

Friday

Did You Know?

Air Pollution and Health

- Canadians consider air pollution as the most important environmental problem. 93% of Canadians hold the view that air pollution has an effect on health. (Environics)
- Studies from around the world, including those conducted by Health Canada have found a strong association between premature mortality and airborne particulates and other pollutants.

Transportation and the Environment

- Individual Canadians, in their daily living, contribute about 25% of the national total CO2 emissions - about 5 tonnes per person/per year.
- Vehicles produce approximately 60% of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and 30% of volatile organic compounds (VOC) that contribute to smog.
- One busload of passengers takes 40 vehicles off the road during rush hour, saves 70,000 litres of fuel and avoids over 175 tonnes of emissions a year.

Air Pollution and the Economy

- According to Ontario Medical Association, air pollution is estimated to cost the province of Ontario more than \$1 billion per year due to hospital admissions, emergency room visits and absenteeism (Ontario Medical Association, Finding Reports, June 2000).

Actions you can take at home and at work

- Save energy in your everyday activities for example, turn off energy-using equipment when it is not in use and use energy-efficient bulbs and appliances.
- Make your home more energy efficient through improved insulation, caulking and weather-stripping. The less energy you use, the less impact you have on the environment.
- Recycle, since it takes much less energy to create a new product using recycled materials than using raw materials.
- Consider trying different ways to use your car less, like walking, carpooling or taking public transit. When you have to use your car to run errands, combine your trips and make every one count.
- Avoid idling your vehicle - ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine.
- Buy locally produced goods whenever possible, to reduce the impact of freight transportation.
- Compost kitchen scraps and yard waste, because organic waste in landfills creates gases that contribute to climate change.
- Plant deciduous trees in locations around your home to provide shade in the summer, but allow light in the winter.
- Buy an electric stove or fireplace, or choose a fireplace that is certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). Most uncertified wood stove releases as many fine particles into the environment in nine hours as a midsize car does in 18,000 km.
- Use small gas-powered machines less often or for shorter periods of time (e.g., mowers, snow-blowers, chainsaws and leaf-blowers). Perform maintenance regularly so that it operates at its optimum (e.g., sharpen blades). When you are ready to purchase a new item, consider a manual appliance or a new generation machine with a less-polluting system.

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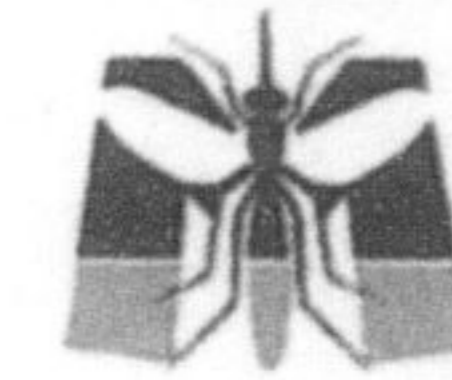


