

Pest-proofing your home

If your home not only provides shelter for your family and pet dog — but also for frisky mice, boisterous birds and other unwanted critters, it's time to focus your energies on "pest-proofing."

So why did these little visitors decide to make themselves at home on your property? Many homeowners don't realize that an uncapped chimney, loose shingles or open vents are a tempting "welcome mat" for an assortment of wildlife.

Pest-proofing will not only help you get rid of these animals, but will also prevent other wildlife from taking up residence, becoming trapped or injured on your property. This is also a good time to make those repairs that have been on your list of things to do for as long as you can remember.

One of the simplest ways to keep away unwanted house guests is to block off any possible entry points. However, before you seal up these areas, make sure no animals are already settled in your home. If you discover any wildlife, contact your local humane society, or a nature or wildlife group for advice on how to safely return these animals to their habitat.

Once you've ensured your property is tenant-free, look for any areas that would provide easy entry. The roof is one of the most likely entrance ways for birds and other creatures, so check for missing shingles and decayed roof boards. In addition, keep tree branches clear of your roof to ensure that squirrels and raccoons are not using them to gain access to your property.

To make sure your roof does not become a penthouse suite for little critters, install a chimney cap. They are quite inexpensive and can be purchased from hardware stores or woodstove companies. After you've installed the chimney cap, monitor it regularly to make sure it does not become blocked or plugged with debris.

Once you've inspected the roof, it's time to return to ground level and check your home's exterior for cracks and holes. Don't disregard small openings too readily, since mice and insects can easily wiggle through them and settle in for an extended visit. Seal any openings that you discover. Don't forget to check for gaps around the windows.

Open areas under your house and deck can also lead to problems. Skunks are well-known for building their dens in these sites. Once you close off these areas, you can convert them into additional storage spaces.

Garbage is particularly tempting for raccoons who won't think twice about venturing onto your property for a midnight snack. So, keep them away by making sure your garbage cans are securely closed. If possible, put the garbage out the day it is to be picked up, instead of a day ahead of time.

After you've inspected your home, take a look around your garden. You've probably already noticed signs that various creatures have been helping themselves to your fruits or vegetables. The culprits may include birds, rabbits, groundhogs, raccoons or other wildlife.

Ripening fruits will draw birds from near and far. Scarecrows will help keep them away — until they learn the scarecrows are harmless. For more long-lasting solutions, try placing netting over fruit trees, tying paper bags over ears of corn or building wire mesh bird cages over berry crops.

In addition to garbage, raccoons are tempted by insects such as lawn grubs. They enjoy fruit and corn as well. To catch those pesky visitors use a cage trap and then release them into the wild. Make sure you wear thick gloves and handle the cage very carefully, since they will be less than thrilled about being caught and moved around.

Discourage animals, such as deer, from trespassing by erecting a fence at least half-metre high around your garden. You can also keep away burrowers — groundhogs and rabbits, for example — by extending the wire at least five centimetres underground. This will stop them from entering your garden by digging under the fence.

