

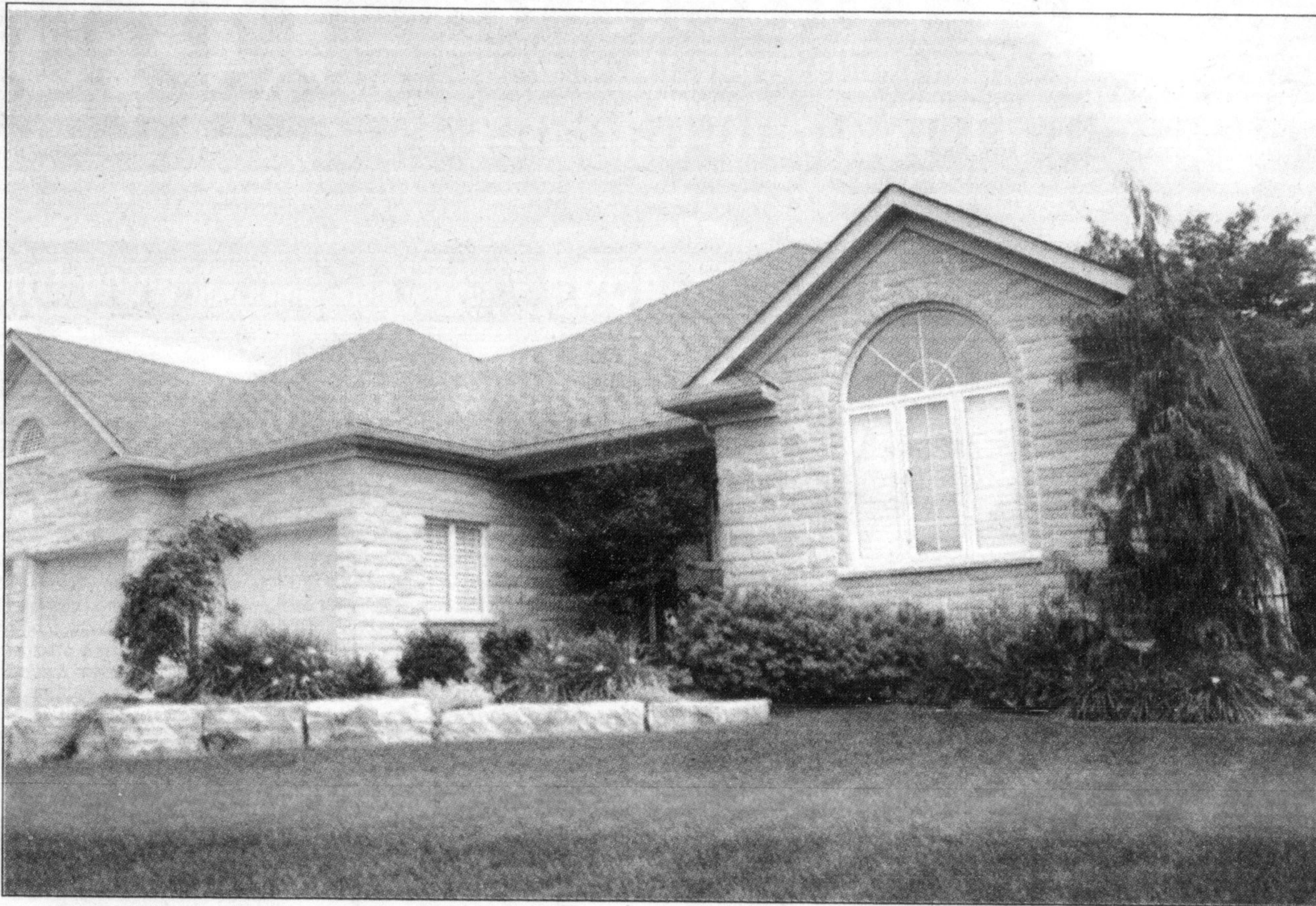
# Masonry homes make the grade

(NC)—Our home is an important asset that must be protected to ensure the safety of our family. Masonry homes provide excellent air quality, sound control, impact resistance and protection against mould and mildew growth. Masonry products are recognized as being among the oldest, longest-lasting and most versatile building materials available.

The air quality of our home is vital in maintaining our health and safety. Contaminants found indoors can be the result of poorly-constructed materials and furnishings that release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) through a process known as out-gassing. Compared to other building materials, masonry provides top quality out-gassing performance and emits very low levels of VOCs. In addition, many masonry products do not require painting, thereby reducing the amount of volatile organic compounds released.

Noise control can be difficult in urban environments. Normal conversation is approximately 60 decibels, whereas the noise from heavy traffic can reach 85 decibels. Reducing noise along the path from its source to the listener can offer an effective solution. A masonry wall uses a relatively high mass that serves to decrease the amplitude of vibration, thus reducing the noise level on the other side of the wall.

Sound resistance is an important factor in overall well-being, especially in dense urban areas. On a decibel level, long or repeated exposure to levels higher than 85 decibels, (for example firecrackers



or firearms), can cause significant hearing loss, otherwise known as noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Distance or resistance from these sounds is critical to protecting one's hearing. Masonry walls produce a significant advantage in reducing noise transmission.

