

Experience the magic with illusionist Michael Bourada

by Gillian Brunette

HUNTSVILLE – One of Canada's elite magicians and a star in the world of magic and entertainment is bringing his show Dreams to Reality to the Algonquin Theatre this March break.

On March 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Michael Bourada will amaze and astonish audiences during his two shows.

"Michael Bourada was here two years ago and entertained more than 500 people. He was so popular that we have brought him back," said Algonquin Theatre manager Karin Terziano.

Bourada displays unique and original illusions, all of which play with the imagination

and dazzle the mind. His shows have a blend of suspense, excitement and humour. He combines these effects with choreographed upbeat music and special effects.

He also thrills his audience by producing beautiful, white doves, then vanishing them into thin air. Bourada's dove routine is one of the main features of his act. It is a fine art and something the audience will remember for a long time.

You will also be witness to people appearing, disappearing, floating through the air, a motorcycle production, and an aston-



BOURADA

ishing prediction that involves the entire audience and leaves them speechless. He also changes the weather forecast by creating a snow blizzard from his fingertips.

Born and raised in Ottawa, Bourada became familiar with magic at the tender age of eight, when he would perform card tricks for his family and friends. By the age of 13 he was performing shows professionally at family days, elementary schools, birthday parties, retirement homes, restaurants and banquets. At age 15, he was featured on national television, which gave him increased

recognition in the world of magic.

Now 25, Bourada has become an award-winning and headlining magician, taking his skill across eastern Canada. Recently Bourada completed a 27-day, four-country tour of Europe. Dreams to Reality has also been displayed at numerous upscale shows, theatres and venues.

For more information and video footage go to www.bouradamagic.com.

Tickets for Dreams to Reality are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children and \$45 for a family pack of four tickets and are available from the Algonquin Theatre box office, 789-4975, or online at www.algonquintheatre.ca. Tickets are also available at the door.

Grocers attempt to reduce plastic bag use by charging a nickel

by Allyson Snelling

MUSKOKA – Your Independent Grocer (YIG) stores across Muskoka will no longer provide complimentary plastic shopping bags at check-outs in an effort to keep them out of the landfill.

Starting April 22, also known

as Earth Day, Terry's YIG in Gravenhurst, Gagnon's YIG in Bracebridge and Robinson's YIG in Huntsville will start charging five cents per plastic shopping bag when they are requested by customers.

The fee is hoped to act as a deterrent to plastic bag use.

The stores will continue to encourage customers to use alternatives to plastic bags, while enhancing their own offering of affordable, reusable bag options.

"The objective is to keep as many plastic bags as possible out of the landfill," said Terry Candow, owner

of Terry's YIG. "I haven't heard from one person that (thinks) it's a bad idea."

Reusable bags have been on the market in YIG stores for at least the past year, and have received a favourable response from customers, Candow said.

"People are very conscious of the environment these days," he said. "It's unbelievable. It really caught on."

In preparation for the change, Candow said modifications have been made at the checkouts so they are more customer-friendly when packing the reusable bags. Signage will also be posted in the stores and at the shopping cart corrals to notify customers of the new fee.

Candow believes the shift away from free plastic bags will have a huge impact, as Loblaw Companies

Limited is the largest grocer in Canada.

According to a press release from Loblaw, the company projects the change will result in a 55 per cent decrease in the number of plastic shopping bags it distributes and help to eliminate one billion plastic bags from landfills in 2009. Currently, Canadians take home approximately 55 million plastic bags each week.

Five "bagless" stores preceded the cross-Canada decision and prompted 55 per cent fewer bags per \$1,000 in sales than stores that provide plastic bags for free.

The majority of the proceeds from the sale of plastic shopping bags will be used to cover the cost of the Loblaw plastic bag reduction program, while a portion of the proceeds will be donated to charities.



GOING GREEN. Terry and Susan Candow of Terry's Your Independent Grocer in Gravenhurst illustrate the old adage 'out with the old and in with the new.' YIG stores across Muskoka are attempting to go 'bagless' by applying a new five-cent charge per bag. Customers are encouraged to use reusable shopping bags the grocery stores offer for sale. (Photo by Allyson Snelling)



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