

Mother Nature

IN MIND

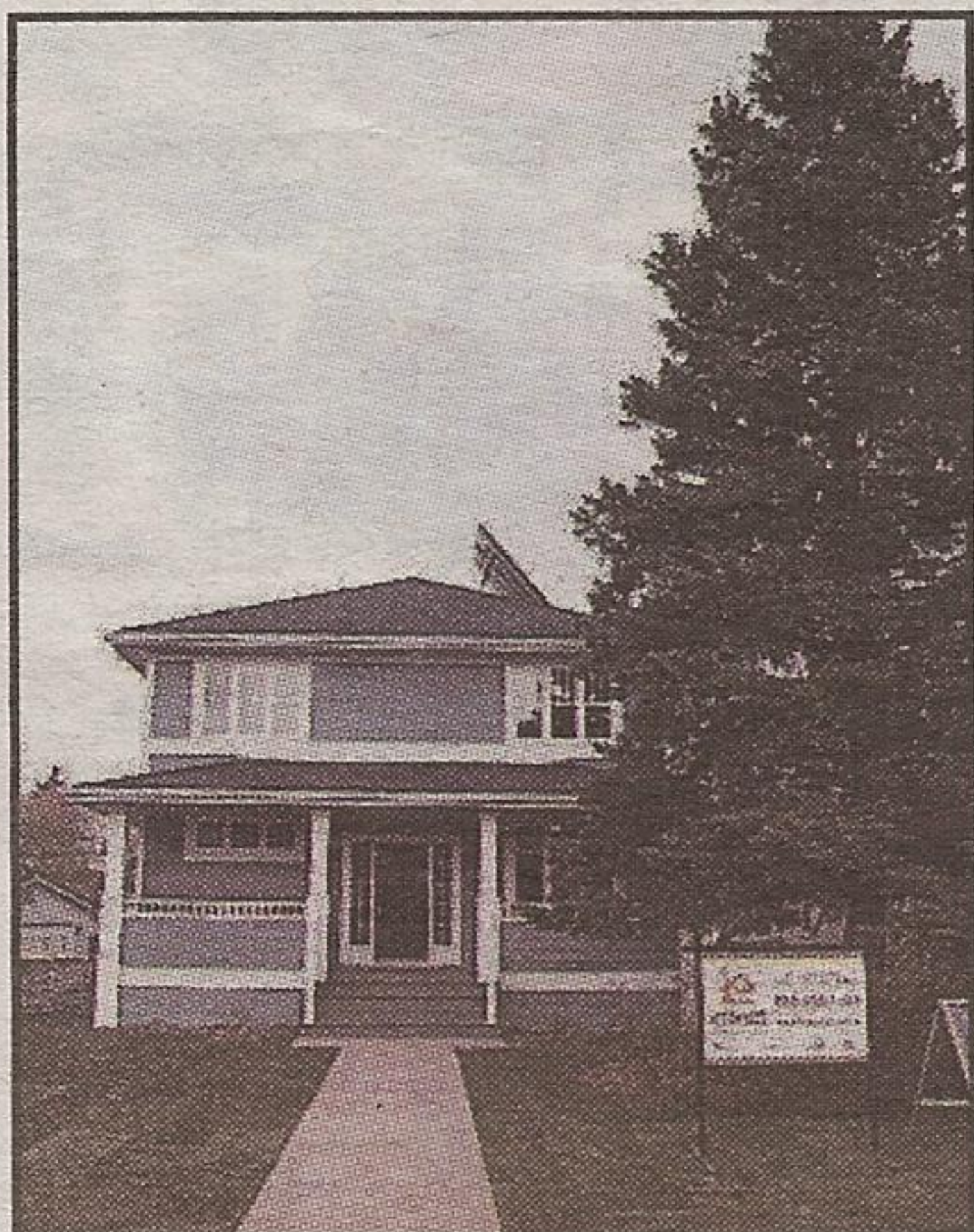


Rob
Cramer
EDITOR

Homes don't come much more environmentally sound than Effect Home Builders' two-storey, 2,056 sq.-ft. Stratus EnviroHome located at 10007 - 148 St.

Started in late summer of last year, the home recently had its grand opening and was put on the market yesterday for \$919,000 – a price reflective of the home's pristine location near the McKinnon Ravine. It's also eligible for a \$10,000 rebate from the province and only 10 homes across Canada receive the EnviroHome designation per year from the Canadian Homebuilders Association.

Homes like this set an example for the community. Hopefully one day the innovative features



SUPPLIED

The two-storey Stratus received a EnerGuide rating of 86.

found in Stratus will be commonplace, used regularly and affordable for everyone looking to purchase a new home.

What exactly makes this home so environmentally state-of-the-art?

Well, for starters, Stratus features solar collectors that heat up to 65% of the home's hot water (the remainder is heated by a high-efficiency water boiler that also heats the space inside the home).

"We have a philosophy of looking at innovative ways to build energy efficient, practical and refined homes," said Effect Home Builders managing partner Les Wold.

Stratus has a very airtight and energy efficient envelope, and insulated concrete forms from the foundation to the roof line.

Stratus uses triple-pane low-E argon-filled windows and cellulose insulation, made from recycled contents, in the attic. Environmentally friendly materials – like carpets with recycled content, bamboo flooring and paints with low to non-existent levels of volatile organic compounds – were also used throughout the home.

The energy-efficient home also comes with an unfinished basement that's open for custom development. Not only does the finished home itself include numerous green features, but designated recycling bins were set up for unused pieces of wood and drywall during construction.

The previous home that was torn down on the lot to make way for the Stratus was also put to good use. Whatever could be recycled from the old house was.

A lot of effort was put into the Stratus, and it's sure to make one family very happy in the future – and Mother Nature a little happier, too.