steel.

— CanWest News Service



John Gilchrist raises a glass to his newly refurbished dining room table at a recent "black and white" themed dinner party he threw at his home.

Photos, Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

IF THIS
table
COULD TALK

When food writer John Gilchrist's treasured century-old dining table broke in two and capsized, he enlisted the help of a furniture refinisher to put the table back together

JOHN GILCHRIST
CALGARY HERALD

It sounded like the timbers of a tall ship keeling over and breaking under the weight of a tropical storm.

A bit dramatic, I suppose, but considering our old oak table was sitting capsized on the carpet, its normally horizontal top split in two and painfully cantilevered into the pile, not the least bit understated.

"Oops," was all I could muster as I stared back at Catherine's wide-eyed shock across the expanse of our dining room. Our hands still clutched the edges of the table that we had split in two in our attempt to add extra extension boards. Somehow, the support runners underneath the table had weakened and given way, causing the table to collapse under its own weight. Now, instead of popping in a few extension leaves and hosting a fun dinner party for 14, we were looking at a restoration project to put the table back together.

Our oak table has sat in our dining room for over 20 years, and it's been in my family for well over a century. My great-grandparents, Ephraim and Margaret Anne (M.A.) Girling, received it as a wedding present in the mid-1890s, and it's been handed down through the generations. It's a solid oak beast, rounded at the ends, with decades of familial memories and scars etched into it. The top is sun-faded and graced with scorch marks from an over-hot pot. The underside is a treasure trove of family heirlooms

Tell us about your heirloom

Big or small, we'd like to hear about your favourite family heirloom and the stories behind it for an upcoming series of stories in the Calgary Herald. E-mail joireland@the-herald.canwest.com



including decades-old gum and the discreetly carved initials of a great-uncle.

My first food memories are linked to this table. My great-grandparents lived in a small pioneer house in our family farmyard when I was a kid.

My sister and I were often invited over for afternoon tea with M.A. and we would sit around the table, enjoying tea and chocolate chip cookies.

M.A. would pour the tea into fine china cups and we would top it off with canned, condensed milk and copious spoonfuls of sugar. We were taught how to hold the cups properly, how to use a napkin, and how to be proper guests.

I thank M.A. for all those lessons.

SEE TABLE, PAGE G2



Ken Farley of Athlone Restorations stains the centre pedestal of John Gilchrist's table, which he built to help support the five leaves which accommodate 14 people.



Restorer Ken Farley fits Ken Gilchrist's dining room table with bolsters to support the five leaves.



John Gilchrist adjusts the replaced centre leg of the antique dinner table he had restored.

Gavin Young, Calgary Herald

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75 West Springs Close, SW, \$499,000
Super value! 1912 s.f. + dev'd basement, maple kitchen, 3 bedrooms, vaulted bonus room, billiard room/family room developed downstairs. West backyard.



80 Wentworth Crescent, SW, \$719,000
Beautifully upgraded 2380 s.f. in the estates, 2-sided stone t/p, granite counters in kitchen & ensuite, vaulted bonus room, 3 bdrms, extra large master suite!



74 Cougar Plateau Circle, SW, \$729,000
A rare find, bungalow with loft + beautifully dev'd basement for a total of 3750 sf of luxurious living space, main floor master + 3 bdrms, granite kitchen.

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144 Tremblant Way, SW, \$729,000
Dramatic, sweeping views from 3 levels (incl. walkout)! 2159 s.f. + developed walkout basement, new home, Great room, Dining room & den, 3 + 1 bedrooms.