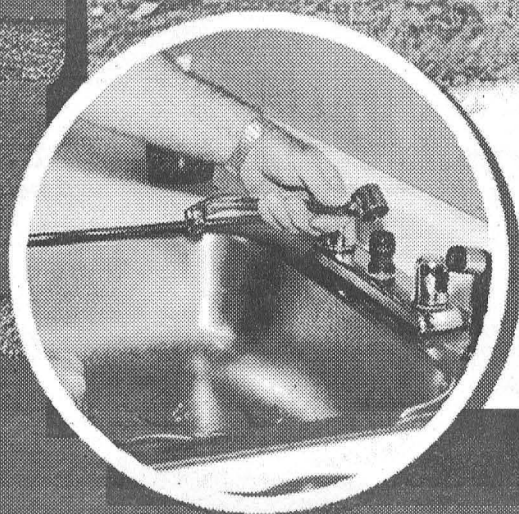
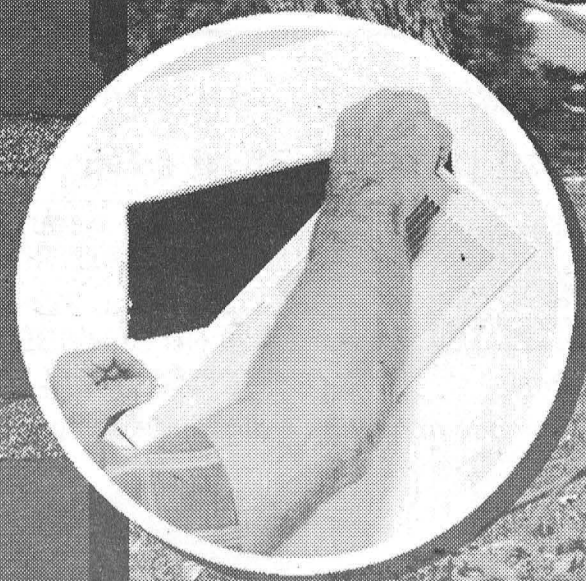
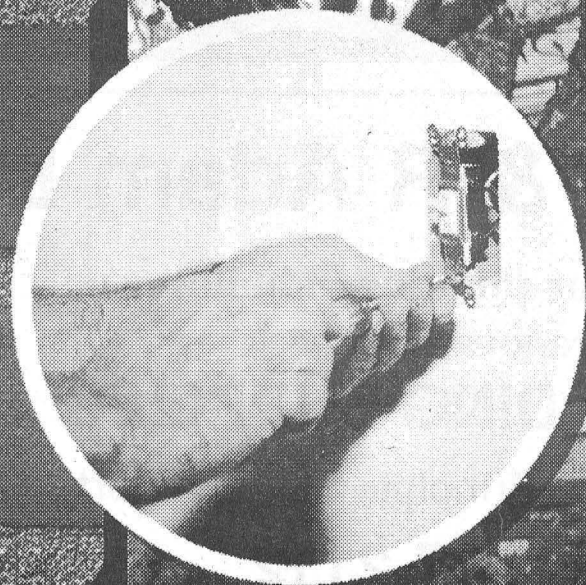


# INSIDE AND OUT

Quick Tips For Home Repairs



Supplement to:  
*The Chesterville Record*  
October 14, 1998



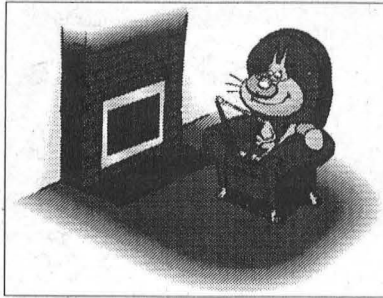
## First rate fireplace facts

(NC)—If you're dreaming of cosy winter evenings by a roaring fire, there's lots of new developments that will help make it safe and energy-wise.

A properly located energy-efficient fireplace can reduce the demand on your primary heating system, cut your energy bills and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. The good news is, whether retrofitting or installing a new unit, you can even choose between a wood- or gas-burning fireplace.

If you're in the market for a wood-burning fireplace, look for an advanced combustion unit that can be up to ten times more energy-efficient than conventional models. That's because advanced combustion fireplaces burn because wood more completely, transfer more heat to the room, don't produce creosote and are less polluting to the outdoor environment.

If you have access to natural gas or propane, you could opt to install an energy-efficient gas fireplace. Ease of operation, low fuel costs and clean-burning features have made these fireplaces one of the fastest-growing home products in Canada. Look for a



direct-vent unit that uses outside air for combustion and does not have a continuous pilot light, or has an easy-to-use pilot light shut-off. An energy-efficient gas fireplace should also have a radiation-transparent ceramic glass front, a secondary heat exchanger, and an insulated outer casing. Some models can be installed in an existing wood fireplace.

You can get more information and free publications about energy-efficient fireplace purchasing and operation from Natural Resources Canada. Check out NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website at <http://eeb-dee.NRCan.gc.ca>. You can also get information by calling 1-800-387-2000 or by writing to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

## Interiors by design—lights

(NC)—Look at your house, look at the rooms, and see the light! Chris Madden, host of *Interiors by Design* on HGTV Canada, says that ordinary mirrors and light bulbs can be used effectively to enhance the look and feel of your home.

- Look at mirrors to give you a bigger perspective on a subject room, you will probably like what you see. A mirror will make a small space look larger, and an ordinary size room appear palatial. Placing a mirror across from a window will make the room seem both brighter and bigger. Putting mirror across an entire wall will make you think that the room is twice as large.

