

# Business

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## A waterless future?

By STEVE HOUSTON, Staff Reporter  
 If Canadians aren't more careful, Mother Nature will eventually abandon us, says businessman Denis Champagne.

The owner of water treatment company Clear Plus, Mr. Champagne, 27, designs and sells water purification systems for the home and business.

"We take our environment for granted," Mr. Champagne said last week. "We are part of the eco-system and eventually Mother Nature will turn back and hurt us in the years to come."

increasingly aware of the environmental issues that affect their health," he noted. "We are more health conscious and people realize that some responsibility begins at home."

As a result of the growing awareness, Mr. Champagne said the response to his purification systems have been

positive over the last two years. He expects that response to grow in the future also.

"The most important thing is not to wait on larger institutions to take care of these problems," he noted. "Some of the problems can be taken care of at home."



Carbon copy? Not quite. Clear Plus owner Denis Champagne displays a new carbon filter (left) and one that has been purifying water for one year. The difference is easily noticeable in the one on the right as it is stained and cracked from daily use.

He said the water Markhamites draw from their faucets each day is contaminated with various toxins even though it has been treated at sewage facilities.

And though the various chemicals and industrial by-products that make its way into water supplies are minute (it's measured in parts per billion), Mr. Champagne said it does affect people.

"It's not the actual quantity of chemicals so much as it is the repetition of the quantity," he said.

Clear Plus purification systems are portable units that trap many of the contaminants in a compressed carbon core and filter water through an auxiliary faucet kit.

Mr. Champagne pointed out that the carbon core is capable of removing 129 of the 200 priority pollutants listed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

He also said governments haven't moved fast enough in legislating stricter pollution regulations to stop the influx of contaminants dumped daily into the five Great Lakes.

"People today are becoming

## Income tax refund?

One of the most common statements of astonishment that you will here from now until the end of April goes something like this, "You're getting how much back on your income tax?"

Whether it is through a vivid imagination, a great deal of foresight, or a very skillful accountant, it always seems that the guy or gal next door pays less taxes than you do.

Today's article will cover some of the things that you should consider when filling out your income tax form this year. We will walk through some of the common areas that cause problems and outline what you can do differently next year to further reduce your tax burden.

On page one of the return it's time to be honest. Here you not only declare all of the income that you received "T" slips for, but all of the other income that you might have made. Included here is the bank interest that was not large enough for the bank to report, the capital gain that you made on the sale of your investment property, the interest that your family member is paying you on that mortgage money you lent to him, and any other income that the government doesn't know about this year.

Before closing the paper in anger and declaring me to be a spoilsport who suggests taking all of the intrigue out of tax filing let me explain.

The revenue department has all the cards in its hand. Its computer can tell when something is out of the ordinary and over a period of years there is a good chance that an audit will turn up that hidden income. It simply is not worth the risk to try to illegally hide a few tax dollars.

On the other hand it is a right, even an obligation for every taxpayer to use all of the rules and all of the means available to reduce taxes to the bare minimum. Let's see how to use some of the rules to advantage.

The first of the deductions listed on the form where you have some control is registered pension plan and registered retirement savings plan contributions.

If this number isn't at the 20 per

**Wise Money**  
*John Near*

cent maximum up to \$3,500 for those with a pension plan of \$5,500 for those without a pension plan, then you have missed a gift this year and should resolve to take care of it next year.

A \$3,500 contribution in this area for a \$40,000 income earner, means paying about \$1,400 less tax (40 per cent marginal tax). Next on the agenda is to dig up those old receipts for union and tuition dues. By finding them, the person above lets the government pay for 40 per cent of the tab.

I think the next item is one of lament for many parents with children in university. Even though you may have paid the whole tuition bill, you can't deduct it. The person who got money out of his or her hands and into the student's is the winner here. This can be accomplished simply by the use of a Registered Educational Savings Plan. I might add that there are some new plans on the market now that are really "dynamite" in terms of saving the tax as well as making terrific investments.

With daycare in the news so often you might fail to recognize that the next major deduction for many parents is referring to exactly that! The government calls it child care expense. Make sure that the lower income earning spouse claims this. Although you don't have to file receipts, you must keep them for future possible audits.

