

Canada lags behind U.S. in solar-heated homes



MATTHEW'S STORE, on the right in this 1900 photograph, was moved from its location on Mill St. and became Hotchen's Bakery on Willow St. This old picture, taken by the late A.T. Brown, shows the cutting down of the old willow tree which had given Willow St. its name. The men are working on the north-east corner of Mill and Willow, where Dawe real estate office is now. The small store beside Matthews' hall was the post office, telegraph and insurance office. The front second storey windows of Hotchen's were replaced, but the side windows held the same panes until demolition this week. Town meetings were all held in Matthews' hall upstairs and the Free Press was first published here.

Canadian governments are lagging behind the U.S. in the use of solar heating in homes, Dr. Frances Mellen told a group of about 50 interested citizens, who attended a special seminar at the Halton Hills Conservation Centre last Wednesday night.

"Governments are directing money into fossil fuel research and not enough into solar heat," she said. "I do think we're way too conservative, but that's a Canadian characteristic."

Dr. Mellen said there were only 300 solar house starts in Canada in 1977, yet in the U.S., solar house starts rose from 3,000 in 1976 to 10,000 in 1977. She said she's aware of three solar heated factory starts in California.

A film on solar homes, "The Solar Frontier," produced by Dr. Mellen and her husband, Peter, who now live in a partially solar-heated wood frame house near Durham, highlighted an evening of discussion about the outlook for current sun, wind and water alternatives for producing energy and the rising costs and problems with fossil fuels.

Dr. Mellen, said Ontario Hydro rates for supplying energy to municipalities have risen by 14.5 per cent since 1971 and are projected to rise even higher. Gasoline, she said, is now 40 cents a gallon more than it was in 1976 and will rise another 3.2 cents a gallon in September. She said Canada has changed from a net exporter of oil to a net importer and will be short a half million barrels of oil per day by next year.

She reminded her listeners that Ontario Energy Minister James Taylor resigned his post recently claiming that Ontario faces an energy crisis and his colleagues in the government refuse to recognize it.

The cost of nuclear energy plants is about \$3.5 billion,

and, even if plants were built each year from now until the year 2000, they would meet only 50 per cent of Canadian needs, Dr. Mellen said. She also pointed out the danger of storing the by-products of these plants, since they have

a lifetime of 250,000 years. Fossil fuels such as coal are a possible alternative as the oil debt skyrockets, Dr. Mellen said, but there is serious concern about the air pollution by-products associated with them. In Algonquin

Park, which gets fallout from the industrial smokestacks of Sudbury, Dr. Mellen said the sulphuric acid content of rain water was found to be in the same proportion which was proven to kill a large part of the fish production in Sweden.

Dr. Mellen said there are 12 billion tons of coal underground in Canada, but asked "Do we want to be dependent upon fossil fuels?"

The new wood furnaces, which can even burn green wood and don't have to be fed all day long, are a good alternative source of heat, she said. She estimated a house could be heated that way on about five cords of wood a winter, based on a 1500 sq. ft. house.

Dr. Mellen said no solution to the problem of heating is right for everybody, but emphasized that everybody can help alleviate the problem by installing proper insulation in their homes. The Mellen home has been made completely draft free by the use of storm windows, caulking, layers of fibreglass

bats in the basement and spraying of urea formaldehyde in certain areas. She said the spraying cost \$600, but it will pay for itself in three years through a saving

on heating bills. Dr. Mellen, a native of the southern U.S., obtained her doctorate in urban geography from the University of Toronto.

Pet of the week



MAILING, PURE BRED light-brown Chowchow, sits in between co-owners Amanda, on the left, and Tyra McKinnon. Mai-Ling, who is seven months old, lives with the McKinnons at 161 Elmora Drive.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Bake sale appreciation

The committee responsible for arranging the bake sale on May 27 past to raise funds towards the restoration of the Town Hall, were very grateful for the support which was received. We would like to say a special thank you to Gwen for her tasty sausage rolls, Mrs. E. for her tasty cakes, cookies and meringues, May for the super lemon pies and loaves, Miss S. for the home made bread and rolls, Mrs. A. and friend for rolls and cookies, Mrs. D. & Judy for muffins and

variety of cookies and squares, Barb for tasty brownies and spouses of committee members for baking and help.

A special thank you also to friends who came to buy, and also made cash donations. Even the birds nesting in the eaves of the Town Hall enjoyed the sale waiting for the tasty crumbs to fall.

From the bake sale committee and the birds—a sincere thank you.

Thanks for publishing

Dear Mrs. Dills: I am writing on behalf of the L'Arche Auxiliary members to thank you sincerely for publishing the winning numbers of the Cash For Life lottery for the Ontario Assoc-

iation for the Mentally Retarded. Yours truly,

Patricia Jackson, Corresponding Secretary.

Battered wife syndrome

Dear Editor:

As I learn more about the battered wife syndrome, (my problem was mental abuse) I now can understand how a great injustice is being perpetrated, where women and dependent children are involved.

