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Are today's windows becoming too complicated?

Window technology has become incredibly complicated in the past decade. Today, consumers can select windows that are self-cleaning, burglar proof, space enhancing, sound proof, and energy efficient. While these options may seem intimidating to some, the practical and aesthetic benefits are well worth the investment.

"Windows have become the most complicated material used in the construction of a new home," says Dave Rosolen, co-owner of Encore Home Improvements in Markham. "Choosing the correct windows for your home is crucial because energy-efficient windows minimize heat loss, maximize solar gain (in the winter) and allow for a healthy humidity level in the home."

Health Canada recommends that your home's relative humidity be kept between 30 and 55 percent in winter. Lower levels aggravate skin allergies and respiratory infections, and higher levels increase the spread of mould, bacteria and viruses. Dust mites spread when the humidity is above 50 percent. As well, windows need to be safe and secure, easy to operate and easy to clean.

"To achieve these things, consumers need to inform themselves about all the different options available about their windows," says Dave. "We offer useful, unbiased information and will help people to make informed decisions about their windows."

Typically, older windows represent a major source of unwanted heat loss, discomfort and condensation problems during winter. In recent years, advances in window technology have led to lower heat loss, less air leakage and warmer window surfaces that improve comfort and minimize condensation.

Dave urges consumers to do their research before purchasing any windows, and to check out the web site www.efficientwindows.org.

Tired of cleaning windows? Ever wished for a

window that could clean itself? Pilkington, an international glass manufacturer, has produced a revolutionary glass that does exactly that.

Activ™ Glass is the world's first solar-powered, self-cleaning glass that uses the power of the sun to clean itself. The Activ Glass has many features and can be used in any type of residential or commercial window. The self-cleaning properties eliminate the need for window washing. It's environmentally friendly because it requires less cleaning, no chemical cleaners and less detergent.

Encore stands behind its products and workmanship with complete satisfaction and a lifetime warranty on parts and labour (non prorated). "If you have a service problem, we will come out right away," says Dave. "This is part of our total commitment to provide great products and peace of mind ownership."

Founded in 1987, Encore Home Improvements is a full service door and window company specializing in residential homes and businesses. The company also provides a full line of custom-made porch enclosures, sunrooms, interior shutters and exterior shutters for all types of homes.

Encore Home Improvements is located at 450 Alden Rd. in Markham. For details call (905) 470-0750. Their web site is at www.encorewindows.com.

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If you are looking for advanced esthetics and skin treatments, Sherlase Clinic offers these services at one convenient location in a confidential setting.

