

# Broken windows, open curtains can lead to larger energy bills

Did you know that 60 per cent of your energy costs come from heating and cooling your home? But cold and hot air can escape in a number of ways—from broken windows to improper insulation—and homeowners may be surprised to learn that increasing your home's energy efficiency can save you upwards of \$500 a year.

Poor insulation, poorly weather-stripped doorframes and windows or even open curtains on an extremely hot or cold day can cause your energy bill to skyrocket. These may seem like small and insignificant things, but the unnecessary costs can sneak up on you throughout the year.

"Many people don't realize there are a few simple things you can do around your home to make it more energy efficient," explains Dave Walton, Director of Home Ideas for Direct Energy Essential Home Services.

Walton offers the following advice to help keep your hard earned cash in your pocket:

Check your windows and doors for heat loss: Up to one-third of the heat in your home can be lost through poorly fitted windows and doors. Caulking around windows that don't open and weather stripping around windows that do, is an inexpensive way to help you

save money. Caulking one window alone can save you between \$10-\$20 per year and weather stripping will save you \$5-\$12 per window per year.

Consider replacement windows: Old and drafty windows can create major inefficiencies in your home. If caulking or weather stripping can't do the job, look into replacing them.

Get insulated: Improving your home's insulation is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to increase energy efficiency in your home. By insulating your hot water pipes alone, you can save up to \$10 per year. This may sound small but it all adds up.

Close the curtains: On extremely hot or cold days a vast amount of air can escape through your windows. Close the blinds in the rooms you use the most and you'll notice a difference in the temperature of your room, not to mention the energy you will save.

Turn off the lights: By turning off large outdoor lights and main interior lights when you leave a room, you can significantly reduce your daily power consumption.

If you are looking to keep a little more cash in your pocket this year, try these home efficiency tips and you'll notice the savings for years to come.

For more information call Direct Energy Essential Home Services at 1-800-266-3939 or visit [www.directenergy.com](http://www.directenergy.com).