The next section on personal exemptions for spouses and children is important for future planning. If your children earned over \$2,720 for example, then they start to reduce your dependent deduction. Next year you may want to suggest that they work less and enjoy the summer a little more, as long as you are willing to make up the shortfall. While this sounds like a costly strategy it is a reflection that in a 40 per cent tax bracket every dollar, your 18-year-old child earns over \$2,720 and up to \$4,140 costs you 40 cents.

The final section on deductions has some real opportunities for planning as well. The pension income deduction is thought by many to be only for those with pension plan or RRSP income. Surprisingly enough it can also be obtained after age 65 by having up to \$1,000 of interest income from a non-registered annuity from an insurance company. It's a simple way of converting taxable interest income into non-taxable qualified pension income.

Your medical receipts will only be of use if they exceed three per cent of net income. Search around instead for all of the charitable donation receipts that you can find. The \$100 standard deduction is gone this year.

The next fairly common opportunity is the transfer of deductions that your spouse has but cannot use because of low income. Following the rules you can pick up as much as \$1,000 for interest and pension income deductions as well as age, education and disability deductions.

Finally if you had a capital loss before May 23, 1985 you can deduct up to \$2,000 against other income as long as you don't have enough 1985 capital gains to offset these losses.

If you were in the particular situation to have taken advantage of many of these deductions and didn't, then that is the reason that everybody seems to be getting more back on their income tax than you are.

One might well ask why they should worry at all about the above situation since they have their local tax preparation service or friendly accountant look after the whole thing anyway. The thing to remember is that at tax preparation time, the history has already been written and the accountant is the archivist.

An understanding of how some of these rules work will let you to some degree write your own destiny from a tax point of view. Let me be clear that their is no substitute for an excellent accountant who for a proper fee will do the history from last year and help plan the future. Unless you are willing to pay for a full service you owe it to yourself to gain a basic understanding as to how and why you send so much money to the department of national revenue each year.

## Give a student that first big break.



### Give them a summer job.

Every summer, students provide a wealth of talent, knowledge and ingenuity that every employer can tap. As an employer, you will benefit from the energy and enthusiasm students bring to their summer jobs. The students in turn will gain the experience so valuable to entering the working world.

Of course students are willing to do just about

any sort of work available, but ideally, they would like to find employment related to their field of study. This would help ease the transition from school to work, and help eliminate the "no experience/no job" bias that they may face when seeking full time employment. Hiring students makes good business sense. For every type of job you can offer, there's a student more than willing to work.

Employment and Immigration Canada / Emploi et Immigration Canada

Canada Challenge '86

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**PROCLAMATION**  
 That the month of April, 1986 be proclaimed as "Barber Shop Harmony Month" in the Town of Markham.  
 Carole Bell, Mayor.  
**MARKHAM**

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

TAKE NOTICE THAT a Public Meeting of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario will be held at the LIQUOR LICENCE BOARD OF ONTARIO, 55 LAKESHORE BOULEVARD EAST, TORONTO, ONTARIO on TUESDAY, APRIL 15th, 1986 at the hour of 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time the Board will hear an application in accordance with the Liquor Licence Act, and Regulations thereunder.

The following establishment has applied for a licence of the class indicated, and the application will be entertained at the aforementioned location and time:

**Application For Additional Licence**  
 Maples of Ballantrae Recreational Facility  
 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
 Lot 13-14, Concession 7, R.R. #4  
 Stouffville  
 Reclassification from Public House and a Patio (Public House) Licence to a Dining Room Licence and a Patio (Dining Room) Licence  
 Licensee: Michael Wade Construction Co. Limited

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person who is resident in the municipality and who wishes to make representation relative to the application, shall make their submission to the Board in writing prior to the date of the hearing, or in person at the time and place of the hearing. (Copies of written submissions will be forwarded to the applicant).

Liquor Licence Board of Ontario  
 55 Lakeshore Boulevard East  
 TORONTO, Ontario, M5E 1A4

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS  
 THE LIQUOR LICENCE ACT

**PROCLAMATION**  
 That the month of April, 1986 be proclaimed as "Big Sister Month" in the Town of Markham.  
 Carole Bell, Mayor.  
**MARKHAM**