

LIFE IS A BREEZE. HERE'S WHERE TO CATCH IT.

Westerly

# Welcome To Camp E-Z-Duz-It

I'm camping and I can't get up: The new Airzone tent self-erects with poles that inflate to a pressure close to that of a car tire.

Camping ain't what it used to be—thanks to a Kelowna family who has made pitching a tent a little less, well, tense. By Jacqueline Moore

Has there ever been a better time to be a Boy Scout? We ask because Kelowna-based Airzone Recreation has developed an air-poled tent that can be set up in 10 seconds flat, no manual labour required.

"Imagine this," says company vice-president Marc Turcot, whose family came up with the concept after he and his brother, Tim, spent a rainy night struggling to set up camp in the dark. "It's pouring when you get to your campsite; you plug your tent into a canister of car-

bon dioxide, throw it out the door and watch it set itself up from the window of your SUV."

Probably not the kind of preparedness Boy Scouts founder Lord Baden-Powell had in mind for the survival skills merit badge, but a Minnesota troupe has nonetheless expressed interest in the tents and will be among the first—along with the Red Cross in Spain, and the Canadian and American military—to give the technology a try. The tent comes in five styles, ranging from a two-person model to a

big-top that sleeps seven; the strength of the pneumatic poles has been tested in heavy snow, wind and under the weight of a half-ton truck.

So what of the inevitable curmudgeonly "well, in *my* day" lament for the lost art of camping? "Are you talking about losing the skill of putting up a pole tent?" counters Tim. "If it's a matter of survival, you should be able to build a shelter that doesn't include a tent at all. It's car camping. Everybody deserves a break." Somebody give that guy a badge. **W**