—News Canada



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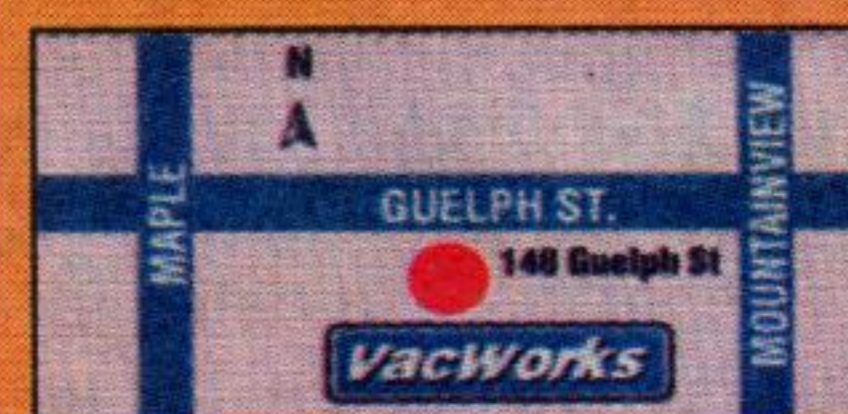
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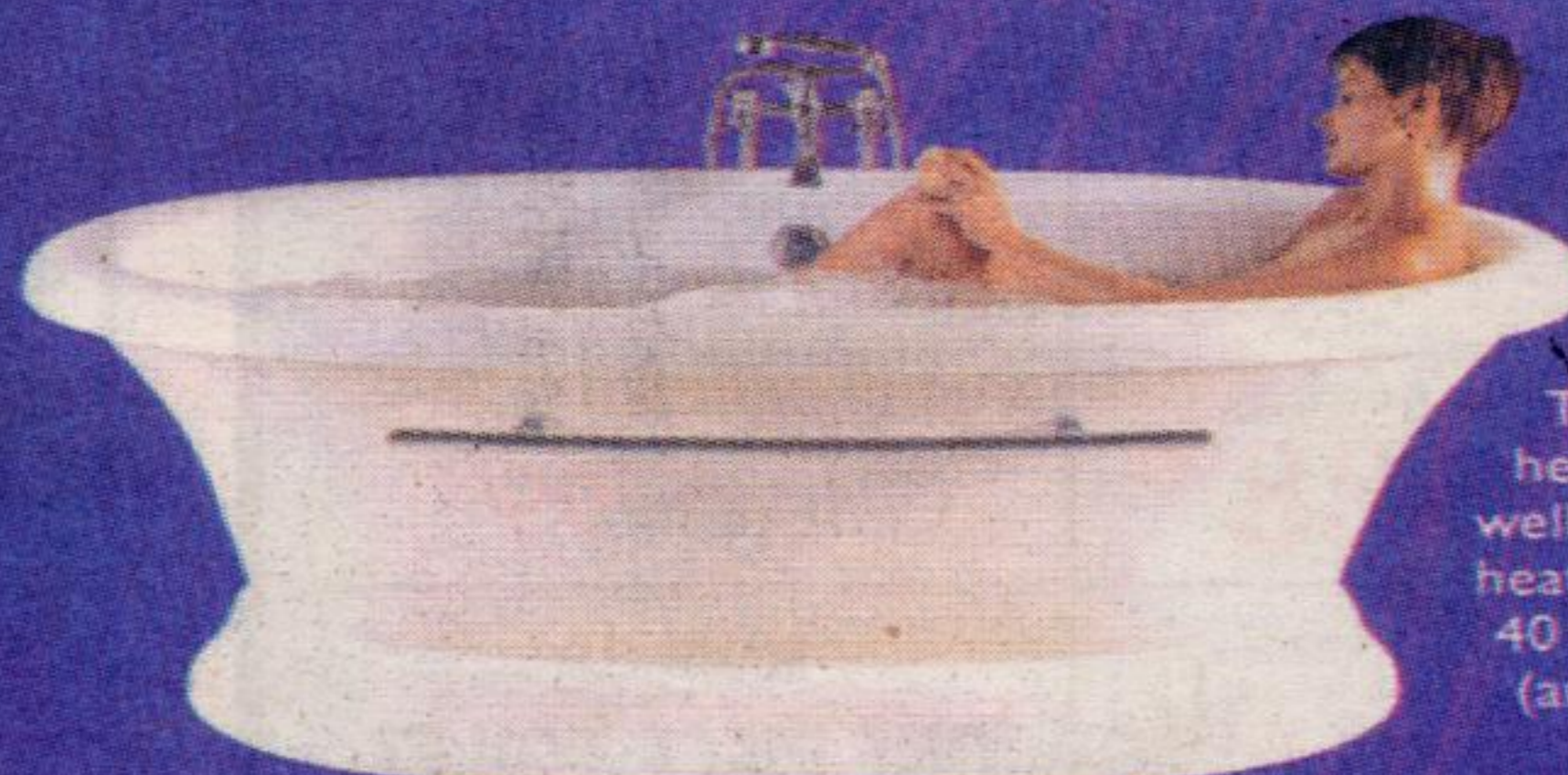
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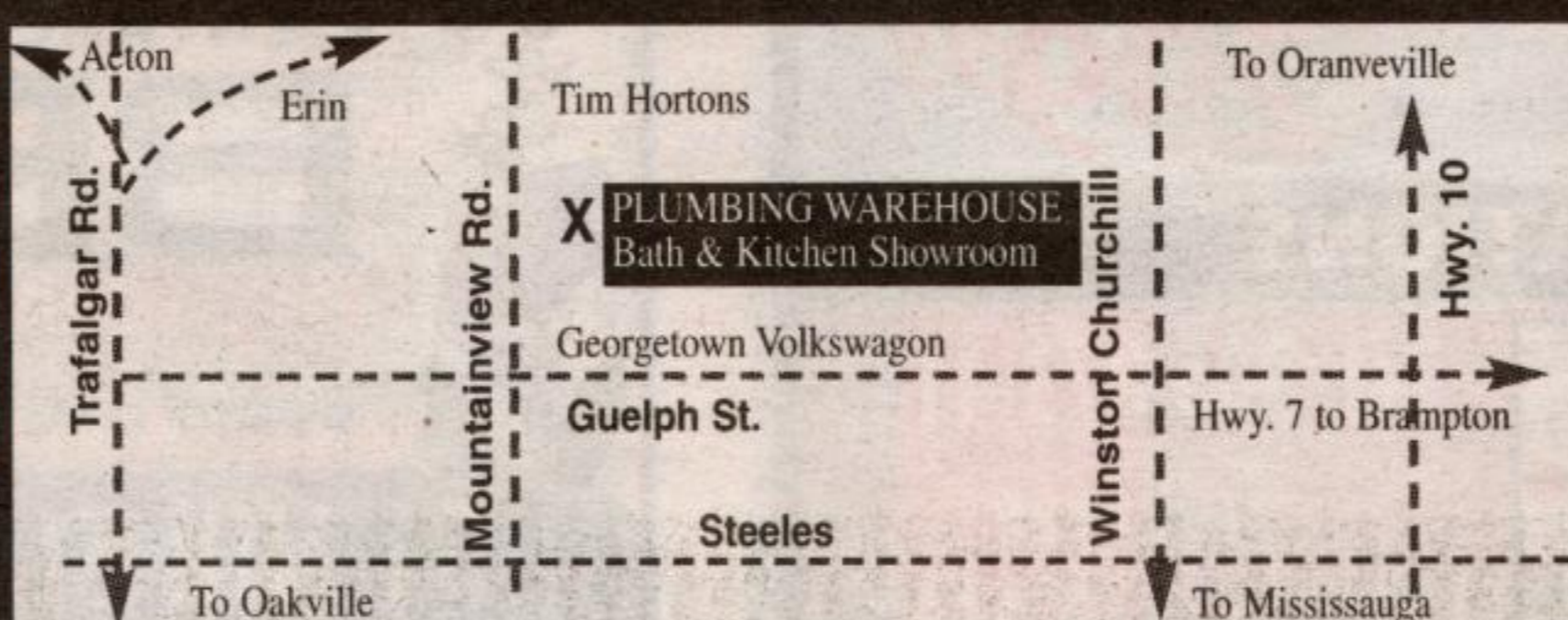
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