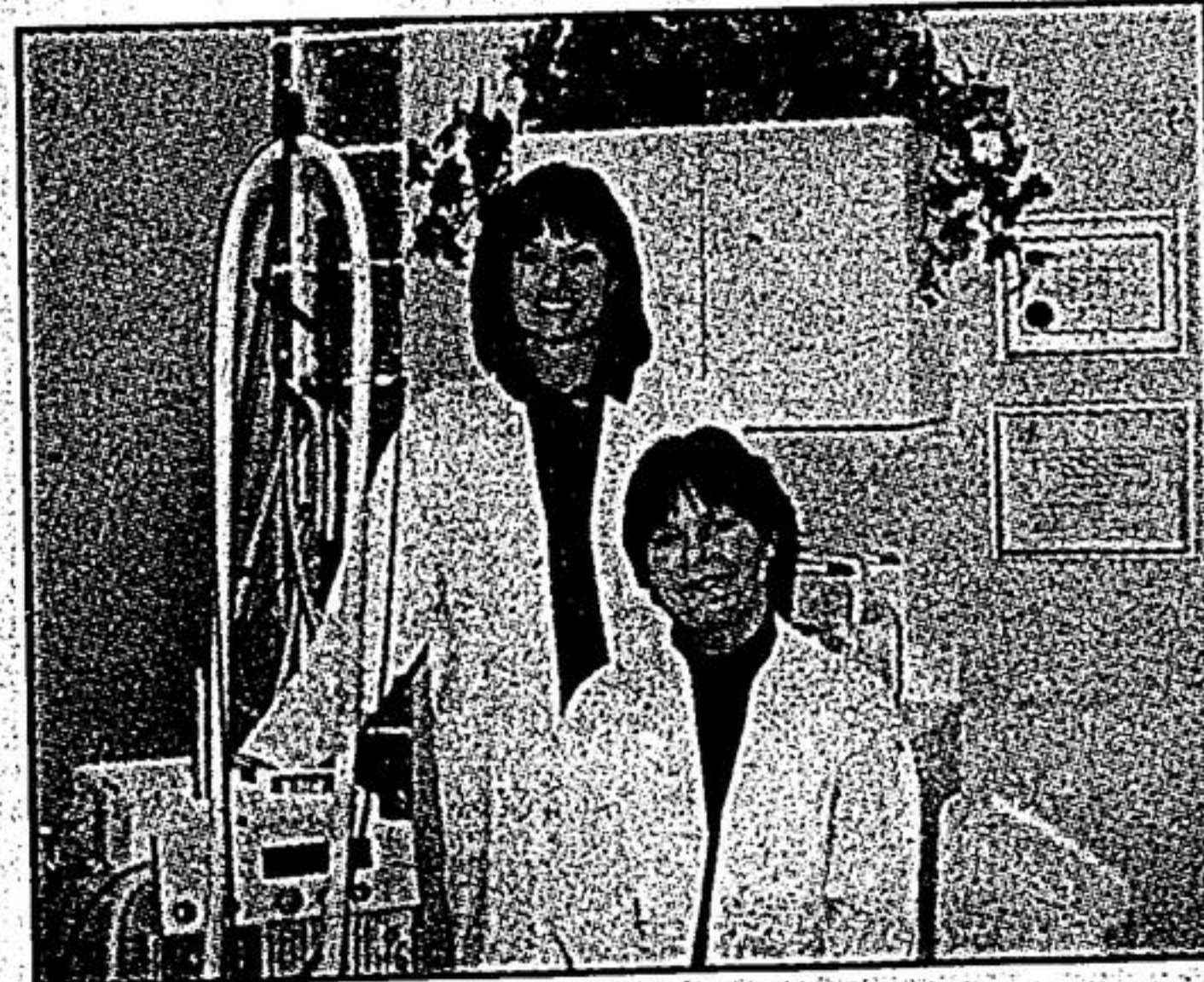
Laser hair removal is popular with both men and women and is here to stay, says Sheri Kurtz, owner of the Sherlase Clinic, Markham.

"People just don't know all there is to know about laser hair removal and there's a lot of misinformation out there," she says. "We, at Sherlase, take pride in both informing and educating our clientele as to just what to expect when deciding on a laser hair removal plan that is best for them. Each person is different and we want you to be totally comfortable and know what to expect from the treatment plan recommended."

"Our professionals care about removing unwanted hair. We have one of the most up-to-date, powerful, and FDA approved lasers available. With this type of laser we have more than enough power to eradicate hundreds of hair follicles at once. This means we can get rid of unwanted hair faster and more efficiently to all skin colours."

The newest addition to the clinic is a laser designed primarily to eliminate facial and leg veins. This laser also effectively treats Rosacea and cherry angiomas. Some clients are treated with a combination of Sclerotherapy and vascular laser for leg veins.

The Sherlase Clinic offers an extensive range of advanced esthetic services that



enhance the body without surgery. Botox, facial peels and Restylane injections are available to enhance a natural look.

We can treat acne, pigmentation, combat sun damage, age spots, fine lines and enlarged or oily pores.

"Our skilled professionals keep current on the latest trends and developments in order to deliver the best care possible. We have planned information evenings in order to educate our clients and make them knowledgeable and comfortable with the procedure. All our consultations are confidential and free," says Kurtz.

The Sherlase Clinic is located at the southeast corner of 16th Ave. and Markham Rd.

It is open five days a week and by appointment in the evenings.

Our consultations are at no charge. For more information call (905) 201-8005 or email sherlase@attcanada.ca.

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