

SUMMER RESOURCES

Create curb appeal with container gardening

"Curb appeal" is the term realtors use to describe a potential buyer's initial reaction to a home. That reaction establishes a home's unique character, sets it apart from others on the block, and creates a warm, inviting feeling.

Unfortunately, curb appeal is like sex appeal: you either have it or you don't. If you're selling your home or just trying to improve its front door looks, curb appeal is critical. How-

ever, if your home doesn't have it, don't despair.

According to the container gardening experts at Duraco Products, Inc., manufacturers of Garden Scene brand decorative plastic planterware, adding curb appeal is as simple and inexpensive as adding several strategically-placed planters filled with brightly colored flowers. And this project doesn't require hours of back-

breaking labor.

A tasteful splash of color is critical for curb appeal. Most city and suburban homes feature an expanse of green grass accented by trees, shrubs and bushes. While green is an attractive summer color, too much green becomes monotonous. Adding a number of attractive planters filled with red, white, yellow or blue flowers helps break up the green and draws attention to areas you want to highlight.

For example, Garden Scene's new Dura Cotta planter accurately resembles a clay pot in style and finish, but because it's made of plastic, it won't chip, crack or discolor like clay. Its clay-colored terra cotta finish enhances any exterior planting scheme, and the planters can be placed around shrubs or evergreens, or along walks and borders. When filled with geraniums, petunias, begonias, impatiens or marigolds, the Dura Cotta helps add needed color to the front of a home.

For elevated porches, decks or entries, or around stairs, Garden Scene's Contemporary Urn is perfect. Its clean, uncluttered lines and white stone-like finish help accentuate any entryway. When filled with large red geraniums, vinca vines and asparagus ferns, any entry becomes truly impressive. When combined with brightly-filled Dura Cottas on the stairs or walk, a warm, homey effect is created.

The Garden Scene experts point out that front yard container gardening has several advantages. First, it adds curb appeal. Second, you can add color where you want when you want. Because the containers are portable, they can be moved to create any effect you want, whenever you want. Third, compared to perennial plantings, container gardening is relatively inexpensive and less time-consuming. And finally, except for watering and fertilizing, it requires a minimum of maintenance. Cultivating and weeding is unnecessary.

To add curb appeal to your home the easy way, take a tip from the Garden Scene experts. Try container gardening in your front yard.



ADD COLOR AND CURB APPEAL to the front of any home, with Garden Scene's new Contemporary Urn (left) and Dura Cotta® (right) planters. When the urns are filled with geraniums, vinca vines and asparagus ferns, and combined with flower-filled Dura Cottas, a warm, homey feeling is created.

Budget important for travellers

A family of four vacationing by car this summer in Canada should budget an average of \$179.50 daily for food and lodging plus \$40.75 for each 500 km of driving, the Hamilton Automobile Club reports.

Average lodging and meal expenses are based on rates and prices for more than 2,000 CAA/AAA inspected and approved lodgings and restaurants in CAA/AAA Tourbooks. Lodging rates used by CAA include a \$5 daily charge per child although some establishments do not charge for children. Dining expenses represent three meals per day and include a variety of restaurants.

The HAC says a family of two adults and two children can expect to spend \$84.10 a day for lodging and \$95.40 a day for meals. There are significant regional differences in lodging and food costs. The province of Quebec has the highest average lodging and meal rates, \$99.58 and \$28.88 respectively. Saskatchewan has the lowest average lodging rate at \$57.17 and the Yukon Territory has the lowest average food rate per person at \$17.25.

Vacation costs depend on a family's preference and budget, but

higher costs can be expected during popular travel periods and near large metropolitan areas.

To save on lodgings, the Club recommends making reservations to ensure availability of the lodgings that best suit your budget. CAA/AAA Tourbooks provide special value and guaranteed member rates. If it is not possible to make a reservation in advance, travellers should arrive at destinations early enough to have a selection of accommodation and prices. Meal costs can be reduced by having the main meal at mid-day to take advantage of lower lunch prices, picnicking or enjoying "early bird" dinner specials.

