

The Economist &amp; Sun/Sun-Tribune

## DIVERSIONS

Rub-a-dub-dub,  
fun in the tub

Ryan Mason

Game On

Rare offering  
scores high  
on tech front

Game: **Grabbed By The Ghoules**  
 Publisher: **Microsoft Game Studios**  
 Developer: **Rare** (game exclusively for Xbox)  
 Price: **\$49.99**  
 Rating: **Everyone**

Cooper and his girlfriend Amber get lost on a stormy night because Cooper can't read a map. Then a tall, dark, 1800s-style mansion appears on the side of the road looking down at them.

Amber, who isn't the brightest video game character to ever appear on a screen, makes a bad decision and goes into the house.

Wrong

Cooper frantically tries to persuade Amber to go to the next town six miles away.

A gang of evil gargoyles takes Amber into the house and ties her to a chair. Cooper chases after the group but can't catch up. The door slams in front of him.

This is where your work begins. You must find Amber and escape from the mansion. You will have help from various people who work inside, including the butler, the maid and many other trapped children.

Welcome to *Grabbed by the Ghoules*, one of the latest Xbox offerings.

This game is made by Rare, the people who created *Donkey Kong 64*. It has cartoon-like graphics with excellent lighting and sound.

You are able to pick up almost anything you see lying on the ground, from pool cues to swordfish, to defeat enemies.

STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Arthur Lawrence (right) and his son, Paul, enjoy an outdoor hot tub together, despite last Thursday's wintery conditions.

Hot tubs designed  
to fit all budgets

BY PATRICK MANGION  
Staff Writer

Craig Deasley dreamt of the day he could kick back and enjoy the hockey game from the comfort of an outdoor hot tub.

When workers installed the state-of-the-art eight-seater hot tub at his Aurora home earlier this month, it was the culmination of a nine-year longing for what he considers the perfect back yard family accessory.

With what will become a bunk house and change room at ground level, just steps from the hot tub, and an elevated deck already wired for a TV and stereo for outdoor entertainment, Mr.

Deasley said plans are in the works to bring that dream closer to reality.

"It really opened up the backyard. Otherwise, we wouldn't be out there."

Whether it's having friends over for a party or enjoying a brisk evening alone with the family, a hot tub has been a nice addition to the home, Mr. Deasley said.

"We wanted to make our backyard a destination at home," he said on an unseasonably mild November day.

"We thought about a pool, but with our summers you can use it maybe eight weeks a year. (Hot tubs) are for 52 weeks a year."

With a one- and four-year-old, Mr. Deasley said he and his wife considered a cottage as well, but the thought of battling traffic for a few weekends with young chil-

dren didn't seem worth it.

Now he only wishes he bought a hot tub sooner.

"I couldn't afford it until now," Mr. Deasley joked.

When he did go ahead with the purchase, he said he wasn't about to scrimp on the details.

He wanted the hot tub to be the focal point in the large backyard of his south Aurora home.

Accordingly, he was sure to spoil himself and his family with a few much deserved luxuries.

There's an ice box and drain, multicolour interior and exterior fibre-optic lighting and an individual waterfall feature at each seat to provide a soothing neck massage.

Mr. Deasley also protected his investment by opting for a more durable composite shell.

To complement the tub, Mr.

Deasley said planting trees for privacy and additional landscaping will have to wait for now.

It has only been about three weeks since it was installed and while he doesn't quite have a handle on the chemical upkeep quite yet, Mr. Deasley has become a hot tub advocate.

So, too, has Richmond Hill resident Arthur Lawrence, 51.

He had the family's first hot tub installed less than two months ago, but even though the cold weather has arrived, the novelty has yet to wear off.

"We were actually looking forward to our long winters," Mr. Lawrence said.

He also bought a canopy to keep out the rain or snow and, so far, it has been a big hit with his

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