



Brian Stewart points out the advantages in having a preserved wood foundation—a 50 per cent cut in your heating bill, for instance.

Wood foundation

Reducing heating bills by 50 per cent is one of the reasons Brian Stewart decided on a preserved wood foundation for the house he is building in Georgetown.

According to Stewart, the wood foundation being constructed on the site east of Trafalgar Rd. just north of 15 Sideroad, is 10 per cent cheaper to construct. It's the first one to be built in Halton Hills.

"But in order to reduce the heating bill, you have to have an air tight insulated home," he stressed, adding the preserved wood foundation (PWF) by itself would not cut the bill in half.

Stewart is intending making his home as energy efficient as possible. He has plans to have R-28 insulation installed and will have the preserved wood on the floor of his base-

ment as well for extra warmth.

Preserved wood foundations have been around for about 20 years, the first one built as a government experiment in Ottawa in 1961. Since then the foundations have grown in popularity.

By the end of 1972, less than 100 foundations were built in Canada, which increased to 5,000 by the end of 1977. In the United States, 10,000 homeowners built wood preserved foundations.

The wood is treated with chemical preservatives to resist decaying elements and termites. A Cambridge company did the process for Stewart, but he said an Acton firm is interested in starting the preserving treatment.

Quick construction at any time of the year is another advantage to

the PWF's, says Stewart. "There is no problem like concrete freezing in the winter, so the construction can be any season."

A mechanical engineer in the graphics division at Inmont Canada, Brampton, Stewart initially became interested in PWF's through a friend out west.

"The basement was nice and dry—not like the dampness you usually get with concrete," he claimed. After his friend explained the process, Stewart received booklets from the Canadian Wood Council in Ottawa outlining the method for the foundation.

The foundation was in the last stage of completion last Friday by the company, Wyga-Fry Construction. "We just got started Thursday and it's almost finished," Stewart said.

Simon Fraser

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