

Your mountain is waiting...

Monday, May 9, 2011

Hello...Thank you...

When I learned the title of the conference was Rise to the Top I thought I could relate it through presentation to an analogy used in my life that will become more clear as I walk through the next 30 minutes with you.

I hope through this presentation to share some of the mountains I have faced and how these have prepared me to rise to the top whatever comes next.



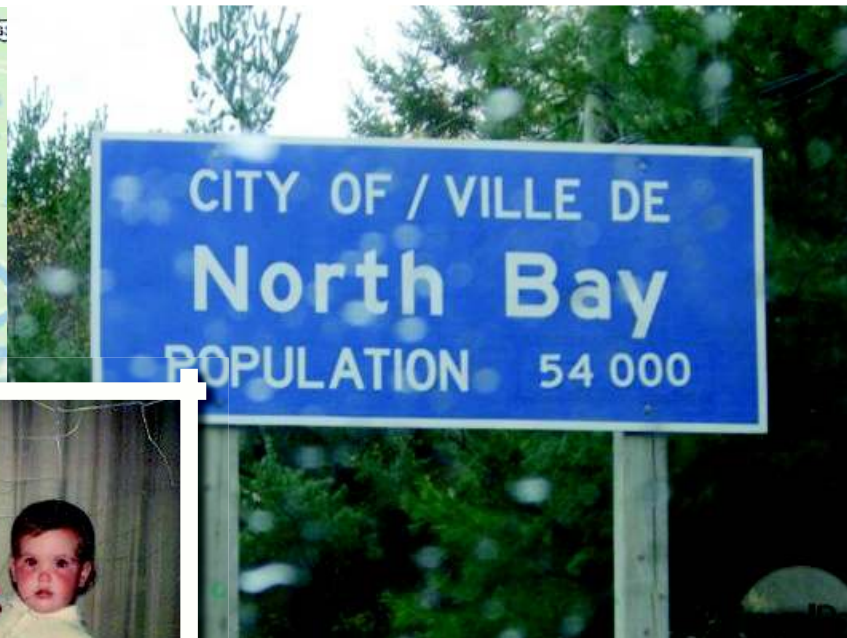
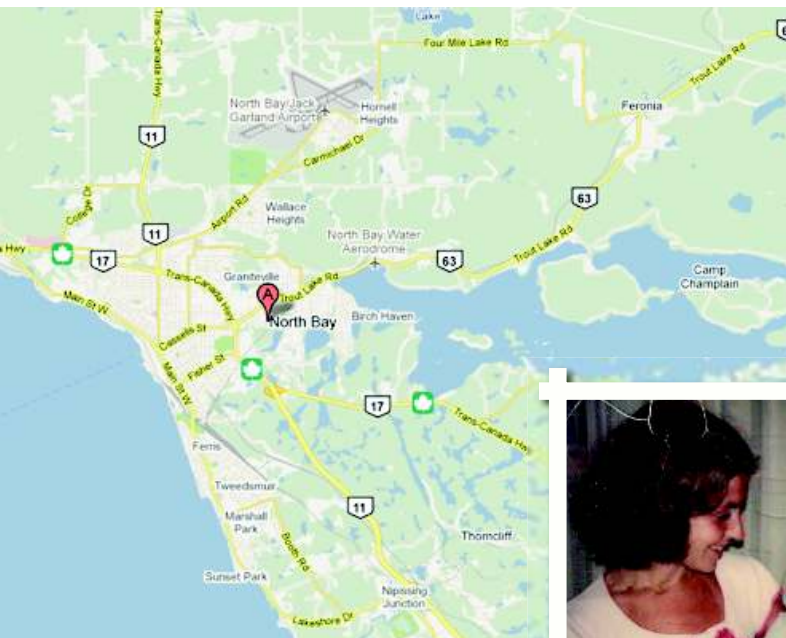
Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!

Monday, May 9, 2011

I am going to start at the beginning...

One of the first books I remember being read to me was a wonderful story by Dr. Seuss called "Oh the places you'll go". On the screen here you see the image and text from the first page of the book.

It was my mum who read this to me in a desperate effort to get me to enjoy reading. I continued to dislike reading until I was in my 20s but the message of this one stuck.



Monday, May 9, 2011

Although I live in Dartmouth now, I was born in another City of Lakes: North Bay Ontario.

North Bay is a smallish city 4 hours north of Toronto and west of Ottawa

It prides itself on being:

- the "gateway of the North"
- the halfway point between the equator and the North Pole
- the home of the Dionne Quints

In North Bay there was not too much to do but there were sports, and when I was young that is what I chose to fill my time.

