

Rise in dollar boon to Canadian travellers

The recent rise in the Canadian dollar (to a 10-year high against the U.S. greenback) may not be good for our tourism industry - but it's a boon to Canadian travellers who will be taking summer vacations outside the country.

Tourism operators in Canada are complaining that the uptrend in our currency (to about 87 cents U.S.) is keeping Americans from visiting Canada this season.

That's debatable. A rise of one or two per cent, in the cost of a holiday, would hardly deter any American who seriously intended to visit our country.

From the standpoint of Canadian tourists as well, the firmness in the Canadian dollar may not be a decisive factor in travel plans, but it is easy to take.

If you are headed for a transatlantic holiday in Britain or on



Vince Egan
Travel

the Continent, you will likely find that the inexorable rise in the prices of tourist services - hotels, meals, local transportation - has been more pronounced than the gain in our dollar.

Summer travellers already returned from such popular destinations as London, Rome and

the Scandinavian capitals tell of notable increases in the level of costs this year.

OFF SEASON

The one country in which Canadian travellers can benefit this summer from the change in Canadian-U.S. exchange rate, is, of course, the U.S. itself.

Perhaps the best values are to be found in those areas where prices are the highest in winter - southern Florida being the most obvious example.

Don't go to central Florida in quest of hot bargains during school vacations. Frequently prices are higher in summer than at other seasons in the mammoth amusement areas.

A good plan in southern Florida is to narrow your choices down to those resorts that cater to pleasure-seeking tourists, rather

than to business people. (If it doesn't accept children free or at a sharply reduced rate, it's probably a business-oriented hotel).

Here are some pointers to keep in mind when considering a southern Florida summer vacation:

- Naturally, the weather can be hot and humid. As the saying goes, if you can't stand the heat ...

- Off-season discounts are usually in effect either until Labor Day, or until about Dec. 20. Check.

- Inquire about the range of facilities; you probably don't want to pay for those you won't use (golf, perhaps, or a health club).

- In assessing the quoted price, be sure that you understand whether it is per person or per room, whether there is a mandatory service charge, whether taxes are included, and whether

such items as parking must be paid for separately.

FREE FOR KIDS

Here are a few examples of summer specials in southern Florida:

- At more than 250 hotels in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area until Sept. 30, children accompanied by parents stay free. At the small hotel called Trevers at the Beach, a family can stay for as little as \$180 U.S. per week, while at the deluxe Pier 66 Resort and Marina, double rooms start at \$79 a night for parents and children 18 and under.

- At Indian River Plantation Resort and Marina on Hutchinson Island at Stuart, the summer special rates are \$135 a night for one-bedroom suites accommodating up to four persons, and \$175 for two-bedroom units for up to six.

"NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK" Congratulations! NATASHA LIVERMORE



"'Cause I like them." That was the explanation offered by seven-year-old Natasha Livermore, of Acton, the winner of two tickets to the 'New Kids on The Block' concert scheduled for Aug. 3 at the CNE Bandstand, as the reason she entered the contest which has been running in the Halton Hills Herald for the past four weeks. "I saw them on TV and on tapes and I wanted to go and see them for real," she continued in explaining why she, with the help of her mother Kim, filled out approximately 200 entry forms. The answer to the contest's skill-testing question - Who was the first 'New Kid on The Block?' - was Donnie Wahlberg and he just happens to be Natasha's favorite 'New Kid'. Her favorite song by the group is Cover Girl. Natasha's Mom, Kim, was "shocked at first" when she heard her daughter had won the contest but also "...very happy for her". Kim Livermore will be accompanying her daughter Natasha in the limousine provided by Star Limousine but Natasha has chosen her cousin, Amanda Livermore, eight-years-old, as her concert companion. Natasha also received a "New Kids on The Block" poster and tapes from GTR Tapes and CD's, another contest sponsor. Pictured at left, bringing sunshine to an otherwise cloudy day on Monday for Natasha (receiving her prizes) from left to right, Colin Gibson, the Halton Hills Herald Managing Editor, Bob Fanjoy, of GTR Tapes and CD's and Nancy Price, a representative of Star Limousine.