- Thinking more about light bulbs and

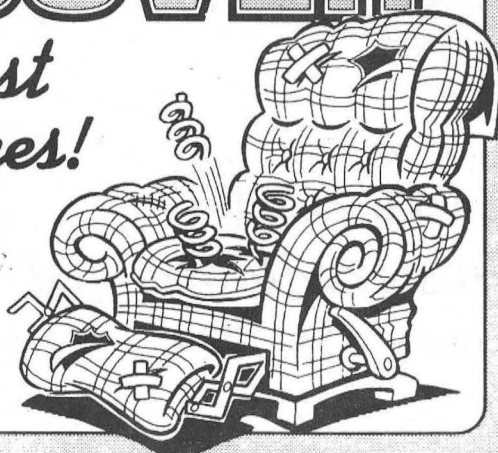
their colour should give you a different feeling in different rooms and in different seasons. Strong white light is apt for the kitchen and the study, but a weaker white light is more appropriate for the dining room, as it will create a more relaxed atmosphere. A soft, pink light in the bedroom will lead to a softer, friendlier feeling. Another idea is to change the tint of the light bulbs according to the season: in winter, a pale yellow light will entice a warmer feeling, whereas in the summer, light blue or green bulbs will give a room a cooler light.

You can see *Interiors by Design* on HGTV (Home & Garden Television) Canada

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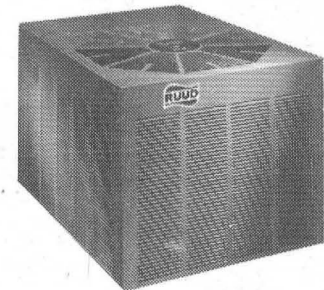
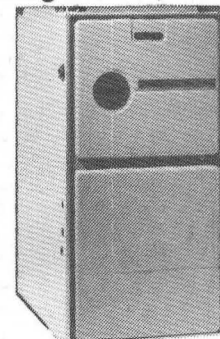
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## Be aware of closing costs

(NC)—When looking to buy a new home, there are many costs to consider — moving costs, legal fees, even re-decorating expenses. There may also be additional costs associated with leaving your existing residence, such as lease penalties, or mortgage discharge fees.

One of the areas where homebuyers most frequently run into problems is with closing costs. Homebuyers often do not properly anticipate the costs associated with closing a real estate transaction, and the resulting "cash crunch" can add stress at a time when you need it least.

In addition to your down payment, there are many other expenses that must be paid on closing day before your home purchase can be completed. Closing costs may include land transfer tax inspection fees, appraisal fees, title search, insurance, lawyer's fees, and applicable taxes, such as GST. An important component of closing costs is your proportionate share of property taxes, utilities etc. that may have already been pre-paid by the vendor. You should expect to reimburse the vendor for the costs associated with the period following your closing date.

There may be other costs that will be necessary to complete your transaction, such as the cost of a property survey. A good salesperson should be able to help you estimate closing costs before you commit to an offer to buy a home. In some circumstances, your real estate representative may even recommend spelling out the terms for some of the expenses to be incurred within your offer to purchase. Good preparation can help make your closing day trouble free.

## Antique look

(NC)—How does one get 'antique' furniture without paying exorbitant prices that genuine antiques often command?

Jon Eakes says that anyone who wants to give pieces of furniture that antique, lived-in, lived-upon, 'distressed' look should simply 'beat up' the furniture. Eakes, who is the handyman host of Just Ask Jon Eakes on HGTV Canada, says that this assault and battery is perfectly acceptable if the beating is not overdone. For a mildly battered look, the wood should be tapped lightly with a ball peen hammer, using both sides of the hammer and the edges, to get different shaped indentations. The surfaces should then be sanded, to remove any wood fibers. For simulated wear on the edges and the corners, rasps, coarse files and sandpaper should do the trick. He says that wormholes can be faked by nail holes. Eakes warns, however, that this sort of antiquing is something of an art, and needs practice and a careful hand to assure success. He says that he knows one antique dealer who blasts wormholes in furniture with a shotgun. He adds that he doesn't recommend the practice.

## Real estate firm's commission includes value-added services

(NC)—In today's era of consumerism, customers are constantly looking for better value for their money. Nowhere is this more true than in the real estate industry. Homeowners are looking for more service from their real estate salesperson in return for what the customer perceives as being high commissions. Competition is fierce, and if a real estate representative wants to compete, they need to offer their customers new and better service than ever before.

Some of the more innovative real estate companies have developed programs that provide new value-added services to their customers. Such

programs offer you an array of valuable customer services that go far beyond the scope of the traditional real estate transaction. The programs may be offered independently by the real estate firm or through alliances with other powerful national companies. Alliance programs offer you the goods and services of other well-known companies and brands — and you could receive special "perks" simply by choosing one real estate company over another.

Through these value-added customer programs, real estate companies can offer special services or discounts that will appeal to Canadian homebuyers or sellers. These programs may include

home insurance, home warranty programs, financing benefits, savings on moving related expenses, or even save you money on the cost of buying or leasing a new car. And you're in control, since it's your option to choose which of these value-added programs are of benefit to you.

Make sure that you're getting the best value for your commission dollars. When choosing a real estate sales representative, ask what value-added services they can provide in return for your business.

The bottom line is you should receive maximum value for the commission you pay!

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# Interiors by design

## Furnishing your home

(NC)—When furnishing your home, don't be afraid to give rein to your thoughts, even though they may seem to lead you to strange choices, suggests Chris Madden, the host of HGTV Canada's *Interiors by Design*.

