

COMPARE INSURANCE QUOTES

Pin This Site Drag this icon to your Windows taskbar for quicker access to Thestar.com

Think spring with Porter. Book by March 9, 2012. Travel by September 4, 2012. Use promo code BIG

Biggest SALE OF THE YEAR

moneyville.ca Wheels.ca thekit.ca healthzone.ca parentcentral.ca yourHome.ca TORONTO.com



-8°C Forecast | Traffic



Connect with Facebook | Login | Register

thestar.com Web find a business advanced search full text article archive

Home News **GTA** Opinion Business Sports Entertainment Life Travel Columns Blogs More Autos Careers Classifieds Deaths Rentals

HOT TOPICS TV REVIEWS TORI STAFFORD ROBO-CALLS U.S. ELECTION FASHION WEEK WEEKEND READS ORNGE MAPLE LEAFS more

Home News **Canada**

Inside thestar.com



Tori Stafford: Horrific details of slaying revealed



Students support 'love letter'



Raps overpowered by Magic



James: Transit debacle is Ford's fault



Girl swallows 37 magnets

B.C. daffodil farm harvests hope every year

Article

Published On Mon Mar 5 2012

Email | Print |



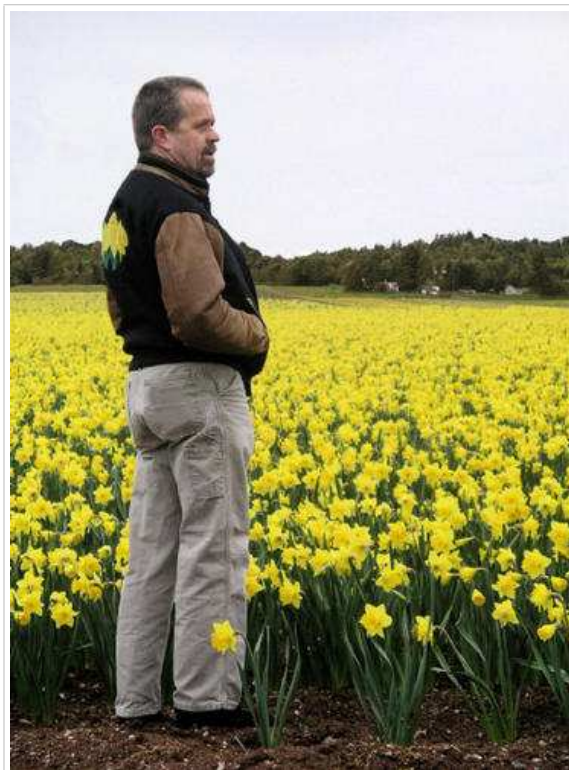
By Petti Fong Western Bureau

Recommend 2

VANCOUVER—In 1957, Geoff Vantreight was in Toronto for a Leafs game when one of his customers asked him whether his wife and two of her friends could pitch him on an idea about selling daffodils.

Vantreight listened to the women's plans to sell the flowers to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society and agreed to ship them some daffodils from his farm near Victoria, B.C.

From that one pitch, the Cancer Society's daffodil campaign was born and has now spread to over 100 countries throughout the world. Vantreight, who began growing daffodils on his father's



Ian Vantreight is the owner of Vantreight Farms, near Victoria, B.C., the biggest daffodil growing operation in Canada.

Advertisement -

Think spring with Porter. Book by March 9, 2012. Travel by September 4, 2012. Use promo code BIG

Biggest SALE OF THE YEAR

promo discount applies to base fare only and not to fees and taxes. New bookings only. Cannot be combined with any other promotions or programs. Book online or contact your travel agent.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

Get the biggest stories sent to your inbox as they happen.

Sign me up for Breaking News »

thestar.com

ADVERTORIAL

Providence Healthcare HELPING YOU HOME

Facebook Activity

farm as a youngster, shipped out five boxes of daffodils to Toronto that year to the three women.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Today, 55 years later, millions and millions of daffodils are sold worldwide as a campaign fundraiser for cancer research.

But daffodil picking this year may be more of a challenge than usual. Cooler weather on the West Coast until recently had slowed down the flowers' bloom and the number of pickers being hired on Vantreight Farms, which supplies 40 per cent of the flowers that go to cancer fund-raisers in North America.

But with the arrival of milder weather, the flowers are blooming and will need to be picked between now and the end of March or early April. And if it continues to warm up, the picking period could be as short as three weeks.

There are about 100 pickers currently in the field and Ian Vantreight, Geoff's son, said another 200 to 250 pickers would be needed soon to finish the harvest.

"It's always hard trying to find people for the first few weeks but we got to get them picked," Ian Vantreight said.

