

## DOLLAR SENSE Well-insulated home burns 20% less fuel

By Peter Yardley, CA

The special feeling of warmth you get when you insulate your house may come not only from the fact that you are cutting up to 25 per cent off your fuel bill, but you are saving precious natural resources as well.

You may well be skeptical about claims that are made for fuel savings through insulation. I believed it only after doing a thorough insulating job on your own 17-year-old four-bedroom house.

Fuel consumption dropped almost 26 per cent over two years. I attribute 20 per cent of that decline

General financial advice by members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

to the insulation. In fairness, the remainder resulted from one member of the family leaving home.

The insulating methods we used were chosen with comfort more than cost in mind. For example, we put in triple-glazed sealed thermal windows to replace double sliding glass windows. It is doubtful that we will recover our costs through the savings in fuel for a few years, but the day comes closer, every time fuel costs go up.

Our guide to insulating was the federal Government's publication, "Keeping the Heat In" published

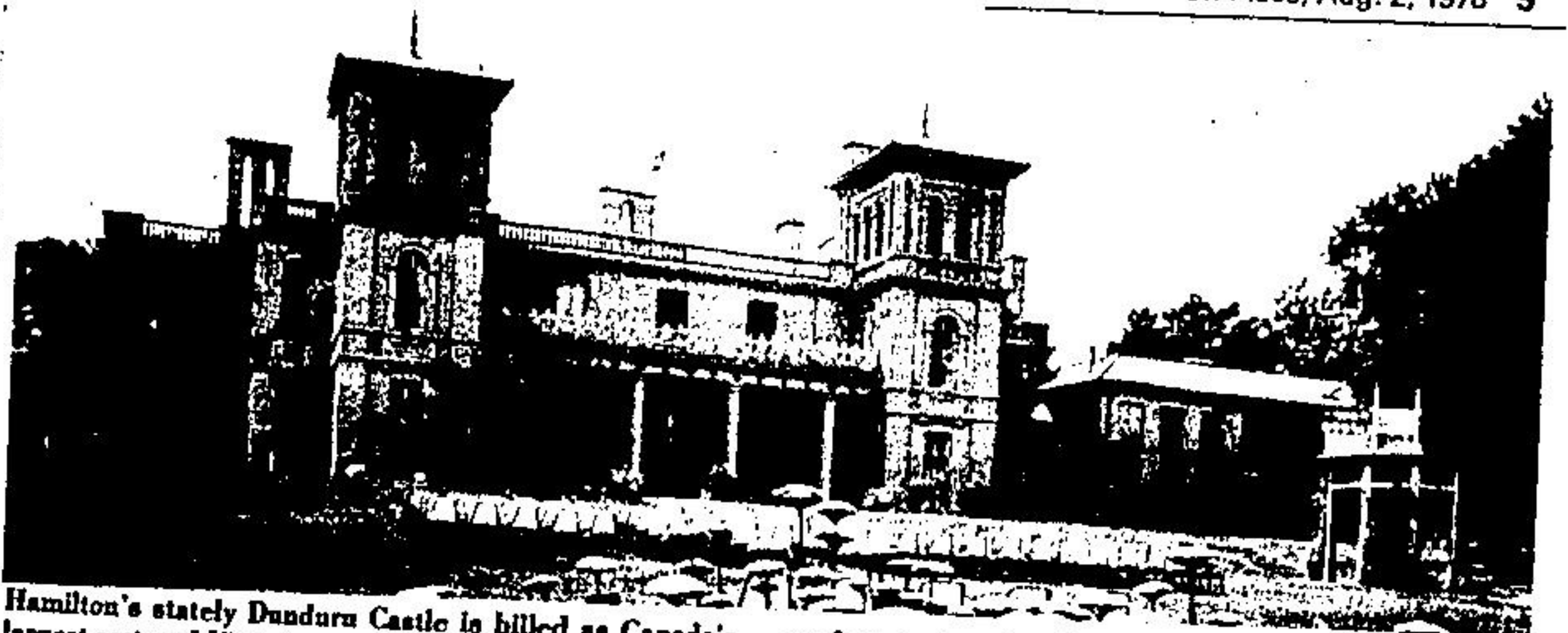
by the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. It contains dozens of tips on how to insulate -- in walls, attics, roofs and around doors and windows, as well as how to hire a contractor, or how to do the job yourself.

In our case, we decided to hire a contractor and concentrate on blowing insulation into the walls, insulating the attic (which already had some insulation), and replacing the double sliding glass windows with sealed thermal windows.