MILTON'S

Best Homes

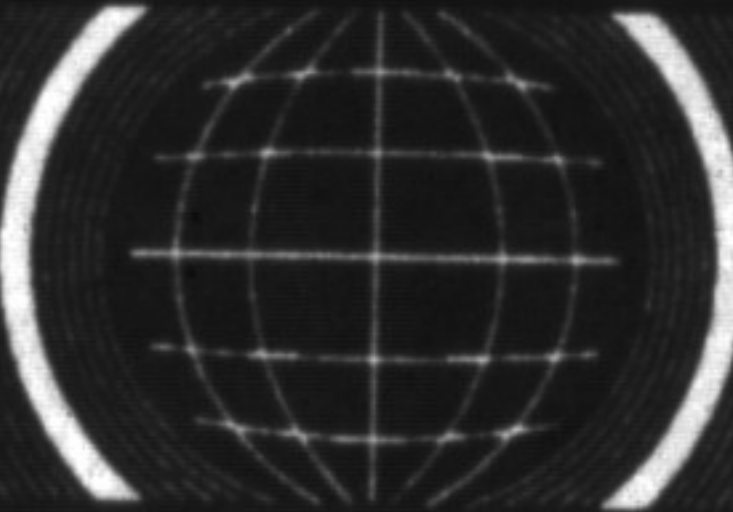
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 <p>END UNIT NEWLY LISTED "FOR SALE" AT \$132,900. This unit comes complete with a finished recreation room, main floor laundry room, dining room overlooking front room with walkout to a patio. Call Wayne Casson* for an appointment to view #145.</p>	 <p>ARE YOU LOOKING? JUST LISTED - PRICED AT \$172,900. Clean backsplit with 3 bedrooms shows well and has a finished rec. room with bar. For more information or to arrange your exclusive appointment to view please ask for Stewart Haddon, Associate Broker. #148.</p>	 <p>\$259,900 COUNTRY CHARMER 1905 farm house completely renovated without spoiling the charm of yesteryear. Featuring 4 bedrooms, fireplace, woodstove, built-in appliances & much more. Seeing is believing! Call Ron Twiss* for details about #144.</p>	 <p>VALUE PACKED \$208,500 Spacious 4 bedroom home complete with large kitchen with walkout, main floor family room with fireplace, comb. living & dining rooms, central air, inground pool, furnace '92 & more! Call Bill Currie* to view #119.</p>																											
 <p>LARGE LOT IN TOWN 3+ bedroom bungalow on 100' x 152' lot with fruit trees offers fireplace insert, finished basement (ideally set up for in-law suite), 200 amp service installed in '90, extra insulation, garage and more. Asking \$214,900. Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to arrange to view #139.</p>	 <p>BRONTE ST. \$119,900 3 bedroom townhouse with upgraded carpeting, 2 pce. & 4' pce. baths plus a shower in the basement. With \$7,000 down, your payment could be less than \$1,000 P.I.T. per month. For info about #138, please call Jennie Fretz*.</p>	 <p>GORGEOUS LOT PLUS Unique bungalow offering 2+ bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, separate family room, full basement, 2 washrooms and 125' x 877' lot. All this for \$239,900! Call Bill Currie* to view #123.</p>	 <p>FOR SALE OR FOR LEASE 10 Acres is included with this 3 bedroom sidesplit. Fireplace in living room, family room & rec. room. Master bedroom has a sauna, hot tub & 3 piece bath. Lots of skylights & much more! Listed at \$349,000. Call Joan Tattrie-Hollings* for complete details about #112.</p>																											
 <p>GREAT INVESTMENT \$174,900 Spacious bungalow with 1/2 pool in fantastic location. Presently used as a boarding house but with a little TLC. could be a lovely family home. Make an offer. Please call Angela Bailey* to arrange your appt. to view #133.</p>	 <p>SATOK TOWNHOUSE Four bedroom home with finished rec. room. \$134,900. Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, for more details or to view #136.</p>	 <p>PRESTIGIOUS HOME 2 storey home boasts elegant great room with four sided fireplace in centre, 20' vaulted ceiling, circular staircases to balustrade on second floor, solid oak kitchen cupboards, Jenn-air B.B.Q., 18'x24' heated inground pool and more! Contact Jennie Fretz* for complete details about #127.</p>	 <p>BUILDER'S OWN HOME Quality shows in this well appointed, lovingly finished home. Features incl. hardwood floors, Beckerman kitchen with B/I appliances, 3 w/o's to beautifully landscaped, fully enclosed, private pool area. Master bdrm. suite with sitting room, ensuite & private balcony. \$439,000. Call Barbara Mallett* to view #98.</p>																											
 <p>POSSIBLE IN-LAW SUITE Located in rural area. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished basement with unique wood bar, 1/2 pool, fenced tennis court plus more amenities. Separate entrance to basement ideal for extended family. \$199,900. To view #116, please call W.J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker.</p>	 <p>PRIVATE PARADISE Spacious raised bungalow nestled against Niagara Escarpment with panoramic view of Toronto sky line. 3+ bedrooms, 4 w/o's to balcony + from rec. room to lawn, 3 baths, F.P., cent. vac., Jacuzzi, stream & pond. \$399,000. For a personal viewing of #125 call Jennie Fretz* today.