

# J. Albert Belanger (your friend and mine!)

As the colder weather is approaching, I would just like to make you aware of the government of Ontario's plans to encourage greater public participation in reducing energy bills throughout the province this winter. But first, a bit of history on the subject.

Ontario has one of the highest per capita energy rates in the world. We are responsible for over one-third of the total Canadian use and eighty per cent of our energy supplies are dependent upon resources outside the province. Resources which are shrinking and whose costs are ever increasing.

It has become obvious that we can no longer afford to think that our resources are unlimited. As your fuel bills will tell you, the era of cheap unlimited energy is over. We can no longer afford the luxury of waste, no matter how small the waste may be.

In this regard, the Ministry of Energy established the Ontario Energy Management Program about 18 months ago. This program is designed to show people how they can use less energy. The program already embraces 95 experimental conservation projects covering all types of energy use.

One example of these energy conservation projects which may be of interest to you is a soil warming technique to reduce fuel consumption in the food industry. Currently, it takes one gallon of heating oil to grow two pounds of vegetables in a greenhouse. And it is not surprising to hear that some greenhouse producers are cutting back their production by 35 percent. Other farm research programs are concentrating on better ways to dry grain and corn and to reduce the time needed to prepare fields for planting with mechanical equipment.

Another priority of this program is to cut our annual \$7.5 billion energy bill by \$1 billion in 1980. But the government cannot do it alone, it needs the cooperation of everyone.

In this regard, the week of October 31 to November 6 has been proclaimed "Energy Conservation Week". This week is planned to stimulate and inform the people of Ontario about the

need, the benefits and the ways of achieving energy conservation.

But Energy Conservation Week is merely a starting point; it must not end there if we are

to reach our goal of saving \$1 billion annually. By being wise and prudent in our use, watchful about waste, we can save not only millions of kilowatt hours, but also millions of dollars.

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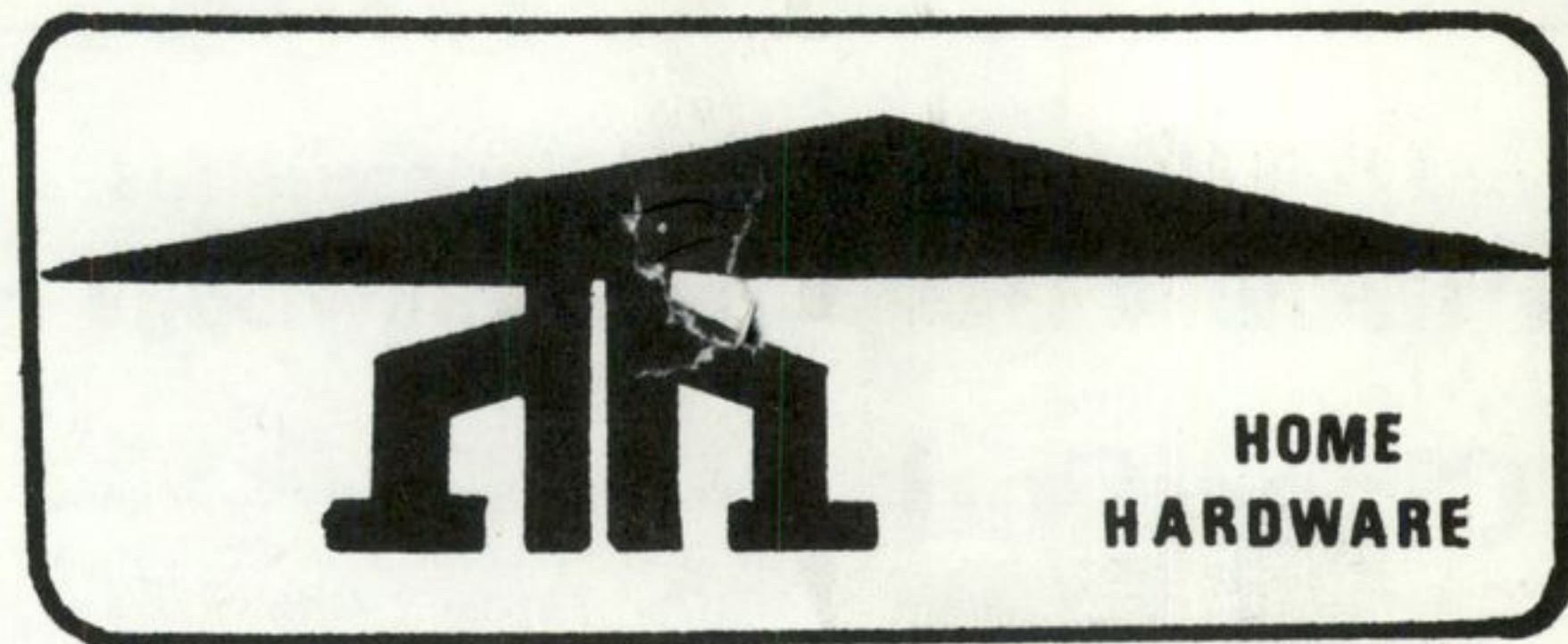
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