

When there's trouble in 'tea land'

As I was preparing for my usual mid-evening tea time the other night, I came to an abrupt realization. It seems my tea kettle was dying. It happened Saturday night as I experienced one of those 'I feel like a cuppa tea' times (which I get about a half dozen times a day.) As usual, I filled the kettle and plugged it in. I went back to my TV program for a bit, and returned to the kitchen five minutes later, filled with anticipation that a kettle of hot water would be waiting for me to pour into the teapot. The kettle was stone cold. Since I'd plugged it into the outlet on the top of the stove, my first thought was the timer on the range had been messed with, disabling the outlet. I fiddled with the timer, then tried again. No luck. I moved the kettle to an outlet on the kitchen counter. Plugging it in, the kettle made its customary wheezing sound, then quit again. Kinda looked like there was gonna be trouble in 'tea-land' tonight. I found the wires inside the plug were broken. If I held them just so, I could make it work. Mind you, the wires got hot as hell holding on to them. It was time to go kettle shopping. I like to think of myself as an open-minded individual and certainly technically inclined. But I wasn't at all prepared for the onslaught of information I had to wade through to buy a damned tea kettle. I figured I'd go out, pick up a \$15.99 model from the store, bring it home and plug it in. And, to be honest, your usual, non-obsessed individual may have done just that. But not me. (Sometimes I tend to scare myself, ya know.) Acquiring a new kettle suddenly became a quest equal to finding the Holy Grail. I researched all the brands, and the plethora of features available to boil water. Priced from a low of \$11.88 to a high of

A TED BIT



Ted Brown

\$89.99, I was wrought with indecision, as I looked at more kettles than I knew ever existed. I could buy a cordless, a whistler, a decorator model shaped like a tea pot, or a kettle that was so aerodynamically designed, it appeared to have come out of the movie *Star Wars*. Did I want chrome? White? Two-toned blue and white? Or your basic black? How about capacity? I could opt for 1.2 litres, or 1.7 and 1.8, or a mother of a kettle that held 2.2 litres. It was worse that shopping for a car. I decided I wasn't equipped with enough information to purchase a kettle at that moment. I needed more research. I checked the capacity of my Brown Betty tea pot, and found it held just under a litre. That told me I required at least a 1.2 litre model. Going cordless was certainly an option, (cuz the cord was what died on my old one) and since I didn't wanna polish a chrome model, white became my colour of choice. It was downhill from there. I decided I couldn't justify a \$90 kettle, no matter how beautiful it was. My microwave oven cost less than that. So I'm now the proud owner of a nice little white cordless kettle, that looks like a tea pot. And now that I'm back in hot water again, I only have one more decision to make. Will that be Orange Pekoe? English Breakfast? Or how about a spot of Earl Grey?



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Special Thanks To the Judges

Paul C. Armstrong,
Lois Fraser, Brian Lewis



Alex's patient was reluctant to admit his lower dentures were loose, but it "slipped out" in conversation!

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A Big Thank You

The Acton Firefighters Association would like to say a huge thank you to all who participated. Despite last minute changes that some bands had to make and were unable to attend, it was a fantastic parade! The floats were incredible, they just keep getting better and better each year and are greatly appreciated by kids of all ages.

We would like to make special mention of all those who give donations in cash and in advertising, postage and transportation; without each of you the parade would not be possible.

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Acton Santa Clause Parade 2002 will be on November 16th. Theme - "Christmas Carols" See you there

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Acton Firefighters Association

William Spidvogel
Parade Chairman