</p>	 <p>CHARMING CENTURY HOME Now Asking \$259,000. Situated in central Milton this home has been beautifully restored. It offers 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, stone fireplace, pine floors, huge kitchen, family room & more! Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker, to view #92.</p>	 <p>NEED A KENNEL LICENSE? We have one here, plus 5.25 acres of property close to 401 & Main Street. Four bedroom log home, large country kitchen, main floor family room with fireplace. List price \$349,000. Call Joan Tattrie-Hollings* for complete details about #66.</p>																											
 <p>COUNTRY BEAUTY Located between Milton and Campbellville and situated on a mature, large lot is this custom built, four bedroom, five level, back-split. Loaded with extras. \$319,900. For complete details please call Dan Delic* about #121.</p>	 <p>SPACIOUS AND SPECIAL Now asking \$234,500. Executive home, 3 bedrooms and den, tastefully decorated with many extras including hot tub. Great location, shows beautifully. Call Barbara Mallett* today. #71.</p>	 <p>EASY COUNTRY LIVING Now asking \$299,000 for this very modern tri-level, sunken L.R. has cathedral ceiling with indirect lighting, dream kitchen with pantry & centre island, plenty of baths, Jacuzzi & many more amenities that will make life in the country more pleasurable. Call W. J. (Jack) McCrudden, Broker to view #88.</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>NEEDED!</p> <p>SEMI-DETACHED OR SMALL BUNGALOW</p> <p>Please call Helen Hardy* immediately if you are serious about selling as I have a firm buyer with a 45 - 60 day closing.</p> </div>																											
<p>W. J. (JACK) McCRUDDEN, BROKER</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>STEWART HADDON, Assoc. Broker..... 878-3333</td> <td>ROSS CESCONE..... 878-2755</td> <td>BARBARA MALLALIEU*..... 878-7488</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. MARK MALLALIEU, Assoc. Broker..... 878-7488</td> <td>GLADYS CRANFORD*..... 875-3039</td> <td>LINDA McHUGH*..... 877-0448</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAM NADALIN, Assoc. Broker..... 878-6709</td> <td>BILL CURRIE*..... 878-4944</td> <td>DON PELZ*..... 878-1029</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANGELA BAILEY*..... 878-0913</td> <td>DAN DELIC*..... 338-7084</td> <td>ROSE MARIE SAUNDERS*..... 878-1029</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DICK BELFORD*..... 878-5692</td> <td>LINDA ERTZLY*..... 878-9378</td> <td>JOAN TATTRIE-HOLLINGS*..... 878-1575</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MILICA BJEKIC*..... 878-1133</td> <td>JOSEPH FEDACSEK*..... 854-9949</td> <td>RON TWISS*..... 878-4056</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LES BUNKER* (519) 856-4352</td> <td>JENNIE FRETZ*..... 875-2727</td> <td>JO-ANNE VAN-SLINGERLAND*..... 875-0215</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOUG BUTSON*..... 878-2054</td> <td>HELEN HARDY*..... 878-3915</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WAYNE CASSON*..... 878-0466</td> <td>GARY LOVE*..... 878-4930</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>*Registered Real Estate Salesperson</small></p>				STEWART HADDON, Assoc. Broker..... 878-3333	ROSS CESCONE..... 878-2755	BARBARA MALLALIEU*..... 878-7488	J. MARK MALLALIEU, Assoc. Broker..... 878-7488	GLADYS CRANFORD*..... 875-3039	LINDA McHUGH*..... 877-0448	SAM NADALIN, Assoc. Broker..... 878-6709	BILL CURRIE*..... 878-4944	DON PELZ*..... 878-1029	ANGELA BAILEY*..... 878-0913	DAN DELIC*..... 338-7084	ROSE MARIE SAUNDERS*..... 878-1029	DICK BELFORD*..... 878-5692	LINDA ERTZLY*..... 878-9378	JOAN TATTRIE-HOLLINGS*..... 878-1575	MILICA BJEKIC*..... 878-1133	JOSEPH FEDACSEK*..... 854-9949	RON TWISS*..... 878-4056	LES BUNKER* (519) 856-4352	JENNIE FRETZ*..... 875-2727	JO-ANNE VAN-SLINGERLAND*..... 875-0215	DOUG BUTSON*..... 878-2054	HELEN HARDY*..... 878-3915		WAYNE CASSON*..... 878-0466	GARY LOVE*..... 878-4930	
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