

# VINCENT'S NEWS

The 'Van-Go' Gallery



*"Wherever you see a 'Vincent's Van Go' you know the job will be a work of art."*

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## Did You Know...

**...that you can get your choice of 12 months Same-As-Cash financing or as low as 6.99% reduced APR financing when you have us replace your heating or cooling system? (Credit approval required).**

### \*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT\*

If you are a SEMCO Gas customer you may be eligible for a complimentary zoning system to control your heating and cooling system. See the enclosed flyer to learn about this limited pilot program.

OWNER'S CORNER

## THROUGH MY EYES

In June my brother David and I went on a fishing trip in Northern Ontario. Between how busy life is and having our own families, quality one-on-one time with David is rare and so this was a great time for us to hang out as brothers. Also, since we are business partners, it was a great opportunity for us to get away to talk about business and do some

planning. And, of course, a whole lot of fishing. Our destination was Lake Esnagi, a 26 mile long lake in the northern Ontario wilderness that is only accessible by airplane or train. In order to get there we needed to be in White River Ontario



Here I am with my brother David (left) after a successful day of fishing in Lake Esnagi, Ontario. -Daniel Squires

early Wednesday morning to catch our train ride. It takes about 10 hours to

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## Two Ways that Advances in Technology Impact Your Home Comfort

In the June Vincent's News I shared about the many ways that technology is changing the way we do business. This month I want to discuss some of the ways that technology affects how you heat and cool your home.

**Better testing instruments** - many

years ago when I was in a truck as a service technician checking a furnace's combustion efficiency we would do what we called a 'smoke test'. We would drill a hole into an exhaust pipe and using something like a bicycle pump we would draw furnace exhaust through

special 'smoke test paper' to see how dark it would turn the white paper.

We would pull the pump 10 times and then hold the paper up against a color scale template to determine what adjustments needed to be made. If it was too light, we would

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## Advances in Technology (Continued from Page 1)

*"...And of course these electronic thermostats offer amazing new features, like our Wi-Fi thermostat that you can control from your smartphone..."*

make the burn richer by decreasing the amount of air. If it was too dark, we would do the opposite. In addition we were taught to look at the color of the flame: blue was good, yellow was bad. This I later learned was untrue when we received advanced training even though some companies still rely on flame color to adjust furnace combustion!

Compared to the test instruments today, these were the equivalent of blood-letting to modern medical science. Now we have combustion analyzer's that provide real-time oxygen, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide levels of furnace exhaust. Coupled with the right training - all of our techs are certified Carbon Monoxide & Combustion Analysts - we are able to accurately adjust your furnace combustion to give you better efficiency and heating performance. Sadly, there are still

companies that are doing things the old fashioned way and not providing state of the art service or results.

This is just one example of many of the new tools that are available to help us improve your home comfort system.

**Better thermostats** - when I was a kid mercury was a cool liquid metal. Although it has always been poisonous, now if an old thermostat with mercury breaks it is a cause for men in hazmat suits to show up for cleanup. And so thermostats with mercury are routinely replaced. By the way, Vincent's Heating & Plumbing can safely dispose of your old mercury thermostat for you.

These old mechanical thermostats were fairly accurate, but nothing compared to today's electronic thermostats. And even better you can

actually read the large numbers on well-lit screens - a feature that I appreciate more and more as the years pass!

And of course these electronic thermostats offer amazing new features, like our Wi-Fi thermostat that you can control from your smartphone. Are you going somewhere hot for the winter? You can open up an 'app' on your phone to see what temperature your house is. Are you returning from vacation and want the house nice and cool when you get home? No problem: just turn down the temperature and get your A/C to cool off your house by the time you get home.

These are just two ways that technology is improving our lives with many more to come.

- Daniel Squires

### **Read What Our Clients Are Saying...**

I would give Vincent's Plumbing and Heating's number to anyone that is needing work done. I was very impressed with the young man... at his professionalism and knowledge.

**Mary—Port Huron**

## Through My Eyes (Continued from Page 1)

make the trip to White River by car, so we left early Tuesday morning the day after Memorial Day.

We drove up I-75 and crossed over the border into Canada at Sault Sainte Marie. Once there, our GPS navigated us to Highway 17, which would take us all the way to White River, 3-1/2 hours further. The view along the route is spectacular, especially where it follows the coast along the eastern shore of Lake Superior and through Ontario's Lake Superior Provincial Park.

The next morning we boarded the train and by 11 am we were on the lake in a small fishing boat with hopes of big walleye and bigger northern pike. It wasn't too long until we caught a couple of walleye and pike, but certainly not the size that we had envisioned as they were only about 13 - 15 inches. The amount of fish that we could keep is very limited so we released these early catches in

anticipation of bigger fish.

We had been fishing on Lake Esnagi before, but at a different lodge, and so we were unfamiliar with the part of the lake we were on. We remembered where we had had success before, and so the next day we decided to make the trip by boat to our previous spots. And so we motored to the other end of the lake, but could not locate our spots (it's a big lake!).

Now both David and I are what you could call 'casual' fishermen, and so although we enjoy the opportunity to escape to where there are no phones, we don't have all the gear that we learned that the other fishermen at the same fishing camp had like fish finders with GPS that provide a feature to save locations for future use. We learned just how handy that would have been as we had spent all the time getting to the other end of this 26 mile long lake. And just when we gave up on finding these

previous places a big storm blew in.

Fortunately, we stayed ahead of it as we retraced our way back to the lodge.

The next morning, we got smart: instead of just taking off on our intuition, we asked the advice of one of the dock hands at the lodge. Surprisingly, one of the spots he shared with us was about one hundred yards away directly in front of the dock. We started there and shortly we had reached the limit of the big fish we had dreamed of.

How ironic: we had wasted a day motoring to the far end of the lake and back when success was so close! It was a good lesson. I need to rely on the experts who have the knowledge when I don't. The same way you rely on our expertise for your heating, cooling and plumbing needs. We're happy to help you and even give you some advice if you call.

- Daniel Squires

“...How ironic: we had wasted a day motoring to the far end of the lake and back when success was so close! It was a good lesson. I need to rely on the experts who have the knowledge when I don't.”

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## Word Search: Fishing

K Q W T U O R T S R E P V B D  
R N T A J J T P I P L Y O C N  
R G E Q L A Q U N P I B F M T  
E N E Q O L Q Z K U B K C K R  
D R X B P K E F E E C A E J S  
R L U L A K E Y R Y V A N P N  
K F B L T Y E X E H L P C M K  
Y G A K F O T H P L J F B S O  
R V N L J S N X X O X I F Y O  
F I S H I N G P O L E Y Q H H

Fishing Pole  
Trout  
Lake  
Boat  
Lure  
Walleye  
Pike  
Sinker  
Hook  
Bobber

## Humor Section

*I love puns:*

***Do you know what separates a well-dressed man on a bicycle from a sloppily dressed man on a unicycle?***

*Attire.*

***Did you hear about the small fortune teller that escaped from prison?***

*They said to be on the lookout for a small medium at large.*

***Did you hear about the man that fell into the upholstery machine? For a while he was hanging on by a thread but he's fully recovered now.***

