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Fall Home Improvement

Furnace maintenance a must How to eliminate dangers related to excess moisture

(NC)—The cold weather is here, and if you had your furnace tuned up in the fall, you're ready for winter's worst. If you didn't, however, here's something you should know: An annual checkup will not only save you money, it will also help you sleep more easily. That's because an inefficient heating system wastes fuel and your hard-earned dollars. More important, a furnace that's not operating properly can endanger your health by spilling carbon monoxide and other gases into your home. For savings, safety and comfort, routine maintenance of your oil or gas furnace is a

must. Furnace maintenance is not a "do-it-yourself" job. A qualified technician should give your heating system the annual once-over. It's as simple as calling a furnace contractor or your local gas utility.

For more information on how to heat and cool your home the energy-efficient way, visit the Web site of Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency at <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca>, or call 1 800 387-2000 toll-free for free publications on saving energy.

(NC)—Did you know that excess levels of moisture or relative humidity in your home provide ideal environments for contaminants like mold and dust mites, which are known allergens for many people? Elevated levels of moisture can also contribute to structural damage within a home's walls, attic, foundation and exterior.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to regulate the level of humidity in your home. Here are some helpful tips from Jean Deslandes, Marketing Director at Venmar Ventilation, the country's leading experts in indoor air quality management, to help you control the potential hazards created by excess moisture.

- Daily activities in the kitchen and bathroom can introduce large amounts of water vapor and other contaminants into the home. Install and maintain hood exhaust fans of sufficient capacity over your kitchen range and in your bathrooms. Locate intakes where they can capture the most moisture and make sure that bath vents exhaust air outdoors and not into your attic or other interior space.

- The exterior and interior of a home should be well-caulked, especially around windows and vents, to prevent water leaks. Without caulking, mold growth and structural problems may occur. "If you are building a home, insist that your builder install a proven waterproofing system, drain tile and vapor retarder to your home's foundation," Deslandes added. "A water-managed foundation can greatly improve indoor air quality by preventing problems associated with moisture."

- Make sure a home's roof and windows are in good shape. Water leaks, condensation and elevated levels of humidity may not be visible, but moisture in interior wall spaces can encourage mold growth and structural degradation.

- It's important to route water away from your home's foundation. Keep gutters and drains clean and in good repair. Be sure downspouts have a five percent slope to carry water away from your foundation.

- Elevated levels of humidity can also cause moisture problems including window condensation, structural rot and mold growth. To help control humidity and remove excess moisture levels

from your home, consider installing a mechanical ventilation system, exhaust or a dehumidification system. "For exceptional results, you can look to the most recent innovation in the industry called the Whole-House HEPA air purification system," Deslandes said. "Venmar is the first manufacturer of ventilation systems to offer a unit that integrates heat recovery ventilation technology with HEPA filtration at an affordable price.

"The system works to provide fresh air through ventilation and at the same time ensures the best indoor air quality by trapping airborne allergens such as pollen, dust, pet dander mold and bacteria through its HEPA filter system."

