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**BABYSITTING** available in my home. McIntyre/Prince Charles area. Reasonable rates. Call 877-7096 anytime.

**Mother of two** will provide quality daycare (0-3 yrs.). Walks on quiet crescent, lots of toys, no pets, smoke free. 873-0766.

**NOT JUST BABYSITTING!** E.C.E. daycare available. Well supervised quality care, two adults, bi-weekly outings, large fenced yard, hot lunches. Any age welcome. 873-7905.

775 Daycare wanted

**MATURE** loving woman needed to care for 1 & 3 year old in our home, references. Call between 7 and 9 p.m. 877-0932

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# Preparing for Mother's bad days

During a weekend jaunt through a chain of lakes in the Haliburton Highlands, after believing weather reports of clear sunny skies, I found myself caught out in the open as a dark menacing cloud rolled in from the west, bombarding the blackened water with bolts of lightning like an Olympic javelin thrower.

Paddling blindly I made my way towards a small island, quickly erected my tent on a rocky knoll, and began flipping my sappy fingers through the rosary.

After hurricane winds snapped the tent's ropes and flimsy nylon walls I found myself huddled under the collapsed dwelling through the longest night of my life, cursing at myself for being so unprepared to battle Mother Nature's fury.

The next morning, happy to be alive, I promised myself never to be caught off-guard again.

This particular incident forced me to quickly learn ways to survive a soggy night and at the same time lift my dampened spirit.

The first, and far most important, method of keeping dry in the great outdoors is to be always prepared for the wet stuff. On an extended trip into the interior you usually don't have the helpful reports from the weatherman. But don't panic, he's usually wrong anyway. Learn to depend on nature's clues. Recognize sure-tale signs of an approaching storm, giving you ample time to erect a shelter:

1) The old wives' tale of leaves flipping upside down, showing their light colored bottoms flickering in the breeze, is based on actual biological fact. The air temperature and wind direction alters before an approaching weather change.

2) Hordes of biting insects, especially mosquitos come out of hiding for a quick snack before they head for cover. Ants will construct tiny dikes from dirt piled up at the entrance to their tunnels before it rains. Bees stay close to their hives before a rain and crickets chirping up a storm usually means warm weather.

3) Insect-eating birds, like swallows, will chase their dinner closer to the ground just before a storm hits. They will also fly higher when rain is no threat. It is actually the insects who are being affected by the fairweather updrafts, but the birds are easier to watch.

4) All animals become very active just before a storm hits. Red squirrels place a pile of cones on their front door before a storm hits and humans gather their camping gear under a rain tarp.

5) Smoke from your campfire will hug the ground if a storm is coming, and if it rises straight up clear weather can be predicted.

6) Aristotle's pupil, Theophrastus of Eresus, is thought to be the first to coin the phrase "Red sky in the morning, sailor take warning, Red sky at night,

**NATURE'S WAY**  
**Kevin Callan**

sailor's delight." After stating his observation others continued to use the phrase, such as Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:2-3) and also my

uncle, who just happens to be a sailor. The red color is an indication of little moisture in the air and rain during the next 24 hours is unlikely.

7) A ring around the moon, or "moondog," that grows bigger and bigger throughout the night, usually means it will rain the next day.

8) Deciduous leaves from poplar and birch will flip over as an atmospheric low moves in. You have approximately two to 24 hours to seek shelter.



## Flag expert

In conjunction with Canada's 125th and St. Alban's — Glen Williams 90th birthdays, the church presented an interesting talk by North America's leading flag experts, Archdeacon Ralph Spence on Oct. 21. He brought many varied and multi-colored flags to discuss their importance in our history and culture.


Photo by SYLVIA GALBRAITH



## A new home

The ribbon was officially cut in October to welcome members into the new Cobblehill Homes Co-operative Inc. at grand opening ceremonies. Mayor Russ Miller was one of many who offered his congratulations.

Photo by BARB STEPHENS



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