

Gizmos, gadgets and good reads for the cottage

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Whether you're on the way to the cottage or already there, there are plenty of ways to make your time enjoying the great outdoors that much more pleasurable.

These new products may be just the thing you've been looking for to enhance your cottage or relaxation experience:



► **The Bernzomatic** is a flexible lighter that is ideal for situations where lighting a fire is made difficult by space restriction.

The flexible stem allows the user to light almost any flame without exposure to the fire. You can use it to light hard-to-reach candles, as well as pilot lights, fireplaces, campfires, grills and more.

As well, this lighter has a visible fuel cell so you know when you're running low on butane. It comes with butane refill canister so you don't have to toss the lighter in the garbage when the fuel runs out and it also has a child-proof switch.

The Bernzomatic is available at Wal-Mart and The Home Depot. See www.bernzomatic.com for more information.

► **As anyone who has ever ventured** into the woods can attest, mosquitoes are a pain to deal with.

The bloodsucking little flying vampires can ruin a good day outdoors, not to mention put you at risk of contracting West Nile virus.

Enter ThermaCELL, a new mosquito area repellent that is now available in

Canada.

ThermaCELL uses a butane cartridge that heats a repellent mat house within the portable mosquito repellent device. The mat contains allethrin, a chemical copy of a naturally occurring insecticide found in certain flowers.

When the mat is heated, the repellent is released into the air, creating a mosquito-free zone measuring about 4.5 square metres (15 square feet) in diameter.

Each mat is good for about four hours of protection and the butane refill will last 12 hours.

According to the manufacturer, ThermaCELL has been found to provide more than 50 times the amount of protection that citronella candles offer.

The unit doesn't have an open flame and it won't ignite if left on.

ThermaCELL is available at Wal-Mart and other outdoor specialty shops. For more information, see www.thermacell.com.

► **MyLight is a bright LED reading** light that can be clipped to just about anything.

The unit is waterproof, shock resistant and comes in six different colours, including pink, black, purple and clear.

MyLight ships with two lithium batteries and has an average life of 40 hours.

It features a clamp that has rubberized clips to it doesn't damage your book, laptop computer, tent, the bill of your baseball cap or anything else you attach it to.

It's useful for lighting up hard-to-see spots like tackle boxes and doesn't tie up a USB port on your laptop.

MyLight's bulb housing is about the size of a ping-pong ball and swivels.



Click once on the rubber switch on the back of the ball, and you trigger two white LEDs. Click again, and you get two red night-vision LEDs for those times when you need to see in pitch-black conditions.

The MyLight LED Clip Light sells for \$9.95 US each at www.mylight.com.

► **The Pak-Lite 9-volt battery LED light** is a powerful, compact accessory that is perfect for the car, cottage or home.

The design is simple. A plastic unit housing two bright LED lights is clipped onto the top of a 9-volt battery. There's a two-way switch on the housing. That's it.

And best of all, the battery is included.

The Pak-Lites come in a variety of colours and feature different coloured LED bulbs for specific uses.

For instance, the Pak-Lite for boaters has red and green LED bulbs, which are the accepted colours used to signal and warn other boaters while on the water.

The Pak-Lite is available for purchase in Canada. Prices range from about \$13 to \$30.

For more information, call 250-370-0900 or 250-475-0231. You can see more about the light online at www.9volt-light.com.

► **Canadian Club** is famous for its whiskey, but now cottagers can make use of something new from this brand: barbecue sauces.

Canadian Club has come out with four different barbecue sauces, as well as a steak sauce that incorporates the taste of its whiskey.

The sauces are available in honey gar-

lic, honey smoke, chicken and rib and hickory bold flavours.

The sauces are available at most major supermarkets.

► **The Complete Idiot's Guide to European History**, by Nathan Barber, allows you to take a trip back through time to explore the major events that shaped Europe.

Among the topics explored are: the Renaissance; Napoleon's conquests; various revolutions; the roots of the Cold War, as well as the first and second world wars; the rise and fall of communism; the birth of the new European Union; the rise and fall of the Roman Empire; and more.

There's nothing better than curling up with a good book on vacation and this one will not only give you insight into the past, but it's written in bite-sized chunks that are easy to digest.

It retails for \$25 and is available at most major bookstores.

► **English Girl, German Boy: World War II From Both Sides** is a book that explores the personal stories of the great conflict through the eyes of its authors, Tessa and Martin Borner.

Tessa writes about her grief at losing her father, a British radio officer, during the Battle of the Atlantic, as well as the terror of nightly bombings.

Martin recounts how he survived the Dresden firebombings, the Russian occupation and his escape from communist East Germany.

The two eventually made their way to Canada, where they met. They were married in 1957. In 1994, they moved to Costa Rica, where they operate a bed and breakfast.

Their book is available online at amazon.com, or by calling 905-842-4598.