

Mock disaster tests emergency plan

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

A few out-of-date phone numbers were the only glitches uncovered in the first test of Eramosa Township's emergency response plan.

Saturday's test — a mock disaster involving a reported propane leak at the Eden House Care Facility in Eden Mills — convinced local officials that they are prepared for a disaster, big or small.

"The test went very, very well," said Rockwood Fire Chief Dave Sherratt on Monday.

"Within 35 minutes of the first report of the mock leak, we had

the situation wrapped up and were critiquing the actions of the fire department, OPP, ambulances, bus and taxi companies and elected officials," Sherratt said.

As Eden House officials tested their in-house emergency plan as part of the Provincial accreditation process, Eramosa Firefighters tested their fire response and the Township's emergency plan.

"We piggy-backed their emergency plan test to make sure that our pre-plan would work. That allowed us to make sure that we knew the layout of the building, the location of hazardous materi-

als and the response of outside agencies had their been any injuries," Sherratt explained.

None of the residents of the facility or the staff were aware that it was a test until moments after the alarm sounded.

"The element of surprise is very important in a test like this. You have to test your response without causing the residents of the home any undue concern.

"We didn't want to have a situation like in Sault Saint Marie when they let off some smoke bombs during a test of their emergency plan and ended up with a

real disaster-in-the-making, when some school children were overcome by the smoke," Sherratt said.

Eden House charge nurse Germaine Hanneson said the staff at the home reacted very well.

"Nine minutes after the first report of the leak our staff had all 58 residents moved into the safe control area. The staff acted wonderfully and none of the residents became concerned because we quickly told them it was just a test for their safety," Hanneson said.

Sherratt said they will stage another test of the emergency plan next year at another facility.

Election time at Eramosa

ERAMOSA P.S. NEWS

BY LINDSAY PARKINSON & JONATHAN LAWRENCE

The Grade 6 class has started to prepare posters and speeches for the Student Council election.

Each student who is running in the election will go around to every classroom and say a speech about themselves and what they plan to do if they get elected. The election will start next week. The students running are: Lindsay Parkinson, Laura Switzer, Joey Guidotti, Jessie Beitz and Ian Dunsmore.

Last Thursday, Eramosa School had their annual Meet-the-Teacher night. The parents visited their children's classrooms and talked with the teachers.

We also had a book fair in the gym. Thanks to Mrs. Frayne the book fair was a big hit.

The Eramosa chuckle:

Q: What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator?

A: Shut the door, I'm dressing.

Arthritis program

The Arthritis Self Management Program will hold six weekly 2½-hour sessions at the Rockwood Library Meeting Room.

The program's \$25 fee includes a text book.

The program is designed for greater understanding and techniques on learning to live with arthritis.

For further information readers can contact Ken at 823-5537 or Jan at 856-4605.

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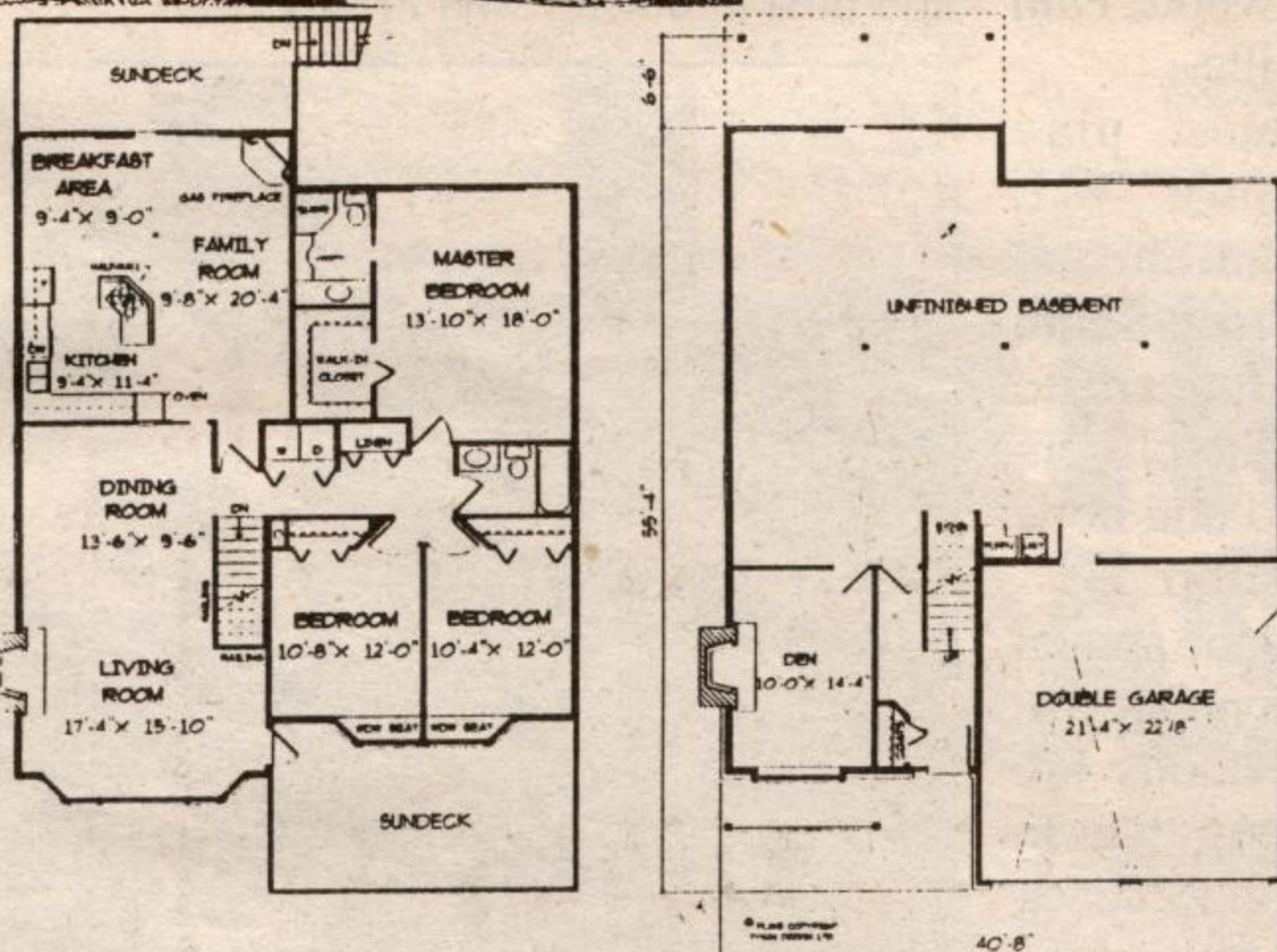
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HOMEPLAN OF THE WEEK!



Efficient home design suits front and rear view property

Sundecks, front and rear, ensure that the view will be captured from this efficiently designed basement home.

Note the lack of wasted space. An open plan for the living and dining room creates a spacious area for entertaining and features a stylish bay window and access from the living room to the front deck. A country kitchen style atmosphere, complete with a cosy gas fireplace, is achieved by combining the kitchen and family room. The cook in the family will enjoy plenty of cupboard and counter space and can look over a half wall into the family room and breakfast area. Sliding glass doors lead out to the rear sundeck — a perfect place to set up the barbecue. The washer and dryer are conveniently located upstairs where all of the laundry is generated.

Both front bedrooms are a good size and feature half-bay window seats. The master boasts a walk-in

closet and a three-piece ensuite with a built-in vanity.

Downstairs, a den, just inside the front entrance, would make an ideal home office. A large unfinished area awaits your own creative touch.

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