

Energy efficiency and clean healthy environment with R2000

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to qualify as builders of R-2000 homes. These builders have been taught new skills by their own industry association, the CHBA. I think that one of the main reasons behind the program's success is that it is largely an industry-driven process. In partnership with the federal government, the home building industry is taking the lead in commercializing R-2000 technology.

It is worth looking at the impact that R-2000 technology is having on the homebuilding industry. The industry directly employs more than 400,000 Canadians and is a major force in our economy. And yet, this industry is dominated by small and medium-sized companies meeting the needs of local markets. The R-2000 Home Program gives these companies access to new technology such as computer aided design and new building techniques, which use, for example, continuous ventilation and heat recovery systems. The R-2000 Home Program is changing the nature of Canadian housing and doing so through the voluntary in-

volvement of the home builders.

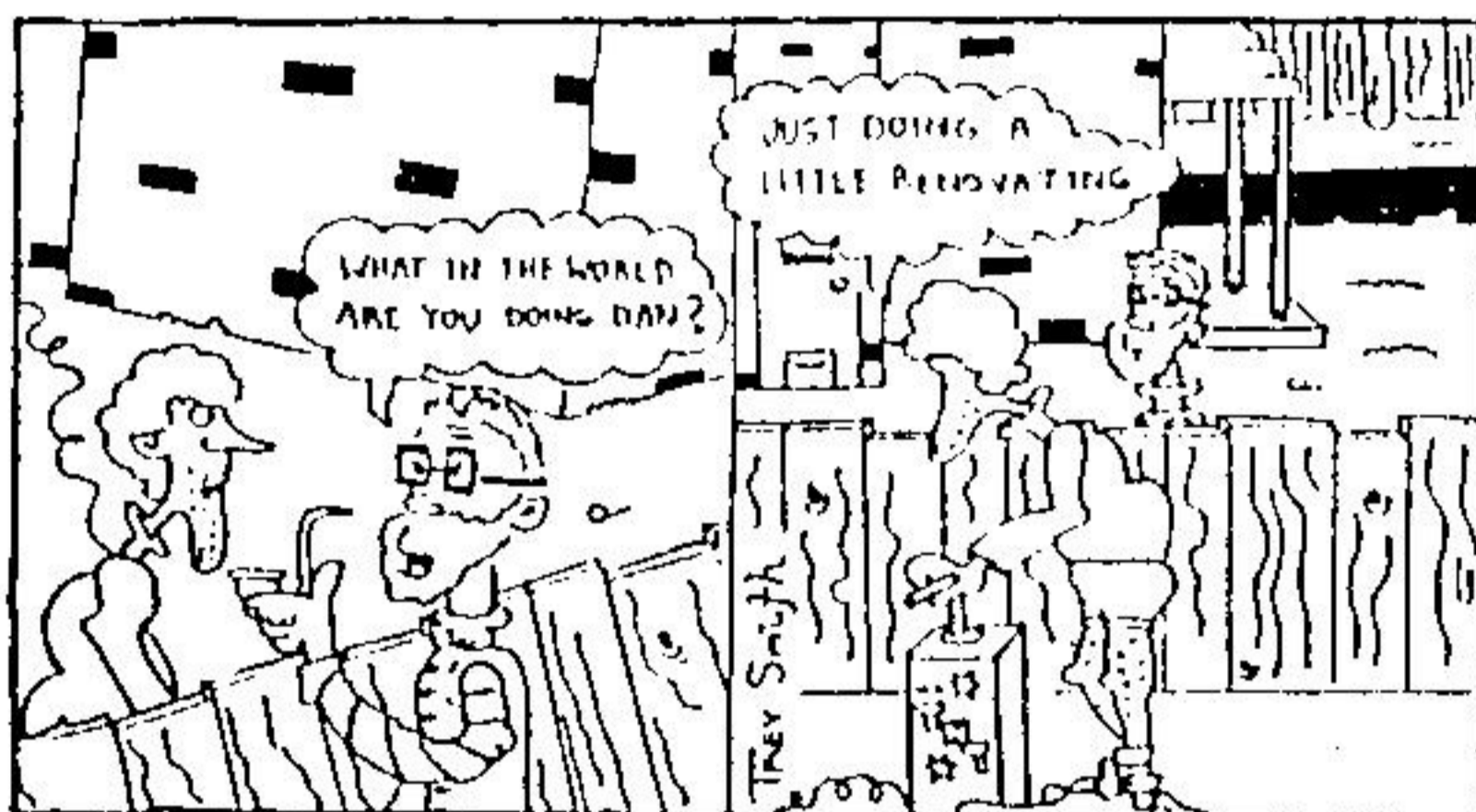
The final point I wanted to touch on is the growing public acceptance of the quality and value of R-2000 homes. Officials from Miss Carney's department have recently interviewed more than 200 homebuyers from across Canada in order to understand better what the public wants in new homes. Energy efficiency is widely recognized as one important factor. Short term drops in energy costs are not lulling Canadians into a false sense of security. We all know that cheap oil cannot last indefinitely. But homebuyers seem to be developing an increasingly sophisticated view of what new homes should offer. Many of those interviewed talked about the need for comfort in a new home. They said comfort resulted from a number of important factors, including excellent construction and high indoor air quality. These are the very benefits that R-2000 homes are designed to provide.

In summary, the future of energy-efficient housing in Canada seems increasingly bright. R-2000 homes provide the public with a quality pro-

duct and the talent of homebuilders across Canada is being brought to bear in popularizing these homes. Major events, such as the National Home Show and the R-2000 Dream

Home, are an important part of this process. Again, let me congratulate Hugh Vaughan and the National Home Show organization for an excellent job. The federal government

is proud to be playing a major part in the R-2000 Home Program, and I, on behalf of Miss Carney, am most honoured to share in the opening of the 1986 Dream Home today.



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