

Sports

# From Go-kart track to the Indy 500

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Correspondent

When Mario Petti, his wife, Nicolina, and their son, Mario, Jr., gathered around the TV on Sunday to watch the Cleveland Grand Prix, they shared a special interest in the proceedings.

After all, two of the leading contenders in the race began their careers just 40 yards from where the Pettis were sitting.

The Pettis own and run Goodwood Kartways, a go-kart track which snakes and weaves its way over an acre of land outside the Pettis' front door. It doesn't look like the nurturing grounds for world-class auto racers, tucked neatly but inconspicuously in a corner where two country roads intersect several kilometres northeast of Stouffville.

But Goodwood Kartways was the early proving grounds for such track notables as Scott Goodyear and the whiz kid Paul Tracy. Both of these big-money winners started burning rubber at Goodwood while only nine years old. Scott in 1970 and Paul in 1977.

The go-kart track was originally built and operated by Gene Bell in 1957. He retired at the age of 97 and sold the operation to Mario Petti, an Oshawa garage owner and go-kart enthusiast, in 1975.

Manoeuvring the course's many twists and turns requires considerable strength and stamina of both children and adults, as well as quick reflexes and a cool head. The go-karts can move at speeds up to 160 kilometres an hour.

"It's almost impossible to tip them," Mario, Sr., points out when questioned about the safety of the sport.

"The go-kart's body is only an inch off the asphalt and they're wide. Nobody's been seriously injured here. Maybe some scrapes and bruises from time to time, but nothing serious," he reiterates. "One fellow did break his leg once but that's the worst injury we ever had here."

Kids start as early as eight years old at Goodwood. There are three categories of drivers.

First, there's the Rookies, and you're considered a rookie at any age until you've proven yourself in competitions, which are held every second Sunday. Only after winning several races do you move up to Junior ranking. The final stage is Senior, and you have to be good to make it.

Scott Goodyear, who as a boy worked after school in his father's motorcycle and snowmobile shop on Yonge St. heard lots of heady

conversation about auto racing. He found his way to Goodwood in 1969. With his father's backing, he spent as much time on the track as he could until he went to racing school at Mosport in 1978.

Paul Tracy, too, fell in love with Goodwood. He and Mario, Jr., became fast friends during Paul's years at the go-kart track.

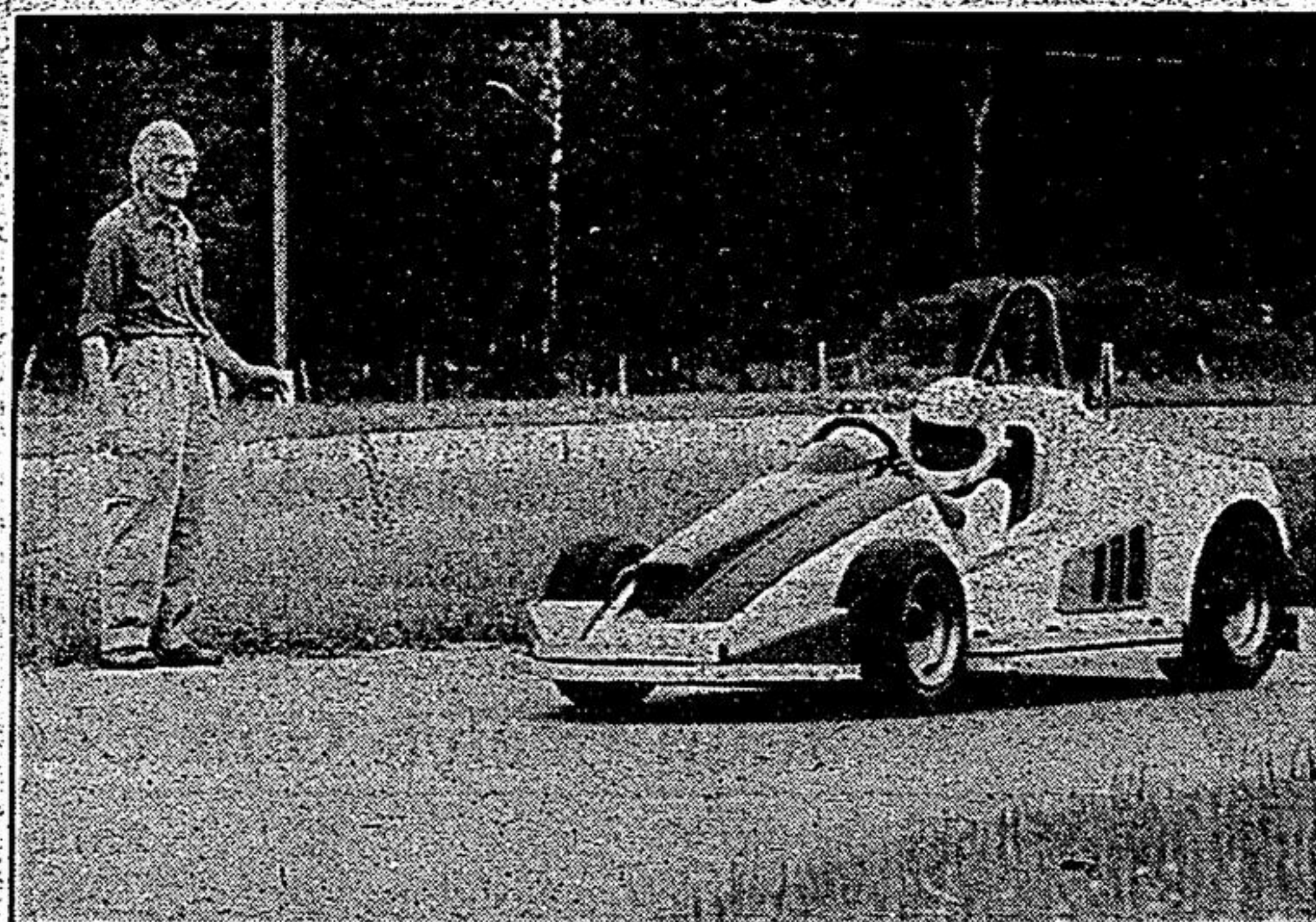
"Paul sometimes even slept overnight here," Mario Sr., recalls with a smile.