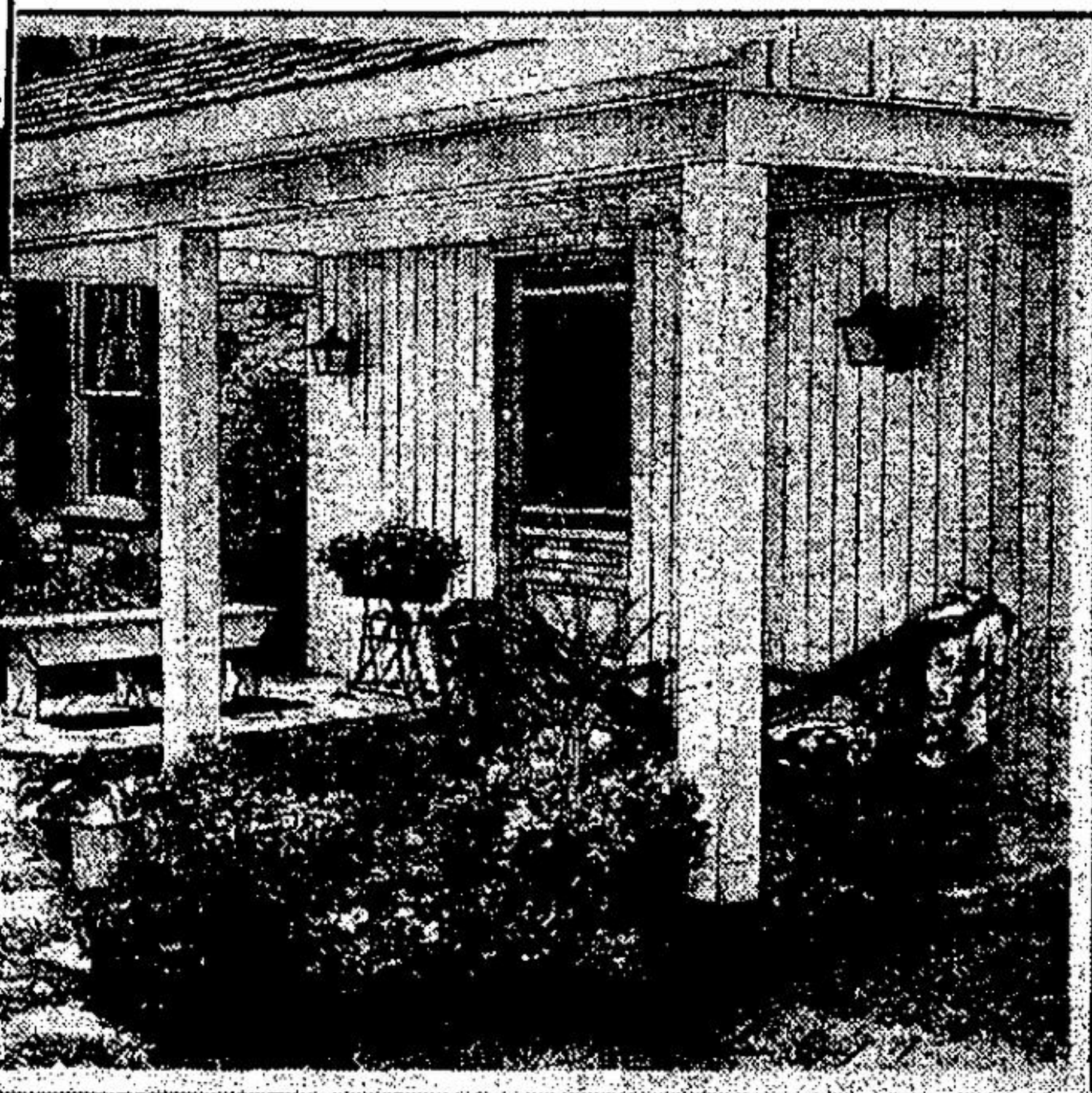
Where motoring is concerned, the family can expect to pay \$8.15 for each 100 km driven. HAC's driving budget is based on a Ford Tempo with an automatic transmission driven 24,000 kilometres per year. The budget includes gasoline and oil, maintenance and an allowance for tire wear. Costs will be higher or lower depending upon the fuel economy of individual vehicles.

Motoring expenses are based on the CAA publication "1990-1991 CAA Car Costs" which will soon be available from HAC offices.

MEET LAURA BERRY

Thursday, August 2
6:30-9:00 p.m.

AT *Pictures & Presents*



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- Refreshments will be Served
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Tips for car-travel safety during summer months

School's out, the summer is here and it's time for a family get-away. But before you get on the road—whether you're headed to a tourist attraction just a few hours from home or a vacation spot a few driving days away—make sure to pack the following items, which can be helpful in case of an on-the-road emergency:

- Vehicle registration and proof of ownership.
- Evidence of vehicle insurance (check expiration date).

