

# Model Sheridan energy house built

Three energy conservation-minded Georgetown area residents, including Peter Ramsay acting as a project co-ordinator, are deeply involved in the planned construction of a special house at Sheridan College's Brampton campus.

Once this special home is built, Halton-Peel residents will be able to drop by and see economical energy conservation methods in day to day operation and also consult the vast library of information on campus so they can devise ways of reducing energy costs in their own homes.

Construction of the "alternative energy centre" will begin this May at Sheridan's modern, new Brampton campus at McLaughlin Road and Steeles Avenue.

It will be the first energy conservation centre of its kind in Canada open to the public as a resource facility.

Ramsay, RR 5 Georgetown, who owns the Energy Workshop and is a local contractor with considerable knowledge

on energy conservation, is acting as co-ordinator of design and construction of the active, two storey house or demonstration unit, which will be built.

Rick Symmes, Terra Cotta, who built his own solar energy home and is a member of the Sierra Club, and John Mitchell, RR 5 Georgetown, a member of Pollution Probe, are both sitting on an advisory committee helping plan the alternative energy resource centre.

The centre has been in the planning stage since last summer and is scheduled to be completed by this September. Sheridan's Board of Governors recently approved the project and agreed to pay for construction materials.

Labor costs are expected to be paid by a Federal Labor Intensive Program (F.L.I.P.) grant and it is also hoped some funds for workers will come from Opportunities for Youth and Experience '78.

The 1,988 square-foot building will combine laboratory, seminar and classroom space "in a simple, energy-efficient structure designed to demonstrate alternative energy methods," a college spokesman, Sherry Cecil, explained.

The project began with student Andrew McKegney making a summer job out of setting up an alternative energy resource centre at the school library. It is made up of books and periodicals along with an up-to-date bibliography of information regarding alternative energy.

This type of information is lacking outside the government library in Toronto so the Alternative Energy Resource Centre at Sheridan is designed to serve the needs of the public as well as Sheridan students in heavily populated Halton and Peel.

The house or demonstration unit at the school is expected to show the public the different projects explained in material in the resource centre can be applied practically in their own home as well as economically.

The demonstration unit will cost about \$25,000 for materials although this price could shrink since a number of material suppliers have expressed interest in selling their materials at cost.

Design and construction is being supervised by the Brampton Community Conservation Centre. A FLIP grant financed project, along with help from Sheridan faculty and outside experts. The Brampton Community Conservation Centre is similar to the energy conservation centre in Georgetown

located in Guelphview Square.

Ramsay is being assisted by Laura Heimbecker, project leader for the Brampton Community Conservation Centre, and Barry Marta who works with Laura. A carpenter, mason, another researcher and students will be hired later for construction.

"The centre will consist of three floors, two storeys plus a basement, be built of concrete blocks, gemite and stucco with polystyrene insulation. A glassed-in greenhouse will extend from the south wall separated from the main building by a Trome wall, a passive solar collector which retains heat and re-radiates it later into the building," Ms. Cecil explains.

Besides the Trome wall solar heat will be provided by air collectors on either side of the greenhouse which will force solar heated air into two rock storage areas. Solar water collectors on the roof will heat 1000 gallons of water a day for the building.

"The cost of the basic structure is comparable to standard homes being built right now in Toronto but the heat load will be reduced by half," Ramsay explained.

"It will look just like a conventional house inside except that it will be several times more energy efficient. We want to show the public how inexpensively and attractively they can conserve energy," he added.

Sheridan Applied Science and Technology Director Dave Olive explained there is a lot of jargon floating around about energy conservation

and the resource centre and demonstration unit are designed to show "Joe Blow" what he can do, not just architects and builders. Information in the resource centre goes beyond solar, too. There is information on nuclear energy, Olive added.

The centre will "focus community attention" on energy conservation which is vital because it creates economic problems, Olive declared. Cost effectiveness of various types of energy conservation will be shown to the public so they can see by reduced energy costs they can eventually recover renovation costs.

As a learning experience Olive said he could think of no better summer work for students than helping build the demonstration unit. They will learn about energy conservation as well as needed building skills.

Ramsay said various wall systems were researched and concrete blocks chosen since it makes cost sense and provides the needed mass to make solar heating work properly. Heat from windows will be absorbed by the walls because there is insulation on the outside and there is excellent mass. Styrofoam insulation with stucco will be used on top of the blocks. He compared the building to a "thermos bottle."

Insulation techniques employed in the design alone will cut heat requirements for the building in half compared to a similar home designed and built conventionally, Ramsay declared. When heat demands are lowered it makes solar heating easier.

The heat loss will be one-third the level in a normal home.

Just a simple air lock at the front door reduces heating needs and heat escape "considerably," he said.

Putting a few low cost fans in a small room where there

Another example of a small item-saving energy is an inch of foam insulation in the basement floor which cuts heat loss "substantially."

will be a lot of solar heat will reduce hydro use since clothes dryers won't be needed, Ramsay noted.

"The whole idea is to show you can have an energy efficient solar heated and cost efficient home at current market prices," Ramsay declared.

Design has also taken into account summer months when one might expect a solar home would be very hot. Special shading techniques have been employed.

Side walls will be extended slightly at the front so cross winds are cut down and heating needs further reduced.

It is expected 60 per cent of the buildings heating will come from solar energy, the highest figure known, and this is all because of greatly lowered heat loss and heat requirements, Ramsay emphasized.

negotiations.