• An armoire in a kitchen may seem to be the wrong place, until you actually see it in your kitchen, and realize that it is functional and aesthetically pleasing.

• Coloured ceilings are a relatively easy way to give a room a new look. People seem to assume that ceilings must always be white, but colours, patterns and moldings on ceilings will bounce a lot of light into the room, which can be flattering and warm.



## Gas fireplaces An investment in comfort

(NC)—Gas fireplaces are a new approach to an old idea; they combine up-to-date technology with the warmth and charm of tradition. It is easy to see why they are so popular: gas fireplaces create a warm and inviting atmosphere in the home without the dirt and disruption of a wood or coal fire.

If you are thinking of buying a gas fireplace you should know in advance what it will cost to operate it over the long term. As with all big energy-consuming equipment, the purchase price is just the beginning.

Your operating costs will depend on how much your gas fireplace is used and its rated efficiency. When purchasing a gas fireplace, ask about its efficiency first. Your sales agent should be able to tell you about the Canadian Gas Association P.4 (CGA-P.4) standard for measuring fuel utilization efficiency. Efficient units operating in the 50 to 70

per cent efficiency range and will offer good value for money over the long term.

Even if you plan to use your fireplace only on special occasions, you might be surprised by what you will pay in fuel costs over the course of a year if your fireplace uses a pilot light for ignition. Pilot lights operate 24 hours per day, year-round, so the cost really adds up. Avoid the "pilot-light blues." Be prepared to turn off your pilot light when you are not using the fireplace for extended periods, or choose a unit with either a two-stage pilot or automatic electronic ignition.

Natural Resources Canada's booklet, *All About Gas Fireplaces*, tells you everything you need to know about buying and operating gas fireplaces, and provides a step-by-step guide to accurately estimate the annual operating cost of your unit. Call 1-800-387-2000 for your free copy.

## Cool tips on home heating!

(NC)—Choosing the cleanest energy source available for your home heating system is a great way to stay warm this winter, reap energy savings and protect the environment at the same time.

In most parts of Canada, heating system options include electricity, oil, natural gas, propane or wood. You can also use a combination of these sources or opt for a newer technology like solar energy or electrically-powered ground-source heat pumps.

Here's a few things you can do now to ensure your home will be ready for winter's worst.

• If you're in the market for a new natural gas or propane furnace, check the EnerGuide rating on the back page of the manufacturer's brochure. The EnerGuide

rating tells you the product's Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE), which helps measure its operating efficiency.

• Arrange an annual check-up for your heating system before cold weather arrives.

• Check for air leaks at the edges of doors and windows. You can use caulking or weatherstripping to seal the leaks you find.

• Get more information about home heating and energy savings at the Natural Resources Canada Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website. It's located at <http://eeb-dee.NRC.gc.ca>. You can also call 1-800-387-2000 to order publications or write to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

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## Need a new furnace? Choose smart

(NC)—The lowest cost is not always the least cost when choosing a new heating system; because heating accounts for close to two-thirds of your annual energy bill. For smart comparison shopping, check the back of manufacturers' brochures for EnerGuide ratings on the furnace models you're considering.

The EnerGuide rating reports annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) ratings for all oil, gas and propane furnaces sold in Canada. High-efficiency furnaces usually cost more to buy, but cost less to install and much less to operate than less efficient models. With AFUE ratings of between 88 and 97 per cent, high-efficiency furnaces offer better long-term value because only three to 12 per cent of

the heat generated in their combustion chambers is lost up the chimney.

Total purchase, installation and operating costs are what you should use as the basis for your final choice. Heating systems designed for maximum efficiency save you money, year after year; these savings accumulate over time, and will continue to grow as fuel prices rise.

High-efficiency is always a smart choice.

Call Natural Resources Canada's EnerGuide Program at 1-800-327-2000 or visit <http://hvac.nrcan.gc.ca> to order your free set of "Heating Series" guides for everything you need to know about choosing the right heating system for your home.

## Weatherstripping: an open and shut case

(NC)—There's no time like the present to make sure your doors and windows are ready for winter. Checking out air leaks and making repairs will make your home more comfortable, help control condensation and will also make windows and doors last longer.

There's an easy 'do-it-yourself' way to find air leaks. On a cold or windy day take a thin piece of tissue paper, plastic or strand of thread and hold it up by the window or door frame you want to check. If the tissue, plastic or thread flutters, you've found an air leak which can easily be sealed with caulking or weatherstripping.

Choosing between caulking or weatherstripping depends on where the leak is.

Caulking is used at fixed joints, such as where an interior window or door trim meets the wall. Weatherstripping is used

at the parts of a window or door that move so keep in mind that some windows without moving parts don't require weatherstripping.

Replacing worn weatherstripping or installing additional weatherstripping is quite easy to do and a knowledgeable salesperson can help you decide on a product to best suit your needs.

Keep in mind too that, although good quality weatherstripping may cost a little more, it will pay for itself by performing better and lasting longer.

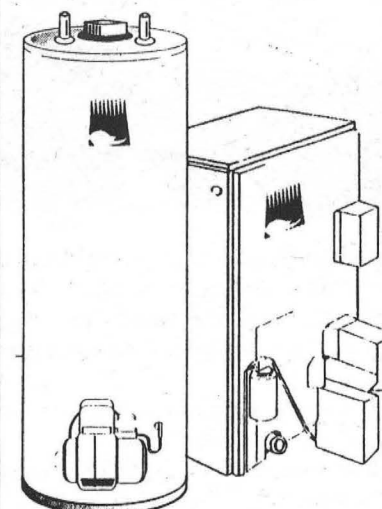
Natural Resources Canada has lots of information and free publications about improving your home's energy efficiency. You can visit NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website at <http://eeb-dec.NRCan.gc.ca>. You can also order publications by calling 1-800-387-2000 or by writing to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.



