

# LIVING

## Crazy Cubicles

BY LISA QUEEN  
Staff Writer

Greg Collett loves Coke. He drinks it by the gallon. So, it came as a natural extension of his loyalty to the soft drink when Collett decided to build a wall of Coke cans in his office cubicle.

Collett, now owner of Aurora website design and development company Collett Designs, was working at Rogers @ Home in Toronto when he came up with his quirky decorating project three years ago.

Given the amount of pop Collett guzzles back every day, it only took him a few weeks to erect a wall with more than 300 cans.

But then catastrophe struck. "The funny thing was when you got anal about having the cans just so, I tried to fix one that was a little out of place and the whole wall came crashing down," Collett said.

"It freaked out the entire floor. It sounded like an earthquake or something."

So ended Collett's experiment with cubicle art. Most workers bring something personal to dress up their workstation.

Just about everyone has pictures of their significant other, their kids, a friend or a pet.

Calendars are commonplace. But while some prefer tropical settings or puppies, others are a little more daring.

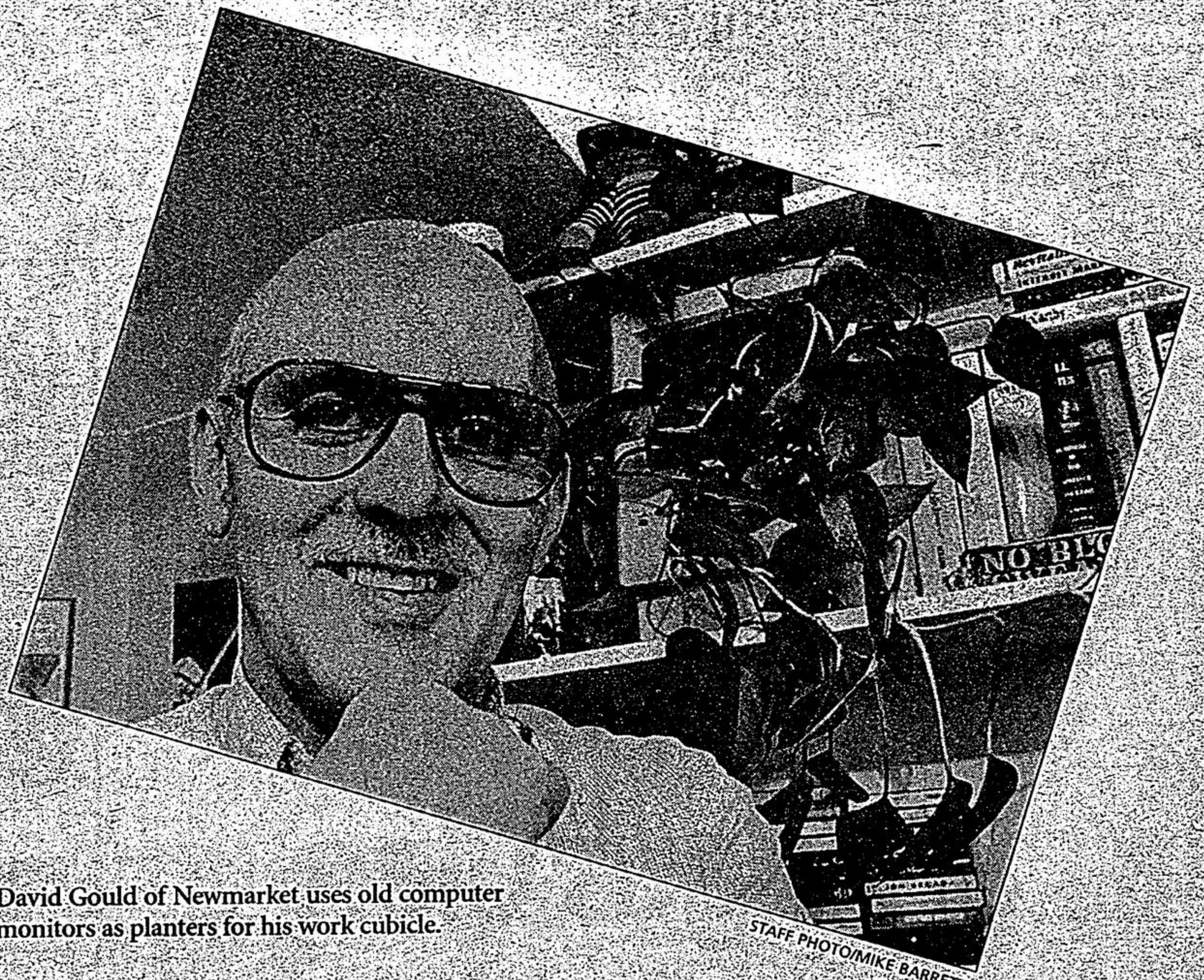
Have you checked out this year's edition of the Toronto Firefighter Calendar? Hot.

Still, there are employees who have taken cubicle decorating to new heights.

For example, David Gould, owner of Newmarket's Bald Eagle Consulting Inc., a marketing communications and business development company, has two planters that cost him \$12,000.

While the planters are "antiques," don't go thinking that Gould flew halfway around the world to retrieve some rare Persian urns.

They're actually outdated Macintosh computers, reminders of the early 1980s when Gould launched his desk-



David Gould of Newmarket uses old computer monitors as planters for his work cubicle.

STAFF PHOTO MIKE BARRETT

top publishing venture. "I was one of the early conduits and disciples of desktop publishing. I think the computers died after about eight years," he said.

"The reason I keep them, anybody who is a Macintosh computer user (knows) it's a different culture. We use a computer a little more creatively. It's just pure affection for that box that changed our world."

Any other reason? "It's also a conversation starter," Gould said.