It's easy to see that the older Mario is proud of the achievements of these two drivers who have joined the world's racing elite.

"They're both good drivers, but different. Paul is aggressive. If he has a two-lap lead, he wants to make it four. It's always push for more."

Finding it hard to put Scott's driving into words, he finally said, "Scott is maybe more patient. He moves around the track and passes other cars, nice, smooth..."

And if auto races are never certain, one thing is: the Pettis will be sitting before the television on Sunday, watching the Molson Indy 500 and pulling for the two Canadian drivers. Then they'll be back to business, watching over the track and the possible future greats now testing themselves against its many sharp turns.



Goodwood Kartways owner Mario Petti (left), watches Andrew Pare, 13, take his kart through one of the turns.

## Indians earn win and tie

The Stouffville minor mosquito Indians stretched their undefeated streak to three games with a win and a tie.

Geoffrey Taylor and Dylan Harrison each socked a triple and two singles to lift the Indians to a 13-3 win over Beeton on July 5.

Jordan VanEstrik ripped a triple to deep centre while John Lyons

and Ryan Jackson each hit a double.

Michael Hamilton fanned six batters to earn the win.

Facing Uxbridge last Sunday, the Indians held the visitors to a 7-7 draw.

Richard Mulder, Taylor, Hamilton, Harrison, and Jackson provided the Indians' offence.

