

Would a dog-poop catapult fly?

By DANNY HOOPER, Edmonton Sun Last Updated: March 10, 2011 5:31pm

Dragons' Den

I dread the coming spring thaw and the mess I'll have to clean up following my border collie Odie's winter sprints into the backyard for his daily business. After fourteen years of this, I'm thinking there has to be a better way.

Maybe I could invent some sort of contraption that you'd strap behind your dog that would catapult everything over the fence and into the neighbour's yard.

Bet I could pitch that idea on the hit CBC show Dragons' Den.

It's at least as good as what you saw on Wednesday night's episode, when local entrepreneurs Terry Syvenky and Richard Korbyl tried to pitch their RUGGED MAN Advanced Hair System.

Terry and Richard walked away from the Dragons still owning 100% of their company, which may not be a bad thing. The show did generate a Canadian distribution deal for their gag gift, and the two biggest novelty companies in the U.S. are presently taking a close look.

Who knows? With another Albertan turning 65 every nineteen minutes, this may be an idea whose time has come.

Everybody knows that we have two sides to our brain. I've long maintained that men have a third, secret compartment that contains nothing but million dollar ideas. And the only thing that unlocks this hidden compartment is, of course, alcohol.

Tell me this one wasn't hatched over a pint or two.

The Trust Is Gone

Dr. Bob Westbury, one of the nicest people I know, just retired as the Chair of the TELUS Community Board. Now, I have a little problem with this.

They had a great big fancy shindig retirement party at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald last week and I wasn't even invited. What the heck?

I mean, this was one of those 'see and be seen' events. Everybody who's anybody was there. It was a smorgasbord of socialites. The premier, the mayor, several cabinet ministers, and many of our local business leaders, all invited. But not me.

And I can only think of two reasons why not.

Perhaps the trust is gone between Dr. Bob and I, which I could understand. After all, I have sold him thousands of dollars worth of items at countless charity auctions over the years, many of them things he didn't really want, and many things he wasn't even bidding on.

O.K., I give him that. But I know he has money, and I was only trying to help the charity.

Or, the Hotel Mac may have a bone to pick with me. That could have something to do with the last time I stayed there after MCing and auctioning a successful fundraiser for Kids Kottage last spring.

My hotel room was lovely, and with wedding season coming up, I had the foresight to take a few things from the room that I thought would make nice little gifts. The normal things that everybody takes; like the shampoo and hair conditioner in those cute little bottles.

And the shower cap, the shoe mitt, the sewing kit, the coffee maker, two housecoats, the hair blower, six towels, the electric alarm clock radio, and a 40" flat screen TV.

O.K., so if that's what they're upset about, they should get over it. If they don't want people taking things, don't leave stuff just lying around like that. I remember when I was a kid and my mom was expecting company, especially relatives, she'd put everything away.

So whatever the reason, what's done is done, and I hope they all had fun at their nice little party.

I was going to give Dr. Bob Westbury a nice little plug in the paper for having the vision to convince TELUS to create their first Community Board right here in Edmonton back in 2005, something which has since been replicated in eight other Canadian cities.

And I was going to tell how, under his leadership of the Board, TELUS has to date donated \$3.3 million to 217 different organizations in our community.

I was going to, but not now.

Last Chance Saloon

This is it, your last chance to play one of the most exciting and meaningful contests in Canadian history. I came up with this idea as a way to promote literacy.

Watch for my Word of the Day in today's column (today's word is 'catapult') and be the first to call me on 790 CFCW Friday morning when you hear the cue to call between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m.

Say the word and you and your date will join Hazel Davis and Bernadette McGill, our winners from earlier this week, and myself for lunch at the Sawmill Capilano on March 23rd.

Why the Sawmill Capilano? Well, because the food is awesome, and they have a great lunch buffet.

Now, because I'm treating, here's what I'd like to do. I'll load up my plate and bring it back to the table for all of us to share. And I'll keep going back to the buffet as many times as I have to until we've all had lots to eat, so come hungry!

Good luck everyone, and thanks for reading the Sun!

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Listen to Danny weekday mornings with co-host Sharon Mallon on 790 CFCW.



Local entrepreneurs Terry Syvenky (left) and Richard Korbyl. (SUPPLIED)