

PACKING PROS

THESE ORGANIZING GURUS CAN HELP YOU PREPARE FOR SUMMER TRIPS

BY MITCHELL BROWN
Staff Writer

Patricia Saya just wants to say one word to you. One word. Are you listening? Plastic.

Lots and lots of plastic.

"I put underwear in Ziploc because it's all little stuff and that way it's not all over the place," she said.

"Jewelry, cosmetics — instead of carrying those fancy-shmancy cosmetic cases that take up more room than they should, I just throw everything into a Ziploc."

The Aurora-based professional organizer also uses the resealable plastic pouches to store just about everything that tends to get packed for summer road trips, from shoes and lotions in larger bags to child-sized portions of crackers and treats in smaller ones.

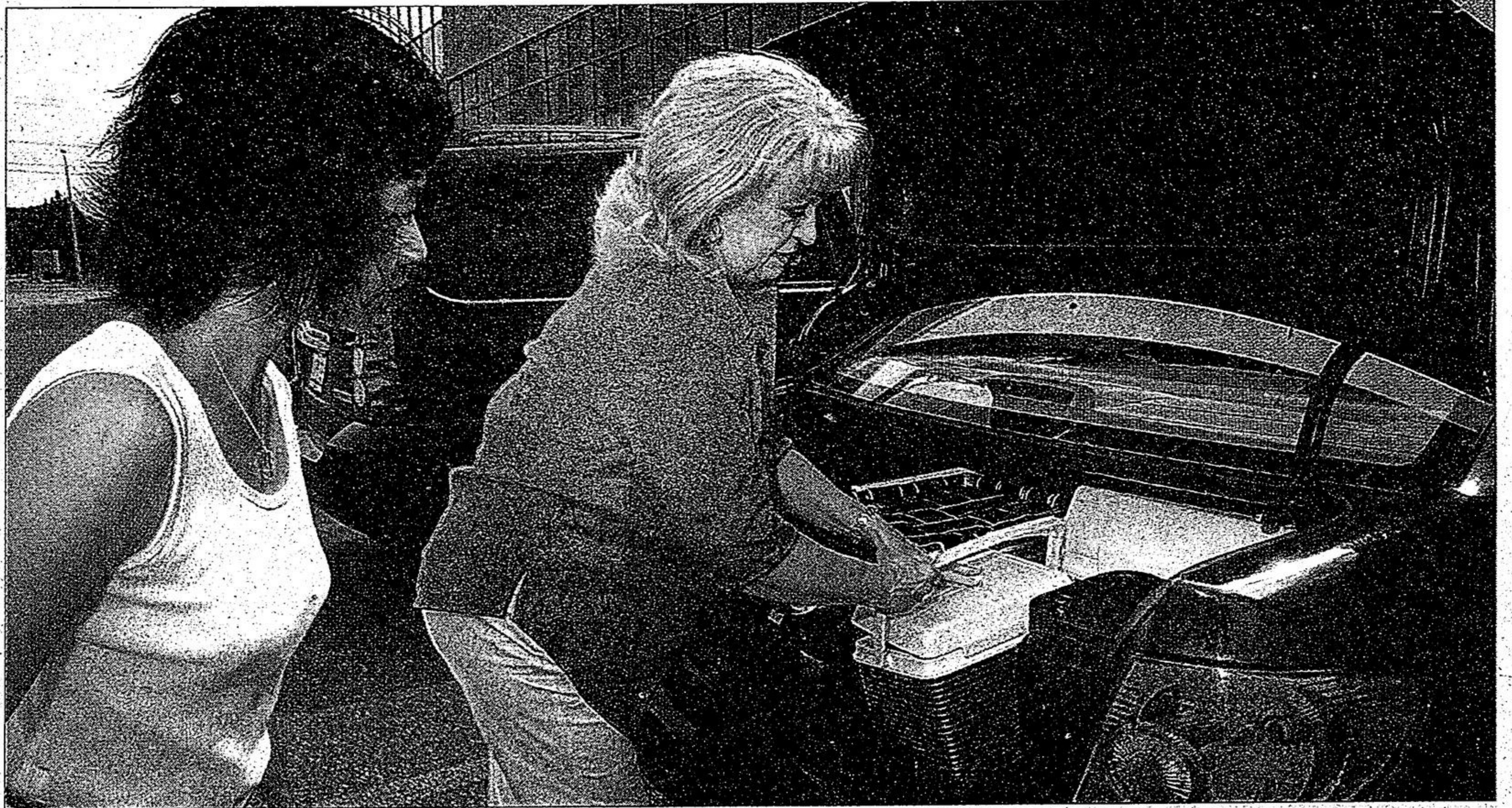
"And don't use those drinking boxes," she says, recommending refillable drink cups with flip-top lids instead.

"The stuff inside juice boxes comes out when you squeeze them and your kids will squeeze them when you least expect it."

Along with Eileen Chong of Thornhill's Simple Organizing Services, the owner of The Organizing Goddess showed up at our office last week to tackle a monumental task; namely, to help one harried reporter pack the back of his mid-size sedan for a summer road trip.

It seemed like a good time to get some professional help.

After all, it is summer and with a



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Professional organizer Eileen Chong (left) and Patricia Saya, known as the Organizing Goddess, pack reporter Mitchell Brown's car. "Put all the

new child in the family generating more than his fair share of baggage, this reporter wouldn't refuse a bit of professional help.

Second, a recent survey suggests most Canadians planning holidays these days are thinking of

travelling within Canada, which means a lot of people out there are packing it in.

A Bank of Nova Scotia study of travel intentions released last month found 43 per cent of Canadians plan to take a summer vaca-

tion this year and staying in Canada is the goal of more than half of those travellers, with 22 per cent of Ontario travellers choosing destinations within their own province.

What that adds up to is less time in the air and more time on the

road — a road that starts before you even open the trunk.

Almost immediately, both organizers flung themselves into

See *START*, page 17.

It's a chocolately, chewy fantasy delight



Anne Brodie

On Movies

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Starring Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore, David Kelly and Helena Bonham-Carter.

Directed by Tim Burton

A delicious, delightful confection with a twist of weird, a dollop of Busby Berkeley and the promise of great things. And they only used 244,000 gallons of chocolate.

Mr. Depp, who doesn't actually appear until an hour or so into the

film, has created yet another extraordinary character in Willy Wonka, the chocolate factory owner.

He is a devilish cross between Will and Grace's Jack, Marilyn Manson and a kid-friendly vampire. His fabulous look is timeless, featuring Edwardian costuming, a youthfully plump face and perfect, fake choppers.

Wonka, the son of a no-nonsense dentist, rebelled when he ate his first bon bon, leaving home to

open the candy factory. He and his candy are beloved everywhere. But no one ever sees him.

Children all over the world are launched into sugar frenzy when Wonka announces five candy bars contain golden tickets. The five children who find them will be his guests at the factory and one will win an "unimaginable" treat.

Freddie Highmore, who played Peter Pan in Mr. Depp's *Finding Neverland*, is Charlie Bucket, an amiable and grindingly poor boy

who lives with his extended family, crammed into a sad hovel in the shadow of the chocolate factory. Against all odds, Charlie finds a golden ticket along with four other obnoxious children.

The winners meet in front of the factory at the appointed hour, as the world media stands by, waiting breathlessly for the gates to open. First, however, they are treated to a weird puppet show in

See *MOVIE*, page 17.

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