

Phil's Basement



Part of the Christmas tradition here on Croissant Crescent is that it begins in September, with a phone call from my wife Em's Great Aunt Hilda wanting gift ideas. All I can ever think of is another sweater. So when she called a couple of days ago, Em found my wish list and started reading it off to Aunt Hilda.

Well, it was a wish list, but not the right one. You see, last year The Hydro went together with lots of stores to help promote energy-efficient products to get your house shipshape for the fall and winter. So I put a list together hoping they'd do it again this year. I already bought some caulking and weatherstripping that I needed to finish up a few spots around the house, but had written down lots of other stuff, like faucet aerators, to save hot water, and acrylic storm windows to improve insulation.

As she worked her way down my wish list, I saw Em's eyebrows shoot up when she got to "toilet dam." It might sound a little odd, but it's not so weird when you think that your average toilet uses up to 25 litres of water to flush. Twenty-five

litres! That's a heck of a lot of water.

A toilet dam cuts down on the amount of water you use with each flush by 40 per cent, and you save some electricity at the water pumping station at the same time. Dams aren't expensive, and they're also easy to install.

Anyway, the funny thing was that when she finished reading the list to Aunt Hilda, Em said she was sorry that I had put together such a wacko Christmas list.

"Nonsense!" stormed Aunt Hilda. "These are just the things for Phil. I'm tired of buying him those awful sweaters anyway!! Tell him I'll buy him everything on the list!"

I wonder how Santa will get that storm window down the chimney?

This newspaper, in conjunction with Ontario Hydro, is bringing you Phil's Basement to help "bring home" ideas on how to save energy. For more energy-saving tips, call Ontario Hydro at 1-800-263-9000 and tell them Phil sent you.

