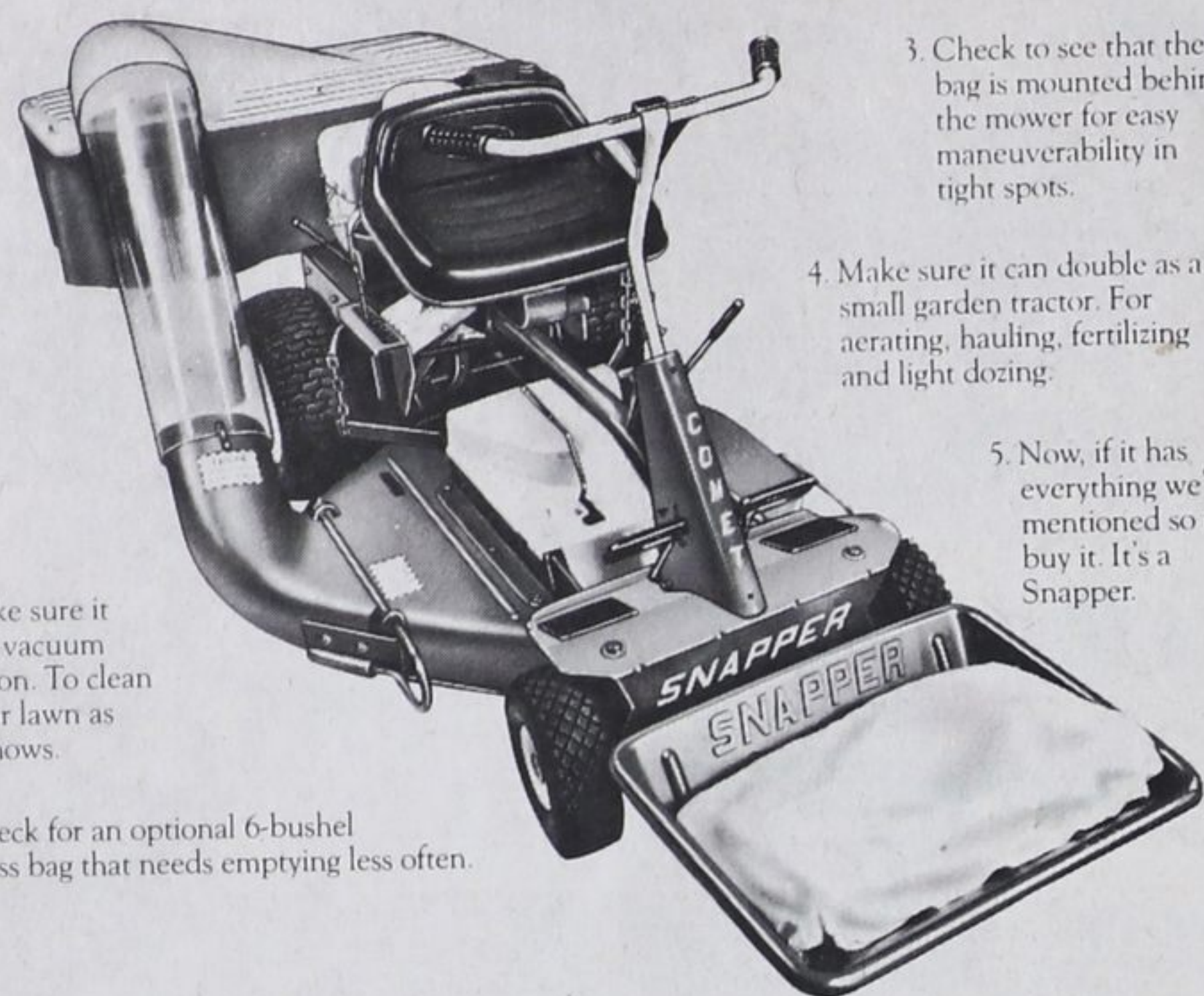


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How to buy a lawn mower.



1. Make sure it has vacuum action. To clean your lawn as it mows.

2. Check for an optional 6-bushel grass bag that needs emptying less often.

3. Check to see that the bag is mounted behind the mower for easy maneuverability in tight spots.

4. Make sure it can double as a small garden tractor. For aerating, hauling, fertilizing and light dozing.

5. Now, if it has everything we've mentioned so far, buy it. It's a Snapper.

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EAST SIDE

WED., MAY 12

WEST SIDE

THURS., MAY 13

PLEASE PLACE REFUSE IN A CONVENIENT SPOT FOR PICK-UP

Keep Our
Town
CLEAN

Use the handy refuse containers on downtown streets for small litter



Only woman pilot

Former PSS student flies the Arctic Circle



Stephanie Schwauss, pilot

When Stephanie Schwauss arrived at the Kenn Borek Air Service dormitory at Resolute, in the Arctic Circle there were some changes made. Some of the raunchier nude photographs in the dining room disappeared, and one of the dormitory bathrooms was given to her.