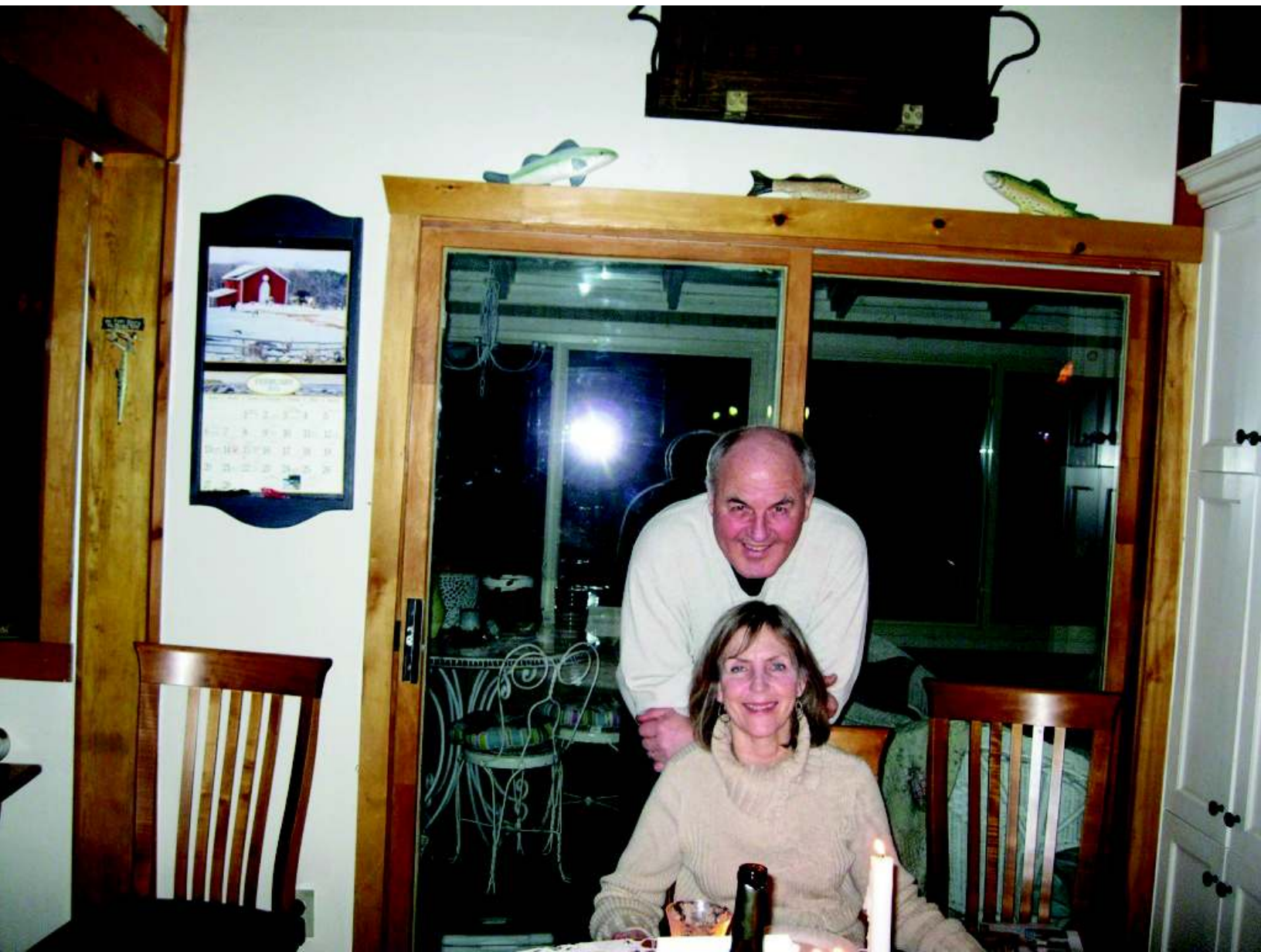


Monday, May 9, 2011

I wasn't a kid that was built with the word "athlete" written all over her, but like so many kids I always had a naive childhood confidence that I was great.

This picture was taken in the first and only year that I did ballet...

when i got off the stage at the year end recital, I told my mum that "I knew everything there was to know about ballet and I was done".



Monday, May 9, 2011

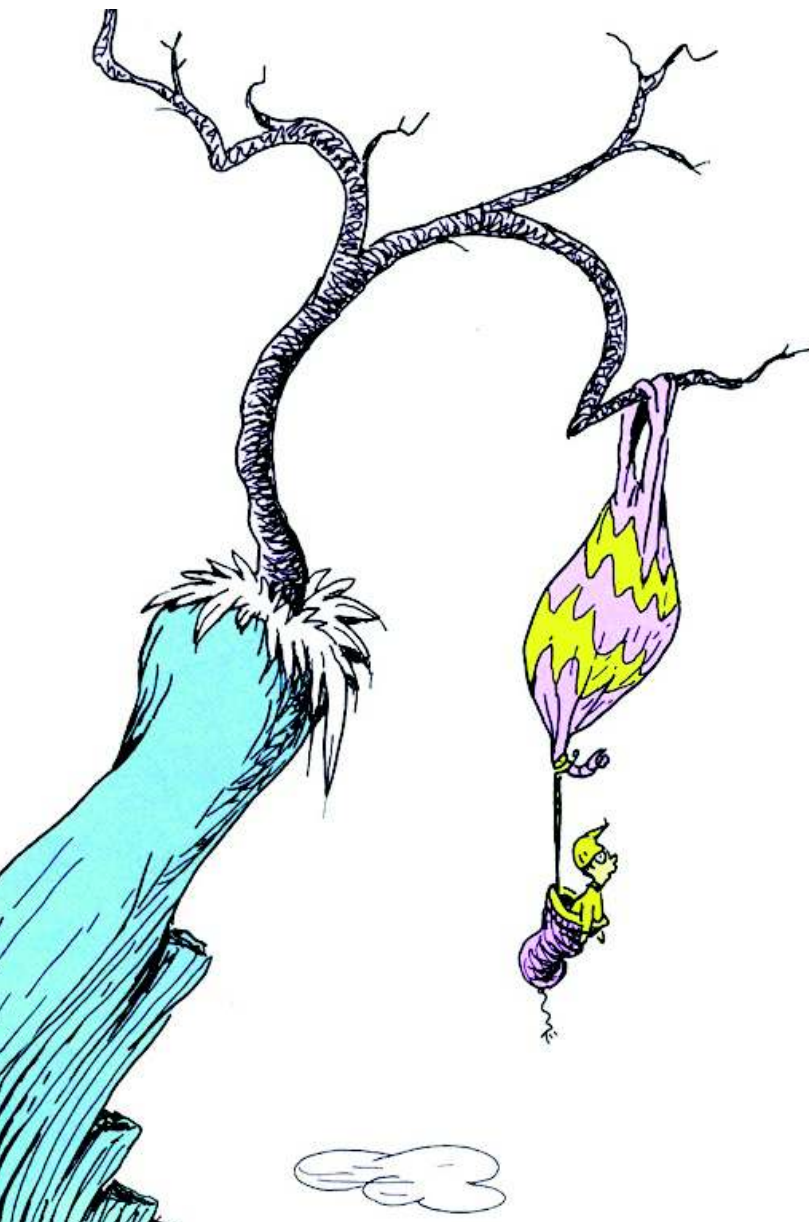
And as many people do, I had two wonderful parents who supported me from the sidelines spending many dreadfully boring hours on the pool deck as I grew into a competitive swimmer. Which is where I saw my first mountain...

