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STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Chris Moote (at rear) and family friend Laura Jacksie enjoy Mr. Moote's golf green and landscaped yard with waterfalls, a stream and goldfish pond.

*Based on 3-year variable rate mortgage (Prime minus 0.75%), a monthly annual compound rate, on May 24, 2005. The interest rate will change with Prime. The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for the 3-year variable rate mortgage is 3.56%, assuming no further fees apply and the Prime rate does not change. All mortgage rates subject to change without notice. Mortgages subject to credit approval. Some conditions apply. Citizens Bank of Canada is part of the Vancity Group of Companies.

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WEEKEND SPECIALS: FRIDAY JUNE 24 TO SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2005

Unless otherwise stated. While quantities last.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S SELECTED SHORTS ONLY \$5 ⁰⁰ ea.	WOMEN'S SELECTED SPRING JACKETS WAS \$79.99 NOW \$34 ⁹⁹ ea.	WOMEN'S SELECTED SKIRTS ONLY \$4 ⁰⁰ ea.	WOMEN'S SELECTED SANDALS ONLY \$6 ⁰⁰ pair	GIRLS' SELECTED WHITE SHOES \$4 ⁰⁰ pair
MEN'S SELECTED ROBES \$9 ⁰⁰ ea.	MEN'S SELECTED Big & Tall Fit™ DENIM PANTS Size 42 & Up \$9 ⁰⁰ ea.	SELECTED REFRIGERATORS \$888 ⁰⁰ ea.	SELECTED SOFAS \$588 ⁰⁰ ea.	SELECTED ROCKER RECLINERS \$388 ⁰⁰ ea.

ONE DAY SALE SATURDAY JUNE 25, 9:30 AM - 6:00 P.M.
Unless otherwise stated. While quantities last.

SAVE AN ADDITIONAL
80% OFF
The already reduced prices on all
CURLING IRONS
Limit 5 per customer

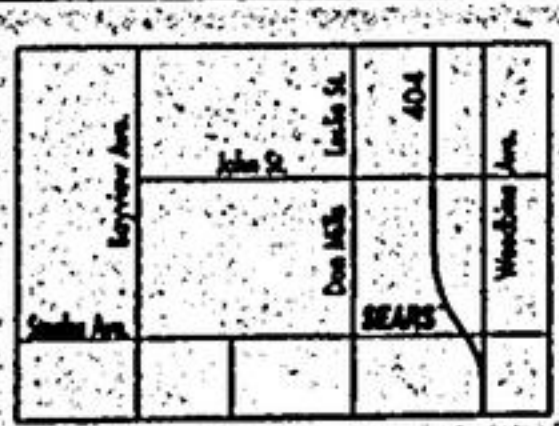
ONE DAY SALE SUNDAY JUNE 26, 12 NOON - 5:00 P.M.
Unless otherwise stated. While quantities last.

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60% OFF
The already reduced prices on all
SCREEN HOUSES AND SCREEN GAZEBOS
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Offers are not valid on Sears Markham Appliance & Mattress Store and Final Clearance Stamped Merchandise.

Personal shopping only. All merchandise sold "as is" and all sales are final. No exchanges, returns or adjustments on previously purchased merchandise; savings offers cannot be combined. No dealers. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices do not include home delivery. Although we strive for accuracy, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. "Reg.", "Was" and "Sears selling price" refer to the Sears Catalogue or Retail store price current at time of merchandise receipt. Offers valid at Sears Shops on Steeles & 404 Outlet Store shown only. Merchandise selection varies by store. For other hot deals, visit the Outlet Site at www.sears.ca

MARKHAM
Outlet Store
SHOPS ON STEELES
& 404



Store Hours:
MON. - FRI. 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
SAT. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM
SUN. 12 NOON - 5:00 PM



SEARS

SALE PRICES IN EFFECT FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. UNTIL SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN OUR AD OR WHILE QUANTITIES LAST. SALE DOES NOT APPLY TO PURCHASES MADE PRIOR TO FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005. ALL OUTLET MERCHANDISE HAS BEEN PRICED FOR FINAL SALE.

Back yard putting: heaven at home?

BY JOHN CUDMORE
Staff Writer

Forget the dress code and greens fees. There is no need to worry about a trailing foursome nipping at your heels and forcing a rushed shot.

Call it a slice of heaven right in your own back yard.

For a golf nut, could anything top an opportunity to putter the evening away by holing 20-footers a short chip away from the beer fridge?

Chris Moote knows that feeling.

He discovered it about three years ago when he decided to build a putting green in the back yard of his Keswick home.

That sound of shattering glass in the background? Well, there are limitations to what one can do when it comes to back yards and swinging a golf club.

"At the time, I was doing a little landscaping and trying to figure out a way to spend some time and money," chuckled Mr. Moote, who re-searched the project in golf magazines and on the Internet before plunging where few dare.

"Actually, I always just thought it would be neat to have a green in the back yard."

After considering factors such as cost, practicality and maintenance, Mr. Moote, who had been downsized in his job a short time before, opted for a synthetic surface instead of real grass.

Modern surfaces are a far cry from the indoor-outdoor carpet offerings that were used years ago and certainly more manageable and easier to maintain.

Mr. Moote finally decided on a mail-order, do-it-yourself kit from a manufacturer in the United States.

In all, the project took

between 70 and 80 hours from the time the first shovel went into the ground for his 12-by-24-foot, three-hole patch of permanent back yard greenery.

The process started with deciding on the configuration of the pre-fab surface, then excavating to a depth enabling four inches of packed limestone screenings.

Moote wanted some character to his green, requiring fancy spadework to achieve breaks and rolls to add a realistic touch. Then it was roughing in and cutting the holes.

The finishing touch was combing/brushing in silica sand, in this case, a black sand-blasting material, to provide a deeper texture to the short pile.

"I'm quite proud of the way it turned out; it was an experiment for me, but it looks very much like a carpet."

"There's no maintenance other than occasionally using a leaf-blower to clear away debris. I can even use it on a decent day in December."

Unlike a real golf course where hushed tones are demanded, a back yard green is all about conversation, conceded his wife, Linda, who has since joined a league.

"Every day I would come home and it seemed there would be something new added — a waterfall, river or pond," she said.

"I had to tell him people were going to think he'd won the lottery, not just lost his job."

But her husband estimates the project cost \$7 per square foot, not including his own labour.

It seems good value for its role as a place where visitors tend to gather socially.

Purists might turn up their nose at anything but a real grass green, but factors such as cost, maintenance and labour are important.