

TOTAL HOME

Advertising Feature of The Markham Economist & Sun/Stouffville Sun - Tribune

Thinking fireplace? Think safety and energy efficiency

An energy-efficient fireplace can help supplement your primary heating system.

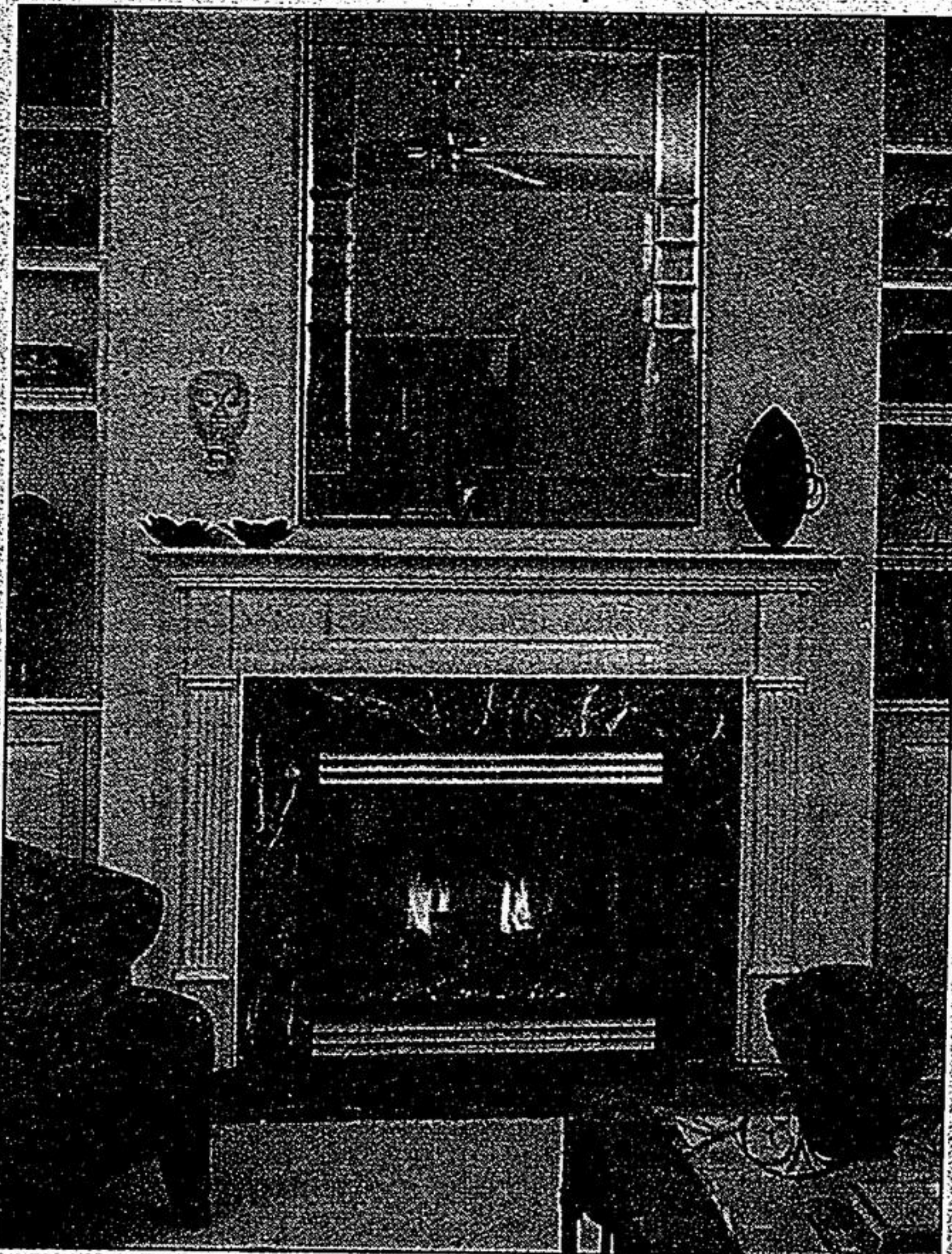
(NC) If you're planning to install a new fireplace in your home, thoughts of warmth, comfort and romance are likely uppermost in your mind. For peace of mind and maximum enjoyment, however, you should also give some thought to safety and energy efficiency.

A properly located, professionally installed and energy-efficient fireplace can help supplement your primary heating system.

For wood-burning units, your best choice is an advanced combustion EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) certified fireplace. They are much safer to operate and can be up to 10 times more energy-efficient than conventional wood fireplaces, delivering more heat to the room.

Many homeowners opt for natural gas or propane fireplaces for their ease of operation, low fuel costs and clean-burning features. From a safety and energy efficiency perspective, the best type are direct-vent models that use outside air for combustion. Energy-efficient fireplaces often feature an electronic ignition (to avoid a continuous pilot light), a tempered ceramic glass front and an insulated outer casing.

The best way to determine whether a fireplace is energy-efficient is to check the manufacturer's literature for the EnerGuide Fireplace Efficiency rating; the higher the number, the better. Some units have ratings in the 30% range.



