

# Having more heat in the bedroom is always good

A year ago, The Sidekick and I were tired of being chilly when the winter winds blew across the open fields of Brown Farm.

I wrote about having an insulation crew come in and fill the attic of the main house with cellulose insulation. I was told it gave us an R60 insulation value in the attic and the difference would be apparent instantly.

Of course, that attic is over the master bedroom, so I was excited about the prospect of more heat in the bedroom- okay, that sounds a bit naughty- but more accurately, the ability to heat the entire house more efficiently.

And as it turned out, we weren't disappointed.

In the master bedroom we have an electric fireplace which puts out considerable heat.

I have it connected to a timer, and it comes on at 9 p.m. and shuts off at 11. It also comes on at 6 a.m. and off at 7:30 a.m.

That way, whether we're going to bed or getting up, we have a warm bedroom. After the attic was insulated we noticed the heat stayed in the bedroom longer. We could get up at 2 a.m. and the room was still warm.

We were pretty pleased, but the benefit from insulating didn't stop there. In summer, we ran the window-mount air conditioner from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The room remained cool all night, thanks to the insulation.

So in keeping a good



**TED BROWN**  
A Ted Bit

thing going, we did the same to the kitchen attic this week.

Last summer we cleaned out the attic above the kitchen, to prepare for insulation.

The kitchen walls were insulated with foam and we found, like insulating the upstairs attic, the kitchen was considerably cooler all summer.

The final step was this week. We had the kitchen attic blown in with cellulose insulation, achieving an R60 insulation value.

The first thing I noticed was the kitchen was quieter. There had been a bit of an echo with the empty attic, but now it's muted.

And I can only imagine how much difference that insulation is going to make keeping the kitchen cozy this winter.

There are countless measures one can take to make your house more energy efficient. Our kitchen has a crawl space. We had the ductwork in there sprayed with foam.

Now when the furnace starts up, the first blast of air that comes out of the kitchen floor registers is actually warm, not cold.

We could have installed

new insulated ductwork, but spraying the original with foam achieved the same effect, at a fraction of the cost.

I know most people think that to achieve a warmer, more efficient house, involves replacing windows, doors and heat sources. And yes, those changes can make a difference- but the cost is huge, and the pay-back time is decades.

The cost of blowing insulation into our kitchen attic was less than two months' worth of furnace oil for our house.

And the difference was immediate.

There are countless financial plans, rebates and initiatives available through the various levels of government, and all it takes is a bit of research online.

By insulating the attic of the main house this year's monthly equal billing payment for our furnace oil dropped by \$50. It's based on the previous year's fuel costs.

And with the new insulation in the kitchen attic, I'm sure there will be additional savings this year.

It's a no-brainer. You spend a few bucks on insulation, and you get it back in rebates or simply through savings in fuel usage, often in the first year.

You certainly can't receive a return your investment that quickly with new windows or doors.

Oh yeah, we have one more benefit from it.

We're warm and cozy again.

# College strike all about greed

Let's take away the soap-boxes the colleges and teachers are standing on pontificating their political agendas.

It is nothing but cannon fodder. In the end, it's all about money.

Greed! For every college student that worked a minimum wage job saving all summer to go to college, I feel for you.

They are fighting for a

slice of your money. You are the collateral damage and they don't care. Apparently, paying good money for a quality education is no guarantee, and you can bet you are going to get short-changed.

Go ahead and ask for a refund for a lack of services rendered and wait for the laughter. So, as you struggle with paying rent, putting food on your table, planning

your future and fulfilling your obligations to family, friends and employers, they (the colleges and teachers) only care about one thing - money.

In the end, if you learn any lesson this year it should be this - the greed of the few outweighs the needs of the many.

I currently have two of my kids in college.

**Bruce Clifford**

COMMUNITY

## THE WAY WE WERE



Esqueusing Historical Society

The 2017 Santa Claus Parade comes to town this Saturday, Nov. 18. In this photo from the 1949 parade, a brass band of clowns entertains on Main Street in front of Silver's Store. The location later became BiWay and Young's Pharmacy in 1922.

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