Mountain I: Olympics



Monday, May 9, 2011

Once I had a taste of competitive sport through swimming I wanted to be the best and focused my sights on the Olympic games.



I'm sorry to say so
but, sadly, it's true
that Bang-ups
and Hang-ups
can happen to you.

You can get all hung up
in a prickle-ly perch.
And your gang will fly on.
You'll be left in a Lurch.

Monday, May 9, 2011

After 12 years of training as a swimmer, I was in reach of the national womens team when I was in a ski accident that broke my back.

I spent the year recovering and was left with little chance to resume my training at a pre-injury level.

When I was back on my feet – with the elasticity we have when we are younger, I was ready to take on a new challenge and turned to the new hot sport at the time in North Bay which was paddling or canoe/kayak.

After only one summer paddling, I wanted to take another shot at reaching the top and so I moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia where I was told I would be able to train with the best in the world.



Monday, May 9, 2011

Dartmouth, WOW, Dartmouth! I realize now after spending 16 years here, that this might not be the first thing you think of when you hear Dartmouth but it sure was my first wonderful impression. Explain why lake banook is such a special place.

I remember one of the first nights I was on Lake Banook. It was a night like this one (describe) and I was quietly paddling alone.

Across the lake, I saw Karen Furneaux (now 3 time Olympian) paddling down the course.

I remember my feeling at the time very clearly. I thought to myself: "this is unbelievable – with these conditions, no one will be able to beat me!!"



Monday, May 9, 2011

Except for Karen of course who also enjoyed the great conditions of Lake Banook (and Lake Thomas) and continued to beat me throughout my career :)



Monday, May 9, 2011

I paddled for 3 more years up and down Lake Banook and in 2000 qualified to represent Canada at the Olympic Games in Sydney Australia.

The 4 years leading up to the games were a whirlwind filled with highs and lows – at one point in 1999 suffering from the legacy back injury – I came within one phone call to my coach from hanging up my paddle.

But I didn't, and I learned some extremely valuable lessons by sticking around.

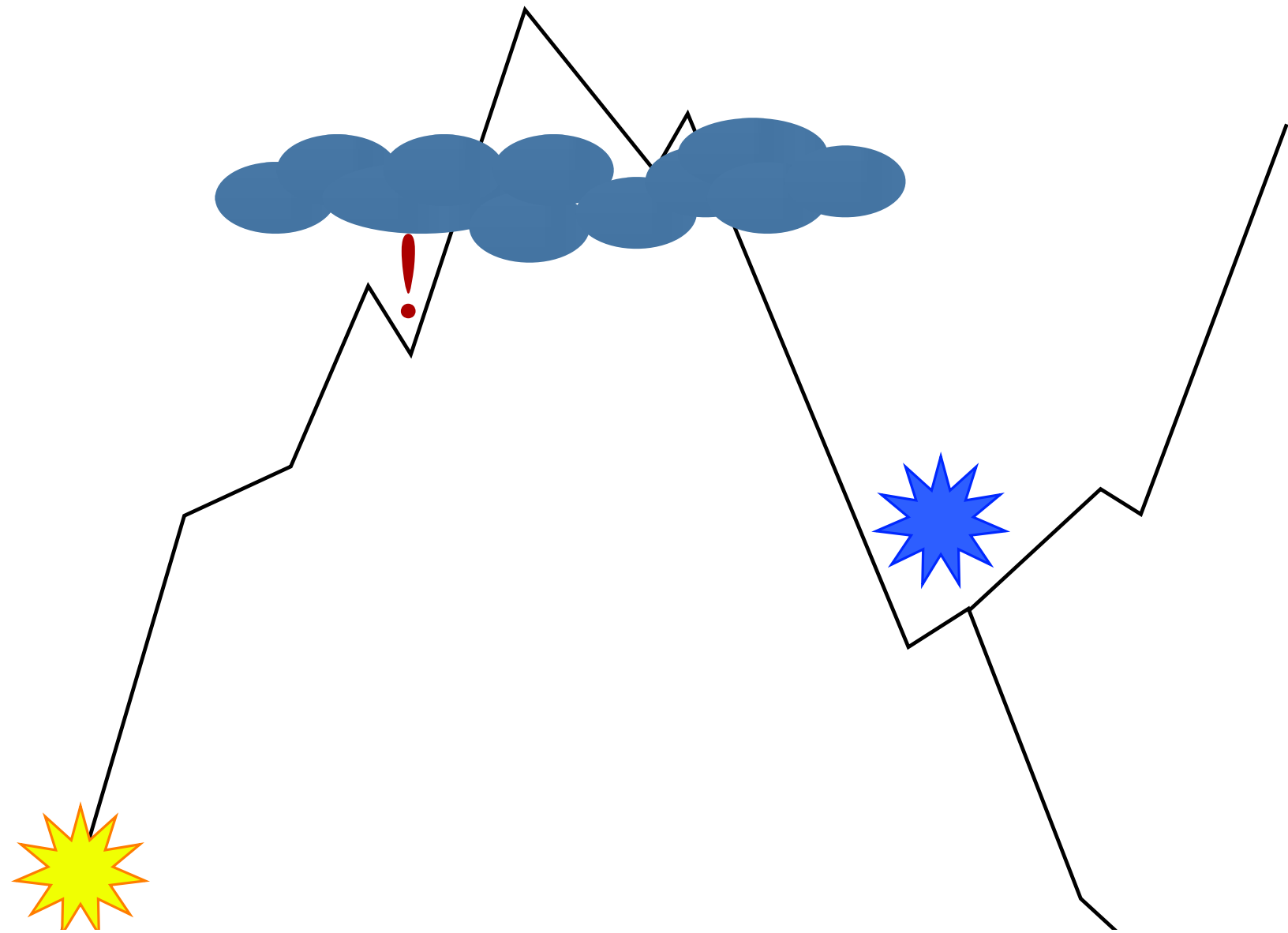
Learnings:

- Being the best is possible.
- Hard work can take you a long way.
- Keep your focus on what you can change.
- There is a time to move on.