"They put 'HERS' on the door with tape," says Stephanie, "and said it was mine."

The slender former PSS student is barely 19, and she's not only the only woman pilot in Resolute. She's the youngest.

This means she has had to prove herself doubly. "When I first went up there," she says, "everyone was watching for the first mistake, because I was a girl, and because I was so young. Soon everybody loosened up, and now they help me out when I need it. The crew is fantastic to me."

Being the only girl among 30 pilots doesn't bother her. "I'm used to working with men, she says. "It's been that way ever since I started pilot's training."

Right now, she's the co-pilot of a Twin Otter. She's ambitious, and admits that she has her eye on the captain's chair. "But you need a lot of experience in that co-pilot's seat," she says, "and besides, you have to be 21 to get captain's papers."

She learned to fly at Midland's Huronia Airport, and later in an intensive four month course at Toronto

International Airport. She holds her private pilot's licence, an instructor's licence and a commercial pilot's licence which permits her to fly multi-engine planes up to a gross weight of 12,500 pounds under instrument conditions.

Now she flies everything from dynamite to disposable diapers into Eskimo communities in the Arctic.

Navigation is wholly different in the dense northern air. "You can't rely on the magnetic compass," she says. "We use a remote control compass compensator — a \$17,000 instrument."

Weather systems are entirely different up on top of the world too. They don't move from West to East as they do in the South.

The ice covered islands below are useful in a limited way for navigation, but blowing snow can obscure these landmarks completely.

"When that happens," she says, "we use beacons for navigation."

She is fascinated by the glimpses of wildlife she catches from the cockpit, and is building a collection of coloured slides. Not the least of the wildlife is the Eskimo husky which Stephanie describes as snarly and mean tempered. "They are small and underfed. I wouldn't go near one. One of our pilots lost a leather glove to one when he ventured too closely."

There are 200 people in the Resolute community. Six miles away there is an

Eskimo settlement. To compensate for the isolation, pilots like Stephanie fly for a month, and have a month's furlough.

"When I'm at the complex," says Stephanie, "I'm on call 24 hours a day. So, when I'm not flying, I try to grab as much sleep as I can."

Her job is physically as well as intellectually demanding. As co-pilot, Stephanie is responsible for loading and unloading the plane. "That's hard work, especially when you're wearing thermal underwear, ski pants and a heavy parka."

It's also Stephanie's job to check the oil before take-off, for which she has to climb up on the wing of the aircraft. In really cold weather, it's up to Stephanie to cover the engines with protective tents after a flight. "That's a cold job. Usually the captain helps me."

Recreational facilities at Resolute include radio and TV (CBC Newfoundland) occasional movies ("When they show 'Deep Throat' I disappear") dart tournaments and poker.

"That poker table is really a focal point for some of the guys," she says. "I've seen \$1500 change hands in a night. I think it's foolish — it defeats the purpose of going north, which is to make big money."

Mail arrives at Resolute three times a week and moves out with surprising speed. "If I mail a letter to my folks on Tuesday they get it by Friday. Still, I rack up some pretty heavy phone bills!"

Although she has moments of longing for contact with friends and family in the South, she has fallen under the spell of the north. "When I went up, my captain told me that nobody who calls himself a Canadian should miss seeing our north. I agree completely. It is very beautiful."

What does she miss? "Green. There are no trees at all up there — just miles and miles of blue-white ice in the bright sunlight. And I miss driving. Sometimes I take a truck out, but there's really no place to go."

On May 13, Stephanie heads back to Resolute 500 miles northwest of Frobisher Bay to take up residence with her thirty co-workers. She'll continue to be the only woman pilot in the area.

But nobody calls her Steve.

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PSS takes top honours

Penetanguishene Secondary School badminton team captured the Ontario Badminton Team Championships at Seneca College last Thursday and Friday.

Mary Sue Beatty and Kathy Payne were ranked second overall in Ontario in girls doubles.

Danny St. Amant and Chris Robitaille who are ranked number one in Georgian Bay placed fifth overall in the boys doubles.



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