I sat with a friend last week over coffee. He didn’t seem to be in a chatting mood, so like most Canadians, I turned to the weather. “They say it might snow for the long weekend. If it does, it will probably melt right away, so it’s the same as rain, far as I’m concerned.” He was looking out the window when he asked, “Ever wonder what happened to summer, Al?” I replied, “Well, don’t count it out yet. It is still only May and most of us haven’t even given our lawns the first mow. Spring is still making an appearance.” He shook his head, “Nope, spring is long gone, my friend. So is summer. All that’s left is a short fall and a long winter.” I looked at him and detected a sense of sadness or maybe regret…. or maybe both. “We’re not talking about the weather… are we?” I asked. He let out a troubled sigh and began telling me what was on his mind. I really miss the spring, Al. I miss when everything was fresh and new. I miss the excitement of being able to plant seeds of hope and watching our dreams grow. And if some seeds never took, there was still time to seed again. That was when we were at our strongest. That was when we had to imagine what everything would look like when some of those seeds took hold and dreams began to blossom. I miss everything we had to do throughout our spring, in anticipation of the summer; the drinking of knowledge, the nourishment of discovery and the sprouting of life itself. All in preparation of an incredible summer.

(continued on page 2)
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(continued from page 1)

Even more than spring, I miss the summer. I miss the nurturing and growth that comes with summer. I miss being able to look around and say to myself, “I started that. My, look at how far it’s come!” I miss the pride in knowing that I had a hand in the creation of something beautiful. I miss watching all the seeds I planted in spring, coming into their own. I miss the dreams beginning to be realized and the images that were previously only in my mind, taking an earthly form. I miss the growth of wisdom and the fulfillment of creation.

So now, here I am in the fall… the harvest of my life. My kids are grown ups, all dreams have either been completed or abandoned. I retire this year, Al. Nothing left to nurture. Nothing left to plant and nothing left to help grow. The only thing left is to complete the harvest. Soon, the fruits of my labour will be tucked away, deep in a cellar, awaiting a long cold winter.

His analogy was depressing me as much as himself. Unwilling to succumb to the depression, I blurted out, “So pretend it’s summer!”

With a confused look on his face he said, “Huh?”

“Pretend it’s summer. Help someone else plant their seeds. Mentor them. Help mould their imagination, aspirations and dreams. When you put produce in the cellar, it doesn’t become waste unless you let it. It is only lost if it is never used. As long as it’s used, it’s still considered nourishment. Teach others to plant seeds. Your wisdom has value with your children, their grandchildren and beyond. You’re looking at it as if you’re putting potatoes in the cellar forever but even winter ends eventually. When spring arrives for another, your potatoes become seed for their gardens. Any seed you harvest in your fall needs to be preserved so as to be planted another spring. Even if it is not you who plants that seed, it was made possible because of seeds you planted during your spring, nurtured during your summer and harvested in your fall. No my friend, you still have much summer left. You just have to enjoy it differently by sharing your summer with others. As long as you do that, any and all seasons can be the best summer of your life.

With a twinkle in his eye he asked, “We’re not talking about the weather, are we, Al?”

I smiled and chuckled, “No buddy… we’re talking about what an incredible and long summer it’s going to be for you after you retire.”
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You are practicing **compassion** when you...

- Notice when someone is hurt or needs a friend
- Imagine how they must be feeling
- Take time to show you care
- Ask how they are and listen patiently
- Forgive others when they make mistakes
- Are helpful to a person or animal in need

**Affirmation**

I have compassion.
I notice when someone is hurt or needs my help.
I take time to show I care.

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But Daddy.....

My husband and I took our two-year-old daughter to the home-improvement store. Madison got tired of walking, so my husband let her ride on his shoulders. As he walked, Madison began pulling his hair. Although he asked her to stop several times, she kept on. Getting annoyed, he scolded, “Madison! Stop that!”

“But, Daddy,” she replied, “I’m just trying to get my gum back.”

Living in the Country

Everything about living in the country delighted my neighbours, who had moved to our small town from the city. One day they spotted a sign, “Fresh Eggs For Sale” at a roadside stand where payment was on the honour system.

“Why can’t everyone be this trusting?” they said as they put their money into the box and took a carton. When they got home and opened it, they found 11 eggs.
Counterfeiters
\kown-ter-fit-ers\ :
Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.

Douglas Steen

CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST

Scoop Contest!
Hello to all the young families of Scoopville. We have been given the honour of awarding 2 lucky people one FREE SIGNED COPY each of “Money Smart Mom” written by Sarah Deveau. All we need is your name, number and a great money-saving tip for summer vacations.

Contest closes May 29th, 2010.

Sarah is the author of “Sink or Swim: Get Your Degree Without Drowning in Debt,” and she opened Cater Tot Consignment in 2006, in Airdrie, Alberta.

Send in your info. to lois@heresthescoop.com or drop it off at our office: Bay 402, 2903 Kingsview Blvd., Airdrie

CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST

To ‘listen’ another’s soul into a condition of disclosure and discovery may be almost the greatest service that any human being ever performed for another.

Douglas Steen

Page 6
Primate

Removing your spouse from in front of the TV

Who’s reading it, you ask?

Who’s your target market, you ask?

Send us your photos of people enjoying Here’s the Scoop. We love to see them.

To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions.

- Benjamin Franklin
Don’t be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can’t cross a chasm in two small jumps.
- David George

Clunker
As the owner of an old clunker, I was used to dealing with a variety of car breakdowns. One day at the supermarket, just after I had filled my trunk with groceries, I noticed a stream of fluid leaking out of the bottom of the car. I knew I had to get home before the car was once again out of action.
When I arrived I asked my husband to take a look at the problem. Expecting the worst, I braced myself for his diagnosis.
When he came back in, he was smiling. “It’s apple juice,” he said.

Rookie Pitcher
A rookie pitcher was struggling at the mound, so the catcher walked out to have a talk with him.
“I’ve figured out your problem,” he told the young southpaw. “You always seem to lose control at the same point in every game.”
“When is that?” asked the rookie.
“Right after the National Anthem.”