

Reduce heating and cooling costs

Canadian homeowners get paid to go green

Canadian homeowners will be big winners now that the Federal Government has officially launched its ecoENERGY Retrofit initiative, offering financial incentives to Canadians who improve their home's energy efficiency.

Natural Resources of Canada (NRCan) has licensed AmeriSpec Inspection Services, Canada's leading home inspection company, to perform residential energy evaluations that identify how homes use energy and where it is being wasted. AmeriSpec evaluators will show homeowners how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce heating and cooling costs and improve comfort in their homes, while ensuring adequate ventilation for a healthy indoor environment.

To take advantage of the program, homeowners first must complete an assessment by a licensed energy evaluator who will determine the home's current energy rating. The service includes: a detailed energy evaluation of the home, a blower door test to find air leaks, a printed report that shows where energy dollars are being spent, recommendations on what homeowners can do to improve their home's energy efficiency and an energy efficiency rating label that shows how efficient their home is compared to other homes in their region.

Using the report's recommendations, homeowners have 18 months to complete upgrades. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available based on individual retrofit initiatives. The average grant is expected to be close to \$1,100. Homeowners can expect to receive their cheque within 90 days of the follow-up evaluation. Many provinces have recently announced that they will cover a portion of the evaluation cost and/or offer additional grant monies.

"Many provinces, such as Saskatchewan and Ontario, have recently announced that they will cover a portion of the evaluation cost and/or offer additional grant monies" said Rob Skinner, business leader for AmeriSpec of Canada.

According to NRCan, once homeowners complete their required energy evaluation and make some or all of the recommended improvements; they can expect federal grants such as:

- Furnace upgrades - up to \$600
- Install a heat recovery ventilator - up to \$300
- Upgrade your central air conditioner to an Energy Star unit - \$200
- Retrofit doors and/or windows to Energy Star - \$30 for each unit

17 percent of all energy used in Canada goes

towards running our homes. As many as 140,000 homeowners are expected to benefit from this national and provincial initiative.

"By completing all of the retrofits recommended by an AmeriSpec evaluator, homeowners should be in a position to decrease their average annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 4.6

tonnes per year, per house and they should also be able to also reduce their energy bills by 38 percent - a huge win for everyone!", Mr. Smyth added.

You can book an appointment or obtain additional information by calling toll-free 1-866-284-6010, or online at www.amerispec.ca/ecoenergy.

- News Canada

Help with buying your first home

Looking for a down payment for your mortgage? You may already have it stashed away in your retirement savings! The Government of Canada's Home Buyers' Plan may allow you to withdraw up to \$20,000 from your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) to buy or build a qualifying home.

Do you qualify? If neither you nor your spouse or common-law partner owned a home that you lived in as your principal

place of residence at any time in the four calendar years before the year of your RRSP withdrawal, and ending 31 days before your withdrawal, then you may be able to participate in the Home Buyers' Plan. You may also qualify if you or a relative is disabled and you are buying a more accessible home for yourself or your relative.

Are you buying a home with your spouse, common-law partner, or someone else? You can each withdraw up to \$20,000

from your RRSP, provided that each person is able to participate in the Home Buyers' Plan.

The amount you withdraw will have to be repaid to your RRSP. You must begin to make repayments in the second year following the year you made your withdrawal and you have up to 15 years to repay the total amount.

For more information, visit www.cra.gc.ca and search the site for "Home Buyers' Plan."


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*Based on MinMaxx Broker of Record's highest number of listings sold Jan-Dec 2008. Statistics Source: Independent Source. Based on TREB Statistics. *If listed and sold by listing agent except competition

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5 ROSEFIELD DRIVE, GEORGETOWN
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\$359,900

