

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HOME SWEET HOME

Fall is the perfect time to make your home energy efficient



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Fall is almost here and it's time to get your home ready for the long, cold winter months ahead.

"Canadians spend significant time and money preparing their homes for winter," said George Hughes, manager of home improvements, Enbridge Home Services.

"Our goal this fall is to help homeowners out with some timely, energy-smart ideas and affordable solutions that will add warmth, plus value to their homes," he said.

ELIMINATE DRAFTS

Tip: Replace your exterior doors.

"Your front door is the gateway to your home, and snugly fitting doors at every entrance are a must for energy conservation," said Hughes.

"Steel doors are three times more efficient than wood because they reduce energy costs by eliminating drafts. They also last longer than wood."

Here are some important considerations when you invest in new exterior doors:

- A steel door has weather stripping that attaches magnetically to the outside of the door frame.

- This effectively seals the cold out — much the same way your refrigerator door seals cold in.

- Although no door is entirely burglarproof, a steel door is a lot more secure than an old wooden door.

- Installing a deadbolt lock is another smart idea.

- Steel doors can be painted any colour. If you prefer the look of wood but the strength of steel, you should opt for a wood-grain finish. Once it's painted you won't see the difference.

- Decide which way you want your door to open. This determines what side the hinges are placed on.

- Select the grip set, or handle, you want for your door, and decide if you want a peephole before finalizing your purchase.

- Consider adding windows — known as side lights — beside your new door. They should be ordered and installed at the same time as your door.

- Most side lights are triple paned, so they're nearly as energy efficient as the doors themselves.

- When you choose a steel door, remember that it can take a few weeks for it to be custom-made with the features you want. So the earlier you order, the better.

KEEP HEAT IN, COSTS DOWN

Tip: Insulate, insulate, insulate.

"Proper insulation is crucial when it comes to winter-proofing your home," said Hughes.

"A properly insulated attic can save you as much as 15 per cent of your home's total heat loss. A poorly insulated attic can also cause leaks, which can damage your roof."

Consider these points when you decide on insulation:

- The attic must be properly ventilated.

- Your attic hatch must be well

sealed and insulated so the heat you're already paying for, doesn't leak from the house into the attic.

That can cause condensation which could lead to wood rot or hazardous mould growth.

- Increase your energy savings by caulking and sealing any openings that lead into the attic and basement.

- Check your level of attic insulation. You should have at least 11 to 13 inches of insulation.

- Consider new energy saving, low-maintenance siding to seal warmth into your home.



A clean burning, natural gas fireplace costs as little as 12 cents an hour to operate compared to a wood-burning fireplace, which can cost up to \$1 per hour.

See INSULATING, page 17

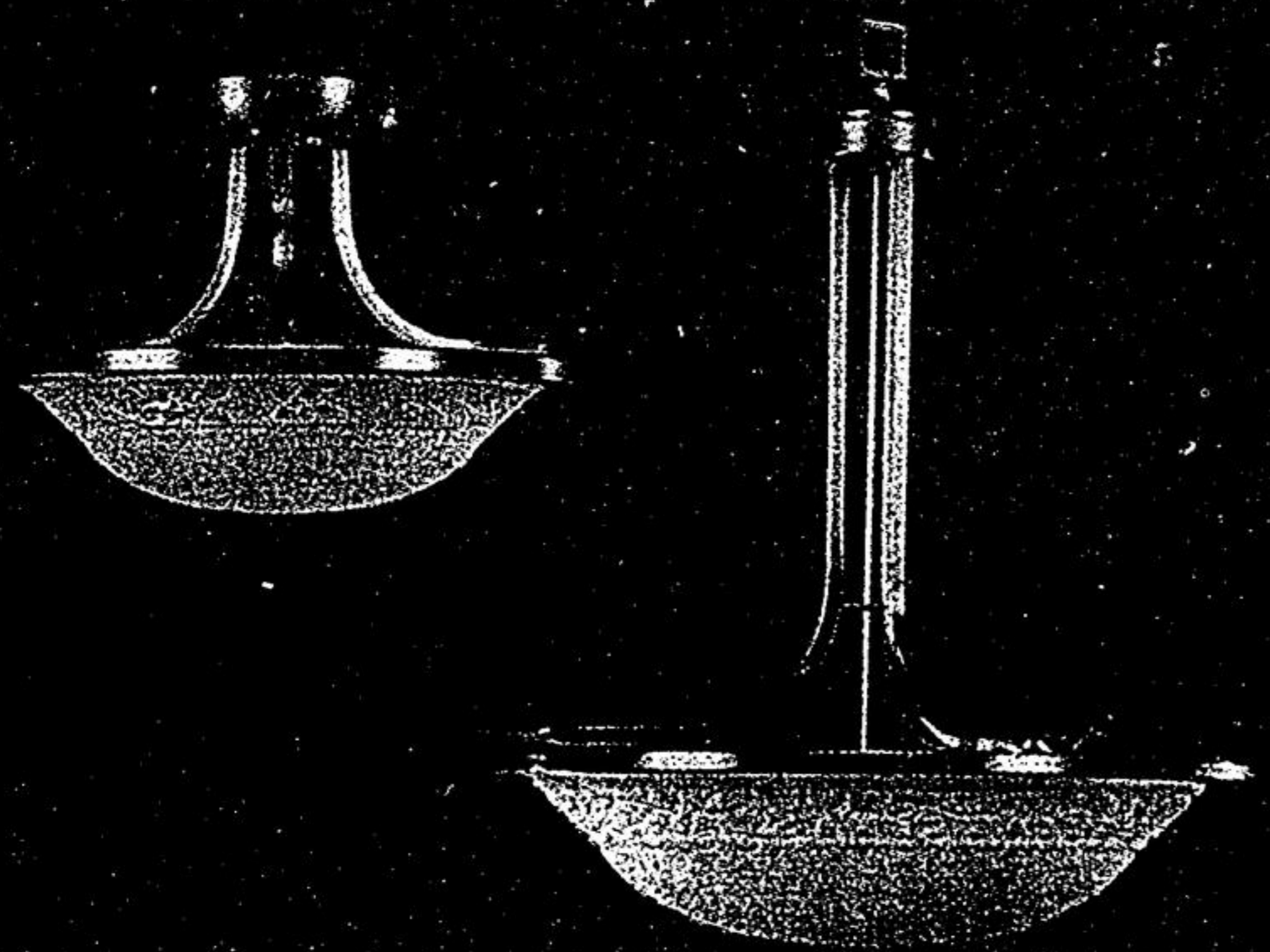
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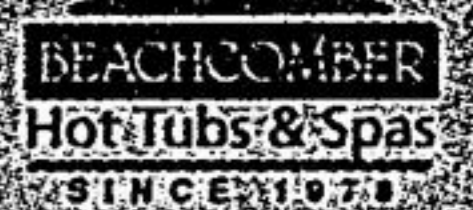
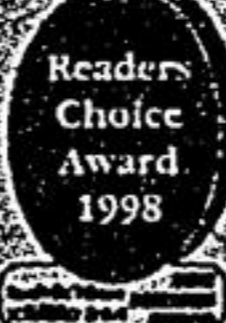
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