We had kept records of our gas consumption for several years and in a three-year period covering the October-April home heating season from 1973-74 to 1975-76, we used an average of 148,000 cubic feet of gas each winter.

Last winter, following the insulation job -- which was staged over a two-year period -- our consumption was only 110,500 cubic feet. And that was during a winter that the gas company said was much colder than usual. Precisely our fuel saving over the three-year average was 25.73 per cent although, as I said, our daughter's departure for a place of her own might have accounted for about one-fifth of that.

Mr. Yardley is the Institute's registrar.



Hamilton's stately Dundurn Castle is billed as Canada's largest restored Victorian mansion. Visitors will delight in

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unusual gift to the family... the skull of Cornelius A. Burleigh, victim of the first hanging in London. (Incidentally,

Burleigh was hanged twice because, on the first attempt, the rope broke!

But Eldon House is more than a museum of curios.

perfect restoration both upstairs and downstairs while discovering the more lavish side of Ontario's history.

It's the statement of a family that figured prominently in Canadian life... from Canada's very beginnings.

For more information on

Dundurn Castle, Eldon House and a host of other interesting places to visit in Ontario, contact: Ontario Travel, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2E5

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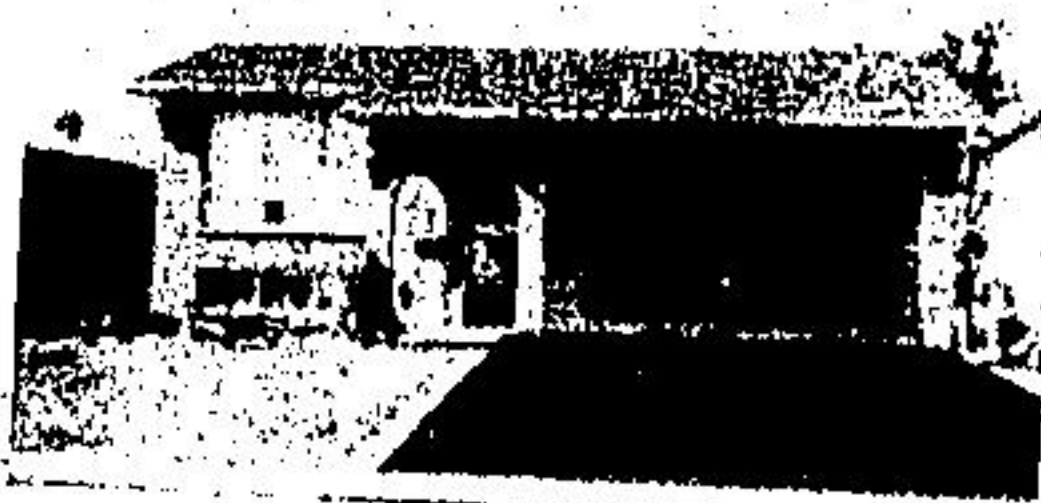
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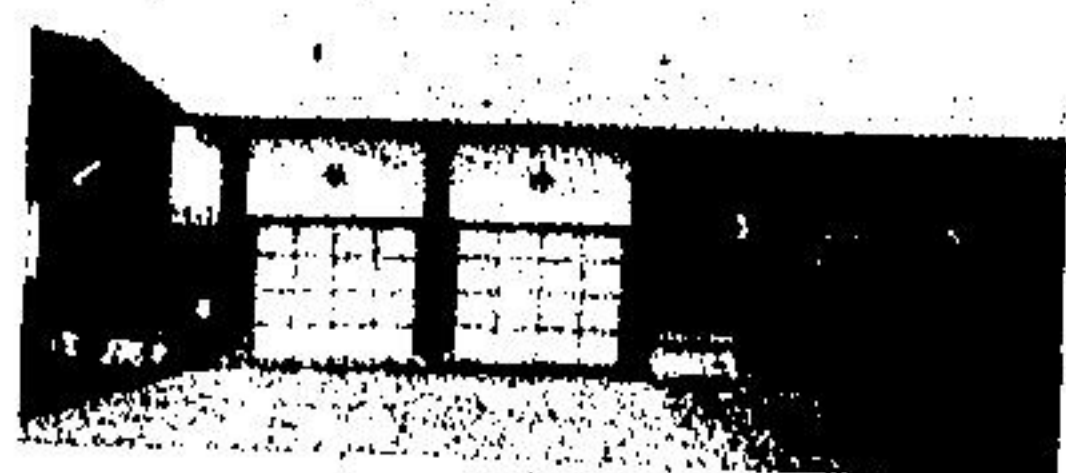
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