Monday, May 9, 2011

Explain:

- looking around at the games and seeing people just like me.
- wanting to but not cutting corners
- not wasting time on others
- there is always a new challenge ahead



Monday, May 9, 2011

Explanation of the mountain analogy



Mountain 2: ~~Olympics~~ Find a job

Monday, May 9, 2011

SO, with the Olympics done, I decided that I wanted to move on to the next challenge which at the time was finding a job – you would think that after climbing the Olympic mountain this one would be easy, but you would be wrong.

I had a degree from Dalhousie that I had completed while I was training but had a desire to work in a creative field and went back to school at NSCAD (now NSCADU) to study art.



Monday, May 9, 2011

When I was accepted to NSCAD I had visions of studying art that looked something like this...

I was terrified to find out that in 2001 art class looked like this...

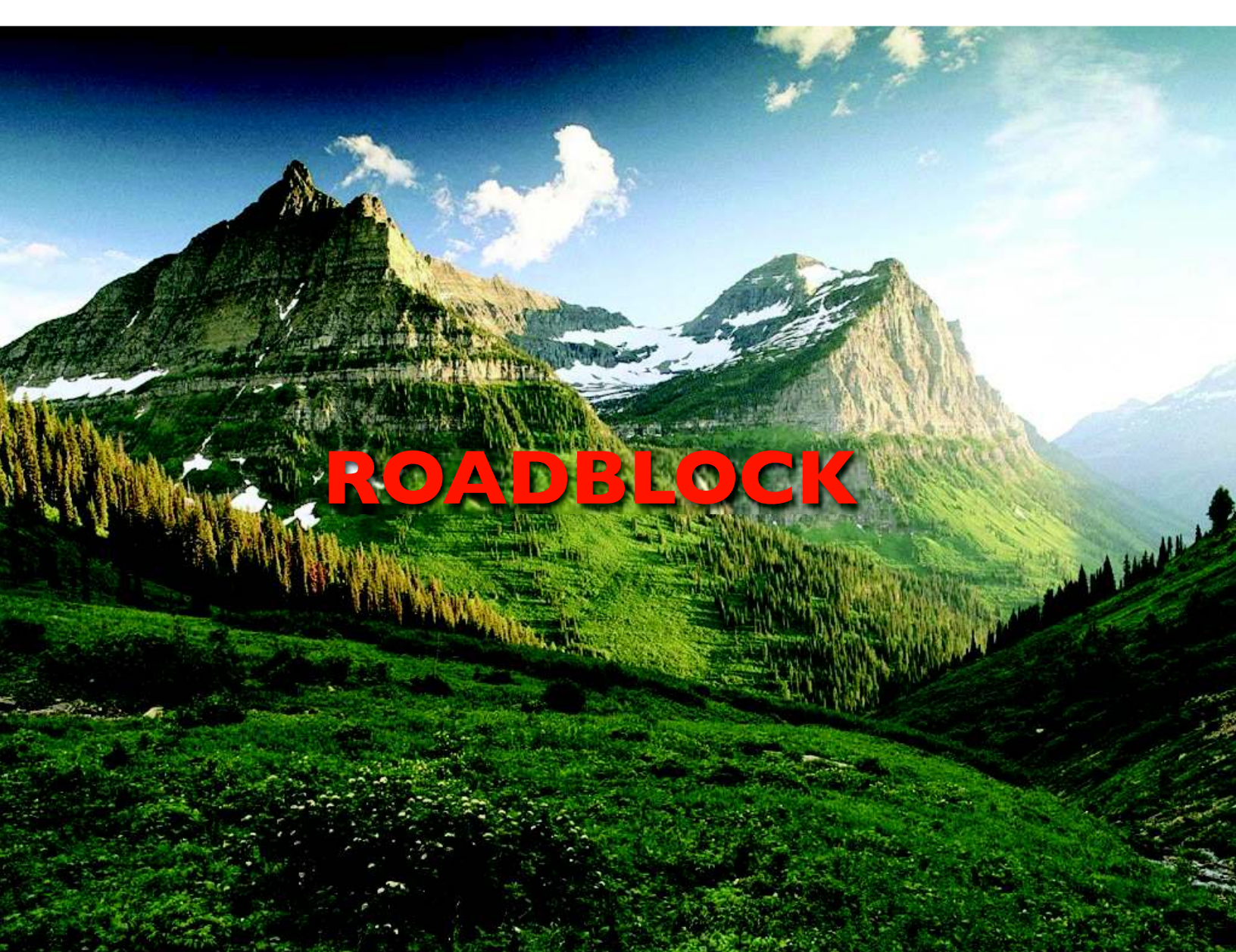


Monday, May 9, 2011

I had thrown myself in to a 4 year program of communication design with tech savvy students 7 years my junior and MY experience was limited to a basic working knowledge of email.

