

# Don't be caught in the freeze - Winterize Your Car

This is the first article of a two-part series on tips for safe winter driving.

As the weather gets colder, our thoughts turn to winter activities such as skiing, skating and tobogganing. But one winter activity

that most people dread is driving. Winter driving places extra demands on both driver and car. Drivers need to adjust their habits to respond effectively to winter road conditions. "Everything about winter driv-

ing is different - your car, the roads, other drivers, visibility. Your attitude should be different too," cautions Jack Lyndon, president of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. "Each year, with the first snow fall, we see all sorts of vehi-

cle damage accidents."

The extra demands placed on your car in winter conditions means that it must be in top shape to function properly. Having your car winterized is very important for your safety and protection.

Here are some specific pointers to ensure that your car is running at maximum efficiency:

- Have your brakes checked - they must be faultless and balanced.
- Change to snow tires or have the tread depth checked on all-weather radials.
- Have the engine tuned up, change the oil to a lightweight multigrade, check water hoses for leaks.
- Have your battery checked - make sure that it is adequately charged and not worn out. Remember that battery power declines in cold weather so the terminals should be cleaned and greased.
- Check the muffler and exhaust system for carbon monoxide leaks to prevent poisoning if you get stranded in a snowstorm.
- Keep your gas tank full to minimize condensation; add gasoline antifreeze occasionally.

• Check the condition of windshield wiper blades and keep a good supply of washer fluid.

• Ensure that your spare tire is properly inflated and if possible, carry a tripod-type wheel jack for better stability when changing tires on slippery surfaces.

• Ensure that your heater and defroster are working properly.

• Make sure all lights are functioning properly.

**The Thinking Driver's Survival Kit**  
Having your car winterized helps reduce the possibility of breakdown in winter conditions. But every year, motorists are

stranded in their cars because of harsh weather. Be prepared by keeping a survival kit in your trunk with the following items:

**For your car:**

• scraper and brush, spare fuses, flashlight, flares, shovel, booster cables, sand, salt or even kitty litter, traction pads or pieces of old carpeting, a tow line.

**For you:**

• matches or lighter, candles, blankets or sleeping bags, first aid kit, non-perishable foods (chocolate bars, juice, etc.), emergency supply of prescription drugs (if needed).

Always have a coat, warm hat, gloves and boots in the car in case of a breakdown. It is also a good idea to keep a second set of car keys available at any time of the year but particularly when keys might easily be lost in deep snow.

Preparing a car for the worst of winter not only ensures the maximum efficiency of the vehicle, but also increases the safety and protection of the driver and passengers. Being aware of the extra demands on the vehicle and being prepared for the worst will make driving easier. It will let you enjoy your favorite winter activity.

## Calendar

Thirteen area artists portray scenes, flora and fauna along the Bruce Trail in a 1991 calendar. Most sketches are done in pen and ink and are reproduced in black and white. The calendar squares for each day are large enough to jot down appointments and notes as the calendar is 12" by 9".

The calendar costs \$6 plus \$2 for postage and handling if ordered directly from the Bruce Trail Association, P.O. Box 857, Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3N9. The phone number is 529-6821. Profits are used for securing, maintaining and improving the Bruce Trail.

