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## Portable toilets, fit for a future king

**ROSIE-ANN GROVER**  
The Hamilton Spectator

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WHO DOES THAT?

Who: Room To Go, owners Harold Ross and daughter, Keri Ross

What: High-end portable toilet manufacturer and supplier for rentals or retail

Since: 1991

Where: 1031 Hwy. 6, Millgrove

Contact: [roomtogo.ca](http://roomtogo.ca) or call 905-689-6389

MILLGROVE It was a throne fit for royalty.

The outdoor toilet rented for Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, during their recent stop at Niagara College fell nothing short of presidential.

One unit from a luxury line of portable washrooms worth \$60,000 was supplied by Room To Go, near Waterdown.

It includes hardwood flooring, a china bowl toilet and sink, hot and cold water and skylights. It has heating and air conditioning, and is literally cleaned with a toothbrush.

"We think of ourselves as a toilet boutique," says owner Harold Ross.

"We're small compared to the big portable toilet guys but we're more concentrated. We're capable of doing a better job."

It's the second time the prince has used it. The first was with Princess Diana attending Pierre Trudeau's barbecue at the MacKenzie King home in Gatineau, Que.

Since then, they've handled private accommodations for John Travolta, Bill Clinton and motivational speaker Tony Robbins.

The company has specialized in upscale portable washrooms since 1991 and services Ontario and neighbouring provinces.

They're not just meant for celebrities. Entry-level facilities for outdoor weddings or functions can start at \$495.

They service more than 100 local construction sites daily, for clients such as Ontario Hydro and Ontario Power Generation. Last week, they delivered their facilities to 12 movie shoots -- one in less than 45 minutes for filmmakers in Dundas. All units include china bowl amenities. Nothing is made of plastic.

"I would eat off the floor of one that's been cleaned," says Keri Ross, Harold's daughter. "I'm that confident."

The biggest unit on wheels has capacity for four men's and four women's stalls.

Smaller trailers can accommodate 100 people for about eight hours.

It takes roughly 45 hours to build four washrooms at a time.

"We had the market when we started," says Keri, who oversees the staff of six.

"There are more and more (suppliers) every year. People don't know. That's our biggest hurdle. Probably 80 per cent of people don't know there is anything besides the plastic Porta-Potty."

Sales are down 3 per cent this year, but the Rosses chalk that up to a bad economy and two rainy summers spoiling outdoor events.

They recently expanded to shower facilities -- all of them now rented out for CBC's Battle of the Blades, which is broadcast from Maple Leaf Gardens.

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Ted Brellisford, the Hamilton Spectator