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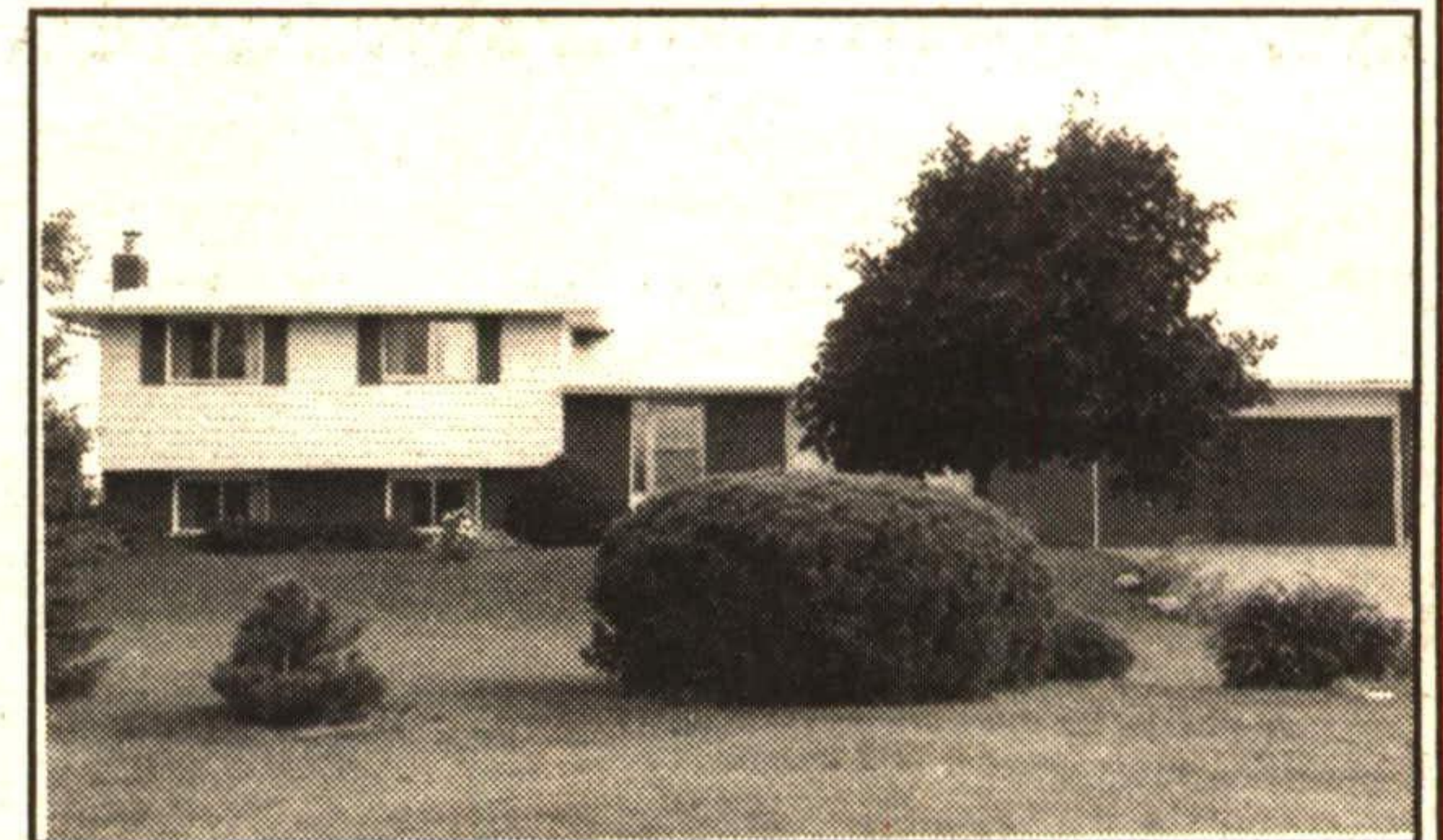
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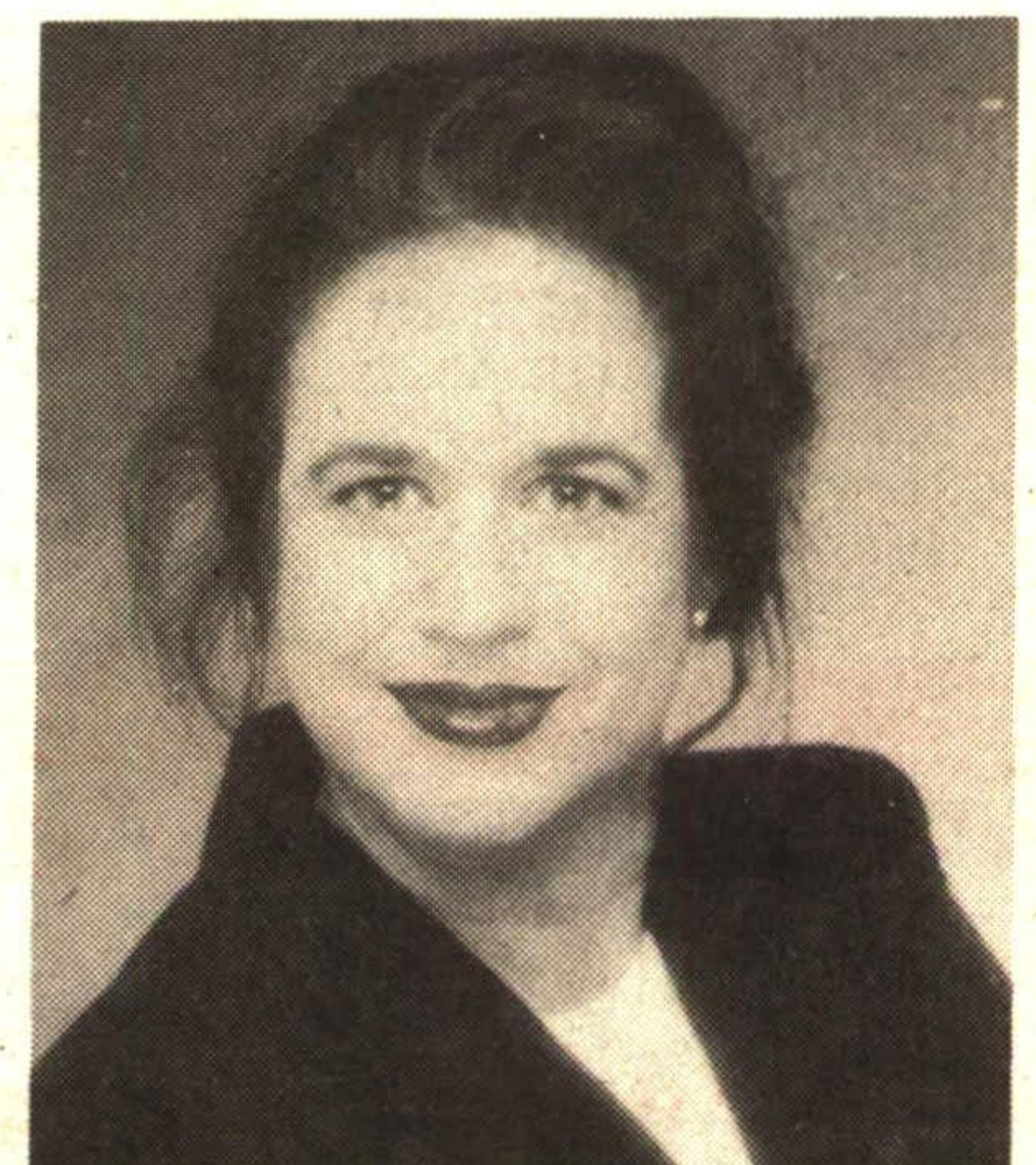
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