(Herald Photo by Craig Teeter)

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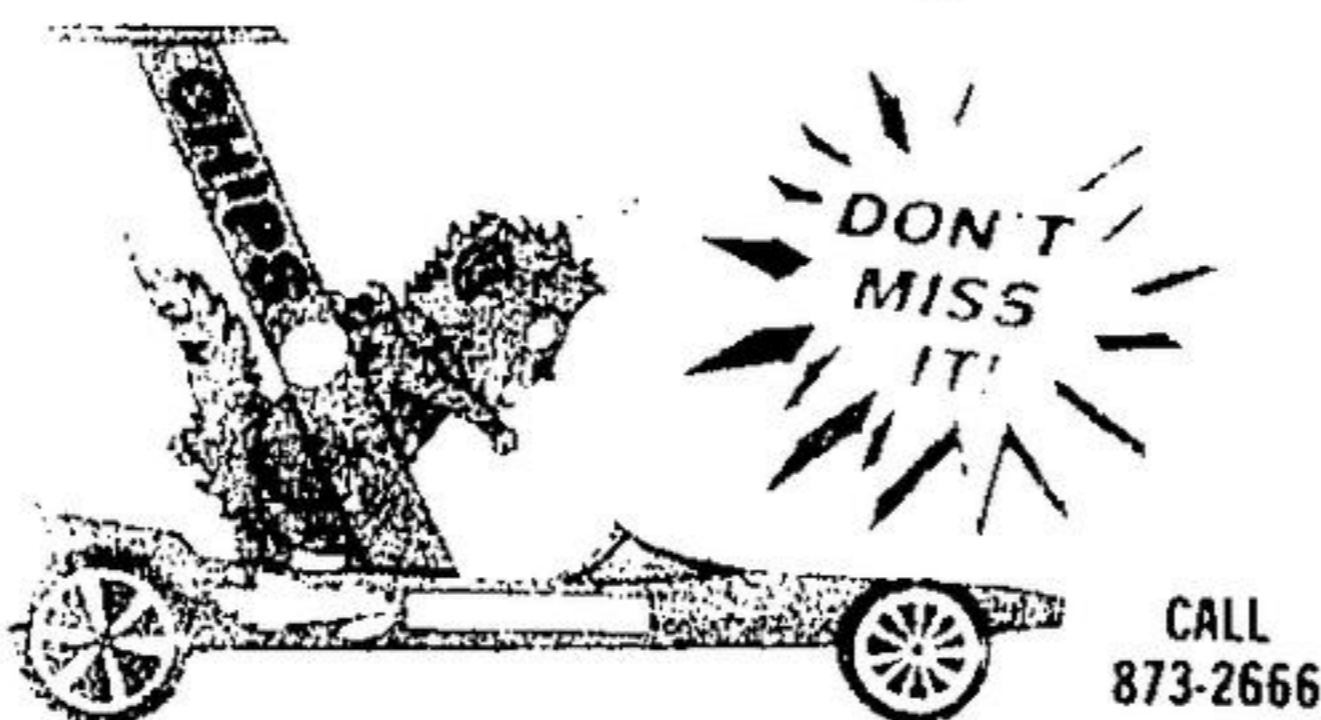
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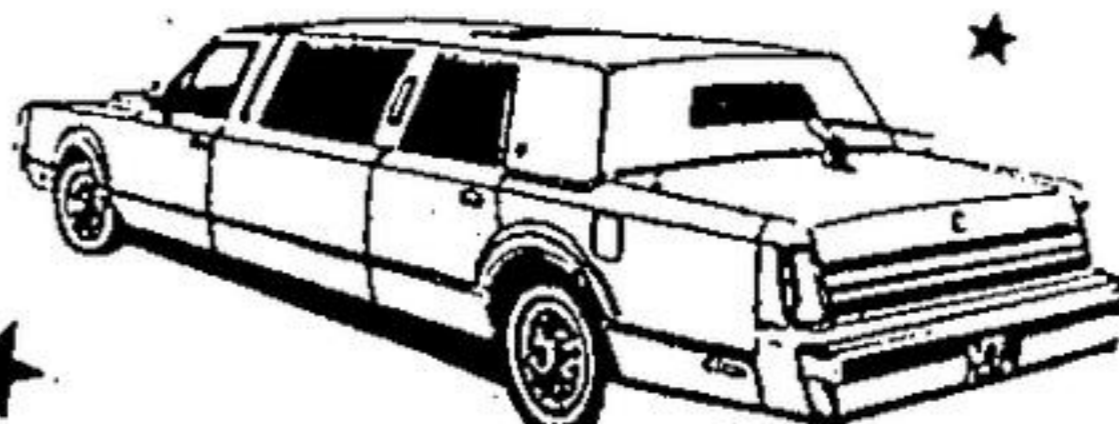
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