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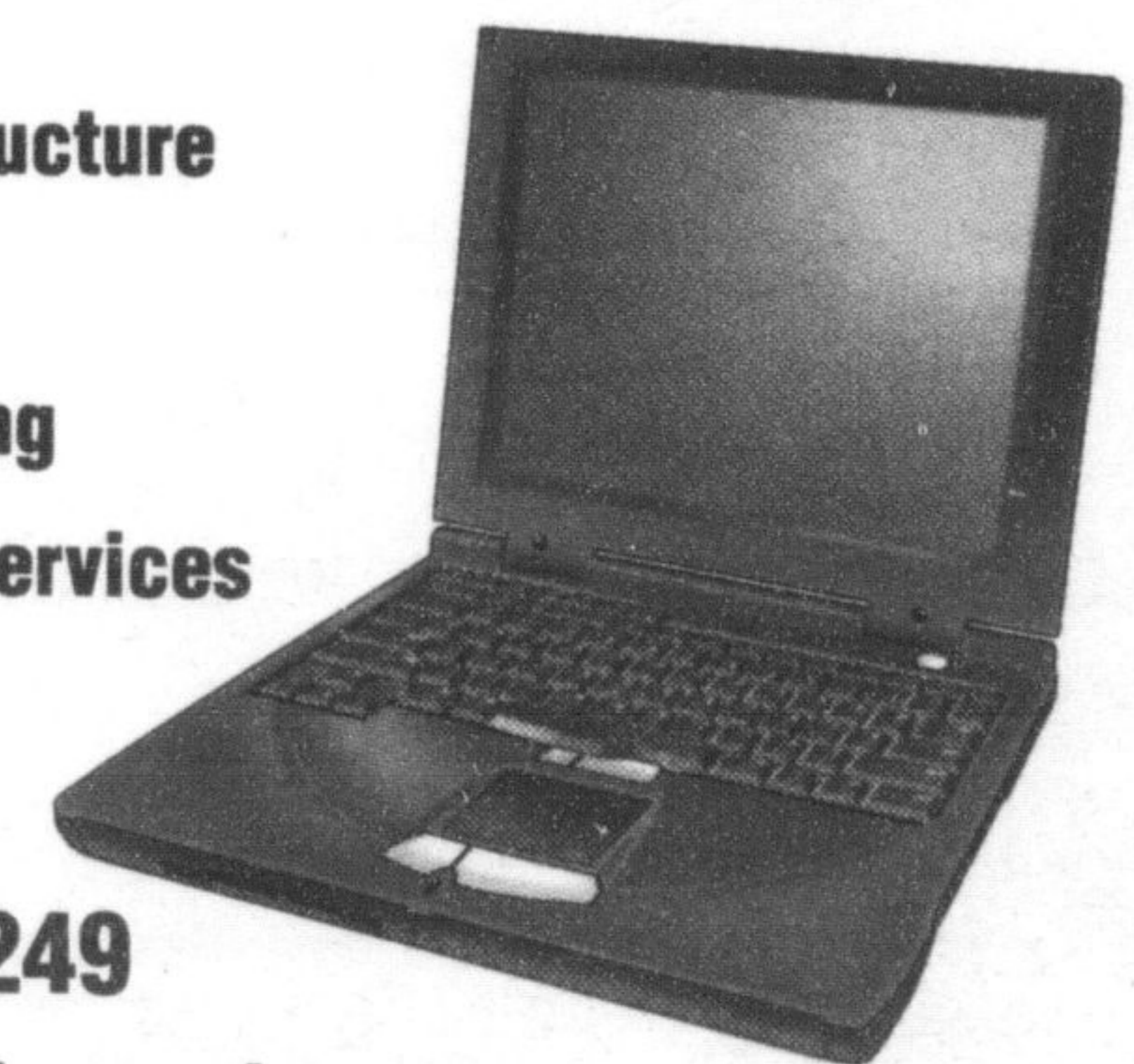
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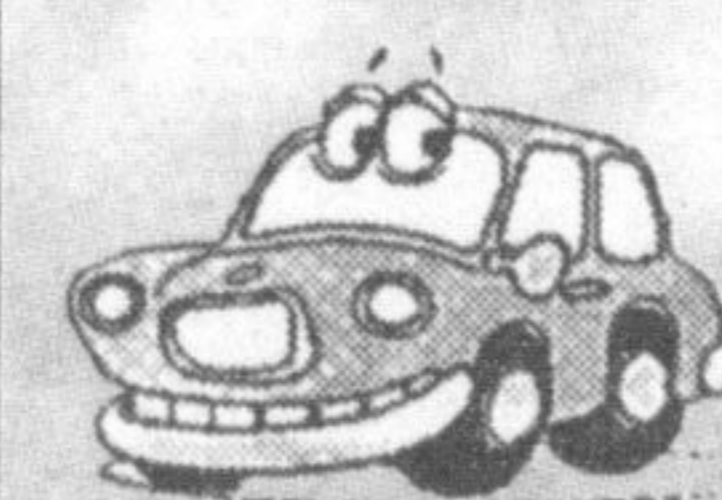


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