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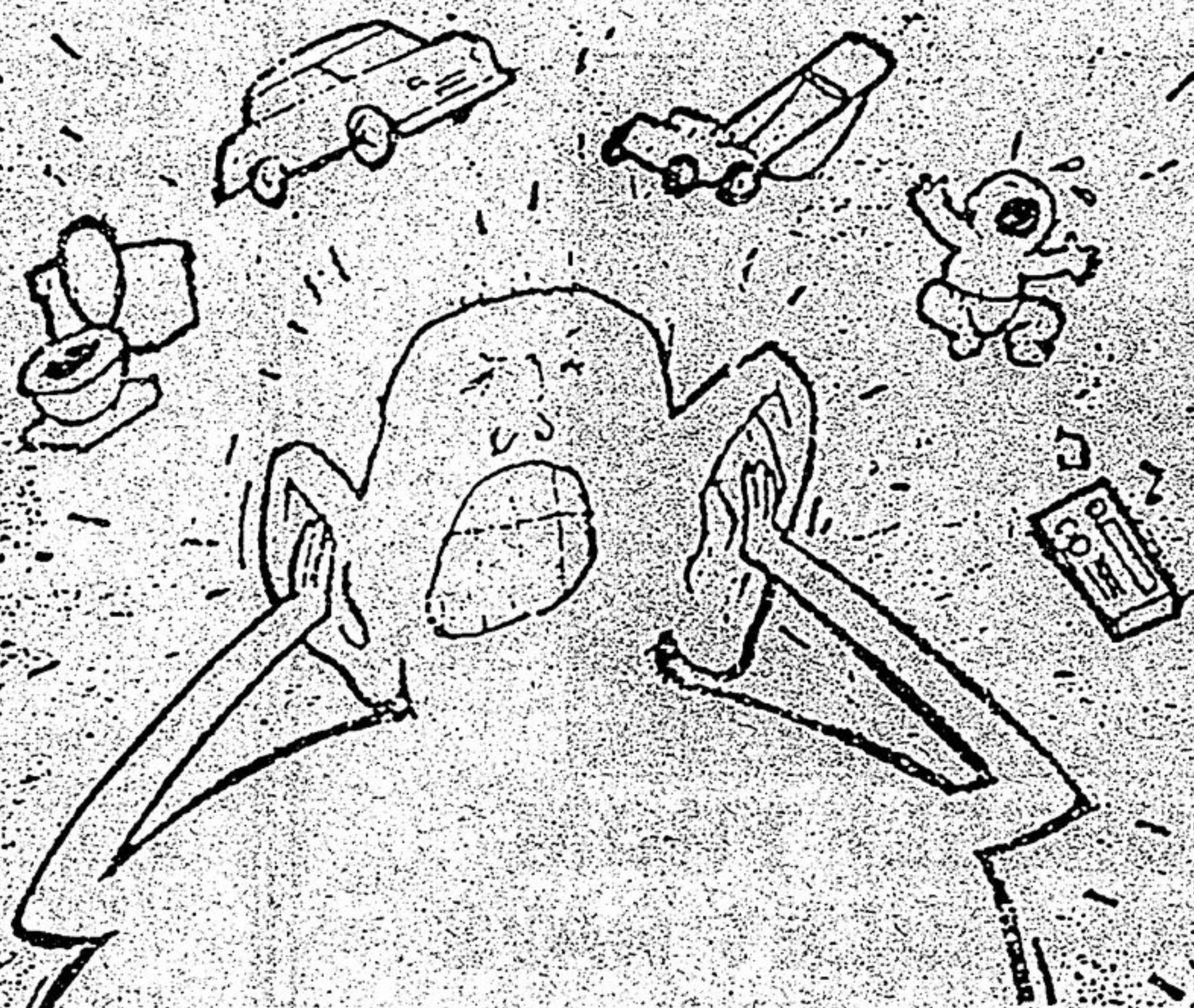
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## FOCUS ON BUSINESS



## Enjoying the sweet sound of silence

Craving a little peace and quiet, you sneak off to your bedroom for some solitary reflection. But the sound of silence can sometimes be deafening. The pipes screech as your husband turns on the water in the kitchen downstairs, the angry sound of two children rise in crescendo as they fight over the television remote, the hum of the dryer competes with the annoying sing-song of the Nintendo coming from the adjoining room, and the sound of the toilet flushing adds a flourish to the cacophony of sounds that are interrupting your reverie.

This is silence? There is a better way, says Roger Foulds, co-owner of Canadian Home Acoustics Inc. Located in Sunderland, Ontario, the firm has 14 years experience in commercial and industrial noise control systems. Two years ago, they expanded to include residential applications. These experts have identified the major problem areas in residential homes and have developed products, materials and systems to reduce noise levels as cost-effectively as possible. Using the Soundtrap system, these noise reduction specialists can dramatically reduce the many irritating, airborne noises which are transmitted via the pipes, ducts and other conduits throughout a home. The system adds an extra element of privacy in multi-family dwellings such as townhomes and semis. Wall and floor systems can be designed to meet current building code

requirements for noise control. These systems can be tested after construction and a certificate can be issued.

The noise control is achieved, said Foulds, by treating the noises at the source whenever possible.

Different types of absorption and barrier materials are then used to reduce the transfer of noise to other areas of the structure.

Ideally, this is achieved while the home is still under construction, or undergoing major renovations, but there also are many other options available to owners of existing homes.

The services provided by Canadian Home Acoustics vary with the needs of the client - from the complete design of a noise reduction system in a new home to supplying materials for a do-it-yourselfer, as well as design and consulting services.

In addition to noise reduction, parts of the Soundtrap system act as an excellent fire-retardant providing up to a one hour fire wall, and it assists in air sealing the home, thus increasing thermal efficiency.

All products are environmentally friendly, non-toxic, government tested and approved and many use recycled material.

For more information about reducing the sounds of silence in your home, call the experts at Canadian Home Acoustics at (705) 357-1067 or 1-800-268-7032.

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