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Home, Lawn & Garden

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Make October the 'home-check' month



For many Canadians, October is their favourite month of the year. The fall colours, crisp sunny days, and of course, all those football games on TV!

October is also time for lots of chores around the house or the farm. Preparing for winter is a big job for Canadian families. Unfortunately, there are a few things that most people forget - or never think - to do around the house in October. But they're items that, when you think about it, make perfect sense.

First of all, the nights are getting colder...is your furnace ready to do its job? When was the last time you had it checked for fuel-burning efficiency and for proper venting of smoke and gas fumes? The Canada Safety Council, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, and fire departments across the country strongly urge all homeowners to have their fuel-burning appliances (furnaces, stoves, water heaters, propane space heaters, etc.) checked every year.

Why? Because if those appliances aren't working properly, then carbon monoxide could become a problem in your home. You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, but it can make you very sick, cause permanent brain damage, or even kill you. Even with properly-working appliances, you should also have at least one ULC-approved carbon monoxide detector in your home, and you should check regularly to make sure it's working and (if it's a battery-operated model) its batteries are fresh.

And while you're at it, check all the smoke detectors in your house. It's easy to do with the test button that's built right in. If the alarm doesn't sound, it probably needs new batteries. If your smoke alarm doesn't have a test button, it's probably over 10 years old, and should be replaced with a new one.

Do these simple checks in your house regularly (and at least every October!), and you'll enjoy the fall with much more peace of mind!

—News Canada

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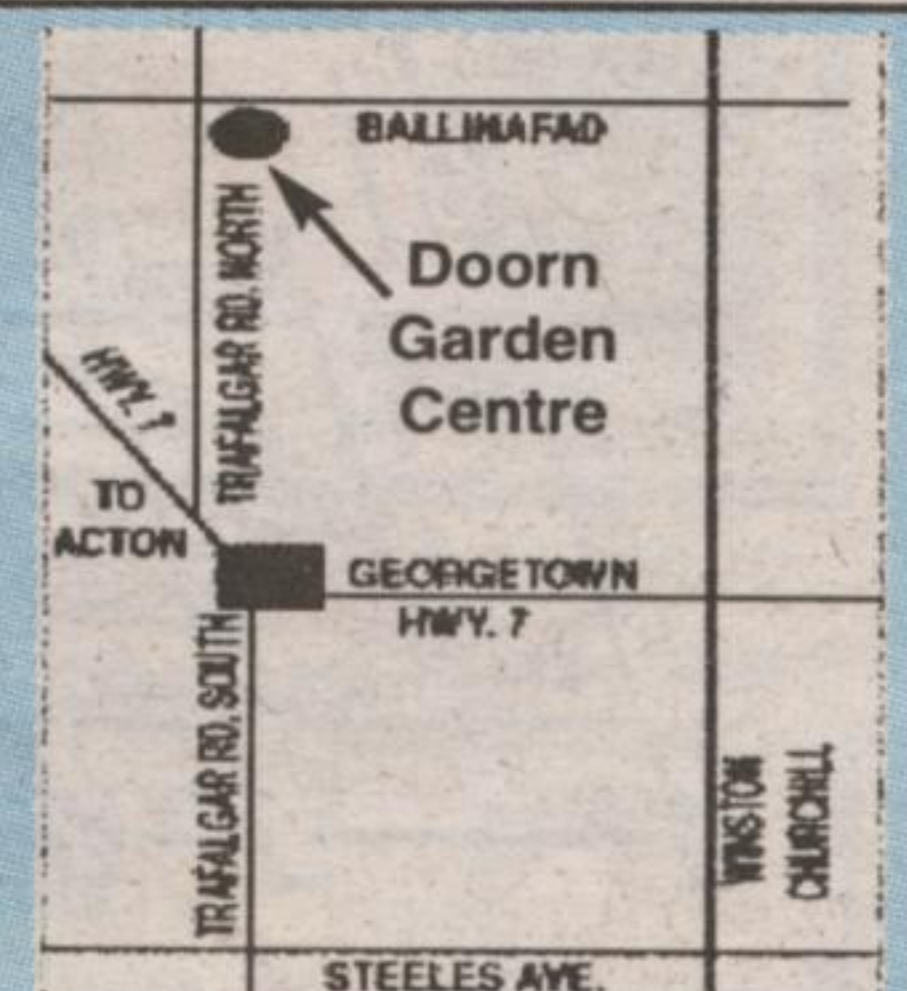
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