

the Saskatchewan Government:  
 "Energy-efficient housing-  
 a prairie approach"  
 (Office of Energy Conserv-  
 ation, Saskatchewan Mineral  
 Resources, 1914 Hamilton St.  
 Regina, Sask. S4P 4V4)  
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Passive solar - In order to make  
 the most of the heat of the sun,  
 the house should be oriented with  
 most of its windows on the south  
 side. This does sometimes create  
 problems when the view is to the  
 north or a resident artist needs  
 northern light for painting, but  
 it is something that should be  
 considered well before the land  
 is even purchased or the sod is  
 turned.

An overhang on the south side  
 will help eliminate over-heating  
 in the summer, fall and spring  
 when the sun is high in the sky  
 and still allow the low winter  
 rays to enter the house. Thermal  
 mass in the living area of the  
 house such as stone, brick or  
 masonry will help dampen temper-  
 ature extremes, and, to a limited  
 extent, will store heat that will  
 be re-radiated to the room at  
 night.

Other features important in the  
 construction of a passive solar  
 house are building the house into  
 the side of a hill with an earth  
 berm on the north side and various  
 evergreen trees and shrubs to  
 shelter the house from the cold  
 north winds. Shade trees can be  
 strategically placed in the front  
 yard so as to supply shade in the  
 summer but allow the sun's rays  
 to come through in the winter.

Most passive houses utilize some  
 sort of shutter system on the  
 south-facing glass to cover it up  
 and prevent heat loss at night.  
 There are a variety of possibilities  
 for shutters which will probably  
 be the subject of another article.

One notable objection to passive  
 solar heating is that allowing the  
 sun to enter the living area of  
 the house will fade the colours  
 of carpets and furniture. One  
 possible way to get around this is  
 to collect the sun's rays in a  
 greenhouse or solarium on the  
 south of the foundation and the  
 walls, leaks around electrical  
 outlets, chimneys and plumbing  
 ventilation and so on. In fact,  
 in older homes, this so-called  
 air infiltration may account for  
 as much as one-half of the heat  
 loss.

The secret to the performance  
 of energy-efficient houses lies  
 in how they deal with air infil-  
 tration. When insulating a house,  
 a plastic vapour barrier is com-  
 monly stapled on the inside of  
 the insulation. The purpose of  
 the plastic is to stop moisture  
 from moving out through the  
 wall and condensing in the in-  
 sulation and possibly rotting  
 the frame of the house.

If considerable care is taken  
 to seal this vapour barrier using  
 acoustic sealant or some sort of  
 glue the vapour barrier can also  
 act as a barrier to infiltration.  
 With proper planning, the vapour  
 barrier can act as a continuous  
 air-tight skin on the house. Only  
 doors and windows will interrupt  
 this skin.

Electrical boxes and wiring  
 often present a problem because

they puncture the plastic in  
 many places, but there are a number  
 of ways of avoiding this. Prob-  
 ably the most effective method is  
 to strap the inside stud walls  
 with 2x2s and put all of the elec-  
 trics inside the vapour barrier.

Structures such as chimneys,  
 that obviously must go through the  
 plastic should be caulked where  
 they meet the plastic.

Another step in air-tightness  
 is designing entrances that have  
 two doors separated by a small  
 room that acts as an air lock.  
 Many older homes had these en-  
 trances as a matter of course,  
 but cost considerations have  
 all but eliminated them from  
 most modern homes.

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RIDEAU  
 CRAFTS

**NEWS**

The Senior Citizen's Room at  
 Elgin was pleasantly filled with an  
 interested audience for the April  
 meeting of Rideau Crafts.

Dr. Arauson's lecture and films  
 about "Corn Gods and Medicine Men",  
 proved most interesting. We learned  
 much and were pleasantly entertained.  
 Dr. Arauson is a relaxed speaker. We  
 enjoyed him and we hope he will return  
 soon, for we need to know more about  
 Nature's gifts to man.

At a short business meeting which  
 followed the program, it was agreed  
 that:

- (a) Rideau Crafts will concentrate on  
 two major projects this year.
- (b) That one will be The Christmas  
 Crafts Sale in November.
- (c) The other, a Summer Festival to  
 be held in Newboro on August 10,  
 1981.

It was reported that the Newboro  
 Canal had agreed to co-operate and  
 that the Horticultural Society would  
 assist. A member from each of these  
 organizations will be appointed to the  
 Festival Committee.

Our next meeting will on June 8  
 at Forfar hall at 8 p.m.

See you there!

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**LEEDS COUNTY 4-H HOMEMAKING**

The "WHICH CAME FIRST? The Chick-  
 en or The Egg" 4-H project concluded  
 with Achievement Programs April 8  
 and 9th. The evening programs  
 featured skits, demonstrations  
 and exhibits, by 4-H club members,  
 on topics ranging from the "How to"  
 of Cutting Up a Chicken to Crafts  
 With Egg Shells.

Clubs participating were Athens,  
 Elgin, Frankville, Fairgrove, June-  
 town, Lansdowne South, Lansdowne-  
 in-Between, Lyn, North Augusta,  
 Oakleaf, Portland and Tincap.

**AWARDS:** Nancy Eyre, a member of  
 the Athens club received the  
 Advanced Honour Award for success-  
 ful completion of 18 4-H Homemaking  
 projects. The Club Leaders, Joan  
 Singleton and Freda Schaafsma also  
 made a presentation to Nancy on  
 behalf of the Athens Club.

Provincial Honours was presented  
 to Rina Roth of the Lyn Club. This  
 award is presented after 12 home-  
 making projects.

Eight members received County  
 Honours: Bonnie Brontmire, June-  
 town; Susan Burns and Dianne La-  
 Pointe, Lansdowne-in-Between;  
 Irene Loney, Lansdowne South;  
 Christine Hoare, Lyn; Yvette  
 Perrin, North Augusta; Alison  
 Godkin, Oakleaf; Deborah Myers,  
 Portland.

The evening ended with presen-  
 tation of 4-Hspoons to members  
 who completed the "Which Came  
 First" project.

The next project is "READY....  
 GET....SEW". In it members will  
 sew a vest or skirt. The project  
 will begin in September.