Chief teacher negotiator Bob Boyle broke the news blackout saying talks broke off March 16 when the board refused to negotiate until the teacher vote results are made public.

Miss Devlin said Boyle must have "misunderstood" what went on at the March 16 meeting since talks haven't broken off but have been merely adjourned.

While many issues have been resolved during the over eight months of an again off again negotiations several monetary items haven't been ironed out.

The vote results may not remain a mystery much longer, however. Teachers were expected to learn the results Tuesday and an official announcement from mediator Jane Devlin regarding the results could be forthcoming later.

In the meantime both sides supposedly agreed only Miss Devlin, a Toronto lawyer, should be talking to the press.

Tuesday, all she would say was that negotiations in the contract dispute dating back to last spring were adjourned March 16 and would continue last night (Tuesday night). Winter break has slowed negotiations lately she added.

Chief board negotiator and Halton Hills Trustee Hartley Sherk would not comment on

## S.S. teacher pact talks

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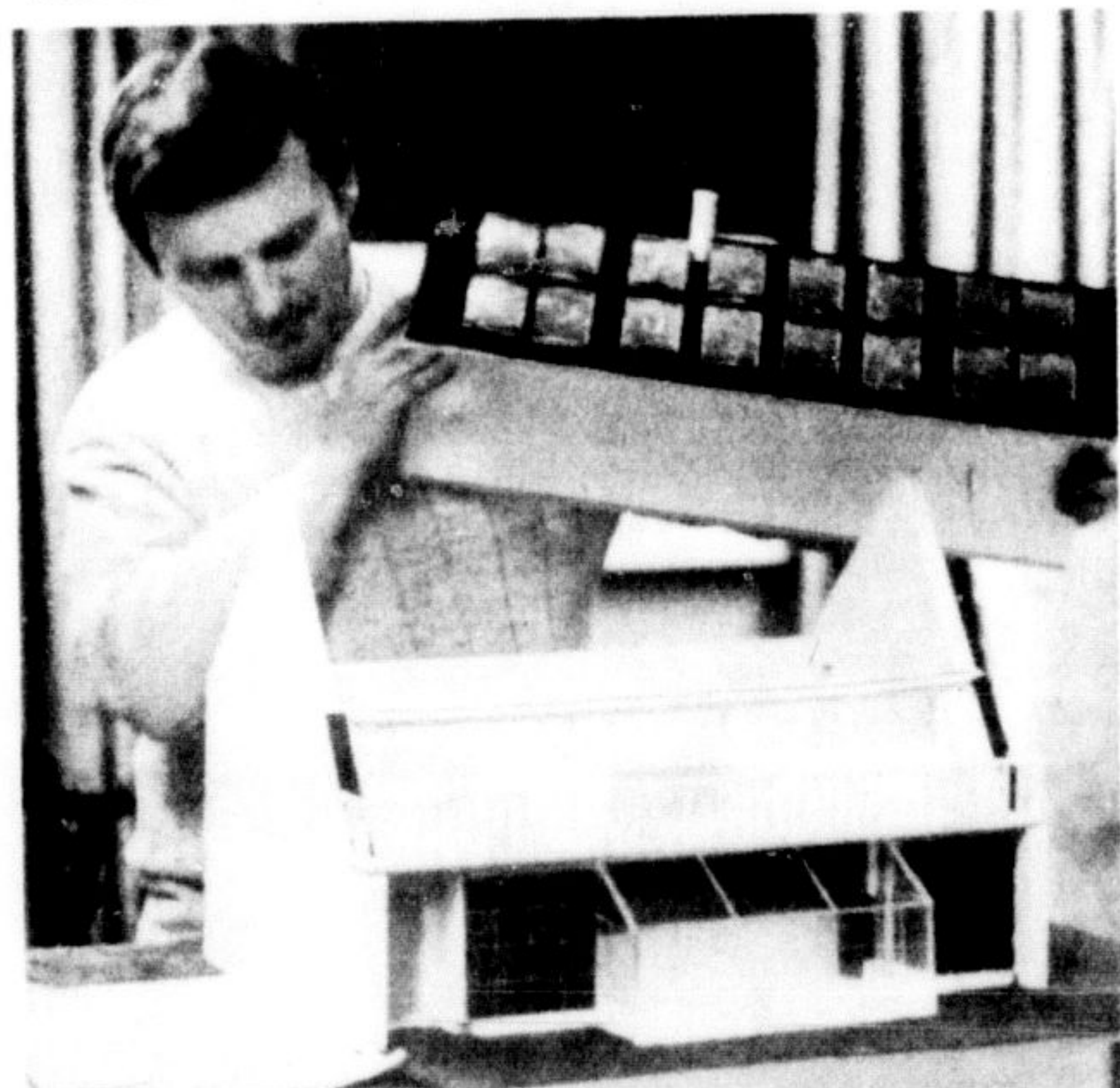
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PETER RAMSAY examines a model of the energy conservation demonstration unit model home to be built at Sheridan College's Brampton campus. He is serving as a co-ordinator for design and construction of the building.

## Halton Progressive Conservative Association

### NOMINATION MEETING

#### APRIL 6th

Because of the extraordinary number of memberships sold, attempts are being made to find a larger meeting facility.

CHECK NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR FINAL INFORMATION

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