

Moraine study planned for fall

A field team from Natural Resources Canada will be in the Ballantrac area until September as part of a study that will try and unlock the secrets of the Oak Ridges Moraine.


Formed during the last ice age, the moraine is one of the most heavily used groundwater sources in Canada, supplying water to 250,000 residents of York, Durham and Peel regions. Largely composed of sand and gravel, the moraine retains water in aquifers which are tapped to provide drinking water.

But little is known about the moraine's geology. As a result, in 1993 the Geological Survey of Canada began a three-year regional study of the moraine to find and understand groundwater flow. The Oak Ridges Moraine Study will include mapping, geophysical testing, seismic surveys, water sampling, drilling and soil testing.

A two to three person field team in the Ballantrac area will conduct drilling investigations.

It is hoped that the study will determine how much water enters the moraine from rainfall and snowfall and where it travels underground. If this is known, areas of the moraine which warrant special care because of their role in determining the movement or quality of groundwater can be identified.

- Mike Ruita



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SENIORS

Prepare home for lifestyle changes

As you age, your lifestyle changes and so should your home. Looking to the future means using today's technology to make your home warmer, cozier, safer and easier to live in.

For example, a downstairs washroom allows you to avoid climbing the stairs, while gradual slopes indoors and outside, instead of steps, are quick to install and easier to walk or negotiate later on in a wheelchair.

A shower with a built-in seat is a boon for anyone who finds difficulty in standing too long or getting in and out of the bath. There are many bathroom manufacturers which offer a wide selection of showers in square, rectangular, circular and curved shapes, with non-slip floors. Gardening, of course, is a great pleasure for many people, but all that bending and stretching can become a little arduous. Think about raising some of the flower beds so they can be tended at waist height or even better, while you're sitting down.

Warmth inside the house - a high priority in later life - can be captured in the form of sun rays streaming through picture windows.

A roof with at least four inches of insulation, lagged piping, a jacketed water heater and insulated walls and floors also keep the heat in.

You'll look at your home differently once you retire. A home geared toward a working life is essentially an evening and busy weekend home. When you are based at home, your needs change.

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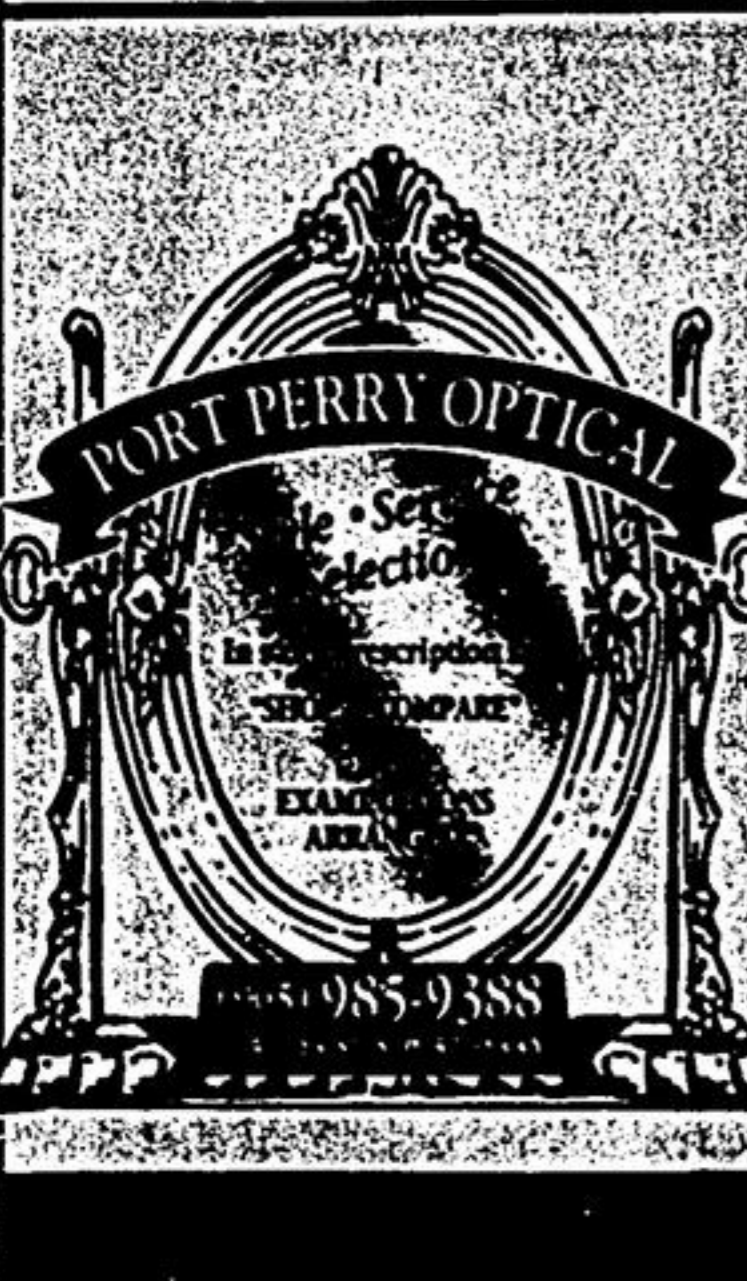
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