

Don't warm up your car in closed garage: fire dept.

The Milton Fire Department is urging residents to be alert to carbon monoxide dangers after firefighters responded to a couple of incidents that had the potential for tragedy.

The first occurred October 29 at a residence on Norrington Place. A man started his car and left it in his closed garage to warm up. His four-year-old child somehow ended up in the garage, and began experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide inhalation.

Emergency crews were called. Halton EMS and fire personnel arrived, ventilated the garage and attended to the child.

High levels of carbon monoxide were detected — and that was after the garage had been ventilated.

Fortunately, police said the child recovered.

In the second incident November 7, fire crews responded to an alarm activation call on Derry Road. They discovered high levels of carbon monoxide, also in a closed garage.

It's suspected the owner had been idling his car to warm it up, but he denied doing so, said a spokesperson from the Milton Fire Department.

Training technician Barry Kory said carbon monoxide is a potential threat at all times of the year, but especially in the colder weather because of the need to turn on furnaces, chimneys and other carbon monoxide-producing appliances.

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odorless gas that's produced when there's incomplete combustion of fuels.

It's called the silent killer because it slowly incapacitates, beginning with flu-like symptoms and leading to unconsciousness and eventually death.

Child care facility is set for construction

Ground will soon break for a new child care facility at Bruce Trail Public School.

Construction is expected to get underway next month for the centre, which will offer licensed child care for 64 children aged 18 months to senior kindergarten, and wrap up by next summer.

The facility comes about as a result of the provincial Best Start strategy — a 10-year plan designed to give Ontario's children the best start in life.

In Halton, an extensive network of partners including the Our Kids Network, school boards and Halton Region worked together to develop a plan that allocates Halton's Best Start funding to expand child care for children from newborn to six years old.

"This new child care centre represents an investment in our children today that will reap considerable rewards for our community tomorrow," said Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "This kind of investment is possible because of the shared vision of the Best Start partners and the community. It's an excellent example of what is possible when we all work together to put children first."

The contract to operate the child care facility has been awarded to the Milton Community Resource Centre (MCRC).

MCRC currently operates the before and after school program at Chris Hadfield Public School and will also operate the same program at Bruce Trail

Public School, as well as the full day child care program.

"This is an example of what can happen when schools, families and community service providers work together to support learning," said Wayne Joudrie, director of education at the Halton District School Board. "We know that providing a better start in the early years will help students do better in school, stay in school longer and like school more."

The location of the centre within Bruce Trail Public School follows the Best Start vision of offering a seamless day of early learning and a network of services for families and children. The selection process for the Milton site was based on population growth, child care capacity and needs.

Bruce Trail is one of five Best Start child care sites in development, which will offer 200 new licensed child care spaces across Halton.

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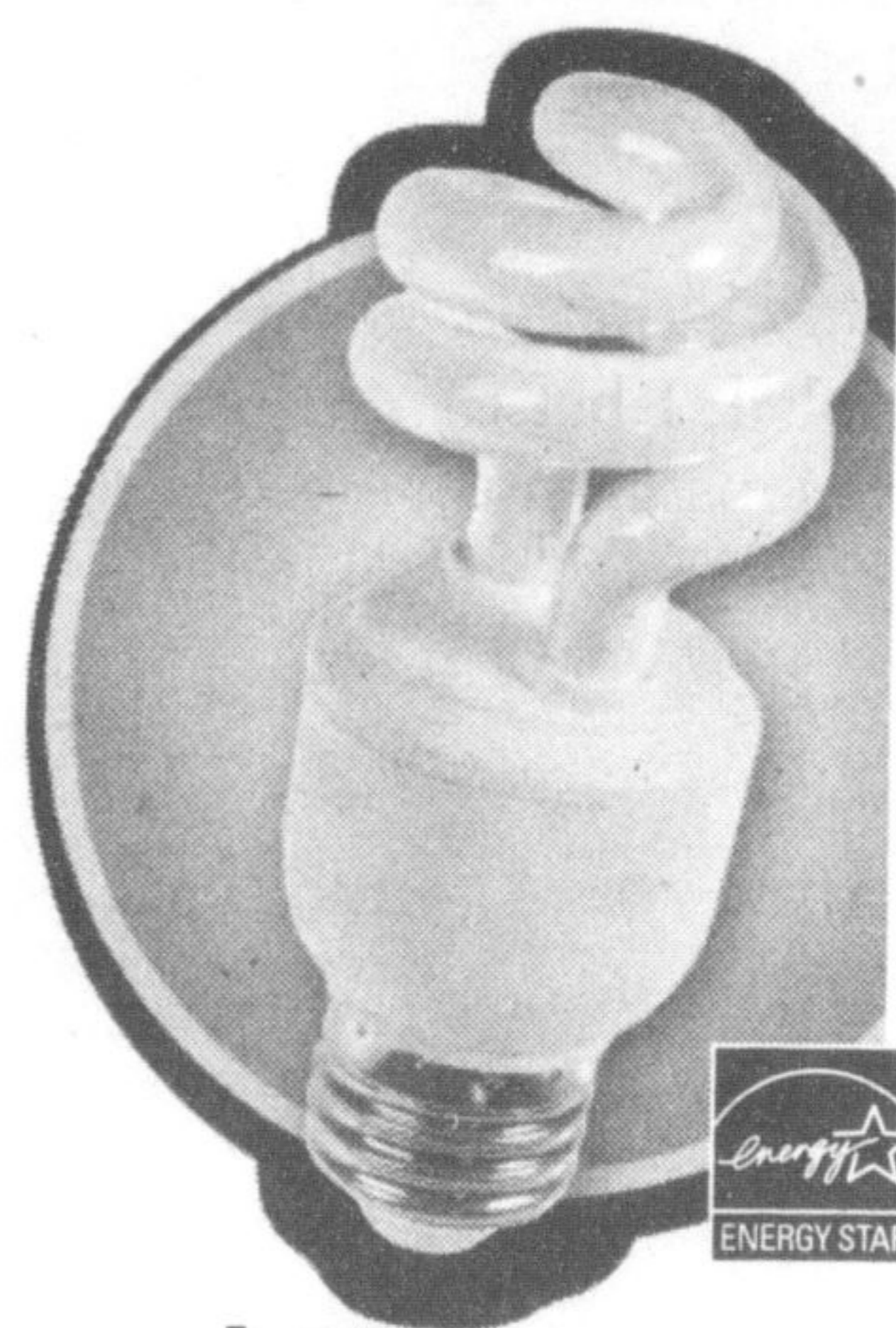
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