

# YOUR

## Get lawn mower in shape

A well-maintained lawn mower will help reduce the frustrations and backaches that can make mowing the lawn a chore.

Ross Irwin of the School of Engineering, Ontario Agricultural College, says pre-season maintenance of the lawn mower will help the

cutting season go smoothly. To begin, clean the underside of the mower to remove stray bits of grass and dirt. Use a putty knife, screwdriver or wire brush.

If you didn't remember to do it last fall, drain the gasoline and oil from the lawn mower and wash any

rust or sediment from the tank.

When sharpening the blades, don't try to file away all the nicks. That unbalances the blade. Using an angle of 45 degrees, file or grind the same amount of metal from each side of the blade. Don't grind the bottom of the blades.

If the blades are bent or damaged, replace them. Don't try to straighten them. Be sure the bolt holding the

blade in place is tight, and the lockplate is in place.

For maximum engine efficiency, Mr. Irwin suggests cleaning the air filter by rinsing it in detergent and water. Replace when dry and re-oil. The spark plug should be replaced each year.

Adjust the cutting height to leave the grass a bit longer in the spring. The cutting height can be adjusted to give the lawn a closer cut as the season progresses.

### Garden tips

Less is more. Heavily seeded plantings make poor crops. For instance, crowded carrots (left photo) get twisted root. For first thinning, space carrots about 1 to 2 inches apart (right photo). Make second thinning as they grow, and harvest finger sized crop for your dinner table. Recommended spacings for vegetables are printed on seed packets.

Toughies. For early spring colour, plant cold-hardy annual flowers that can shake off a frost or two. If you don't have a favorite, try calendula, pansy, snapdragon, sweet alyssum or sweet pea. Snaps and alyssum also stay for the summer. For top blooms, fertilize the soil at planting time.



### DRAW WINNERS

Mr. and Mrs. William Hunter of Guelph Street, Norval, were the lucky winners in a 50 per cent draw recently held by Cabinet Answer Ltd. in the Guelphview Square. The Hunters are being congratulated by store manager Richard Byard who sold the couple a Bolero-style kitchen similar to the one pictured behind them. Value of the prize is about \$400.

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## The Energy Savers

by Richard Charles

### Like a house on fire

You may have seen those pictures that show heat as if it were light. This is called infrared photography, and with it you can see the heat escaping from homes in cold weather. A house or a whole town filmed from the air will often look as though it were going up in flames. That's how bad the heat losses usually are.

As individuals, few of us can afford to throw money away on heavy fuel bills. As a nation, we can't afford to use precious energy resources to warm up the sky and the snow piles around our homes. Thorough insulation can cut the year's heating bill by as much as half, and similarly save resources that produce the heat. The size of these savings will depend, of course, on how much you can improve your insulation.

That's not all. Better insulation makes a home more comfortable. You can feel a difference (as much as 4° to 8°C) between sitting beside an exterior wall that is well insulated and one that is not. Turning up the thermostat will not make up the difference, in fact, it makes things worse by increasing the temperature differential between the cold wall and warm central air. This increases the speed of the convection currents which feel like drafts.

Two handy terms to know in discussing insulation are "heat flow" and "resistance value". Heat flows by conduction (as you soon find when holding a hot potato), by convection (as with warm air rising) and by radiation (as with the sun's warmth). All three kinds of heat flow have their uses, but they also rob us of heat unless there's insulation.

Resistance value (R) is an insulating material's ability to keep the heat from flowing through it. The thickest insulation may not be the best, it's the kind of material that counts. The R value is stamped on the cover of most packaged insulation material - if not, ask the dealer. As an example, a six-inch layer of a good insulator like glass fibre has an R value of 20, but the same thickness of gypsum board scores only R4.

The minimum recommended R values for insulation in various parts of the home are: ceilings 28, walls 12, basement walls (less than half exposed) 8, basement walls (fully exposed) 12, floors (over unheated garage or crawl space or overhang) 20, floors (over unheated basement) 8 to 12.

The first step toward cutting heat losses from your home is to check the fit of doors and windows, where the walls meet the foundation, and the present insulation in the ceilings (attic), walls, basements and floors. You can get an insulation expert to do this, or try it yourself along the lines suggested by the Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in a booklet called Keeping the Heat In. This is available from Box 3500, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 4G1.

