

I need an engineer's degree

Today, virtually everyone has one. Our kids live by them, and say they couldn't live without them. And they've become THE biggest status symbol in the world.

We're talking about cell phones here— and I finally upgraded mine a couple weeks ago.

This one is my fourth cell phone (count 'em, only four) since I got my first one in 1993.

I'm sure I'm a bit of an exception— many people have a new one every year or less.

But I've stuck with the same cell number and company since the very beginning.

My first phone was a previously-owned one, which I bought from Tom over at Haltel Communications. It resembled a Second World War walkie-talkie and weighed a ton.

But the reception would rival any land line phone. With only an eight-hour battery life, I decided after three years that I'd upgrade.

Cell phone number two was about one-third the size, and had a battery that would last almost 24 hours. I was totally amazed!

But it was still analog, so when digital communications became more accessible, I finally opted for the last one— not really my finest hour. It was a dud...

That was five years ago, and I finally was fed up with losing calls or having no signal, so I made my fourth trip over to see Tom once again to see what he had to offer.

I asked what he recommended and he showed me a nifty little Nokia flip-phone.

It had one feature that I immediately fell in love with— A HUGE READOUT, not to mention a pretty big impressive dial pad too.

When you pass that 50-year mark, anything that makes things easier to see is a bonus, and I certainly qualify in that age group.

Tom said it was the exact same phone he used every day— that was the clincher for me.

I figure if the owner of the store uses it as his daily dialer, then I'm convinced.

I told him to set 'er up.

This phone could well have been designed with the 50-plus population in mind, but it

Ted Brown



also has all the toys— downloadable ringtones, a built-in camera (Yeah, right, that's a HUGE plus for me— please pick up on the sarcasm there,) and it can also surf the Internet.

But the best part? It can actually send and receive calls— something of importance to me.

After a crash course of training (30-45 seconds with Tom whipping through the controls) I headed out to face the world with my brand-new Nokia flip-phone in my hot little hand.

Unfortunately, I feel like I need an engineer's degree to operate the damn thing.

But overall, Tom done good for me...

First thing, I was impressed to learn it had a long battery life— not eight hours, not 24 hours, not even 72 hours like my last one.

Nope, they say this baby is good for 14 days.

Ring-tones? Well I can get them if I want, but really, do I need 'em? Okay, co-worker Kevin has George Thorogood's Bad to the Bone on his phone. Kinda cute, maybe I'll cave in.

And amazingly, it actually picks up a signal at my home out in the wilds of Limehouse, where my previous one simply said 'No Signal'.

I'm impressed as heck with that.

So now I have a new phone, lots of features and a plethora of little toys built into it, like games, an FM tuner, MP3 player and a colour display for when someone emails me a photo.

I just have one small problem.

Now I'm sittin' here, waiting for some one to actually pick up their phone and call me...

Bondar headlines Chairman's Breakfast

Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline will host the third "Bell/Chairman's Breakfast On The Environment" on Friday, April 21, with special guest speaker, former astronaut Roberta Bondar.

The breakfast will be held at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club, 5407 Highway 25 in Milton, between 7-9 a.m. Tickets are \$40, or corporate tables of 10 are available.

Bondar will delight the audience through her interests in environmental issues about lessons in life and personal motivation. Drawing on her pioneering role as Canada's first female astronaut on the space shuttle Discovery, she will explore issues of goal setting, teamwork, and personal discovery.

Registration forms for the "Bell/Chairman's Breakfast On The Environment" are available on-line at www.halton.ca/business, by calling Halton's Business Development Office at 905-825-6000, ext. 7514, or 1-866-442-5866.

The Chairman's Breakfast on the Environment is supported by Bell Canada through the Bell Community Development Fund and presented in partnership with the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Recipients of the Halton Youth Awards for Environmental Excellence and the Halton Environmental Scholarships Awards will be honoured at the breakfast.

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