



Something for everybody at DIY Show



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Vicky Sanderson

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For some, a perfect weekend involves time outdoors, either enjoying an athletic pursuit such as kayaking, or a gentler pastime such as fishing. Others prefer to spend their downtime on a hobby, such as woodworking, cooking, or renovating. Still others just want to hang out at the cottage, savouring some silence.

There will be something for all types at [Great Outdoors and DIY Weekend](#), being held from Friday, Nov. 26 to Sunday, Nov. 28 at the International Centre in Mississauga. This newly-launched event combines the former Fall Cottage Life, Outdoor Canada, Explore Adventure and Travel, and Canadian Home Workshop shows.

Depending on the level of thrill they seek, visitors can hear from Canada's foremost fishing authority, Bob Izumi of *The Real Fishing Show*, *Survivorman* Les Stroud, and Canadian explorer and adventurer Ray Zahab. Weekend DIYers can learn new skills and get advice from members of the *Canadian Home Workshop* team, including *Toronto Star* columnist Steve Maxwell, Michel Roy, and Cathy Dalrymple.

Cottagers looking for affordable decor ideas can take in a presentation by designer Karen Sealy, host of the new HGTV show *Summer Home*. It's a topic that will have broad appeal to many cottagers, says Sealy.

"People are very emotionally connected to their cottage, often more so than their city homes," says Sealy. "They want them to be beautiful and comfortable, but they don't usually have a huge budget. We show them how to re-use and recycle things, in part so they do have money for a few splurges," she says.

A *Summer Home* casting call booth will also be open during the show for those who want a chance to appear on the show next season.

In addition to browsing the booths of some 400 exhibitors, visitors can enjoy other features, including an Outdoors 101 seminar delivered by Mountain Equipment Co-op, as well as the chance to try slack-lining, the mountain-culture craze. There will also be free samples of cottage cooking, including pairings of wild game with beer, and cooking demonstrations by such well-known cottage cooks as Jane Rodmell, Monda Rosenberg, and *Cottage Life's* food editor Martin Zibauer.

Tickets for the Great Outdoors and DIY Weekend cost \$15 at the door for adults (\$13.00 online), and \$8 for youths between 13 and 17. Children under 12 get in free. For more information, go to www.greatoutdoorsDIY.com.