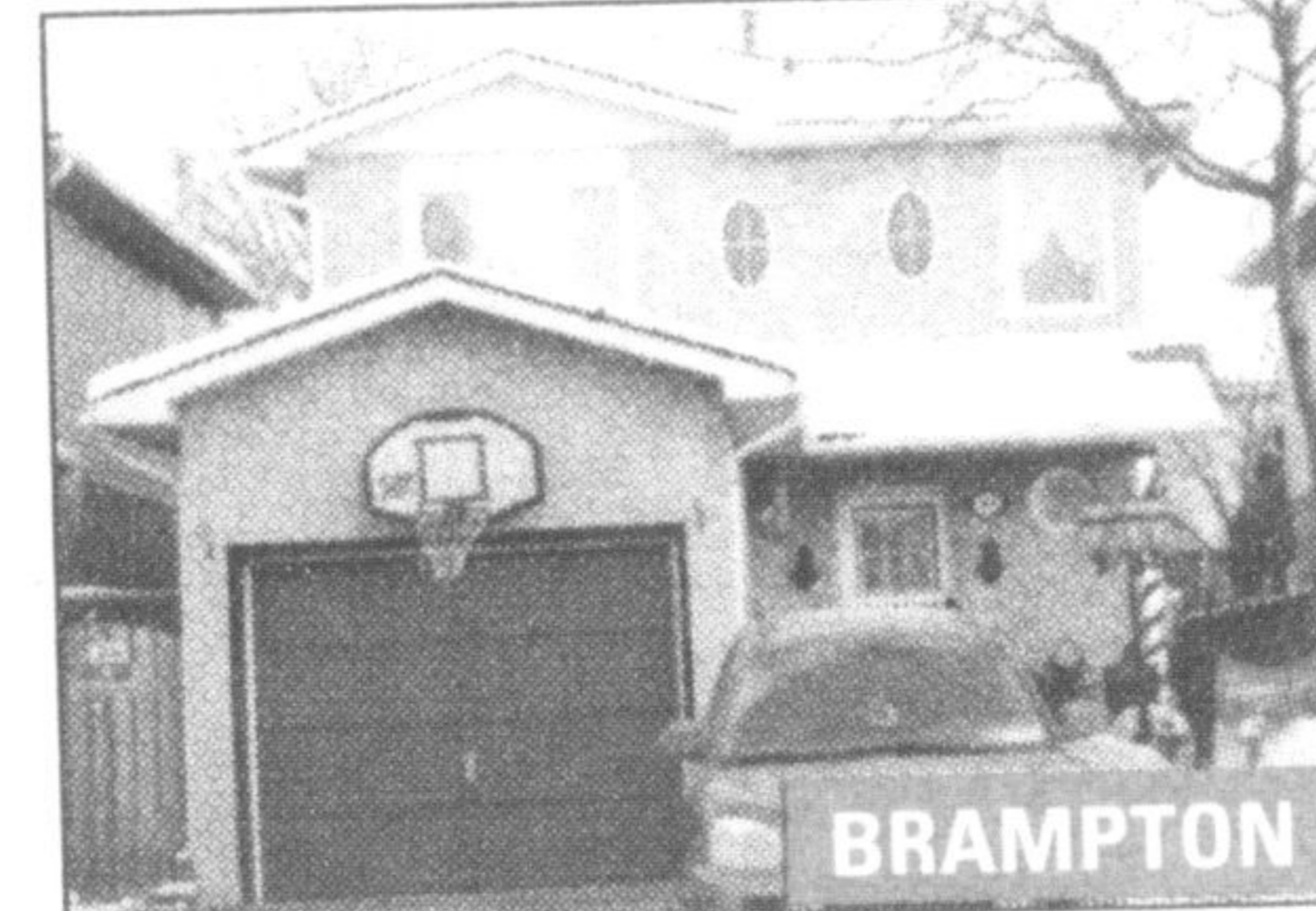
MOVE IN CONDITION

This 3 BR side split features reno kit with skylight. Main bath has jacuzzi tub, newer windows, sun-room addition, central vac, CAC, gas FP, 3 pc bath off rec room, hardwood floors. What more could you ask for! \$359,900.

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Pretty 3+1 bdrm family home surrounded by mature gardens/towering trees on .71 acre lot. Plenty of room for the whole family. Great Room w/wood stove & handsome brick surround, vaulted ceilings, fam. sized 'country' kitchen & 2 w/o's to gardens. Convenient commuter location. Erin - a great place to raise a family! \$324,500

Create Traffic!!

Call Diane to book your listing in the Tuesday Best Homes Real Estate Section and Friday Spotlight on Homes Feature.



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