

CRUISE SPECIALS

Sunquest
Cruises

SUN DREAM

January 9, 16, 23 & 30

\$798 Canadian

JAN. 9 & 23 ITINERARY

Montego Bay

Calica

Cozumel, Mexico

Havana, Cuba

Isla de Juventud, Cuba

Grand Cayman

Montego Bay

JAN. 16 & 30 ITINERARY

Montego Bay

Puerto Limon, Costa Rica

Panama Canal

San Blas Islands

Cartagena, Columbia

Montego Bay

CAROUSEL

Jan. 9, 16 & 30 **\$798 Canadian**

Jan. 23 **\$998 Canadian**

ITINERARY

Cozumel, Mexico

Puerto Cortes, Honduras

Roaton Bay Island

Grand Cayman

Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Calica, (Cancun)

Cozumel, Mexico

SUNBIRD

Jan. 8, 15 & 22 **\$998 Canadian**

Jan. 29 **\$1,198 Canadian**

JAN. 8 & 22 ITINERARY

Aruba

Barbados

Antigua

St Maarten

St Kitts

Aruba

JAN. 15 & 29 ITINERARY

Aruba

Barbados

St Lucia

Grenada

Margarita Island

Curaçao

Aruba

All Prices include Air from Toronto

For all cruises: Single supplement \$1,000. Kids (2-15 yrs) from \$398. 3rd/4th Passenger from \$498.

All prices are per person, double occupancy from Toronto and are subject to availability. Transport and port taxes are extra. Prices are subject to change without notice. This offer is only valid for the first 50 cabins sold on each ship on each departure date (as listed above). Only valid on new bookings. See Sunquest's Winter Cruise 99/00 brochure for terms, conditions and additional information.

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Bridal show in February

Halton Hills Welcome Wagon will hold a special event for brides-to-be at the Blue Springs Golf Club on Sunday, Fe. 3. More than 20 different exhibitors will host displays and present new ideas to the engaged.

Charlotte Skea organizes the special free event for all brides-to-be and their guests. Admission is by invitation only. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. for viewing displays and discussing plans with wedding professionals. The program begins at 1:30 with custom made bridal dresses by Melange and tuxedos from Tuxedo Royale as well as live entertainment.

There are numerous door prizes and guests are invited to enter the Today's Bride Honeymoon draw. Free ballots for the draw will be available at the show's registration desk. Pre registering by Jan. 30 and attending the show also provides an opportunity to win a gift certificate for two nights in Niagara Falls.

The first person to register to propose to their future spouse will receive a gift basket of goodies if the call is made by Jan. 15.

"We've Been Doing This For 2000 Years... Where've You Been?"



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Looking to Science's future

Science Matters

- by David Suzuki



Scientific discovery will continue to flow from laboratories in the coming century. The nature of research is such that the results cannot be anticipated, so predicting what the next major advancements will be is really informed guesswork. As Sir John Maddox, former editor of the science journal Nature says: "The questions we do not yet have the wit to ask will be a growing preoccupation of science in the next 50 years."

The sheer magnitude of this statement should indicate how exciting scientific research can be. With every breakthrough that provides us with insights, new challenges need to be met and new questions arise, some of which we may have never before considered. The unexpected discovery of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the atmosphere, for example, led to the understanding of how human activities were damaging the ozone layer.

Still, based on current scientific progress it's reasonable to surmise that we may well be able to answer some of humanity's most basic questions within the next few decades, including whether life exists elsewhere in the universe, what the genetic instructions are that make us human, and many others.

Extraterrestrial life may actually exist right here in our own solar system, perhaps as microbial organisms hidden in the oceans that scientists say are buried beneath the ice on Europa (one of Jupiter's moons), or beneath the surface of Mars. Scientists have also so far found about 28 other planets orbiting distant stars. These are thought to be lifeless bodies many times larger than Jupiter. However, in the coming decades many more planets will undoubtedly be found, and we may finally discover whether there are other Earth-like planets orbiting some of the stars in the sky.

At home, researchers are furiously working to decode the human genome (the entire genetic make-up of human beings.) It's a formidable task.

Just listing the units of DNA that make up the human genome would fill the pages of 200 big-city telephone books! And that's not even beginning to describe the functions of the individual units. Scientists now expect that the full sequence should be complete by 2003, but it will be a while longer before we understand the intricacies that could provide valuable clues to help diagnose and treat many diseases.

Meanwhile, computers continue to gain power exponentially. IBM is currently working on "Blue Gene", a new supercomputer destined for biological research. When completed in five years, it is expected to be two million times more powerful than today's desktop computers - so powerful that it could download the entire Internet in just one second! Some researchers even say that artificial intelligence could surpass our own in the next few decades, and that some of the great scientific discoveries of the future may

actually be made by computers.

It's certainly an exciting time for science, but in our race for the widespread application of scientific knowledge it's easy to forget that our technologies also carry costs. We cannot forget that science advances incrementally and the application of new processes and theories should be treated with caution. Scientists are fallible, and simple mistakes can prove costly. The respected scientists at NASA for example, lost their Mars Climate Orbiter in October because the calculations designed to put the craft into Mars' orbit had been formulated using both metric and imperial measures, and ended up hurling the Orbiter to its demise.

Perhaps the most important advancement science can make in the next century would be to help usher in what has been dubbed the second Copernican revolution. Today we can only marvel at the complexity and interconnectedness of the Earth's ecological systems. We can hope that continued research will result in a clearer picture of these processes, enabling us to better understand the Earth's ecological limits and then find the best ways to live within them.

Doctor search is continuing

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

It could be two months before Acton and Georgetown find out if an effort to lure more family physicians to this area will be approved. An application to the Ministry of Health's Underserved Area Program (UAP) will be mailed before January 15, and UAP communications officer Kevin Finnerty said it would take six to eight weeks to review the application.

Of the 19 general family practitioners in Halton Hills, just three are accepting new patients and two of three doctors in Acton are at the retirement age. The ratio of physicians to population is almost double the provincially accepted standard and the UAP is designed to give recruitment support to underserved communities.

If the designation were approved, Halton Hills would be added to a list of communities given to all physicians inquiring about openings. Doctors wishing to visit Halton Hills are eligible for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses within Ontario. A community representative can pitch the

area to doctors at an annual recruitment tour and modified incentive grants may become available to physicians relocating to an area designated as underserved.

The application's part of a concerted campaign by an ad hoc group of local physicians, politicians and community members to try to deal with the severe shortage of doctors.

The management company that owns Acton Medical Centre had advertised for a doctor in several medical publications and is offering an incentive of free basis rent for up to one year. The Town has also sent a recruitment information to graduates of family medicine programs.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette says the committee consisting of himself, the mayor, owner of Acton Medical Centre and Dr. McWilliams has worked for several months on the UAP application. He's looking for people, especially new people to Acton and area, whose inability to find a family physician here has caused hardship.

The New Tanner has agreed to act as a clearing house for information that would indicate the need for physicians in Acton.

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