

TOTAL HOME

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

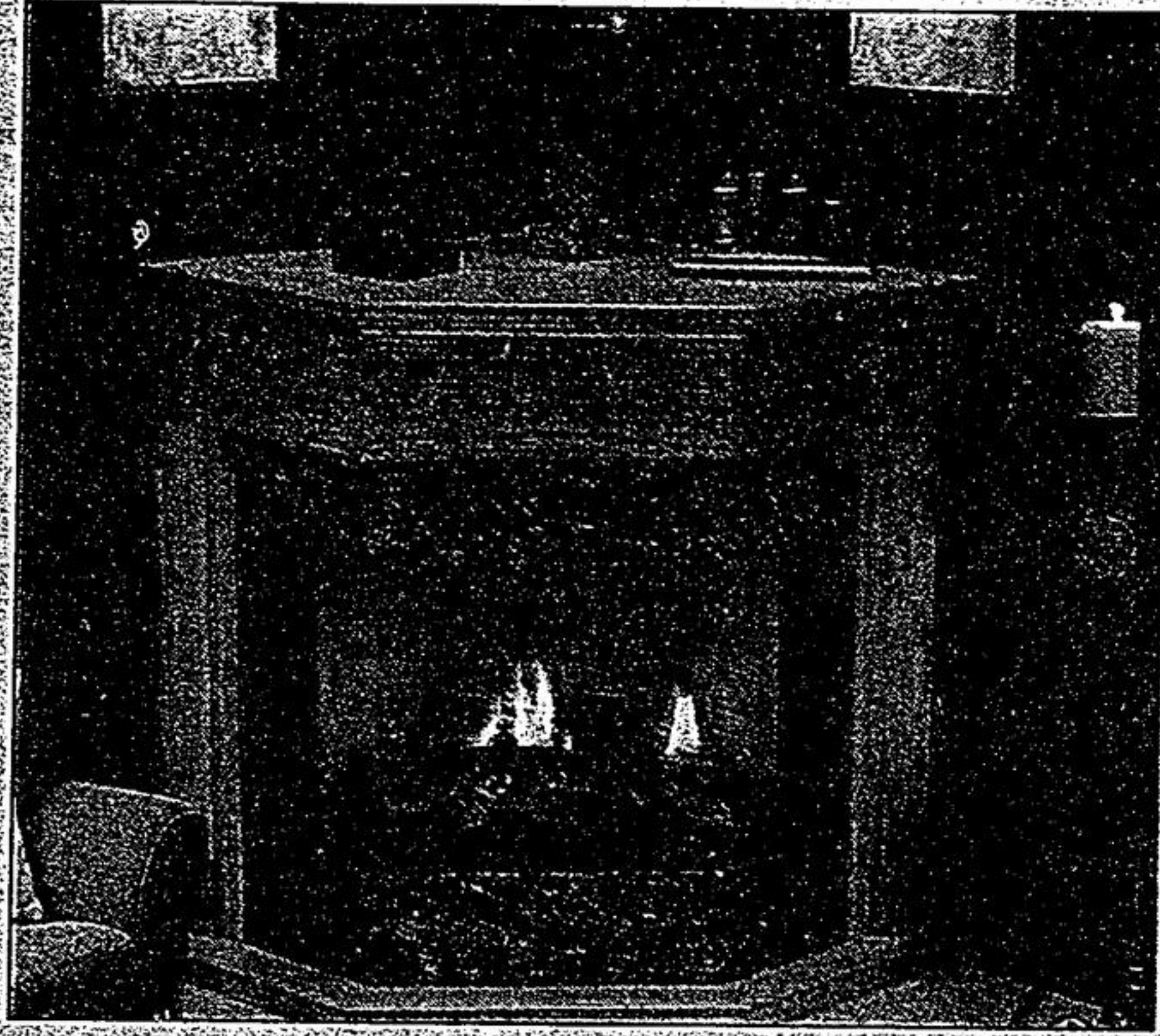
Check energy efficiency rating

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while the most energy-efficient models have ratings of 50% to 70%.

The Government of Canada has issued a challenge to all Canadians to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. Choosing energy-efficient gas fireplaces is one way to help reach that goal.

For more information, including EnerGuide Fireplace Efficiency ratings for gas fireplaces sold in Canada, visit the web site of Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency at www.oeenrncan.gc.ca. Information is also available by calling toll-free 1-800-387-2000 or writing to Energy Publications, Office of Energy Efficiency, c/o S.J.D.S., Ottawa, Ontario K1G 6S3.



Gas fireplaces growing in popularity

(NC) Gas fireplaces have become a standard feature in new homes in many parts of Canada, and are a popular renovation project in older houses. While the look of the fireplace is important, you'll want it to match your furniture and decor. Make it clear to your builder or contractor that you also want your new fireplace to be as energy-efficient as possible.

Specifying an energy-efficient model will allow you to enjoy the fireplace without worrying about the cost of operating it. At the same time, you'll be reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

What makes an energy-efficient gas fireplace? Here are some things to look for:

(some units have ratings in the 30% range, while the top models have ratings of 50% to 70%).

- Direct-vent models are the best choice, from both a safety and an energy efficiency perspective.

- Select a fireplace with an easy access to the pilot light controls you can turn off during the summer or when you are away for an extended period (why burn gas when you're not using the fireplace?).


- If your fireplace is going to be located on an exterior wall, look for an insulated outer casing to prevent heat loss to the outdoors.

- A quiet squirrel-cage type circulating fan will help transfer convective heat into the room.

- Check the manufacturer's literature for the unit's EnerGuide Fireplace Efficiency rating and compare it to other models. The higher the number, the more energy-efficient the fireplace.


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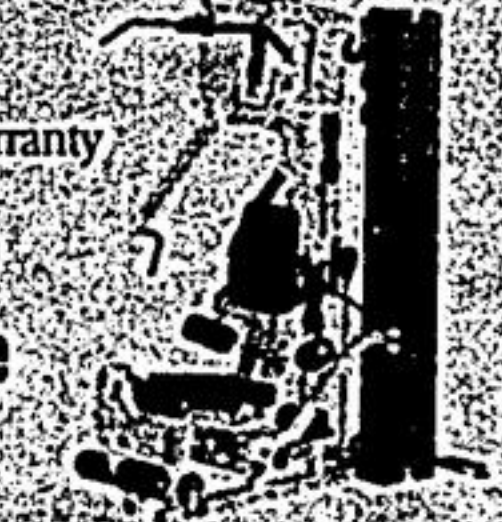
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