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Source: Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy 1993. GST included in all prices.

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# Community finds a Pal in school program

Sandy Bierworth  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER - About 10 students, who only months ago were at risk of dropping out of high school, are now putting the finishing touches on a gazebo at Winchester Public School.

And in helping the school with their construction of a nature path and garden, the troubled youths are learning more about life and working skills.

The students belong to the Pal Program, which is based at T.R. Leger School in Winchester.

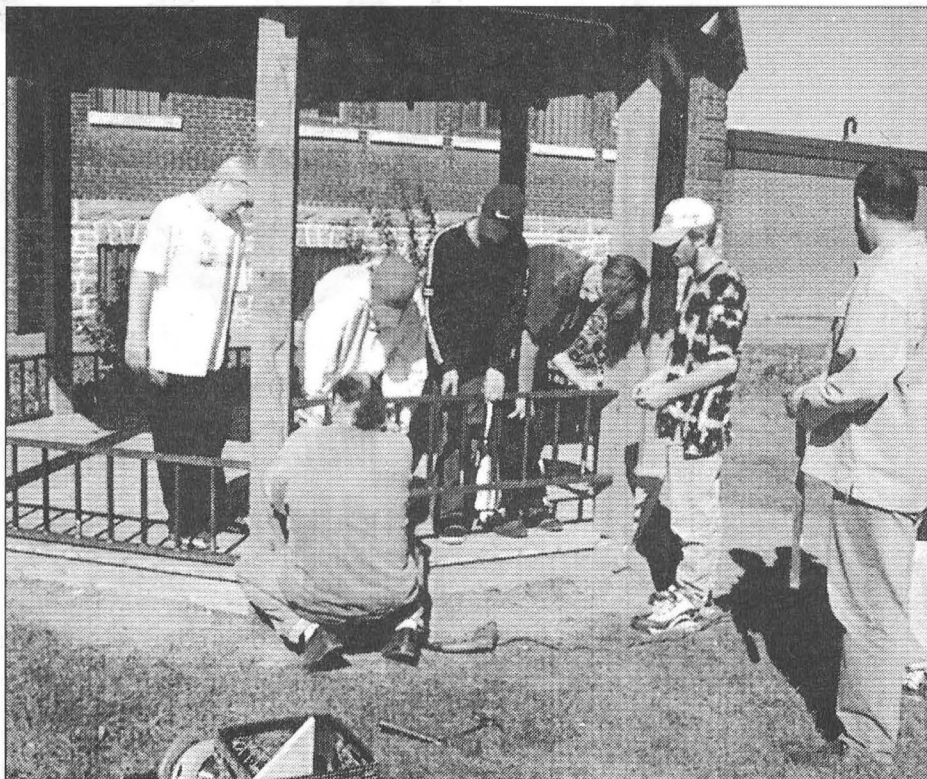
Teacher Gord MacDonald has been with the program since it started three-and-a-half years ago.

"We have enhanced the program to include building construction," he said. "Up to now, the community has seen us as only building small projects and furniture. The building construction is a credit in addition to the personal life management they learn. They develop social skills and transferable work skills."

The students who come to the program are there because they could not fit into the mainstream school, he said.

"The students are at risk of dropping out of high school. When the teacher sees that, her or she lets the principal know, and he makes an application to the board to refer the students to the Pal Program. They're not kids off the streets."

The main intent of the program is to help keep the troubled students in school



Instructor Gord MacDonald shows the membrs of the Pal Program how to install a railing in the gazebo the class is building at Winchester Public School. Pal provides an alternative education program for kids who are at a high risk of dropping out of school.

while teaching them skills they will need later in life, MacDonald said.

"Last year, we had 15 students. Only one dropped out. The rest stayed in the program or went back to high school.

These are kids who need a smaller classroom environment and enhanced instruction and they can't get that at mainstream school. With the Pal Program, we have a potential of 16

students with two instructors."

The program has built projects for several local businesses and centres, including Nor-Dun Seniors' Support Centre in Winchester. Many of the community projects are funded by local Lions Clubs.

"The main thing I want to emphasize is that we're not out to compete with contractors. We do only community-based projects. This gazebo was funded by donations from the community and it is serving an educational purpose on both ends. Obviously, for the students at Winchester School who are learning about nature with their trail and gardens here, and for the Pal Program students because it serves as a credit for them."

And while woodworking may not be for everyone, the students seem to enjoy, it regardless, he said.

"With the building construction, it's not important to me whether the kids pick it up or not. The intent is to get them to help each other out. If I can get one kid to help, I'll have done my job. They have heard all their life that they're stupid and they can't do anything. I don't know where that comes from. My biggest challenge is to set it up so they can succeed in something. And they do. That's what counts. I've learned a lot from them too. I've learned tolerance and patience, and a few things I maybe shouldn't know."