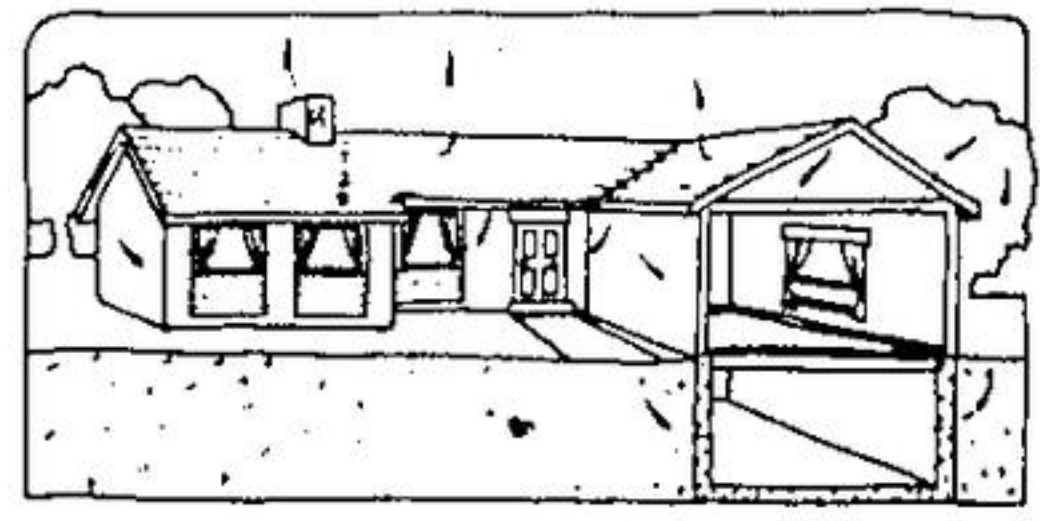
On the face of it, the least protected areas of a home call for attention first, but other things for you to consider are whether the work will be easy and relatively inexpensive, time-consuming and moderately expensive, or somewhat difficult and more expensive. The time of year is another factor.

The amount of insulation you can add to your home may depend on the way it is built - some houses cannot be improved beyond a certain level. There are many ways to insulate, and some that even your local expert may not be familiar with. You can find out about the alternatives and a lot more in Keeping the Heat In.

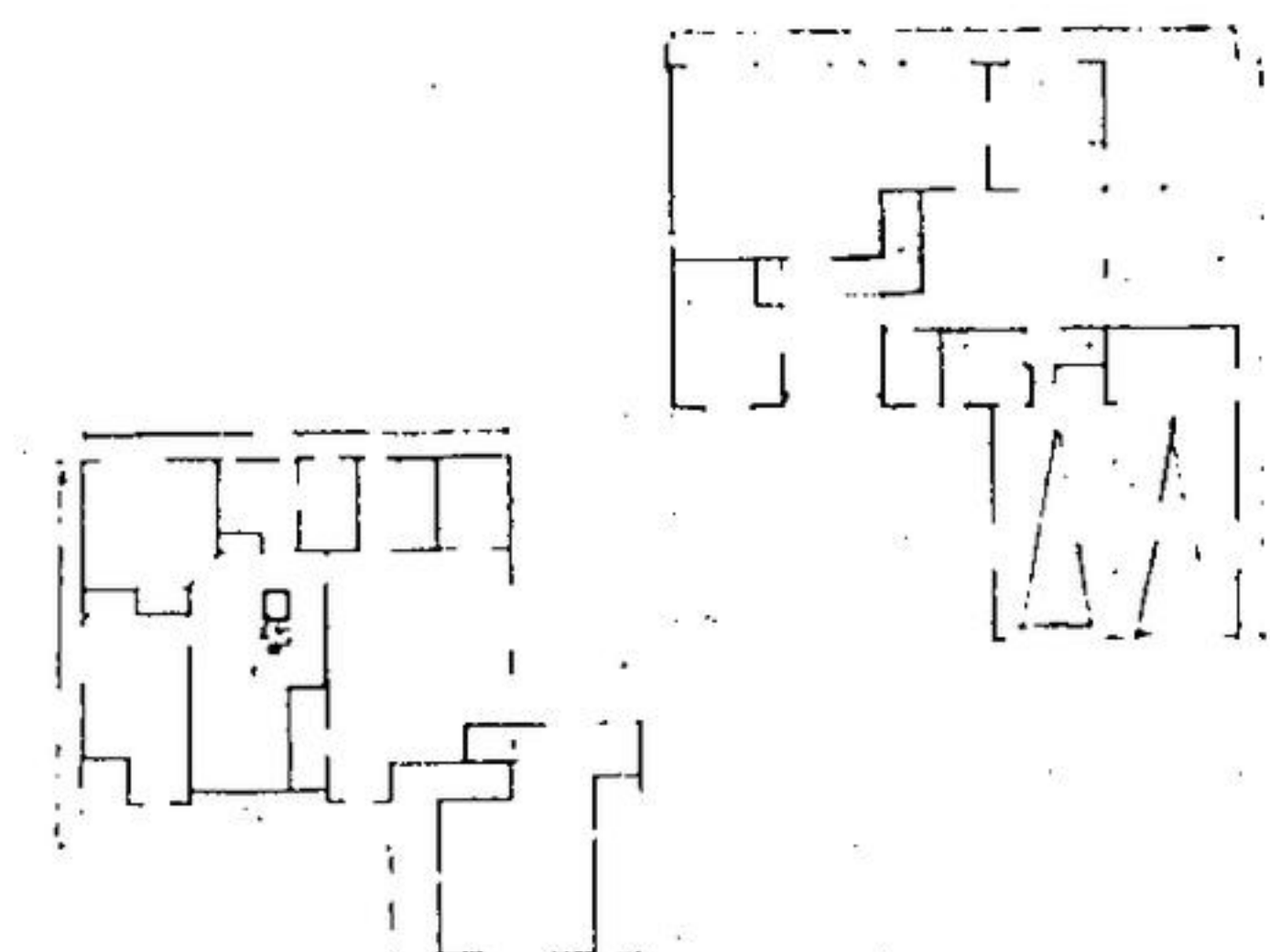
One final word. Don't be put off if insulation sounds like a big and complicated deal to you. There are lots of little things you can do yourself to save fuel and make your home more comfortable in winter. And even some of the larger jobs are not all that tough. Whatever you can invest in insulation is bound to repay you.

