



EDITOR'S CHOICE!

"McKlein has come up with an incredibly practical line of bags..." *US Patent # 6,595,334*

Featured: Style 70786 - Detachable Wheel Computer Backpack

HOT TIPS
WHAT'S IN STORE

News and views from the retail front
By Melanie Scott

IN THE SWIM
Thirty years ago, it was all the rage to tie dye everything you owned: jeans, t-shirts, underwear—even swimwear. The tie dye look has been re-emerging for several years, and Maillot Balter's Re Creative line of swimwear pays homage to the old motif, among others. Fabrics that mimic denim, suede, and leopard skin are the hot thing for the beach this year. Less daring but equally attractive are their Nautical and Contemporary lines—bright stripes, stylized flowers, and flattering-for-almost-everyone designs are the features in suits that go from pool to poolside in a breeze. Pina colada, anyone? If you're heading south, look for the line at Sears, Les Alles de la Mode, and swimwear boutiques around the city.



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STEEL WHEELS
Who knew? Jewellery design is not just the domain of jewellers—Alex of Switzerland has employed the talents of architects and industrial designers to create their Moments line of adornments, from watches to earrings. And steel is no longer just for making skate blades and kitchen grates: the line's sleek, cool look is due to the pieces being made of gleaming stainless. Jewellery starts at \$125; watches start at \$425, and feature Swiss movements. Find the line at fine jewellers, including Davidson's, 790 Bank St. (in the Glebe), 1-877-754-4136.



THE BOOT FROM DOWN UNDER

Tasmania is known for a lot more than devils—Blundstone has been making boots there for over a century. Their go-anywhere, no-nonsense pod protectors are waterproof, and feature soles designed to absorb shock as you walk. Best of all, they're constructed of breathable leather with elastic at the cuffs so they slip on—no more salt-encrusted zippers or laces to deal with. The boots start at about \$165. From Lettler, 146 Rideau St., 613-241-6557.



STEPPING OUT TONIGHT? TRADE YOUR BULKY SKI MITTS FOR A PAIR OF HOLLYWOOD GLOVES FROM DANIER

FOR MEN ONLY

Biotherm has come out with something for the guys—Age Fitness, infused with olive leaf concentrate, soothes tired skin while giving it an anti-oxidant boost. It also contains beta-hydroxy acid, the latest rage in anti-aging. It's \$45, available at Biotherm counters everywhere.



mall, third level, until the end of March. Also at the Rideau Centre: Danier's Hollywood Glove comes in buttery soft leather, and is perfect for an evening out when you tire of your serviceable, bulky daytime gloves. \$49.

ON A ROLL

Used to be that anyone who had a suitcase with wheels was considered a nerd. My how times

change—all travellers know that life is a lot easier when you don't have to throw your back out getting through the airport terminal. McKlein has come up with an incredibly practical line of bags that go a step further: the wheels can be removed, and—voilà—

BOOTS THAT GO THE DISTANCE—VERY COMFORTABLE, VERY PRACTICAL BLUNDSTONES



WARM HEADS, WARM HANDS, WARM HEARTS

If you find yourself covering your ears with your mitts as you blade along the canal, drop by the L'Hyver en Folie kiosk at the Rideau Centre, purveyors of warm and fuzzy hats. These Canadian-made gems do good work in minus 20 weather—a fleece number with chenille trim is about \$38; a faux tiger fur version is \$50; and a classic pillbox in black lambskin is about \$50. The kiosk is in the east section of the



Staying North or Going South? We've got you covered

the bag becomes a suitcase. So, if you suddenly find yourself on a shabby street corner and want to log your luggage the old-fashioned way, just unhitch the wheels and off you go. The bag is available in several styles, including a nylon knapsack version (\$216) and leather briefcase style (\$270). From Access, Rideau Centre, 613-569-0865.

C'MON LET'S GET HAPPY

Clinique's Happy fragrance is one of the world's best-sellers—it's light, citrus scent appeals to women who go in for subtlety. New for this Valentine's Day: Happy Heart, a take-off on the original, which is more pungent, and draws on floral notes such as primrose and hyacinth. If you like the first version, chances are



ABOVE: L'HYVER EN FOLIE'S FLEECE WARM-UPS. LEFT: MCKLEIN'S LINE FOR TRAVELLERS

Entertainment With A Spin!