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# Canadian quality, energy efficiency make Guildcrest Homes winner in US

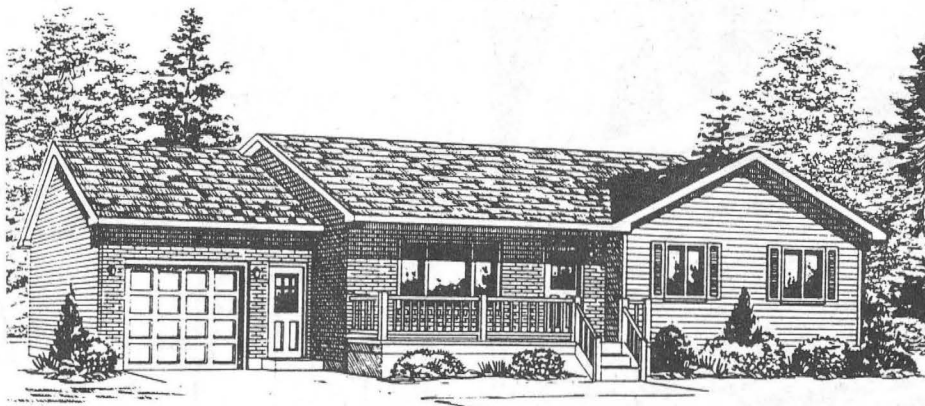
MOREWOOD — American sales of the popular Guildcrest Home have doubled every year since the Morewood-based company made a foray into the U.S. market in 1995. But it's not for the reason you might think.

While a comparatively low Canadian dollar has made any Canadian purchase attractive to Americans, it's the quality of the Guildcrest Homes product — and its high energy efficiency — that's responsible for growing sales south of the border, says Guildcrest Homes president David Poupore.

A solid 30 per cent of the pre-fabricated modular homes built in Morewood this year have been shipped to American buyers. But Guildcrest was competitive in the American market even when the Canadian dollar was a much healthier 75 cents U.S., Poupore says.

Guildcrest has established a retail presence in five American states — New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut — through independent builders in those states who offer the Canadian-made product.

Whether destined for Chesterville, Ontario or Fall River, Massachusetts, all



Guildcrest Homes are built in the company's Morewood factory and shipped — you've probably seen the trailer-mounted modules on the highway several times.

Locally, Guildcrest Homes workers are the builders, who assemble the modules and finish them when after they are hoisted onto their foundation by crane. In other areas, such as in the states, it is the local building professional who offers the Guildcrest product who adds the finishing touches. A home destined

for New York or Vermont, for example, is built here to meet the state's building codes.

Poupore says while the shrinking Canadian dollar has put Canadian products "on the radar screen" in the U.S., Canadian housing is perceived as better quality than modular homes built in the U.S. Also, Guildcrest has always had a focus on energy efficiency, something American builders have not addressed to the same extent.

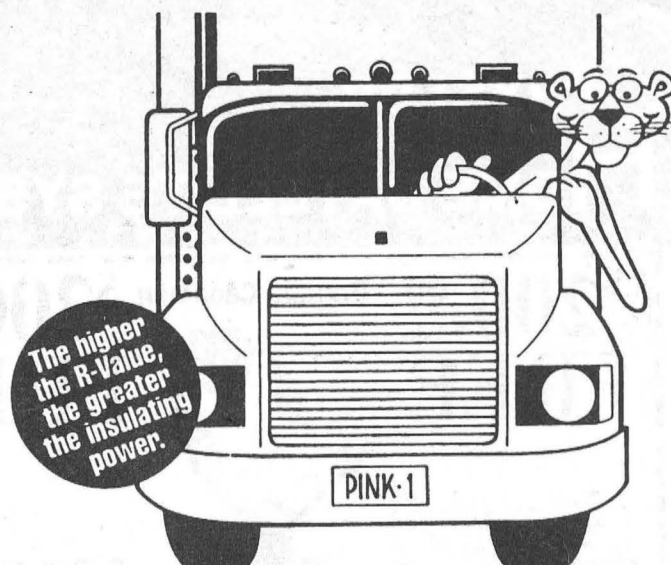
"That's the niche we're going after

down there, high quality and energy-efficient housing," Poupore says. "A pure price strategy wasn't going to be our strategy."

Poupore notes there are less expensive modular homes built in New York, and many built in Pennsylvania that are available to Americans, but they don't match Guildcrest for energy efficiency and quality. For example, Guildcrest Homes use heat-recovery ventilators and high-performance windows, which are unusual in modular homes built in the U.S. Also, Guildcrest is known for its attention to air tightness and sealing.

"What's happening in the U.S. is our volume is up year after year," Poupore says. "That's creating jobs in Morewood, in North Dundas Township, that wouldn't be there otherwise." About 165 homes will be built in Morewood this year, and 55 to 60 of them will be placed on foundations on American soil.

But Poupore notes despite the company's growing U.S. sales, there's still a lot of room for the local market. "We welcome the opportunity to build homes for people here, and there's still loads of time to place an order this fall."



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## Plan ahead to beat winter's chill

(NC)—There are lots of considerations when it comes to making the right insulation choice for your home.

Before launching your next renovation project or buying materials for it, make sure you've chosen the appropriate product and decide whether the task is something you can do yourself or whether you'd be better off arranging for a professional to do the job.

You can obtain details about home insulation through your local utility and

an experienced insulation salesperson can help you choose between the many insulation options available.

You can also get information and free publications about energy-efficient home improvements from Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE). Check out the OEE website at <http://eeb-dee.NRCan.gc.ca>. You can also call 1-800-387-2000 to order publications or write to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

## Caulking and weatherstripping

(NC)—Caulking and weatherstripping will go a long way towards reducing air leakage and eliminating drafts around windows and doors, but you might need to go one step further and install a storm unit.

Interior storm windows are generally attached directly to the window frame, which helps reduce air leakage around and through the window and they can also reduce the risk of condensation (if properly sealed), since their surface is closer to warm room air.

