

## Midlander develops energy efficient pool in dwelling

When Pearson Armstrong's family announced to him that they would like an indoor pool built at their 1007 Glen Eagles Crescent home in Midland, all Mr. Armstrong could think of was dollar signs - big ones!

"I knew that an addition to our home would be necessary and that this along with the pool would likely cost about \$30,000. if done by a contractor," said Mr. Armstrong. "That was bad enough - and we still hadn't worked out the cost of heating the pool

and room."

At this point Mr. Armstrong's engineering background and Scottish upbringing must have come into play.

The Armstrongs decided to build their pool themselves. Pearson and sons William and Duncan, completed the addition and pool in May, 1978 and the cost savings were substantial.

Heating the whole complex efficiently became the real challenge.

"I finally struck upon an idea for heating that

was basically quite simple in theory and tremendously inexpensive to operate. Instead of heating with natural gas as is the custom for most pools, we decided upon using a combination of the sun's rays and wood heat," explained Mr. Armstrong.

"We burn wood exclusively in the winter months in a large airtight stove. Through a series of copper heating coils, water from the pool passes through the stove, is heated and returned to the pool."

The stove also keeps their 825 square foot addition very warm and even helps heat the remainder of the home which uses natural gas.

As a result the Armstrongs consume less than \$300 of gas per year to heat their 2,200 square foot home.

### Collector coils

As soon as the snow is gone in the spring, the Armstrongs switch over to collector coils installed on the west side of the addition's roof through which they pump water from the pool.

In the spring, summer and fall this helps keep the pool warm as the sun's rays heat up the water passing through the coils. On colder or cloudy days the wood burning stove brings the water in the pool right up to a comfortable swimming temperature.

Naturally the Armstrongs' addition is extra-well insulated. Both the walls and

ceiling have an R-20 factor, and double sliding glass doors, tropical plants, and cedar ceiling add to the decor.

"Our family uses the pool all year round," explains Faythe Armstrong, "Even in the coldest days of the winter the temperature of the water is a very comfortable 73 degrees F."

"Our daughter Gayle,

who is 13-years-old, had her whole class in for a swim the last day of school this year. The pool is 16' x 24' so there was plenty of room."

Unfortunately the Armstrongs are having to leave Midland for business reasons and their split-level-home has been listed for sale.

There's to be an open house Saturday for interested buyers.

## Digging to the foundations of local naval and military history

One month ago ground was broken (carefully) just outside the officer's quarters at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments in Penetanguishene.

It was the start of this summer's dig at the historic site. Three students, under the direction of Mark Warrack, archaeology research supervisor, have been scooping and sifting earth for over a month now, turning up clues to the history of the only remaining original building and the lives of its occupants 150 years ago.

The team working on the project has discovered a set of stone steps which once led down to a cellar beneath the building. They have found evidence of a 600 foot drainage system which, at one time, led from the cook's hearth down to the water's edge. They've dug deep enough to reveal blocked up doorways and entrances to the building.

This summer's project is the second of its type in the past three years. Two years ago, a portion of the former barracks housing the soldiers was excavated. The staked out area just outside the site's orientation building is the evidence of the first project. Some 10,569 artifacts were uncovered in the process of that project.

This summer, the four member crew is turning up "at least" 200 ar-

tifacts a day, Mark Warrack says. They are finding hundreds of old nails, fragments of bottle glass and glass panes, and animal bones - mostly beef, but some chicken and fish, as well.

In some respects, the preservation and interest in the officer's quarters, comes a few years too late. The building served as quarters from 1836 to 1856. In 1859 the

structure became the home of the warden of the boys' reformatory, says Warrack, and later was used by the Ontario Hospital.

In 1952 Dr. Wilfrid Jury converted the building into a museum and when the Ontario government created the present-day site the funding was there to finance archaeological projects.

But looking at what remains of the stone

staircase leading to the old cellar, one realizes just how little attention or protection was given to the historic value of the structure, until recently.

About 10 years ago, underground cables were laid to the building. In the process, much of the original stone staircase was destroyed, as this summer's project graphically reveals.



### Unearthing history

Claudette Belcourt sifts through the earth at the site of this year's archaeological dig at the Naval and Military Establishments.

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