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Toronto Life: Good Stuff Cheap Annual 2004



TORONTO LIFE

2004
Good Stuff Cheap

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certain stereotypes. Here, seekers of steamy bubbles can choose from an array of monikered baths, from the Ottawa (square) to the Elora (petite). If you needed further confirmation that francophones have more fun, the Montreal comes equipped with seven seats. The cute, compact Nevis is made to fit anywhere, from the family room to the flower bed. Most tubs are priced between \$4,500 and \$9,000. Pool supplies (including chemicals, cleaners, solar blankets and heaters) enjoy a substantial discount, as does a bounty of water toys.

Where: 4630 Dufferin St. (at Finch Ave. W.), Unit 12A, 416-665-1100, plus two other locations.

When: hours vary.

The Door Store

There are still plenty of doors at this new location in the Castlefield home decor neighbourhood, including a massive oak set with Gothic window inserts that hails from a New York restaurant and before that probably a church (\$4,500). And there are other equally impressive bits of architectural salvage, including old stained glass windows, and lots and lots of fireplace mantels and surrounds, one with decorative tiles for \$750 and another in early pine for \$2,500. But the best things are the small items (some repro, some original) that make an antique house a home, like corrugated glass knobs for \$12 each, heavy metal hinges with a leaf-like pattern for \$30 a pair and old maple syrup buckets for \$15. Old-fashioned oak-and-glass display cases hold bowls of quaintly vintage doorknobs in brass, bronze, steel, glass and ceramic, and there are piles of antique heating registers, their intricate whorls suggesting a time when craftsmanship was the rule and not the exception. The store sells

both antique and reproduction registers (\$80 to \$325, with most in the \$125 to \$175 range), but, needless to say, the old ones are nicer.

Where: 1260 Castlefield Ave. (at Dufferin), 416-863-1590.

When: M-F 10-6, Sa-Su noon-5.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Displays run to cardboard cartons, milk crates and mismatched metal shelving, while the stock consists of slightly battered tubs, toilets, shutters and whatever else can be salvaged or selected from demolition jobs, contractors' excess stock and manufacturers' overruns. None of this stuff is perfect: it's mostly ends-of-lines, old stock, mistinted paint, customer returns and stuff that's otherwise a bit rough around the edges; some of the doors and windows in particular look as if they've been ripped rather rudely from their frames. But if you're a dedicated DIYer with bargain-hunter's instincts, the treasures are here to be found, most at half or less than half their original price. You can get a double steel sink for \$15, an old claw-foot tub missing a couple of its claws for \$175, and 11 feet of white kitchen cupboards, both upper and lower, for \$1,000. A pair of heavy oak doors (two and a half inches thick) goes for \$600, but most of the store's many doors (sometimes enlivened with screens or mouldings or inset windows) go for \$30 to \$80. Profits help Habitat's home-building efforts.

Where: 1120 Caledonia Rd. (at Lawrence Ave. W.), 416-783-0686; 29 Bermondsey Rd. (at Eglinton Ave. E.), 416-755-7353.

When: M-Sa 10-6, Th 10-9.

Home Depot

From the amount of industrial-strength equipment at