



Finding Fab Fashions

Shop till you drop? Brandy Kawulka of Posh Shopping Tours (page 80) has a better idea. Her excursions include **VIP pampering, chauffeured transportation, swag bags and discounts**, making it easy to keep shopping all day without dropping. Tour options run the gamut from vintage/consignment to Vancouver designers to red-carpet ready. Ladies, warm up your credit cards, because they're about to get a workout.

ON THE FLY

Savvy travellers avoid checking luggage, which usually means leaving favourite beauty products at home. Not so with Optimera's **new science-based day cream and night cream**, which are small enough to slip into a carry-on bag. In addition to reducing the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles, discoloration and enlarged pores, they also improve the skin's texture, smoothness, radiance and elasticity. Bonus: the **unisex scent and packaging** avoid the need for separate his 'n' hers products. Order online at www.mynerium.com.



Best Buzz

The busy bees at Birks (page 37) have been hard at work. To celebrate its 135th anniversary, the Canadian jeweller created **three new collections inspired by honey bees**. Crafted from yellow gold, silver, gemstones and diamonds, the pieces pay homage to the hardworking creatures that pollinate one-third of all the food that humans consume. Birks also announced a partnership with Ontario's Honey Bee Research Centre, as well as an urban beekeeping installation at its flagship boutique in Montreal. Definitely the bee's knees.



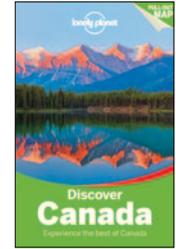
WHAT A DOLL

Can a toy teach kids about Canada's culture, history and geography? This doll can. Each Maplelea Girl comes **dressed in clothing appropriate to her region**, such as the jeans and t-shirt for Alexi's Toronto, Ontario (pictured); cozy turtleneck and hiking boots for Taryn's Banff, Alberta; and vest and kamik (traditional Inuit footwear) for Saila's Nunavut. Accompanying each soft, huggable, 46-cm (18-in) Maplelea Girl is a **journal overflowing with fascinating photos and tidbits about the doll's hometown**, with room for kids to add their own thoughts and doodles. Who says learning can't be fun? Order online at www.maplelea.com.

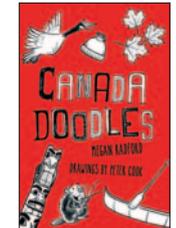


O Canada

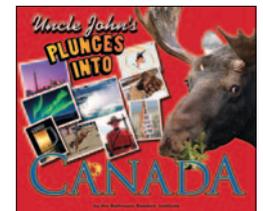
Celebrate Canada Day (Jul. 1) with a trip to the nearest bookstore (page 29).



Lonely Planet: Discover Canada (\$29.99): Learn all about Vancouver, Whistler, Victoria, Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto and more.



Canada Doodles by Megan Radford (\$9.99): The whimsical doodle prompts for budding artists also sneak in fun facts about Canada.



Uncle John's Plunges Into Canada (Illustrated Edition) by the Bathroom Readers' Institute (\$24.95): Read bizarre facts about the Great White North.



Snap to It

Say cheese! Vacation snapshots come to life immediately with the Fuji Instax Mini 8. Simple to use, with auto flash and auto focus, **this compact camera makes it easy to get perfect instant photos**, even in low light, so you can unleash your inner Annie Liebovitz or Ansel Adams. And it comes in five cute colours: pink, blue (pictured), yellow, white and black. Find it at London Drugs (page 31), and pick up a photo album or two while you're there.