

# A chance to reconnect with nature

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everyone's assembled, usually by 10 a.m., the master asks the huntsman to sound the horn and let hounds "draw cover", or advance into an area of bush looking for fox or coyote.

If no quarry is found, the huntsman sounds the horn again, asking hounds to come back and try elsewhere. If quarry is found, the chase is on.

"We generally find coyote, the hounds chase it and we pursue the hounds. The coyote either gets away, the hounds get tired or the members get tired, and we decide to come home. It's a marvelous chance for people to be at one with nature, in country where they wouldn't normally have permission to ride," explains Powell.

"Then we come back and relax in the clubhouse, have a drink and chat about the day. It's just great companionship and camaraderie."

Joe Merber has hunted for 12 years and says it allows him to leave city life behind.

"I love the countryside and you lose contact with that when you're in an office all day. It's great to get out and see how the weather, the terrain and the animals all interact," says the 55-year-old, who started riding at age 40.

"I love galloping cross-country, riding hell bent for leather and never knowing what's around the next corner. It's invigorating."

Members also attend fundraising social events and competitions for horses and hounds. Those who don't ride can become social members and follow the hunt on foot or by car.

Older or inexperienced riders may watch the hunt by "hilltopping" — riding sedately from hill to hill for a bird's-eye view.

Hunt horses can be of any breed, but must be suited to the rider's ability. Experienced riders prefer a thoroughbred capable of galloping fast and far, but a novice would want a sturdy cross-breed.

"If you're only capable of driving a Metro, why

have a Ferrari? People who have made the mistake usually go back to something a little more sane," says Powell, who rides a thoroughbred to keep up with hounds.

His own horses work almost all year to keep in shape, often going to the U.S. to hunt for one to six weeks in winter.

*'It's just great companionship and camaraderie.'*

The huntsman's top priority is the breeding and training of hounds. With two paid assistants, he also keeps the horses fit, the club's facilities in good repair and maintains relations with landowners over whose property the hunt travels.

He reports to one or more masters — experienced, respected volunteers who oversee the hunt — and a board and president.

Powell learned his trade from his father in England. Only two of Ontario's nine hunts have Canadian huntsmen.

"It's basically because you don't have the tradition in Canada, no one to learn from. It isn't a job, it's very much a way of life," says Powell.

"Most young people who would like to be a huntsman think of this exciting person in the red coat galloping and dashing about, but tend to forget we work seven days a week, often long hours, for relatively little financial benefit."

Interested members can volunteer to assist the huntsman, says Powell.

"Very often I will stop during the day and explain what I'm doing and why, so members are learning as well as having fun."

Long-time members or those who have made a notable contribution to the club are awarded their "colours" or a scarlet jacket with the club's distinctive collar and buttons.

## PUBLIC RECALL NOTICE

BICYCLE MODEL R-1000 BMX (71-1212-0)  
BICYCLE MODEL MBX-5000 (71-1281-4, 71-1282-2, 71-1283-0)  
BICYCLE MODEL MBX-1000 (71-1401-0, 71-1402-8, 71-1403-6)

In addition to the Supercycle Bicycle Model 1800S recalled previously, the three models specified above were sold at Canadian Tire stores between January and April 7, 2000 and are also under voluntary recall. Products purchased before and after this time period meet all Canadian requirements and are not affected by this recall.

### BICYCLE MODEL R-1000 BMX (71-1212-0)

The R-1000 BMX bicycle, manufactured by P.T. Wijaya Bicycle Industries is being voluntarily recalled due to a potential safety concern. It has been found that a weak handlebar could potentially result in steering difficulties.

The R-1000 BMX bicycle can be identified as follows:

- Yellow frame; 20" wheels
- R-1000 trademark located on the down tube of frame and chromed fork
- Sticker showing 71-1212-0 on seat tube

Consumers who have purchased this model during the specified time period are requested to immediately discontinue use of this product and return it to their local Canadian Tire store for a refund of the purchase price.

### BICYCLE MODEL MBX-5000 (71-1281-4, 71-1282-2, 71-1283-0) and BICYCLE MODEL MBX-1000 (71-1401-0, 71-1402-8, 71-1403-6)

Bicycles within the MBX-5000 and MBX-1000 series that DO NOT bear an engraved marking on the rear wheel axle hub are being voluntarily recalled due to a weakened rear axle which may cause it to bend and cause the rear wheel axle to move off centre. These bicycles are manufactured by Krane Corporation and are being recalled for a performance/quality reason. The voluntary recall affects only bicycles that DO NOT have an engraved marking on the axle hub of the rear wheel. Products purchased before and after the time period specified above meet all Canadian requirements and are not affected by this recall.

BICYCLE MODEL MBX-5000 can be identified as follows:

- Product DOES NOT have an engraved marking resembling a stylized 'JL' on the steel of the rear wheel axle hub
- Yellow Y-type bicycle frame with dual suspension
- MBX-5000 trademark on top tube of bicycle frame and front fork
- Red fork and rear frame

BICYCLE MODEL MBX-1000 can be identified as follows:

- Product DOES NOT have an engraved marking resembling a stylized 'JL' on the steel of the rear wheel axle hub
- Blue Y-type bicycle frame
- MBX-1000 trademark on top tube of bicycle frame and front fork
- Yellow front fork

Consumers who have purchased any of these bicycles during the specified time period are requested to immediately discontinue use of this product and return it to their local Canadian Tire store which will arrange for its inspection and repair if required.



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**Gardening Tip**

*Planting of Rose Bushes*

1. Prune off any broken or bruised roots and branches and soak the roots in water, anywhere from an hour to 24 hours before planting.
2. Dig a hole at least twice as wide and deep as the extended root system to allow room for future growth and adequate drainage.
3. Prepare a soil mixture of 2 parts loose top soil to 1 part moss. Place 6" of this mixture in the bottom of the hole and build a cone-shaped mound in the hole.
4. Place the plant in the hole, spreading the root system over the cone-shaped mound of soil. The graft or bud union (this is the spot, generally a couple of inches above the roots, from which the branches start to grow out of the trunk or stem of the root system) should be about 1" below ground level. Fill the hole 3/4 full of loose soil mixture and tramp the soil with your foot to eliminate air pockets.
5. Soak thoroughly with water and allow time for the water to soak in, then fill the hole to ground level with loose soil mixture again. Firm the soil mixture with your foot. Create a saucer of the soil around the plant to hold water and maintain this saucer for at least 2 months until the plant is established.
6. Trim back all roses to 4" above the ground level, water thoroughly at least once a week depending on soil and weather conditions and fertilize periodically in accordance with the instructions provided by the fertilizer supplier.

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