

for GAMERS

PARENTS WHO PLAY

A generation raised on video games is passing the console on to their kids

DVDs
GAMING
HOME
ELECTRONICS
PUZZLES
COMICS

take



MARIAN SCOTT
THE GAZETTE

Sean McFall is a family guy with a demanding job and a house in the burbs.

But after tucking daughters Emily, 6, and Megan, 4, into bed, the 36-year-old Lachine resident battles terrorists as a sergeant in a virtual urban combat unit.

"It's a separate world," said McFall, who spends 20 to 25 hours a week playing the online game Raven Shield. He also plays educational games like Math Rabbit and Magic School Bus with his daughters.

Once predominantly male teens and twentysomethings, gamers now count a growing number of par-

ents in their ranks.

Thirty-five per cent of American parents play video games, according to a recent survey by the Entertainment Software Association (ESA), a U.S. trade association based in Washington, D.C. Of those, 80 per cent play with their kids, the ESA said.

"Many parents grew up with video games," said Danielle LaBossiere, executive director of the Entertainment Software Association of Canada. "Not only are they playing with their kids, but after the kids go to bed they're playing for recreation."

Today's average gamer is 30 and has played video games for nearly 10 years, LaBossiere said.

Please see GAMERS, Page D2

JOHN MAHONEY THE GAZETTE

Sean McFall plays a driving game with his daughters Emily, 6, (left), and Megan, 4, in the rec room of their Lachine home.

GADGETS



FUJIFILM FINEPIX F30 digital camera, \$500, coming in May. One of the criticisms of point-and-shoot digital cameras has been the difficulty shooting in low-light situations or where movement is fast. Fujifilm has come up with a compact camera that shoots at ISO 3200 at its full resolution of 6.1 megapixels. That carries the risk of noise in the image, but Fujifilm said its not a problem.

TOSHIBA PORTEGE M400 convertible tablet PC/notebook computer, \$2,800 U.S. Toshiba's Portege 12-inch display M400 is powered by an Intel core dual processor and has a built-in optical drive, which gives it enhanced multimedia capabilities. A twist of the display converts the M400 from an ultra-portable notebook to a tablet PC. Comes with a 100-gigabyte hard drive and has as much as five hours of battery life.

PETER WILSON
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE



ULTIMATE CONTROL

Personal video recorders are changing the way we watch TV

MARC SALTZMAN

Some call it the best thing to happen to television since the boob tube turned colour more than 50 years ago.

No, it's not the wireless remote. Nor is it cable, flat-panel televisions or HDTV.

It's the PVR, or personal video recorder.

In case you've been living under a pile of bulky videocassettes or recordable DVDs over the past few years, a PVR is a small box that connects to your TV with a hard-drive inside, much like the

one in your PC.

PVRs can store hundreds of hours of television content in this one place, all easily recalled with the push of a button on the remote.

And that's just the beginning.

Here's a look at what else PVRs can do, along with a few shortcomings and what you need to get in on the action.

Please see PVRs, Page D4

home ELECTRONICS

DVD profile Satire of Network rings true today

Page D3