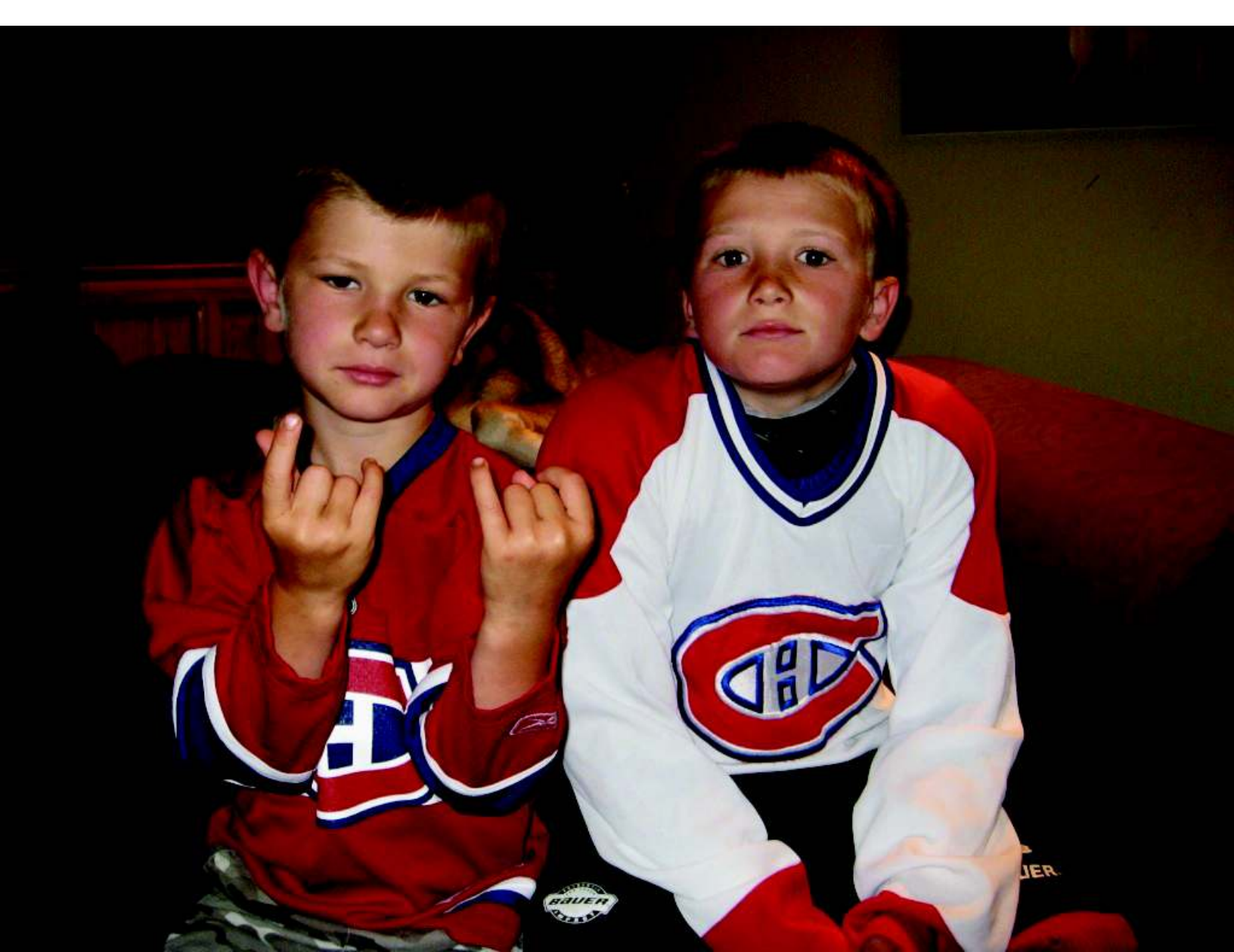
I spent the first two years working triple the time of my classmates completing projects as I fumbled through learning the foreign language of software.

The goal was to learn as much as I could quickly and get out to take on the real world to find great success!



Monday, May 9, 2011

As often happens when climbing a mountain – I hit a road block.



Monday, May 9, 2011

In fact I hit two... Oscar born in 2002 and Max in 2004.

(This image was taken in a happier time as we prepared to watch game 2 of the Boston/Montreal series.)



On and on you will hike.
And I know you'll hike far
and face up to your problems
whatever they are.

Monday, May 9, 2011

After a couple of years of taking care of the kids and finishing up school I was ready to take on the world and applied to work for anyone with the word creative or marketing or agency in their name.

Unfortunately there were no takers. My lack of "applied" experience was a consistent theme for why I was not suitable for a position as graphic designer.

Now when people tell me no I tend to get mad and so I decided to start my own business as a freelance designer and build up a decent client list over time which led to a small profitable business.



Monday, May 9, 2011

Having some money in the bank, I decided I wanted to try and reach out to others like me who were working in their basements on great projects but might have lacked the perceived professionalism from clients, complimentary skills and networks to grow their business.

And so I took a leap of faith and bought a building Downtown Dartmouth and converted it into studio spaces for creatives to collaborate on client projects. I called it Queen Street Studios.

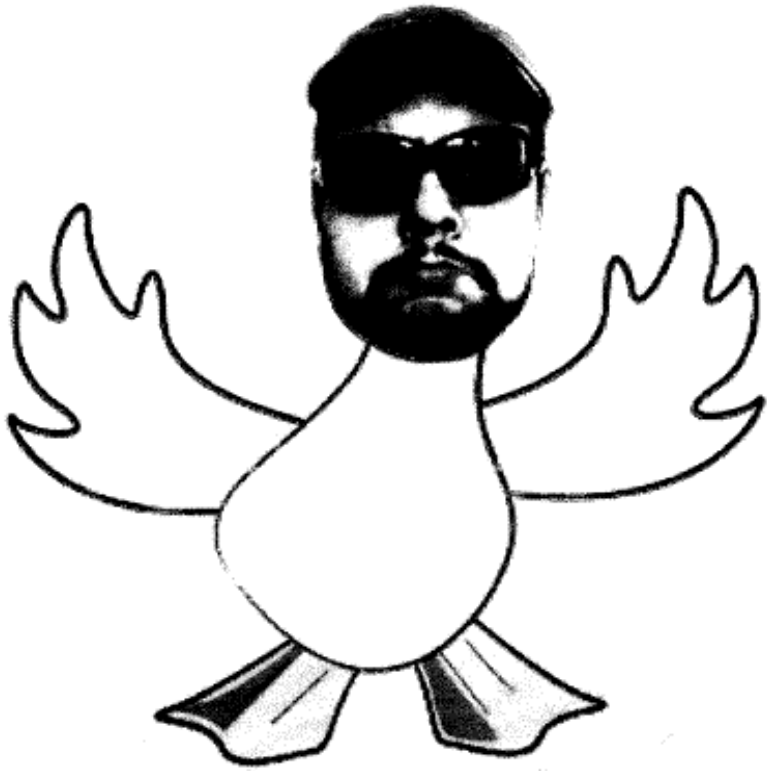


Monday, May 9, 2011

Queen Street Studios hosted independent professionals in various fields for workshops, guest speakers, hack-a-thons...and became a wonderful place of creativity, innovation and collaboration.