Josh Babins, owner of the It Store at Upper Canada Mall, has a slew of novelties to brighten up even the most drab cubicle.

Figurines, featuring characters like Looney Toon cartoons, appeal to employees who want something fun but understated sitting on a shelf.

Beanie Babies can help employees bring a little piece of the outside world to work with them.

"Somebody who works for Ducks Unlimited can have a duck. There's a moose for hunters," Babins said.

Or how about the disco ball? While the ball which throws off colourful lights merely sits on a desk, it may help a worker pretend to be on the dance floor rather than wading through the piles of paperwork loaded up in the "in" box.

Then there's the gadget that features a windsurfer sailing on the blue ocean in a sealed tube. It may bring to mind a vacation in the Caribbean.

Having a tough day at the office? Babins suggests the "ultimate office toy", a plaque featuring the slogan "complaints department, please take a number."

The number 1 is attached to a string tied to a pretend hand grenade. The person who wants to lodge a grievance may think twice.

Probably the only one who could get away with this one is the boss: the executive stress shooter makes sonic noises and shoots foam disks.

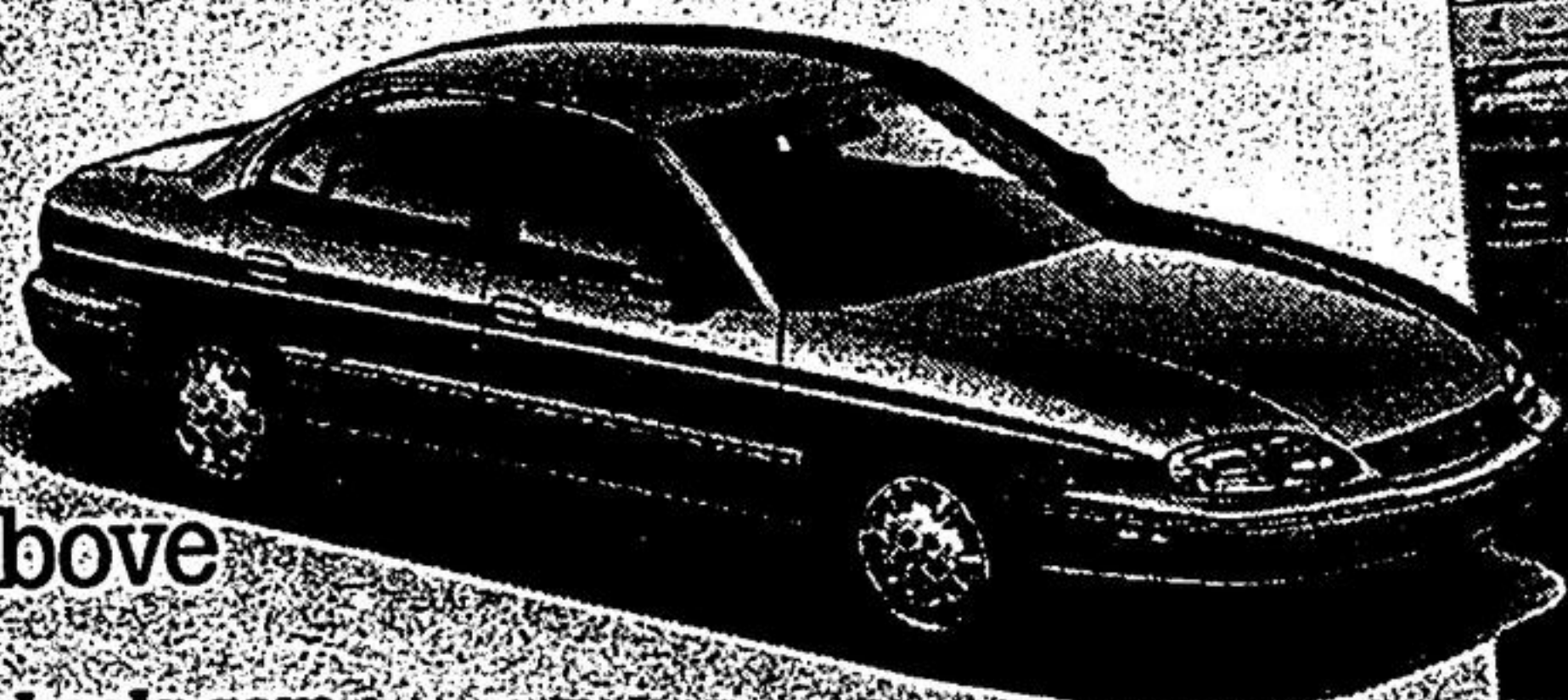
Babins believes work toys are popular because they relieve stress and brighten the mood at a place where people spend a good eight hours a day.

"They lighten up the day. Every worker needs that."

## Finding your next used vehicle just got...

- easier
- faster
- cheaper
- better
- all of the above

Introducing [www.yorkregionwheels.com](http://www.yorkregionwheels.com) a completely new way to shop for used cars and trucks in York Region...



- easier...** Search the inventory of more than 20 regional dealers from the comfort of your home.
- faster...** Narrow your search in minutes to the cars that best meet your criteria.
- cheaper...** No driving from lot to lot, no long distance calls and price comparisons are easy with more than 500 vehicles to choose from.
- better...** Shop 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 500 Used Cars
- Searchable
- Full Colour Photos
- Easy to Use
- All Makes
- All Models
- All Years
- All Price Ranges
- All Local
- More than 20 Dealers
- FREE TO BROWSE!

[www.yorkregionwheels.com](http://www.yorkregionwheels.com)

294-2200 ECONOMIST & SUN • Stouffville Tribune

Check us out today at [www.yorkregionwheels.com](http://www.yorkregionwheels.com)