

Northern Insights

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easier, like dish washers and washing machines."

Both women are seeking a fairer society, not just for women, but for everyone. The changes they seek are legislative and political, but such changes start at the personal

level—with men. The message they gave me, as a man, was loud and clear. Mouthing support for women's issues is one thing, but changing on a personal level is quite another.

If heterosexual men and

women are really going to be partners in whatever new societies we build for our grandchildren in North America and Russia, we have to be prepared to make the concept of "partnership" mean something, not just at the day care

centre, but in the kitchen and the laundry room as well.

Dealing with bad weather: best prepare ahead of time

Few Canadians have had weather the full force of a hurricane close to home. But visits from these violent tropical storms often reach eastern Canada from June to November. They rarely occur on Canada's West Coast.

Hurricanes hit Canada much less often than tornadoes, but usually cause more widespread damage. By the time hurricanes reach Canada, heavy rain and flooding are usually greater hazards than strong winds.

Because hurricanes are relatively slow moving, communities may be battered for several hours.

In recent years, the aftermaths of Atlantic hurricanes Bob, Bertha, Gabrielle, Beth, Gladys and Daisy have lashed parts of Eastern and Central Canada causing death and millions of dollars damage. The only time in recent history a hurricane directly hit a Canadian city was when *Hurricane Hazel's* 124-kilometre-an-hour winds slammed into Toronto in October, 1954, causing the death of 83 people.

The recent battering of Florida, by *Hurricane Andrew* is the most recent reminder of what a severe storm can do to threaten life and property.

The best piece of advice on what to do during a severe storm—even if it does not reach full hurricane force—is to prepare ahead of time. Some storms strike quickly. Some preparations cannot be left until warnings are issued. You should think about them *now*.

Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service and the news media co-operate to provide weather warnings. Take a weather warning seriously if a hurricane, tornado or severe storm is approaching your area. Do what emergency officials tell you.

Some things to consider include:

- Prepare an emergency pack—your pack, in your home, vehicle or place of work, should include emergency food supplies, extra clothing, a blanket, rain coat, boots, and a first-aid

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