In addition to working with the professionals, we developed a strong relationship with NSCC and NSCAD faculty and students and offered an incubation space for graduates who chose the freelance route in their own professional lives.

Over time I met a number of wonderfully talented people and one of the great relationships I made through QSS was with my now partner Brandon Kolybaba...



Monday, May 9, 2011

Enter Brandon...

As a graphic designer that focused on traditional media, I had a strong interest in learning from and partnering with someone who understood the web and the possibilities of new media.

Brandon's interest in embracing web technology with an open source philosophy was one that I found very progressive to and he needed someone who could make his wonderfully developed websites into something users wanted to look at.

norex
creative web strategy



Monday, May 9, 2011

It was a perfect match and

My design practice merged into Brandon's web practice and Norex.ca was formed.



Mountain 3:
~~**Olympics**~~
~~**Find a job**~~
Build a business

Monday, May 9, 2011



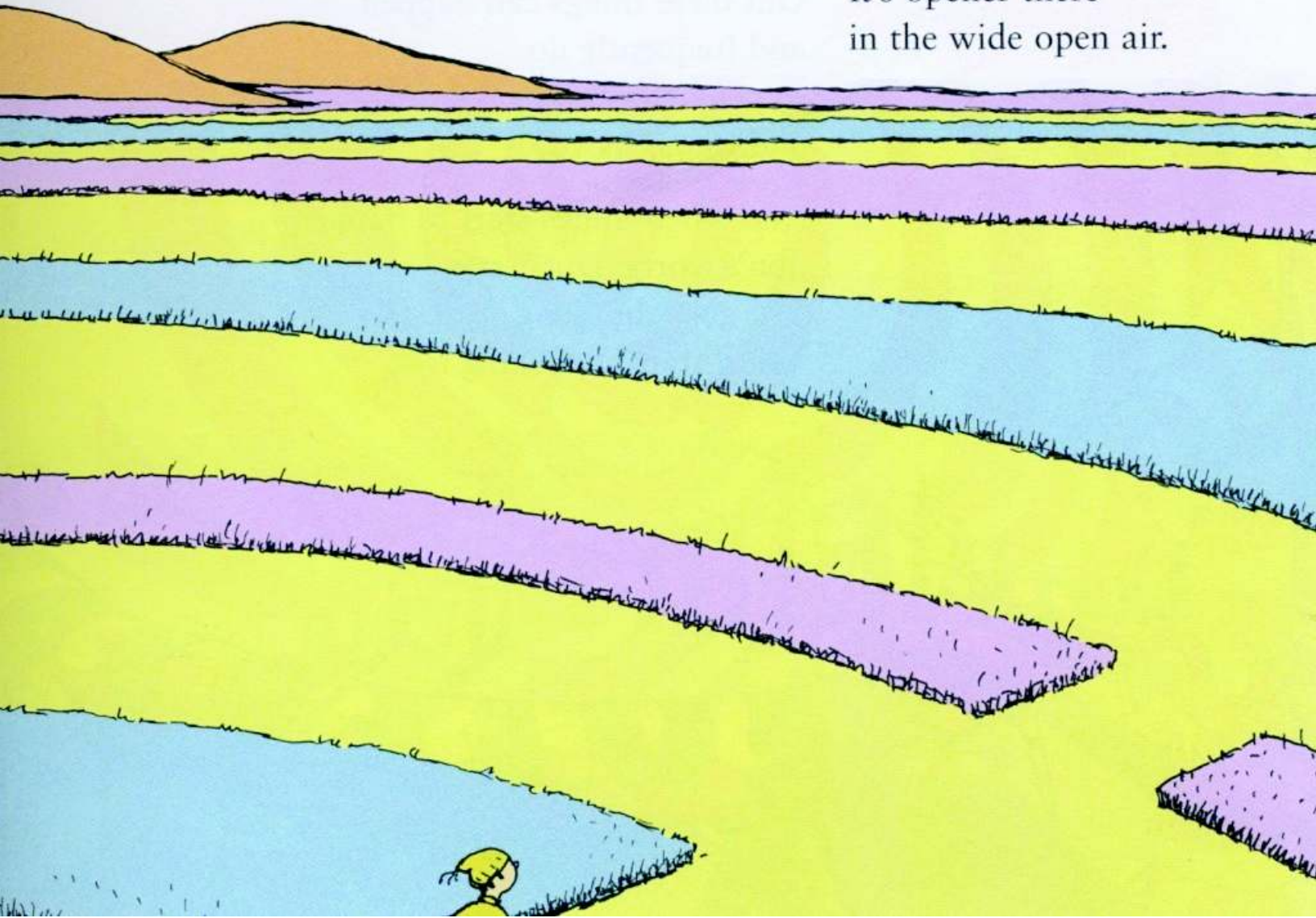
Monday, May 9, 2011

(Explain the growth of Norex and DH)

As our Norex business grew, we expanded our services to include Hosting and in 2007 we decided that we needed to spin our hosting assets out into their own incorporated entity which we called Dynamic Hosting.

Then in 2008 we saw an opportunity to use a new product from Google to allow some of our clients an opportunity to leverage an emerging trend called “cloud computing” and SheepDog was born.

It's opener there
in the wide open air.



Monday, May 9, 2011

SheepDog is an example of what some might call “having balls”

Describe the beginnings of SheepDog to where they are today.

