



Ramblin' Ruth

Splashing Out

By Ruth LeBlanc

This past summer was a beauty and I savoured every warm moment. Hours were spent on Pigeon Lake casting a fishing line and soaking up the peaceful setting.

But a series of mishaps convinced me that in future, my fishing buddy and I should avoid any water deeper than a bathtub. I have flipped backwards out of a boat and watched a chair and beach towel drift eerily to the bottom of the lake through its murky depths. It was as creepy as any B movie.

During the wettest week of the summer we threw caution to the wind and ventured out, undeterred by the dark and brooding skies. Anchored a mile off shore with no other boats in sight, we watched a wall of rain head towards us and decided it was

time to make our way back to warmth and safety.

The engine started but the boat didn't move as rain started to pour down, quickly drenching us. It turned out the propeller had fallen off, and was now at the bottom of the lake. We grabbed the oars, but made no progress as the storm worsened and the waves pushed us back.

Then, like a minor miracle, a small craft appeared in the distance. We waved our oars frantically in the air to get the crew's attention and thankfully our ploy worked. As we were towed back to shore I swore never to set foot in a boat again.

My fishing friend, who wishes to remain unnamed - with good reason - took his brother out with rods, worms and high spirits. Hours later he called to tell me not to

worry, he was okay and the boat was fine, but the Styrofoam lid had blown off the worm container and into the water, and he had fallen overboard attempting to retrieve it.

As the weeds brushed his legs he panicked, forgetting the ladder in the boat. His brother couldn't lift his large, wet frame out and he kept falling back in until a neighbouring boat of amused fishermen pulled him to safety. Along with his pride he lost his driver's licence, health card and cell phone in the depths of Pigeon Lake.

With the advent of my friend's next mishap, I thought it was time he abandoned ship for good. He was out alone casting the line, when he stepped back and fell over the bench behind him. The large goose egg on top of his head was from hitting the windshield. The

gashes on his back came from colliding with the dashboard as he landed with his head at the bottom of the boat and his legs in the air. Perhaps being a big man in a small boat is not such a good idea.

The final straw came when I saw him bending over the dock muttering something unprintable. He told me that his brand new cell phone, which had been clipped onto his belt, had popped off when he bent to tie the lines, and was now lying beneath the boat. All attempts at retrieval failed.

Next day he took a frying pan on the end of a broom handle, scooped the phone out of the water, and called to tell me that, miraculously, it still worked. Perhaps he should consider a new hobby which doesn't involve water. Summer may be over but dry land never looked so good.

Earlier Start Time For Skating Group

The Stouffville Adult Skating Group will begin its new season of skating Tuesday Nov. 2 at the Stouffville Arena on Ninth Line north. Please note that the club now has an earlier start time of 7:15 p.m. and organizers hope this will encourage more people to attend. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Conny at 905-640-1149.



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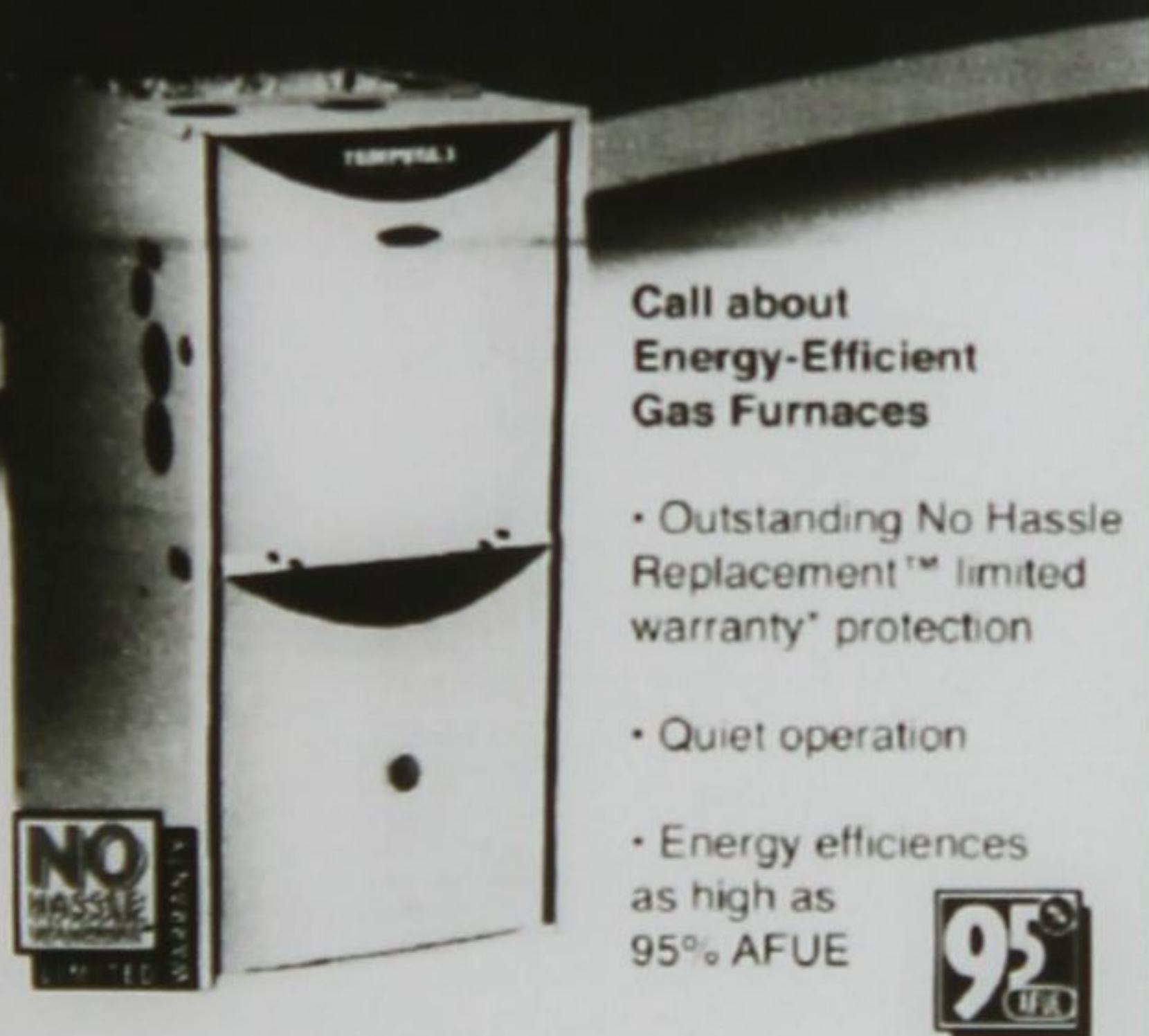
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