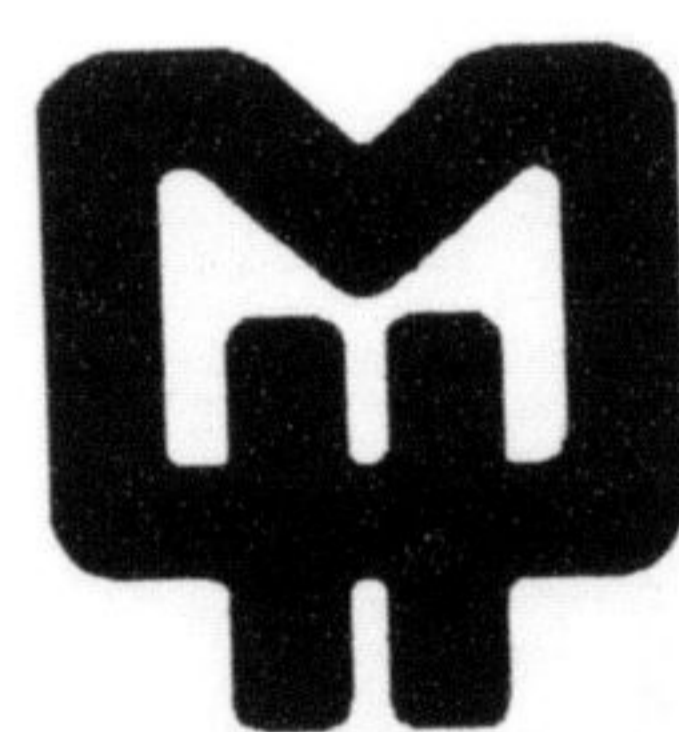
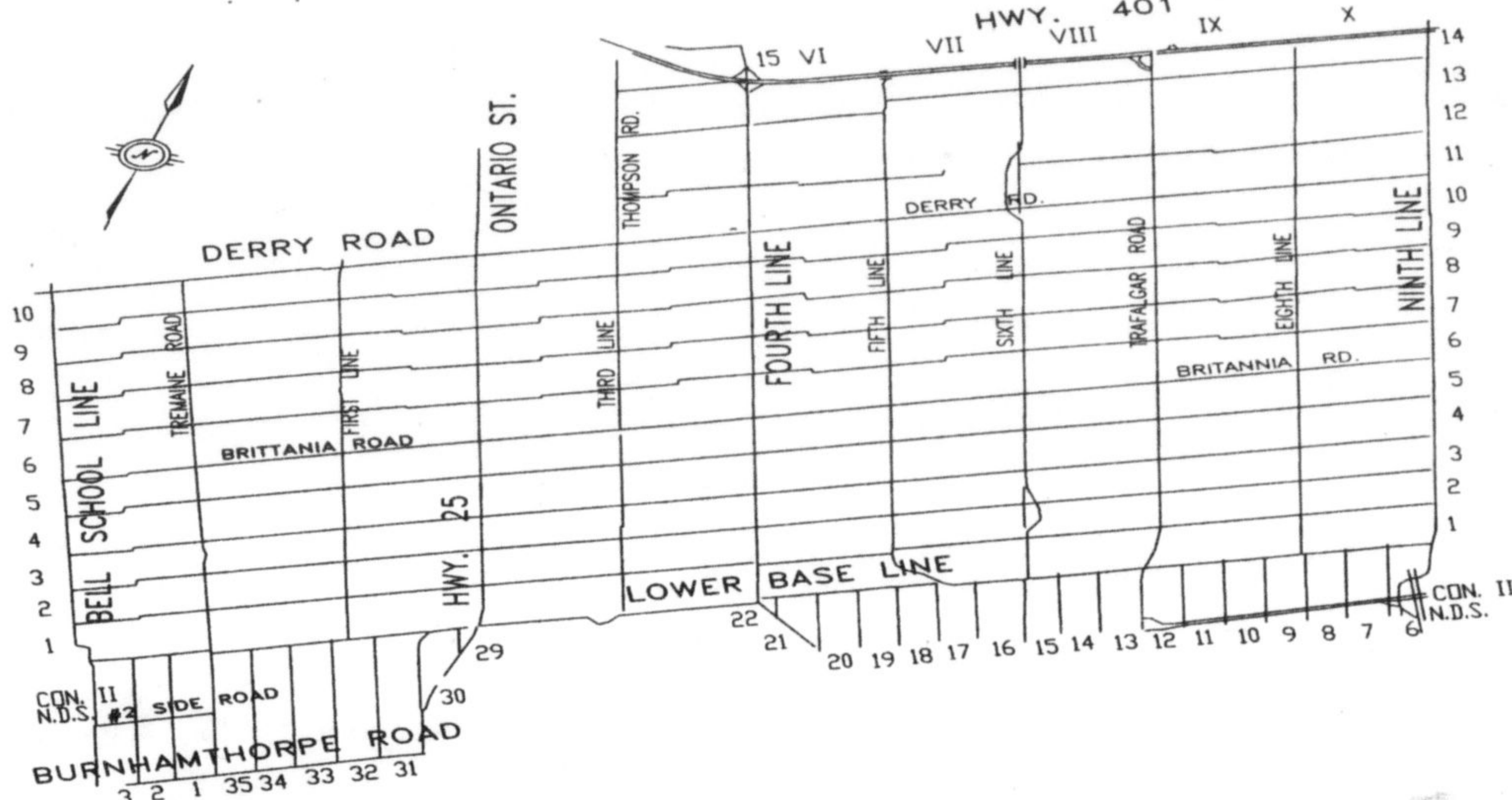
According to a recent SOM consumer survey of 350 purchasers of Venmar's new HEPA series unit, more than 92 per cent of people polled noticed a significant difference in their living environment since installing a unit in their homes. Respondents cited, in particular, improvements in the quality of air, a decrease in the level of humidity, an increase in fresh air and a decrease in respiratory problems. For more information on indoor air quality visit www.venmar-ventilation.com.

Public Notice

Milton Hydro Distribution Inc.

TREE TRIMMING IN THE SOUTH AREA

Milton Hydro Distribution Inc. has awarded the Tree Trimming Contract for the South Area of Milton to Quality Tree Service. The trimming of trees will commence October 21, 2002 and will be completed on or by March 31, 2003. Please call our Engineering Department if you have any concerns.



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