- Shawn and the development of the PAB
- Only Canadian enterprise partner



SheepDogInc.ca
information's best friend

Monday, May 9, 2011

The company today

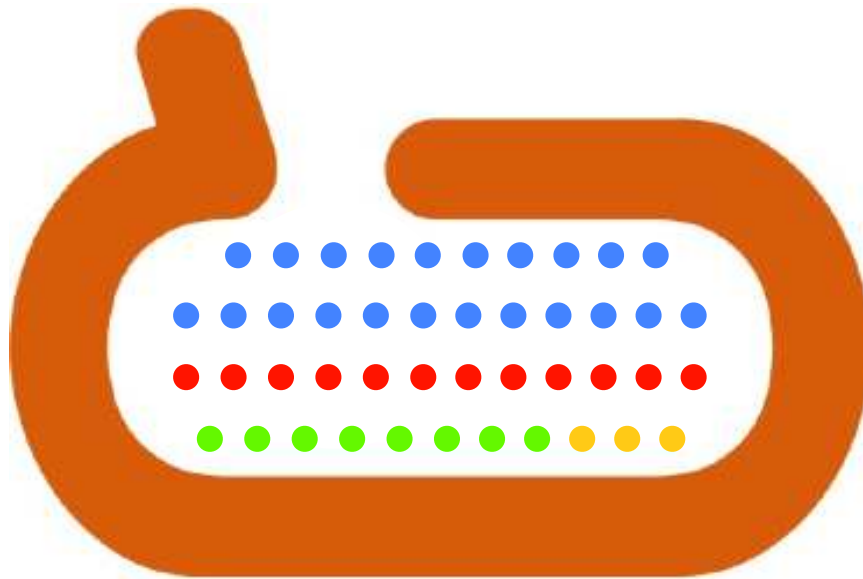
THE BRAND

1/10 advisory partners to Google (only Canadian partner).



Monday, May 9, 2011
PAB

45 FTEs and counting.



Monday, May 9, 2011

Company growth – FTE size

Management Consulting
Software development
Google Apps Deployment
Training and Support

Over 30,000 licenses provisioned.

30,000⁺
(75% or leads sent from Google)

Monday, May 9, 2011

Company Growth – licenses – addition of an annuity business to our service business



STANFORD
UNIVERSITY



Team of Google “Masters”.



Monday, May 9, 2011

But most importantly we have our team!

I want to introduce you to Adam Thurlow...



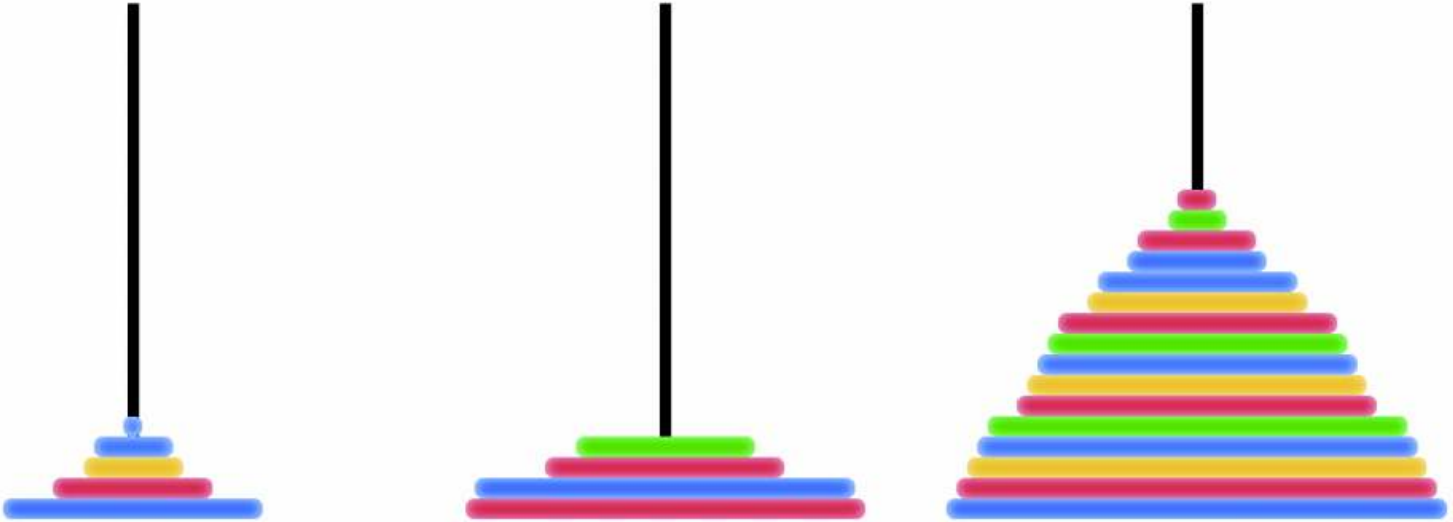
Monday, May 9, 2011

These guys and gals unfortunately will never have the good fortune of standing on top of a podium or speaking to you all but their excellence is no different.

Now I define success through my ability to give each of them opportunities to see how to get to the top of their mountains.

Hanoi Countdown to Google I/O 2011!

This countdown uses the classic Towers of Hanoi problem to display a countdown to a specific date and time. When all the disks have been stacked on the rightmost peg the event has started! The number of disks required is calculated by determining the number of moves needed to perform about one move per second. GWT 2.1 was used to perform all logic, while webkit keyframes were used to perform animations.



Below are some controls to allow you to choose the start and end date and time for the countdown. Start time is when you want the countdown to begin, and end time is when you'd like the countdown to end. If start time is some date and time later than the system clock then it is ignored and "now" is used instead.

Start Date and Time:

End Date and Time:

Monday, May 9, 2011

I wanted to share this with you as an example of one of these recent successes...although it might not look like much – it is a real success...

Explain Google i|o and Chris Troup/David Wolfe creating this award winning Countdown.