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ENERGUIDE

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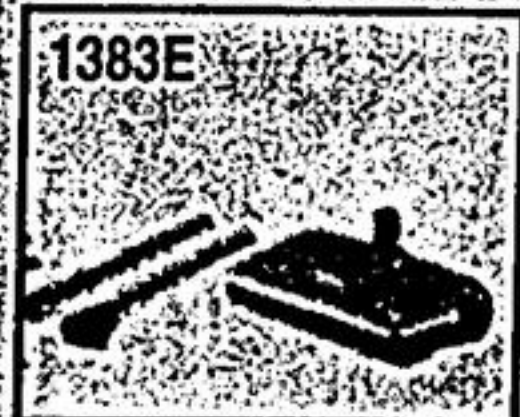
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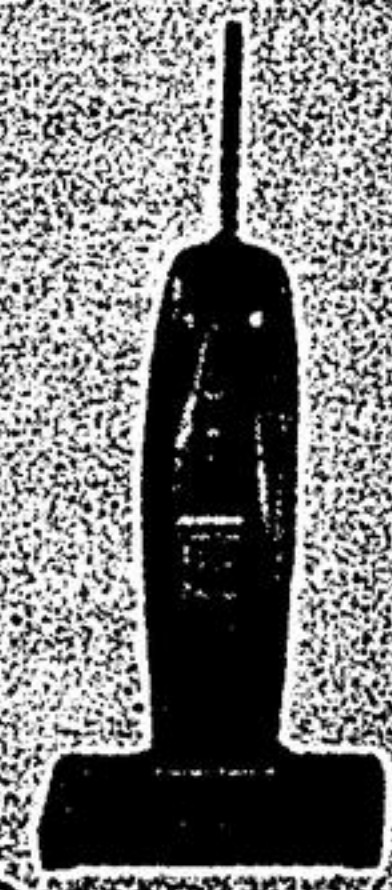
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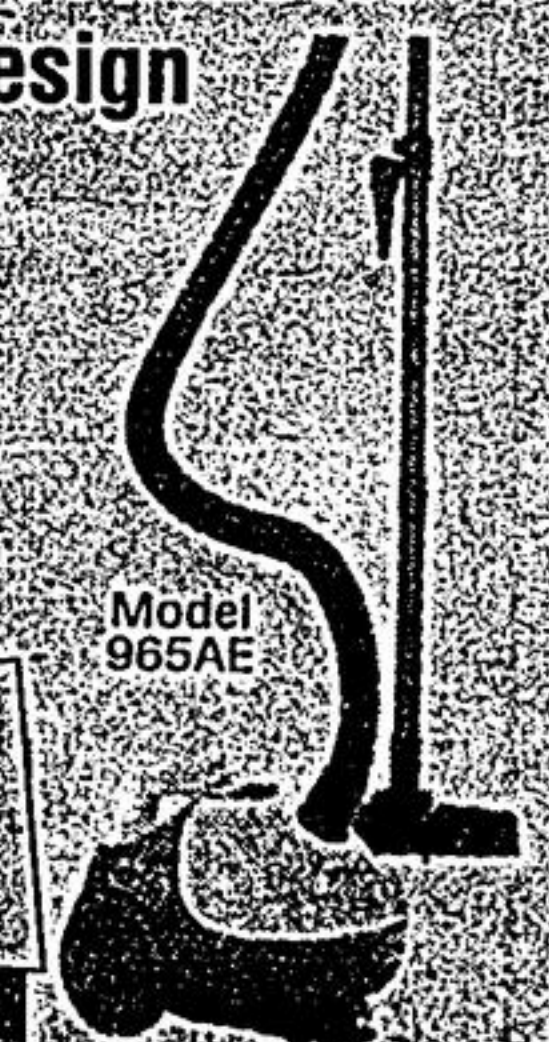
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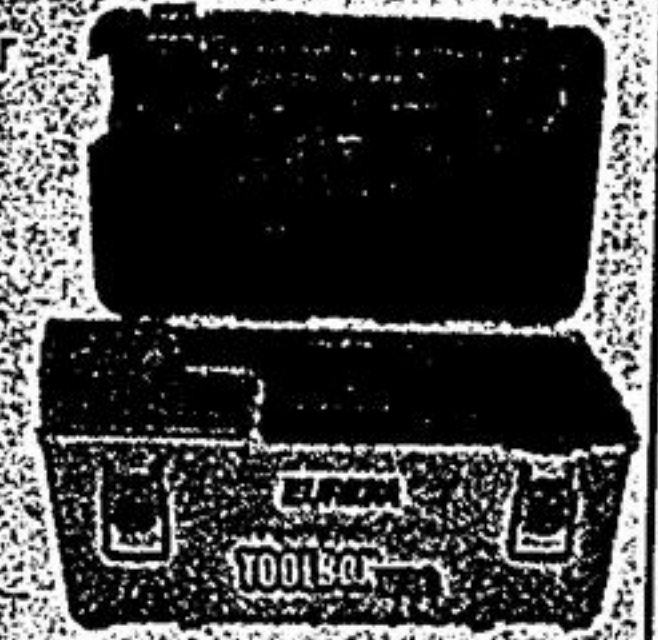
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