The farm brought in 40 workers from Mexico this year but Vantreight said they'll eventually get the pickers they need.

All that's required is a strong back and fast hands. A good picker can pick 10 to 12 boxes a day — each one holds 1,000 daffodils — and make \$20 for each box.

At one point, the farm had about 240 acres of daffodils but with modern growing techniques it now takes less acreage to grow more of the flowers.

Vantreight, whose family has been farming near the Victoria area since 1884, loves the look of his daffodil fields.

"It's something we're very proud of and hope to be able to continue doing for years," Vantreight said. "My dad would have been really happy to see how far this has grown over the years."

But you won't find any daffodils in Vantreight's home or office — he's allergic and gets itchy eyes and skin if he gets too close to them.

  2 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Add to Favourites](#) | [Report an error](#) |     

Top Stories:

[James: The Toronto transit debacle is entirely Ford's fault](#)

[Libyan conflict had war crimes on both sides: UN report](#)

[Elections Canada probing fraudulent calls in riding of Nipissing-Temiskaming](#)

[James Hearst inquest: No info in police database about potential danger at Alexander St. apartment](#)

[Atkinson Foundation announces new acting executive director](#)



Woman meets child born out of rape, given up for adoption 77 years ago

102 people recommend this.



TTC subway sex leads to charges against couple

47 people recommend this.




Mona Lisa's 'twin sister' discovered in Spain's Prado art museum

206 people recommend this.



Rob Ford boycotts the Star, but we'll fight it and here's why

566 people recommend this.

 Facebook social plugin

Must Reads

- » [12 tips to the biggest tax refund](#)
- » [Pointing helps kids understand](#)
- » [Sherlock Holmes vs. Doctor Who](#)
- » [THE GRID: T.O.'s '80s all-ages haven](#)
- » [THE KIT: Gwyneth's \\$1M jewels](#)

Follow The Toronto Star



Making News



Libyan cemetery vandalism: Memories flood back for family of Toronto's Martin Northmore

Toronto's Martin Northmore, whose grave was...



Ontario budget: Hundreds of daycares will close without new money in the spring budget

Hundreds of Ontario daycares will close without...




Tori Stafford murder trial: Horrific details of slaying revealed as case opens


Crown opens case with shocking details of Tori...


See for Yourself »



Meet the Pikaia humankind's earliest

Huge glacier collapse 



Election protests in Moscow 

PHOTOS: Head-on train crash in Poland 

[More Photos and Videos »](#)

Ads by Google

Work at Home. Bookkeeping

Start Bookkeeping biz at Home \$80K
 High demand business  **1-866-476-4486** 
 Accounting-and-Bookkeeping-Tips.com

IT HelpDesk Software

Web-based IT Help Desk with Asset
 Mgmt. Free version too. Try Now!
www.ManageEngine.com/Help_Desk







Best Call Center Software

Go Virtual w/ Your Call Center
 Deployment, Easy. Free eBook!
InContact.com/Free

Basic Accounting Courses

Canada's Online Accounting School.
 Get a Free Information Kit Today!
www.cd-ed.com/Accounting-Online

Other Star Sites

 <p>moneyville.ca Taxes What's new on your tax return this year</p>	 <p>Wheels.ca Unlikely car brand takes over top spot</p>	 <p>parentcentral.ca Pointing helps preschoolers understand the world: study</p>	 <p>yourHome.ca Robin Kay's über cool Art Deco condo</p>	 <p>healthzone.ca How anti-anxiety meds are killing celebrities</p>	 <p>TORONTO.COM Your guide to celebrating March Break in style in the city</p>
--	---	---	---	--	---

thestar.com

Today's News
 Corrections
 Contact Webmaster
 FAQ
 Site Map
Behavioral Targeting

Toronto Star

About
 Atkinson Principles
 Statement of Principles
 Subscribe
 My Subscription
 Contact Us
 News Releases


Advertise with us

Media Kit
 Online Advertising
 Print Advertising
 Special Sections

Initiatives

Santa Claus Fund
 Fresh Air Fund
 Speakers Bureau
 Classroom Connection
 Community Giving

Stay up to date

 RSS Feeds
 Twitter Updates
 News Alerts
 Newsletters
 Mobile Devices

Star Internships
Careers @ the Star

[wheels.ca](#) | [toronto.com](#) | [Stock Photography](#) | [Cheap Flights](#) | [New in Homes](#) | [Car Insurance Quotes](#) | [Leasebusters.com](#) | [Save.ca](#) | [ShopTV](#) | [starsavers.ca](#)

[more](#)



© Copyright Toronto Star 1996-2012 | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)