A knowledgeable building supply dealer or renovation contractor can help you make the right choice of a storm door or window.

Natural Resources Canada also has helpful information. You can check out NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website at <http://eeb-dee.NRCan.gc.ca>. You can also call 1-800-387-2000 to order publications or write to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

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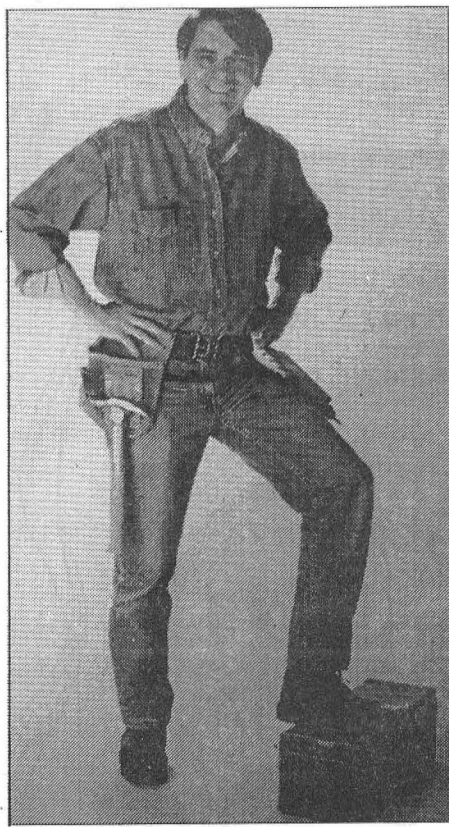
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## Dealing with creosote

(NC)- Jon Eakes, host of *Just ask Jon Eakes*, answers the myriad of questions that everyone has about ordinary tasks and problems that face the household. Here is just one example...

One potentially serious problem that any householder with a chimney faces, sooner or later, is the build-up of creosote on the chimney walls. Eakes reports that he found what appears to be a simple solution to the problem while travelling in Newfoundland. It was suggested that dried peelings from five or six potatoes thrown on the fire, once a week, will keep the chimney walls as slick as a whistle.

Eakes says that the custom traces back to England and Holland. He adds that while the potato cure seems to work on the chimney, no one seems to have a scientific explanation as to why.

Watch for Jon on HGTV Canada.

## Gas fireplaces Beware of pilot light blues

(NC)—A gas fireplace creates a warm and cosy atmosphere in your home and can be used for efficient supplementary heating. Some gas fireplace units operate at close to 70 per cent efficiency; however, main burner operating efficiency is only part of the story. Pilot lights can easily consume almost as much gas as the burner itself over the course of a year, so turn off the pilot light to save money whenever you are not using the fireplace for extended periods.

# Tradition meets new technology Choose a new gas fireplace

(NC)—Gas fireplaces are emerging as a highly sought-after extra in real estate markets throughout Canada. Home buyers everywhere know that gas fireplaces combine the look and feel of a traditional hearth with the convenience, cleanliness, safety and efficiency of today's technology.

Gas fireplaces are now better than ever. Units are now available that can be installed in virtually any setting, anywhere in your home. Properly maintained, they offer hours of comfort and pleasure, and can even lower your heating bills.

When shopping for a gas fireplace, you'll want to make sure your new unit is as energy-efficient as possible. Base your selection on the following:

- High annual fireplace efficiency rating (Canadian Gas Association P.4 rating), look for a unit that operates between 50% and 70% efficiency.

- Direct vent, or DV, fireplaces are typically more energy-efficient. These units have sealed combustion chambers and direct through-the-wall venting for air intake and exhaust, which means that heated indoor air is no longer used for combustion or drawn up the chimney.

- Electronic ignition lets you turn on your fire instantly without the expense and bother of a pilot light. If you want to be able to use your fireplace when the electricity is out, choose a unit with pilot light ignition. Make sure that the pilot light can be conveniently shut off when you are not using the fireplace, and that it can be relit safely and easily. A two-stage pilot light is an important energy-saving feature to consider; unlike a standard pilot light, it runs on a low flame when the fireplace is not in use.

- Look for a unit with good heat setting control so you can adjust the heat output by regulating the amount of gas

going to the burner. This feature, also known as "turndown," enables you to maintain comfort by preventing overheating while still having a flame to view.

- Choose a unit that has an output suited to the size and layout of the room where it is to be located. An oversized fireplace with a high heat output will cause overheating and discomfort.

- Ceramic glass screen fronts allow more heat from combustion to radiate out into the room and increase energy performance.

Think of your new gas fireplace as a long-term investment. Choose carefully for maximum benefits and low operating costs.

All About Gas Fireplaces is a free 36-page booklet that tells you everything you need to know about selecting the gas fireplace that is right for your needs. Call Natural Resources Canada at 1-800-387-2000 for your copy.

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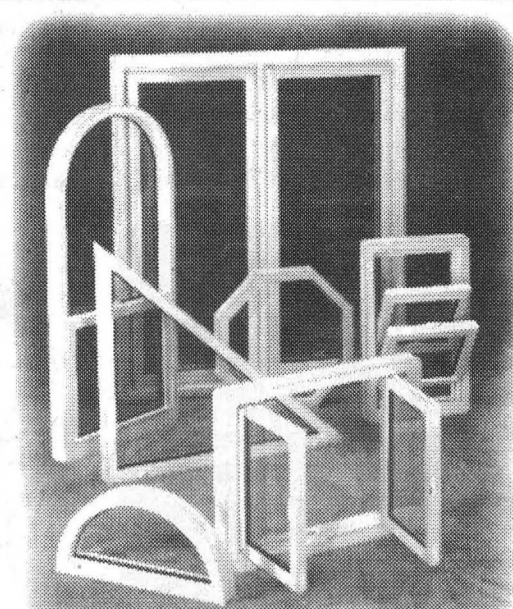
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## Gas fireplaces A burning issue

(NC)—Gas fireplaces are growing in popularity; they are a clean and convenient way to create a warm and cosy glow in your home. If you're thinking of installing an energy-efficient gas fireplace, you should consider which type of ignition is right for your needs.

