Home insurance...

(Continued from page 4)

planning to rent out part of the house, or start a business, he must after his insurance.

In the case of an empty house, the insurance company must be notified within 30 days of the vacancy. In most cases, the company will no longer insure the property against vandalism, water escape and malicious acts.

If the house is unoccupied but still contains household goods, there is no water escape coverage after four days during the usual heating season - unless the water supply has been cut off and the system drained. Or, sunfess arrangements have been made for a competent person to check the house daily to make sure the heating is maintained.

Perhaps the toughest part of buying insurance is knowing how much insurance to buy.

Saving money by not spending much on insurance may seem sensible, but anyone who has been underinsured and found themselves confronted with disaster would warn homeowners to be cautious.

On the other hand, homeowners should not attempt to insure their houses to current market value, since this is based on a number of factors that would not affect the loss in the event of fire or another kind of calamity.

Insure the home for what it would cost if it were totally destroyed. The land is still going to be there after the house is gone, so it's not necessary to insure that.

Take a complete inventory of the possessions inside the house, and remember the swimming pool, patio, barbecue, air conditioning. finished attic and basement, extra bathrooms and other extras which may require coverage.

Professional appraisers are available for those who feel uncertain about trying to do it themselves. But care should be taken to find someone reliable.

The best advice is to go to the bank and ask the manager to recommend a couple of qualified appraisers.

For most people, though, a booklet available from IBC should be enough to guide them through the process.

But wait - the consumer's work doesn't end there. If there is already a policy on the home and contents, it should be updated yearly.

With the rising construction and labor costs, the replacement value of the house has probably increased since the policy was purchased.

Perhaps there have been some renovations to the house, a basement recently finished, or an addition made to the house, basement recently finished, or an addition made to the house. Maybe a new dishwasher has just been purchased, or new equipment.

The IBC points out that no single private insurance company in Canada has more than nine per cent of the total business, so the competition is stiff. Thus, one of the essential things to do when buying homeowner's insurance is to shop around. There may be a better price elsewhere.



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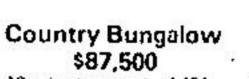
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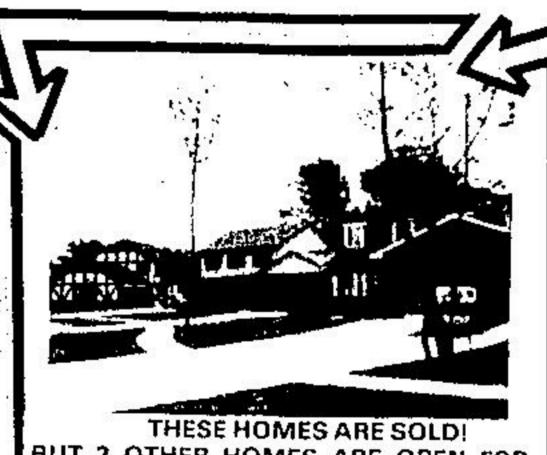


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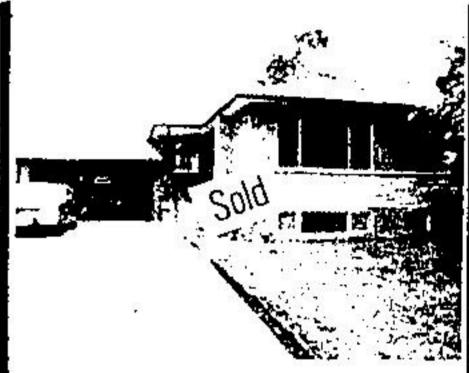


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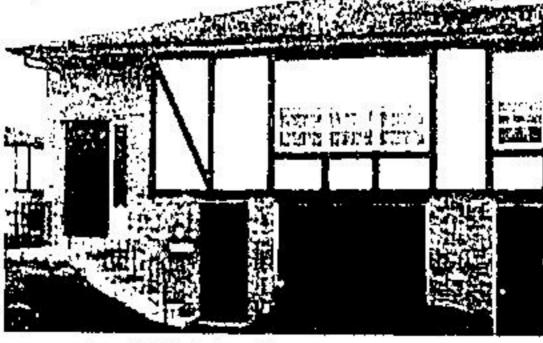
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