

# Radon gas not as prevalent in local areas

Radon gas has been a controversial issue for the past few weeks as an immediate threat to the safety and health of new homeowners in Ontario.

This has largely been due to significant amounts of the gas found in houses in the Elliott Lake area in Northern Ontario.

Radon has been cited by both Canadian and US governments as one of the leading causes of lung cancer in nonsmokers.

Caused by the natural decay of radioactive substances in the ground, such as uranium, radon is the only gas produced by this process. In this state, it may seep out of the ground and accumulate in the basements of new homes.

This was never a problem in the past, as many houses were not sealed as well as they are today.

With more airtight, fuel-efficient homes, radon gas has the opportunity to collect and build in potency. Eventually, if it is not checked, the gas may filter through an entire house. It has been deemed "inherently harmful" by scientists like Nigel Bunce of the University of Guelph.

"If it was found that Georgetown happened to sit on a high concentration of uranium," said Mr. Bunce, "then there would be a reason to check for the gas." Fortunately for residents of Georgetown and the Halton area, there are no significant deposits of uranium, which naturally occurs in regions with a granite bedrock base. Halton's bedrock consists mostly of limestone.

Elliott Lake became a problem because of its deposits, and the

danger of workers in the uranium mines near there bringing home the gas in their clothes and hair.

In response to this, the province issued a bylaw stating that any home with a concentration of more than a 0.02/per cubic metre level of radon in its air must consider checking out the reason why the levels are so high.

To give someone an idea of what the level of measurement of radon means, a house with a level of 0.08/per cubic metre in its air would be the health risk equivalent of a person smoking 1.5 cigarettes a day.

The direct effect radon can have on the body of a person exposed to it is the chance that radon atoms may undergo radioactive decay while in the lungs of the victim. This raises an individual's chances

of lung cancer. In the US, it has been estimated that 5,000 extra lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers have been caused by radon.

Means of expelling radon from the home are simple and extremely effective. A shaft is drilled through the concrete in the base-

ment of a home, right through the soil or rock below. Then, a pipe is lowered into the hole with a fan designed to extract air from the pipe. Exhaust is allowed to flow harmlessly outside. Radon concentration in older, or well ventilated houses is usually negligible.

## Four injured in accident

Four people, including a two-year-old boy, were injured the morning of Feb. 21 in a two-car collision at Winston Churchill Boulevard and Steeles Avenue.

Halton Regional Police say a northbound 1981 Buick Skylark driven by a Georgetown man, 61, struck a southbound 1981 Pontiac Camaro driven by a Brampton woman, 30.

Police say the Buick entered the southbound lane and struck the Camaro on the left front side, causing severe damage to both cars.

The two drivers received minimal injury. A two-year-old passenger in the Camaro also received minimal injury. A 20-year-old female passenger in the Camaro was treated for major injuries and released from

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

Police have charged the Georgetown man, 61, under the Highway Traffic Act for making an unsafe lane change. They say weather conditions were a factor in the collision.

## Lupus Society meets

The Lupus Society of Hamilton's monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, March 12, at 2 p.m. in All Saints Anglican Church Parish Hall, at the corner of King and Queen Streets in Hamilton.

The topic will be self-esteem and assertiveness, and the speaker, Mrs. Judy Stefnitz, is a registered nurse, counsellor, and family-life consultant for St. Patrick's Church, Burlington. A question and answer period will follow the

presentation.

All are welcome to attend the meeting. Admission is free and refreshments are provided. For further information, call one of the following numbers: 527-2252, 388-3925, 289-4544.

**OLLIE'S**  
**CYCLE & SKI**  
71 MAIN STREET SOUTH  
GEORGETOWN  
Entrance Off Rear  
Parking Lot **873-2441**

## NEW STORE HOURS

The Salvation Army Thrift Store  
120 Mill St. East, Acton  
853-3321

**MONDAY - SATURDAY**  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Used Clothing and Furniture at Prices  
Anybody Can Afford!

## SAME DAY TAX RETURNS

101 Guelph St., Georgetown

877-2217



The University that comes to you.

## SPRING/INTERSESSION 1989

May 1 - August 11  
(including exams)

Join the growing number of adults starting or continuing their studies part-time at Laurier. You may qualify for any number of our classroom or televideo courses available in the Brampton Area.

For your convenience, classes are held weeknights at Brampton Centennial Secondary School (McMurphy Ave.). For those who prefer not to attend formal classroom lectures, Telecollege can be your alternative. At Laurier there is a course to suit your interests, career, lifestyle and location. Choose from an array of Arts, Science, Business and Economics courses!

Help orient yourself to university credit programs, admission and registration procedures, find out about available student services, and meet with other new part-time students. Join us at our Information Session:

Monday, March 6 — Brampton Public Library, Queen Street — 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

BRING A FRIEND!

For a complimentary copy of the Spring/Summer Part-Time Studies Course Calendar or for personal assistance — just call us — we'll be pleased to help you!

(519) 884-1970 or toll-free 1-800-265-8866, Ext. 4447

OFFICE OF PART-TIME STUDIES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

**YOU CAN DO IT!**

**WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY**

75 UNIVERSITY AVE. W., WATERLOO, ONTARIO N2L 3C5

**NRS** NATIONAL REAL ESTATE SERVICE  
**BRAND REALTY INC.**



Home  
Post Scripts



By Glenda Hughes, Sales Rep.

873-0300

There's many rewarding moments in this profession, and I'd be hard pressed to relate to you on a scale of 1 - 10 where everything fits in, but certainly amongst the highest on the scale, is being asked to evaluate a home that has been wonderfully taken care of. We see the total spectrum every week, from homes in bad repair, to homes that have been lovingly attended to since the owners have moved in. It is the homes that have been loved that give me a feeling of elation as I walk through them to give a market price. As you improve upon your home, it starts to sparkle and talk to prospective purchasers. People see that you care about your investment and are more willing to pay a little extra for that home, because they know that in all likelihood there won't be the need for repairs, major updating and decorating the moment they move in the door.

It is difficult, sometimes, to get people to understand that they will usually get back most of what they put into a home. I can't tell you that it will be dollar for dollar in all cases, but on the overall average, it will be reflected in the end price.

I have had the opportunity of inspecting three beautiful homes in the last 10 days, and all of them have been beautifully cared for. Each home is totally different, in different locations in town, and each of them stands on its own merits. However, all of them have had proud owners that have spent time and money in keeping their homes up to date and cared for. What a treat it is to be able to tell these owners that their home is worth extra dollars - and you know, it is usually these people that are the ones that least expect it. It is quite often the people that have done nothing to their homes that can't understand why their price isn't higher.

I guess the object of this article is to tell you that it is well worth it to keep updating, decorating and improving upon your investment. Your home is truly your insurance for the future, and you can't go wrong with keeping it looking its best. Most of our agents in town will help you make some decisions about what are the most important things to do first, if you are undecided, but you can also keep up to date by reading home improvement magazines, going to the home shows and even walking through the paint and wallpaper shops for decorating ideas.

Keep at it, you will find it well worth your effort when you sell.

*Christine Marshall*

Canadian wildlife artist



**YOU**  
Are Invited  
To Visit The  
Artist's Studio  
And Gallery

**Sunday**  
**March 5/89**  
12:30 - 5:00 p.m.

For further information  
contact D'Arcy or  
Nancy Kingshott at

(416) 457-5356