This Friday another Green Jacket will be awarded :)

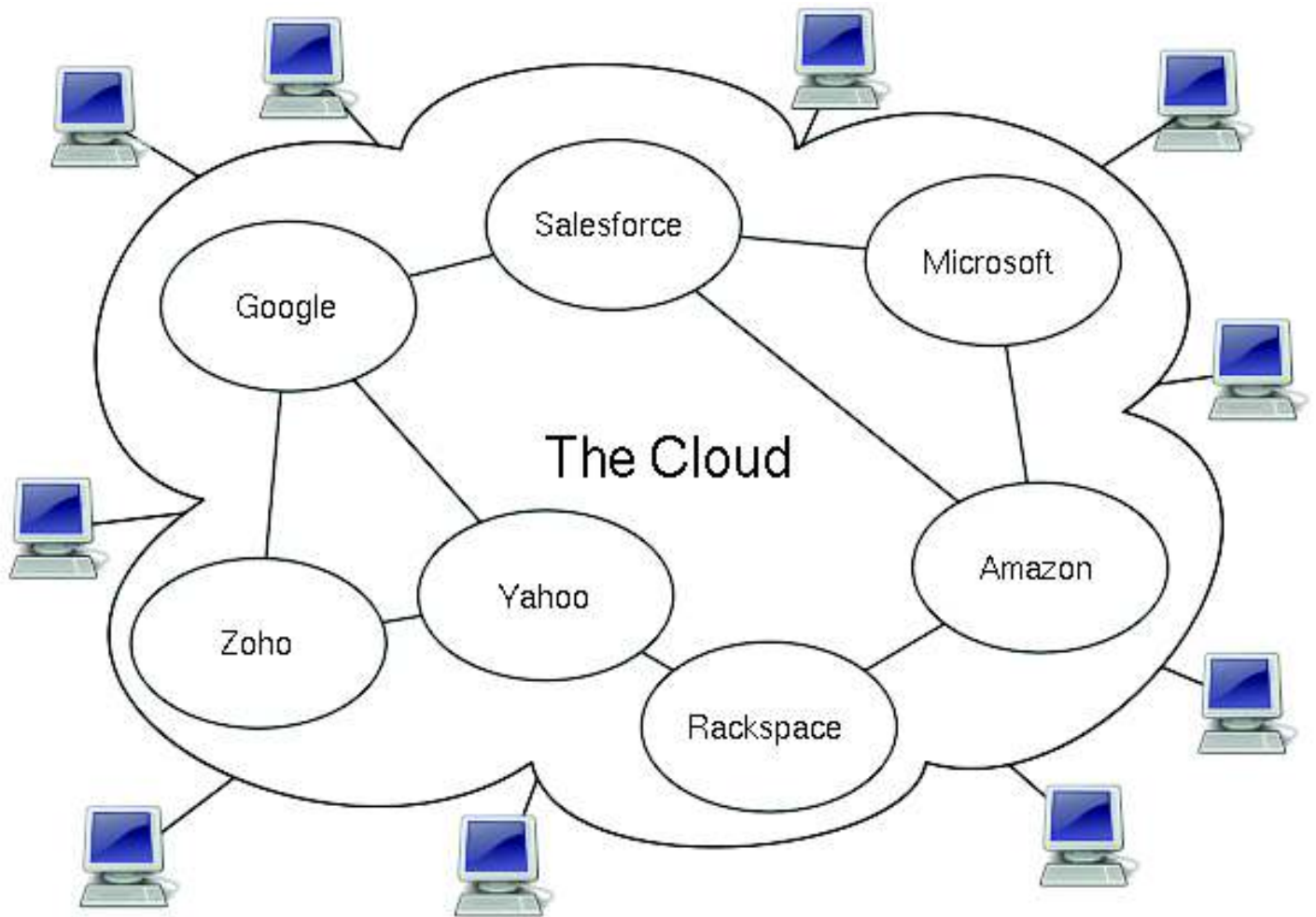
1943	IBM's T. J. Watson predicted, "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
late 1970s	"The mainframe will always be the prevalent computing platform. The minicomputer is a toy."
early 1980s	"The PC will never be successful. People do not need their own personal computers."
mid-1980s	"The minicomputer will prevail. PC and networked computers are merely toys."
early 1990s	"The Internet has no real future as a computing platform. Too unreliable. Too hard to use. Could never support millions."
mid-1990s	"Electronic commerce is a joke. The Web is just a way to provide marketing information."
late 1990s	"There is no business model giving software away for free. The concept of collecting 'eyeballs' will never make money."

Figure 9.1 This list of predictions made about computing over the decades is now amusing.

Monday, May 9, 2011

But as history tells us...Predictions are dangerous – especially in IT.

Regardless, I thought it would be fun to share a bit about how I think we are going to get there and share some predictions we have about cloud computing and where it may go.



Monday, May 9, 2011

Cloud computing has been described as the biggest shift in IT since the move from the mainframe to the PC, and in some ways this shift is like a move back.

In the traditional model of computing, both data and software are fully contained on the user's computer; in cloud computing, the user's computer may contain almost no software or data, serving as little more than a display terminal for processes occurring on a network of computers far away.

Because of the mass economies of scale in cloud computing there are some major paradigm shifts in what and how technology is used leading to these predictions...

The future of cloud computing...

- A shift to utility computing.
- Government adoption of the cloud.
- Rapid innovation.
- Mobile device revolution.

Monday, May 9, 2011

1. Brewery analogy
2. Economies of scale – overcoming perceptions of security risk
3. Open source + lower more scalable development (agile)
4. Freedom from hardware – anything, anywhere, anytime.



Mountain 4:

~~**Olympics**~~

~~**Find a job**~~

~~**Build a business**~~

What's next?...

Monday, May 9, 2011

Story of the Coffee I had with ___ and the questions of "what's next?"

1. Organize (Invitations for the
"Triangle house Classic" (JULY))

2. Plan dad's 65th birthday

3. Call Alex re. revamp of the Canadian
Political system.

4. List dream speakers for App conference.

1455

So . . .
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea,
you're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So . . . *get on your way!*