The ability to resist impact also makes masonry a practical choice for homes and buildings. Masonry homes are inherently durable and provide increased security for your family.

"We know your home is your safe-haven and masonry homes

resists the penetration of moisture. Problems with mould and mildew are known to contribute to health risks such as asthma and throat infections; therefore, preventing mould growth is essential in maintaining a healthy and risk-free home environment.

Masonry products provide superior advantages to the average homeowner. When purchasing or building a home, be sure to explore the numerous benefits of brick, block and stone, including health, security and durability.

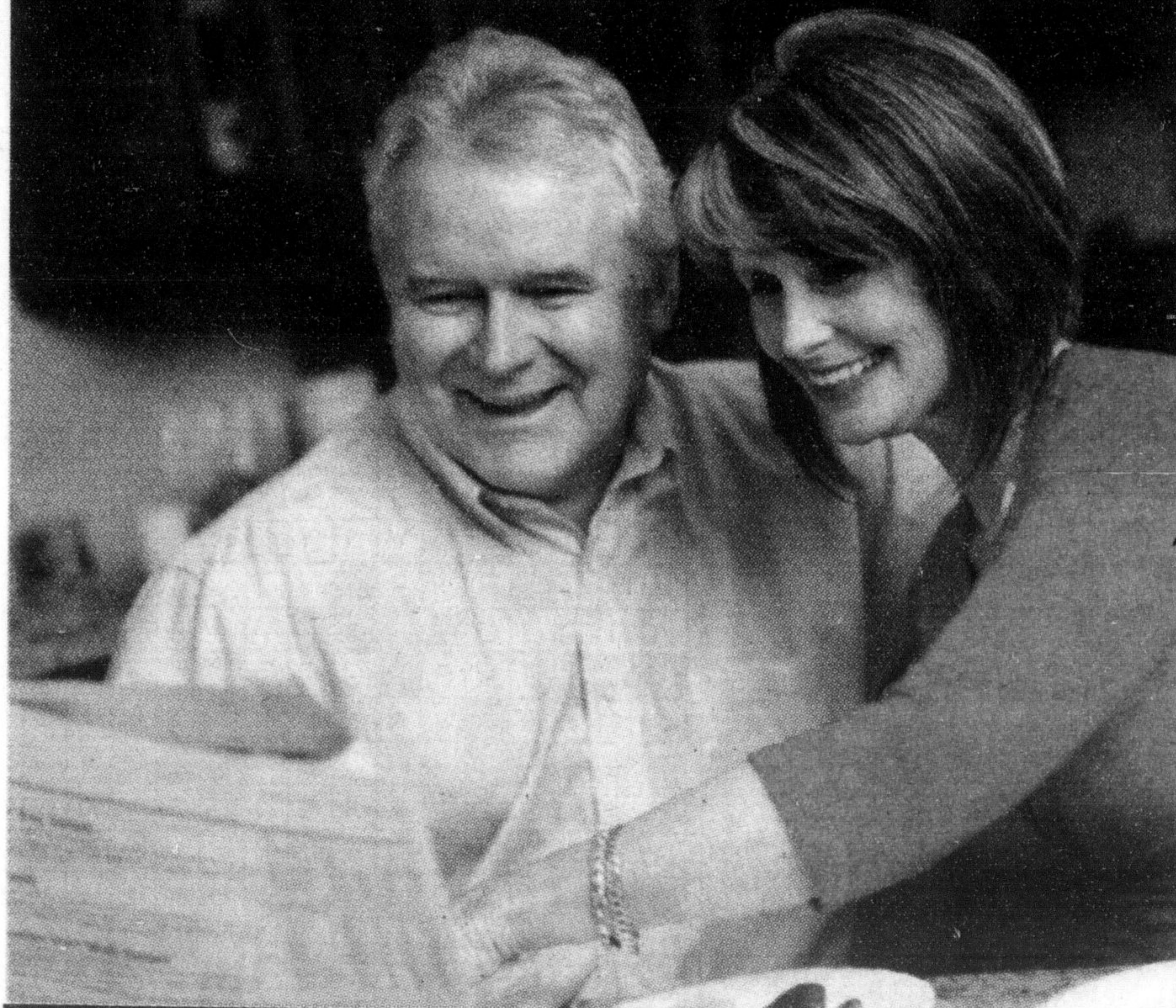
provide the best quality in health, safety and comfort," said Judy Pryma, president of MasonryWorx.

Masonry can resist the effects of damage when a wall is destroyed and help facilitate repairs. A number of different techniques are available that can make existing masonry walls stronger and more capable of withstanding impact from high winds, bullets, explosions and other objects.

Building with masonry not only provides improved air quality, noise control and impact resistance, but it also prevents the formation of mould. Mould develops when there is moisture, such as water condensation on walls or flooded areas. According to [www.MasonryWorx.com](http://www.MasonryWorx.com), masonry wall systems are constructed in a way that minimizes this accumulation and

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