

Free Energy Savings Event Coming To Minden February 28

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a new skill.”

One of the things that Pam often finds herself doing is learning how to use new gadgets that can be used on the job. Most recently, she purchased a device known as a thermal imaging camera. With the infrared tool that she uses for eco evaluations, Pam can point out the areas in which air is seeping in to the building. The high tech gadget is used while a diagnostic tool, known as a blower door, is attached to a door of the building. The blower door measures the air-tightness of the building by way of a calibrated fan that measures the airflow rate, and it also includes a pressure-sensing device that measures the air pressure created by the fan flow.

“You can get a sense of how airtight the building is or isn’t,” said Pam. “We can take the image from the camera and give it to the contractor so they can see where the issues lie that need to be fixed.”

In addition to helping people understand the condition of their property through home inspections, another one of Pam’s specialties is in performing ecoENERGY evaluations. Know Your Home Inspections Inc. currently has a contract with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to provide this unique service.

ecoENERGY is an initiative that was started in 1998 and is officially recognized as the “measure and comparative rating tool”. Its popularity rose significantly when NRCAN announced the EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) Retrofit Incentive, a program to offer homeowners grants to offset the costs of upgrades. The EGHRI was approved as part of the 2003 federal budget announcement and continues to be funded under the Conservative government as ecoENERGY.

The purpose of one of these evaluations is to determine how inefficient a house is and to make specific recommendations on how to increase the R-value (a measure of thermal resistance) of its components, how to stop unwanted airflow and how to heat the house better. The blower door, mentioned earlier, is one of the tools used during an ecoENERGY evaluation.

The final report generated by a computer outlines the building’s Energy Efficient Rating (EER) in its current condition and projects what its rating would be after retrofits. The report also indicates incentives that are available from the Federal government for carrying out energy-saving improvements. In Ontario and British Columbia, the Provincial government is matching these incentives.

Pam has been involved with these particular evaluations since first getting into the home inspection business.

“I was the 28th person in Canada to be registered with the Ministry of Natural Resources as an ecoENERGY evaluator,” she said. “I then decided to develop my own service organization directly licensed with the Ministry. I’m also certified to train new ecoENERGY evaluators.”

The great part about the ecoENERGY program, Pam says, is that it puts money back into households for the improvements.

“It’s one of the best ways to support the economy,” she explained. “It provides immediate support to households through energy improvements.”

To be eligible for the grants available, one must be an owner of a single family home. This also includes detached, semidetached and low-rise multi-

unit residential buildings (MURBs). Grants can assist with costs associated with improving the heating and cooling system, the ventilation system, the hot water system, building insulation and more. The maximum grant one can receive on a home or MURB is up to \$10,000.

In recent years, Pam has even brought on staff to help out with ecoENERGY evaluations.

Now, Pam and Know Your Home Inspections Inc. has partnered up with the Minden United Church to host a “Free Energy Savings Event” on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the church (located on 21 Newcastle St.) from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

According to Pam, ecoENERGY evaluations are helping to create jobs and the potential the retrofitting process has for Haliburton County is vast.

“You can train local people to do this work (evaluations), and the repairs that need to be done can be carried out by local people,” she pointed out. With Know Your Home Inspections Inc., Pam hopes to partner up with those who are knowledgeable in the area of repairs and retrofits to encourage them to work with youth in the area. As well, she’d like to see not only those who can afford to retrofit obtain local contractors, but also find a way of assisting those on fixed incomes find the comfort in their homes they should have.

The free event scheduled to take place at the church is what she call the “first step in the process.”

“Presentation will be made on what you can do to save energy in your home,” explained Pam. “So even if you can’t afford to get an audit done, you’ll at least get to learn about how your house runs and learn what steps can be taken to make it more energy efficient. We want to get that basic information out there.”

With Know Your Home Inspections Inc., it’s about making a wide range of services available to the customer and making them aware of what it is they can do to help the environment and themselves.

“We’re trying to create a one-stop shop for all your home and business energy needs,” said Pam.

To obtain the services of these local experts, call Pam at 705 454-9384 or

email homeinspections@xplornet.com. You can also go online to learn more at www.professionalhomeinspections.ca.

Don’t forget to come out this Saturday to the Minden United Church for the Free Energy Savings Event. Bring your questions because they will be answered!

