Stopping air leaks should not affect indoor air quality

878-2095

damage to the house. But some home-

Uncontrolled air leakage in a home can much may result in poor indoor air quality. account for up to 40 per cent of the heating Lesley Fletcher, Program Specialist for bill, and may eventually result in structural Ontario Hydro, says, "Unless you've had the home professionally air sealed, it owners worry that sealing the house too likely you will ever seal it tight enough to

be a real concern." And even if there are all you've really done is put a filter in the serious problems, modern solutions are space. You should remove the moulding available.

"Many quality builders are now installing heat recovery ventilation units in new homes," she says. "The units provide a continuous source of fresh air, exhaust the stale air, and eliminate problems like condensation build-up on windows." In older houses, kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans generally eliminate problems caused by humidity.

Indoor air concerns should not discourage homeowners from plugging the leaks that waste energy and cost them up to a third of their heating bills, says Fletcher.

Crakes in the thermal envelope of a house allow warm, moist air to leak out and let cold, dry air in. Fletcher says the worst leakage in typical older homes is in the basement, around the sill plates where the round and foam or caulk behind that." concrete foundation meets the wood framing. These areas should be well-scaled with caulking or polyurethane foam insulation.

around windows. If you install a window window frame and the frame of the house, and cable wires come through walls.

from around the window and do a good air sealing job."

In older homes, there are many other areas of air leakage. "If you were to remove the baseboards on a north or northwest outside wall, especially on a windy day, you would probably be amazed at the strong draft coming in," says Fletcher. "Sometimes the draft is hidden by a bit of broadloom, but that doesn't mean it's not there." Ideally, the baseboards should be removed and caulking or foam insulation applied.

If that's a bigger job than the homeowner wants to tackle, the seams could be caulked & with the baseboard still on, then repainted. Or, "Many older houses have quarter round - so you could at least remove the quarter

Any area where air can leak into the house should be sealed with caulking. A smoke pencil or incense stick will detect drafts. "Another area that is bad for air leakage is Typical air leakage areas include: around electrical outlets and switches; around pipes and just put a little insulation between the) and plumbing stacks; and where telephone

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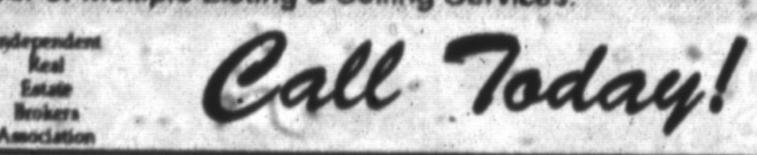
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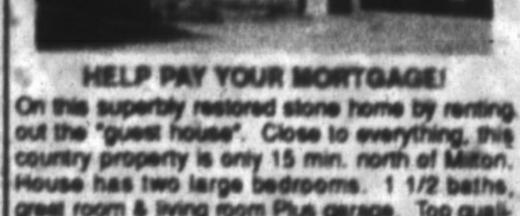
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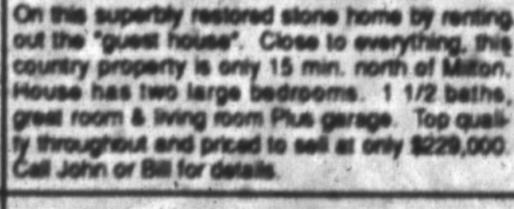
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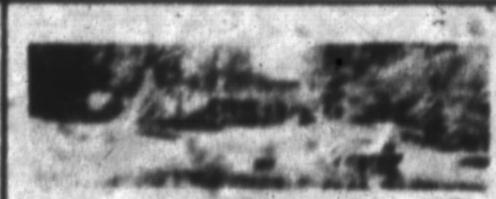
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