

We are inventive Canucks

The other night while watching television I saw a long-winded commercial for some product.

Ironically, I can't recall the product so it must have been a less-than-effective commercial.

But one thing did stick with me.

It listed a bunch of Canadian inventions.

Simple things, complicated things, and things that have impacted the actual fibre of mankind, they all shared one unique fact—they were created by a shrewd thinking Canadian.

And dammit, I felt proud.

I knew basketball had its origins back in 1891 Montreal when McGill phys ed teacher James Naismith hung a peach basket on the wall of the gym and developed a bunch of rules for tossing a soccer ball into it.

I also knew that the snowmobile had its origins in Quebec, by Joseph-Armand Bombardier, in 1922. (Like that was a surprise— would it have been invented by someone living in the California desert?)

But there were other ones, like the simple caulking gun we use to seal our storm windows. Or the ordinary green garbage bag, which was invented by Harry Wasylyk in 1950.

All Canuck ideas.

Curiosity got the better of me and I decided to research other inventions that have been created north of the 49th Parallel.

We all know Alexander Graham Bell was the father of the telephone, but did you know he also co-invented the hydrofoil boat with Casey Baldwin in 1908? And the gramophone with input from Emile Berliner in 1889?

After taking a puck in the face off Andy Bathgate's stick during an NHL game in 1959, Montreal Canadiens' netminder Jacques Plante decided to come up with a device to cut down on facial stitches. The result, the goalie mask.

Speaking of hockey, author Martin Jones proves the game was invented in Dartmouth in

A
TED
BIT



Ted Brown

1860, but many wrongly say it was Montreal.

And who can forget Lord Stanley's Cup?

Most people know Canada's aboriginal people created lacrosse way back when, but how many know the single base football goal post was designed by Canadian Jim Trimble in 1967?

And while we're talking about games, Trivial Pursuit was invented in 1979 by Canadians Chris Haney and Scott Abbott, while Rob Angel is the inventor of Pictionary.

The paint roller was invented by Norman Breakey of Toronto in 1940, but apparently it took Canadians a few years to accept it, and for the first few years of its life, it was more popular in the US. (Oh we are cautious Canadians.)

On a local note, just down the road in Milton, the Robertson Screw was the ingenious invention of Peter L. Robertson in 1908. And Canada Dry Ginger Ale was invented by John A. McLaughlin in 1907. At one point, the McLaughlin family owned a farm not far from where I live, right in the middle of Halton Hills.

Velcro, the zipper, walkie-talkies, Superman and Pablum—the list goes on. Canadians have lots to be proud of in the world of inventing.

And right now you're holding one of the most significant inventions which changed the look of bird cages world-wide.

Newsprint— invented by Charles Fenerty of Sackville, Nova Scotia, in 1838.



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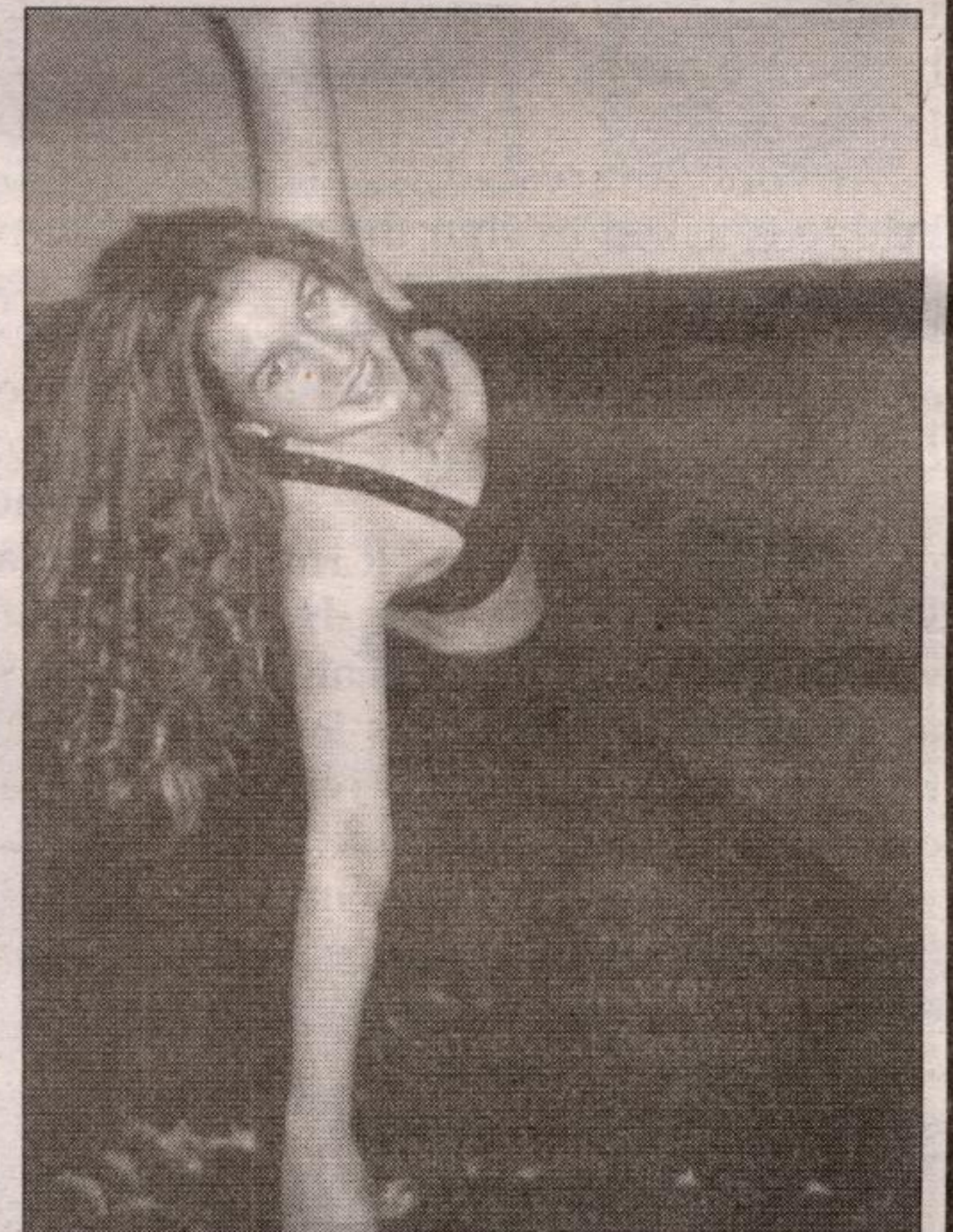
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