When we as a society cannot protect our defenseless, then we must come to grip with the fact that we may not be the humane society we try to portray ourselves as being. I am not trying to lay the blame on anyone person or persons, because it would be unjust to fit everyone into a pigeon hole.

I've received calls from women who are being abused and they have no-one to turn to. I feel very angry and sad because I can't assist directly in their plight, or tell them of others who can help them make the move from a life of unrest to a more peaceful setting.

To some women, I seem to be very strong, but I would like these women to know that I was not always the way I am now. At times, I still have to fight the urge to be passive from time to time (it's much

easier to not make waves.) What I am trying to say is: I understand the fear, and lack of confidence that women feel after many years of abuse. With God's help and time, perhaps we will be able to eradicate the suffering of women and dependent children, we have to look inside ourselves and find that inner strength that lies within.

I would like the women to know that there are people in the world who really care, and we will continue to fight as long as such injustices continue.

I might add that since we have had such excellent press coverage, many volunteers have come forth and if this continues we just might become the compassion oriented society we should be.

Anyone wishing to share their story with me (confidences will be respected) please write to 308 Burloak Drive, Burlington, Ont. L7L 4W5.

To the future
Gloria Hincks
Chairman
The Stopover Committee

Volunteers

Since working with the visually handicapped is often on a one to one basis, volunteers play an important part in the daily activity of the CNIB. At present there are over 45,000 volunteers active in the organization, but there is always room for one more.

Employment

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind's Employment Services Department is designed to broaden the base of job opportunities for blind Canadians. In 1918 the number of positions open to the visually handicapped could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Today, 60 years later, over 40 employment fields have been opened.

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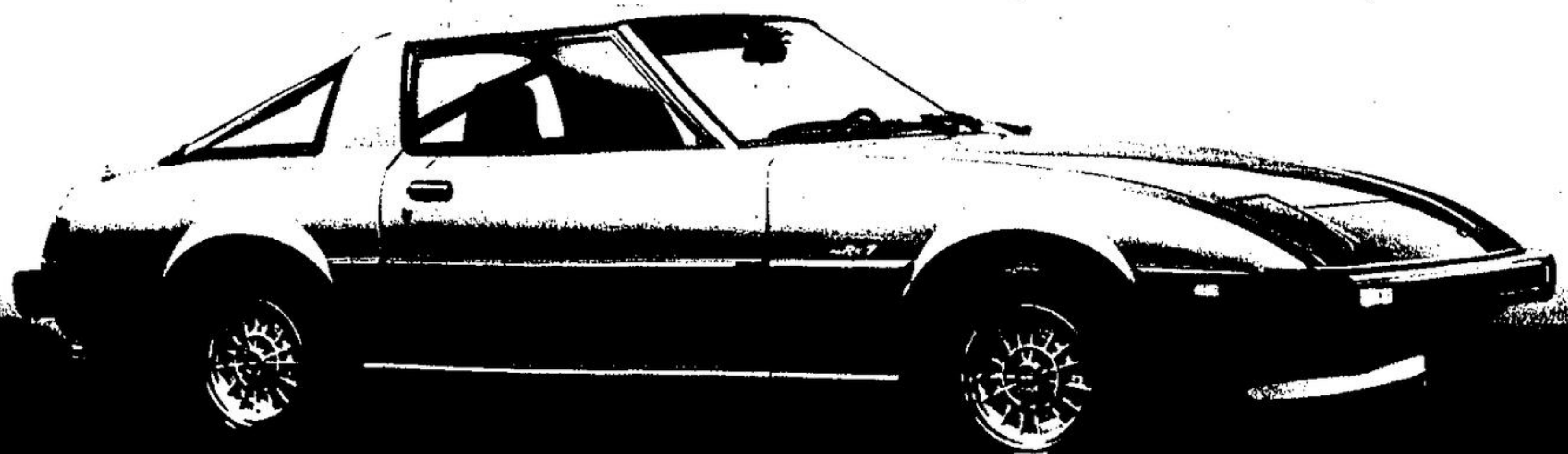
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Panel to discuss hostel need

A panel discussion concerning the need for a facility for battered wives and their children will be held Saturday, June 17 in Wellington Square United Church in Burlington. The session, sponsored by the Halton Hostel Steering Committee, is

scheduled to run from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Professionals who in the course of their jobs come into direct contact with the abused wife and her problems will make up the panel. They include outpatient psychiatric worker K. Thomas, Halton police social worker John Rabeau, department of social services super-

visor M. Weightman, co-director of Hope Haven Hostel C. Peeres, child psychologist Dr. J. Marshall and lawyer R. S. Martin.

Registration fee is two dollars. Closing date for mailing registration is June 10. After this date, please register at the door. Registration forms are available at local libraries.

Young driver hurt in mishap

A juvenile age driver suffered minor injuries after the station wagon he was driving ran into a tree on the Nassagaweya 1st Line Sunday morning.

The driver, from Kingham Road, was northbound on the road when the mishap took place.

AUCTIONEERS

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