Two types of ignition are available: intermittent (or electronic) ignition and continuous pilot light ignition. A fireplace with intermittent ignition lights the pilot or main burner by electronic spark or hot surface interaction. A fireplace with pilot light ignition uses a small flame to ignite the gas at the main burner.

Fireplaces with intermittent ignition offer energy efficiency and convenience. However, some homeowners prefer a fireplace with a continuous pilot light because they can fire up their unit without electricity. Pilot light ignition may be your best option for an auxiliary heat source if you plan to use your fireplace as a backup system in the event of power failure.

Keep in mind that a continuous pilot light consumes gas year-round. Natural Resources Canada conducted a study of

52 homes with gas fireplaces and found that in most cases the pilot lights burned almost as much gas over the course of a year as the main burner itself.

If you want the security that pilot light ignition offers, there are steps you can take to reduce the cost:

1. Choose a fireplace with a pilot light that can be shut off and relit safely and easily.

2. Turn off the pilot in the summer and when it is not being used regularly in the heating season.

3. Consider a "two-stage pilot" unit which operates with a very low flame when the fireplace is not in use. Otherwise, look for a fireplace that has an automatic electronic ignition.

All About Gas Fireplaces is a new guide from Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency that will fill you in on everything you need to know about choosing, installing, operating and maintaining your gas fireplace efficiently and safely. Order your free copy by calling 1-800-387-2000 or visiting <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca>.

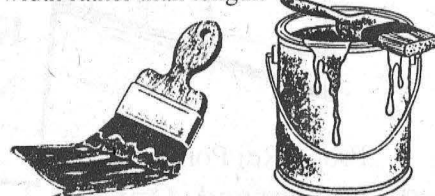
## Interior colours

(NC)—There is more to selecting paint colour for a house interior than you think. There are colours that seduce the eye, says Jane Lockhart, who, with Jason Cass, hosts *One House Two Looks* on HGTV Canada.

- If you have a dark or dingy room to paint, consider painting the walls a shade of yellow. Yellow has the highest light reflective value, and the space it is used upon will appear brighter. Warm, bright colors tend to comfort, but if you want to make a room seem larger and airier, consider a cool, gray colour.

- To make a long, narrow hallway seem wider, paint one of the long walls a darker colour than the other three walls:

this will visually stretch the hallway in width rather than length.



- Never try to remember or guess at a colour. Always carry a sample of the fabric, material or chip with you when trying to match or contrast a colour that has already been used. To remember the paint colour used in a room, tape a piece of the paint chip to the back of an electrical outlet plate, and then replace the plate.



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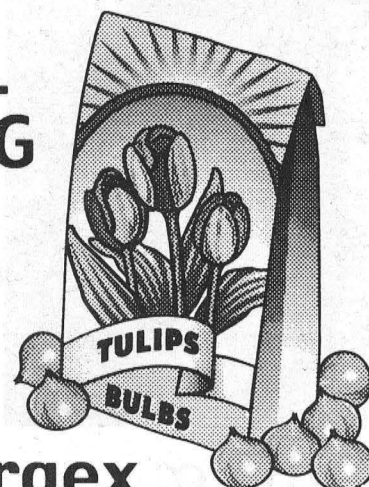
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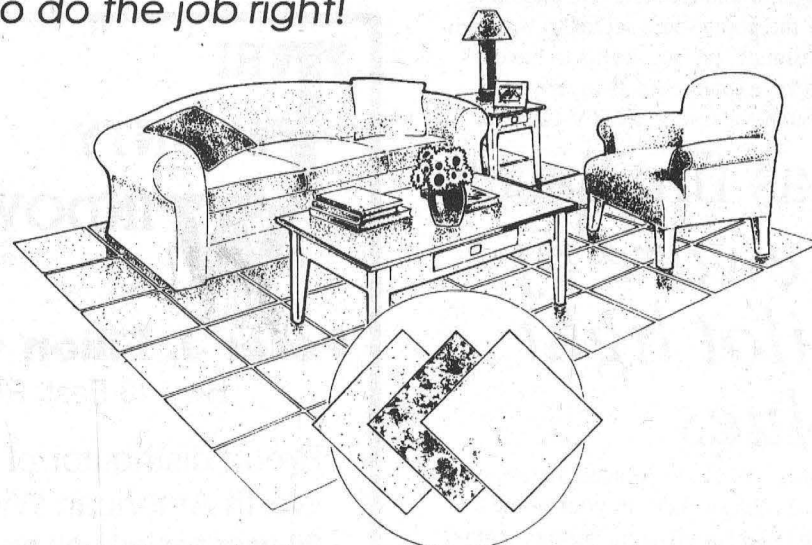
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## Compute those savings

(NC)—With the information age upon us, personal computers are becoming as common as televisions, VCRS and stereos in Canadian homes. But, like many marvels of modern technology, computer equipment eats up electricity and that's why it makes sense to make the most energy-efficient computer purchase possible.

There's another way an energy-efficient computer can help you reap savings: Since it can power down when not in use, there'll be less wear and tear and that means lower maintenance costs for you.