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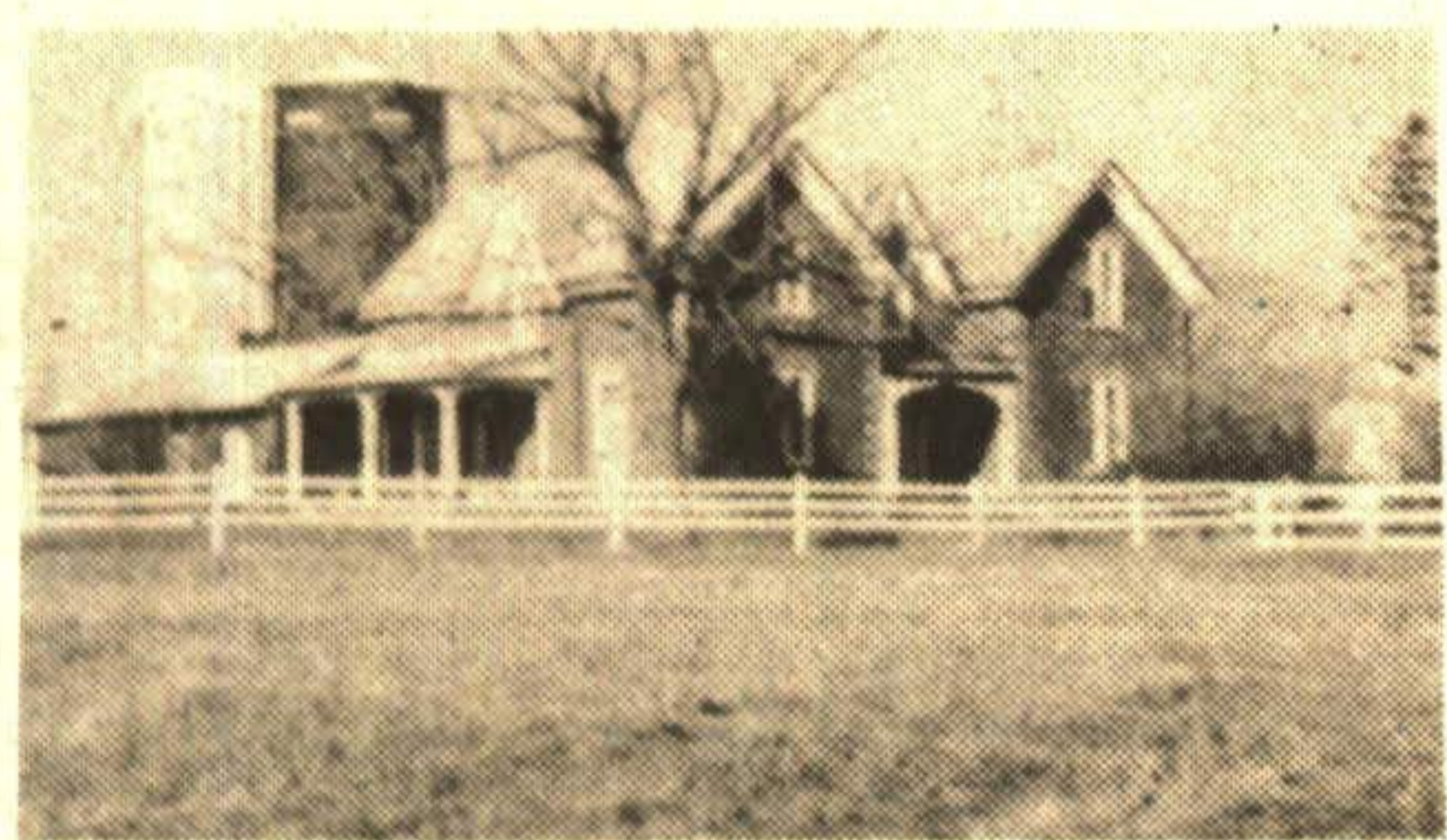
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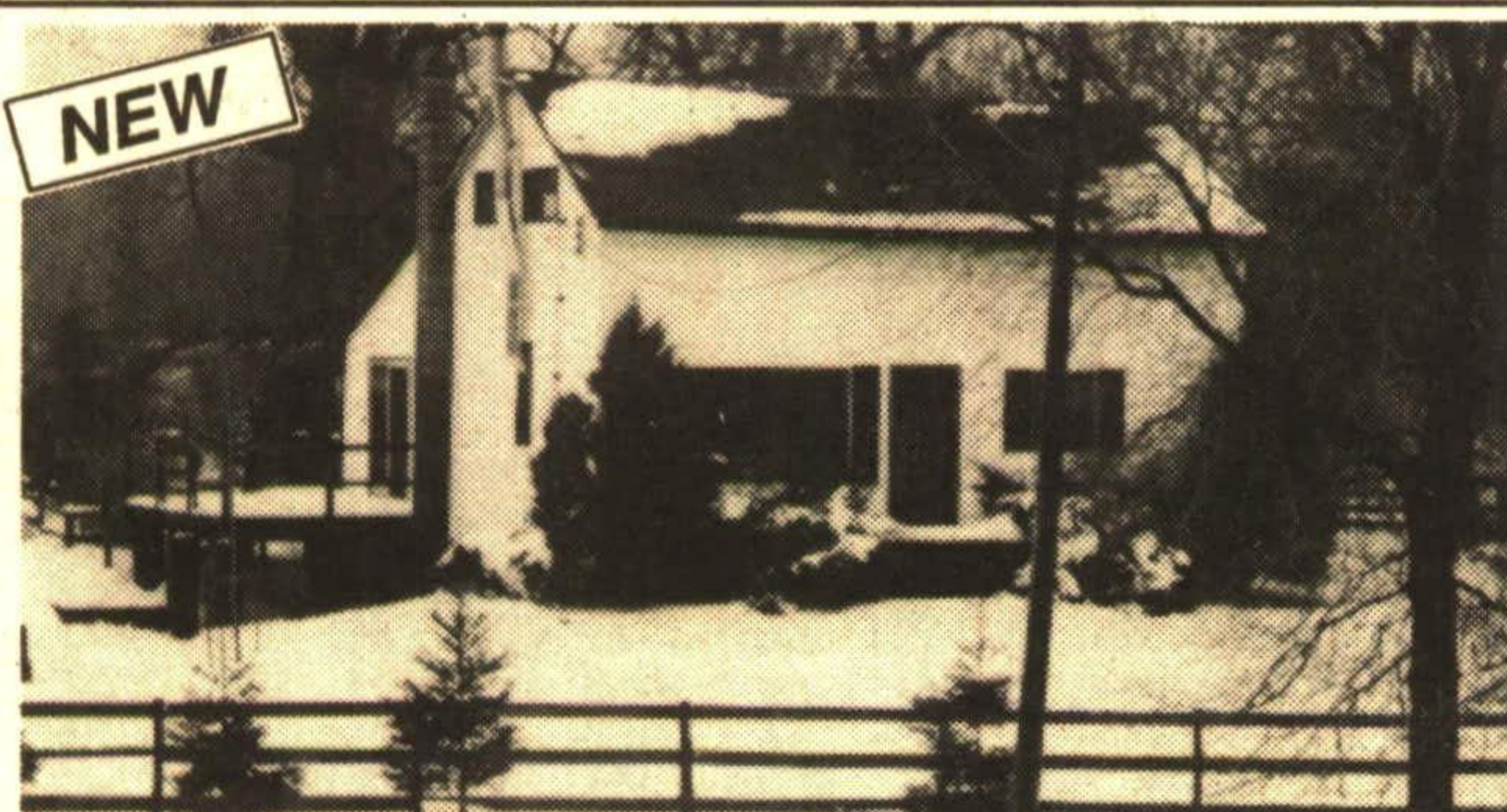
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