For information on government grants for re-insulation, write to: Canadian Home Insulation Program, P.O. Box 700, St. Laurent, Quebec H4L 9A8; or phone collect (514) 341-1151.

Or information can be obtained from the Flakton Hills Community Conservation Centre, Guelphview Square, 222 Guelph St., Georgetown, 877-1088.



## NEW HOME OF THE WEEK



### FAMILY HOME WITH EXTRAS

This one and a half storey plan of the week will build a perfect family home with loads of extras.

Random fieldstone is featured at the covered front entry, where double panelled doors open to a large foyer, open to the upper floor for spaciousness.

To the left of the front entry is the study or guest room, completely isolated from all other activity rooms. Across the hall is a handy powder room, ideal for guests, and only steps from the family room.

Twin sliding pocket doors open to the large living room, featuring a corner fireplace, view windows, and sliding glass doors to the rear. The convenience of a "pass-through" for direct service from the kitchen is an added feature in the dining room.

All appliances have been included in the smart kitchen design, which has a view window over the sink and room for nook at the second window. An unlimited view from the kitchen into the family room simplifies "child watching".

A second corner fireplace in the family room adds a cosy touch in the winter and glass doors open to the large sundeck and Bar-B-Q for summer entertaining. From the family room a hall leads to the front foyer and the vanity washroom. A second door leads through the utility area to the double garage.

Here also, a stairway leads to the bonus area over the garage, which could be converted to an extra bedroom, playroom, or recreation room. There is also an exterior stairway to the balcony as well as to the sundeck below.

The master bedroom is large, with luxury plus. Here is corner fireplace number three for those intimate winter evenings. Sliding glass doors to the balcony for the early morning sun. There is an extra storage closet as well as a large walk-in wardrobe, and a three piece vanity shower ensuite. The entrance to the master suite is conveniently placed at the top of the stairway. The entrance to the master suite is conveniently placed at the top of the stairway.

An extra large split bath with twin vanities on one side and private bath and toilet on the other, serves the larger than average other two bedrooms.

From the upper hall one can look over the railing to the front entry.

Seldom do you find a home with so many interesting extras designed for the family that enjoys the art of good living.

Plans for design No. P6-3-160 may be obtained at a cost of \$90 for a set of three and \$10 for each additional set. Allow \$2 to cover postage and handling.

To view more than 100 well-designed quality homes of every type, send for the current publication of the Home Plan Catalogue, available for \$2.60 (\$2.25 plus 35c postage and handling). Make all cheques and money orders payable to "Plan of the Week" and mail to:

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