Auto club identification and road service phone number.

Cyalume lightsticks (safer than road flares, no batteries needed, wind-proof and waterproof).

Spare tire, jack, lug wrench, jumper cables and tool kit.

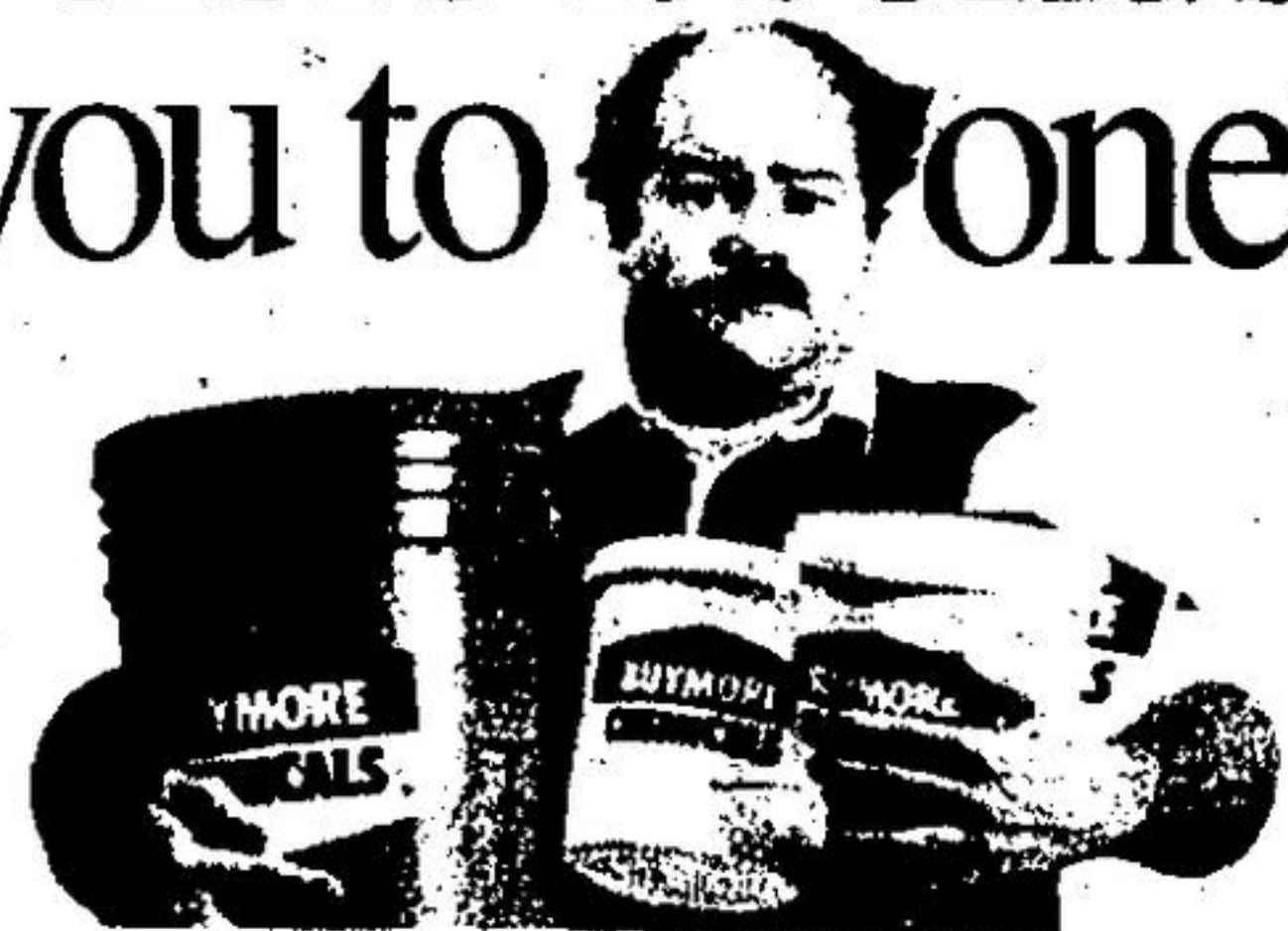
First-aid kit.

Empty one-gallon container for gas.

Can of engine oil, spare parts, fan belt, fuses.

Fire extinguisher.

Bring your pool to an analyst before it sends you to one.



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