But the biggest bonus in making an energy-wise purchase is that you'll reap energy savings and protect the environment too for as long as you own the computer!

One way to purchase an energy-efficient computer is to look for the Energy Star logo, which can be found on many computer processors, monitors, printers and other types of office equipment sold in Canada today. This United States Environmental Protection

Agency logo is a sure sign that the equipment has met a certain level of energy efficiency.

Another way to save is to not buy more computer than you need. The latest gadgets can not only increase the purchase price of a computer, they can cost you extra money in electricity consumption.

When you're computer shopping, ask the salesperson about power management features that can automatically turn equipment on and off as required. You might even want to think about buying a laptop; it will give you tremendous mobility around the home and elsewhere and, compared to a desktop computer, a laptop can cut electricity consumption by 90 percent or more.

For more information, check out Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website at <http://eeb-dee.NRCan.gc.ca>. You can also call 1-800-387-2000 to order publications or write to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

## Insulation for the nation

(NC)—When we think of home renovation, we usually think of cosmetic improvements to a home's appearance but renovation also provides opportunities to improve on your home.

The truth is, renovation projects provide an excellent opportunity for "behind the scenes" improvements that will increase your home's comfort and lower energy bills. Upgrading insulation and installing air and vapour barriers are prime examples.

When setting out on such a project, it's important to choose the right insulation for long-term energy savings. If you're working with exposed frame walls or in an attic, batt or blanket insulation - a type of insulation made from glass or mineral fibres - may be your best choice.

If you are filling irregular or inaccessible spaces, such as enclosed walls or attics, consider a loose fill insulation available in a variety of materials including cellulose fibre, glass fibre, mineral wool and vermiculite. Loose fill insulation must be blown or

poured into place and, because improper installation can result in serious problems, you should hire an experienced contractor to do the job.

Where space is limited or you want quick coverage of large, flat surfaces, rigid or semi-rigid boards manufactured from glass fibre or foam plastic materials may be the answer. These boards have a high insulating value for their thickness, are lightweight, easy to install and are often used under siding or on the exterior or interior of basement walls, although they can also be used on interior walls and ceilings before you install new drywall.

Natural Resources Canada is a good source of information and free publications about energy-efficient home improvements. Check out NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website at <http://eeb-dee.NRCan.gc.ca>. You can also order publications by calling 1-800-387-2000 or by writing to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.

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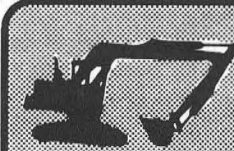
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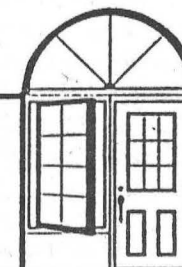


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## "What's the AFUE in BTUs?"

# How to boost your home heat IQ!

(NC)—Have you ever wondered what exactly your technician is saying to you when servicing your oilheat equipment?

"It is very important that consumers understand their heating appliance," John Butt, President of the Canadian Oil Heat Association, says. "Our association works to educate both the consumer and the oilheat companies so that everyone has as much information as possible."

Here is a list of common terms used in the heating industry, to help you better understand your oil system:

A.F.U.E.: The Annual Fuel

Utilization Efficiency of a heating appliance is an approximation of how much of your fuel is converted into space and/or water heating.

B.T.U.: A British Thermal Unit is the standard measurement to represent one unit of heat. One BTU is required to raise one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit.

Degree Days: These represent the average temperature on a given day. The oilheating industry uses "degree days" to monitor your system's performance and to help schedule fuel oil deliveries

to determine with accuracy when customers need a tank refill.

Direct Venting: A process in which the combustion is vented directly to the outside through the wall, without the use of a chimney. Direct venting is ideal for converting electric heat homes, or for flexibility in locating the furnace during basement renovations.

Flame Retention Head Burner: a higher-efficiency oil burner that produces a hotter flame and operates with a lower air flow, thus reducing heat loss up the chimney.

Furnace: a heating unit that uses a forced air distribution system.

Hydronics: Generating heat using a hot water boiler rather than a furnace. Hydronic systems do not blow warm air through ducts to registers, but rather distribute hot water to radiators, or even through tubes built into the floor.

Retrofit: replacement of one or more components of an existing system.

For more information about heating with oil, contact your local fuel oil dealer - look under "fuels-oil" in your Yellow Pages.

## Preventing floors from squeaking

(NC)—Do your floors squeak? If so, can you do anything about it?

Jon Eakes, the host of *Just Ask Jon Eakes*, the home improvement show on HGTV Canada, says that the squeaking is usually due to the floor's sub-structure rubbing together, and that there is no sure cure. But, there could be a few preventative measures.

If the floor is over an unfinished basement, one should listen to try and find the squeaky points and then hammer wedges between the joists and the sub-flooring, says Eakes. Another probable solution is to hammer #10 one-inch Roundhead screws through the sub-flooring into the boards, and tighten.

Squeaks can also be caused by bracings between the joists rubbing together where they cross each other. Jon suggests running a handsaw between the bracings, where they touch, to create a clearance.

## How you can help the environment

(NC)—Every little bit counts when it comes to climate change and protecting the environment and there's lots you can do at home and work by using energy more efficiently.

Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada have prepared a 'Take Action' kit to help you understand climate change and find ways to use energy more wisely around the home, at work and on the road.

To get a copy, call 1-800-387-2000 or write to Energy Publications, c/o Canada Communication Group, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9. You can also order on-line by visiting Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) website at <http://ecb-dee.NRCan.gc.ca>.

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