

Edmonton Lifestyle

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ABSTRACT STUDIOS

Stoneshire Homes

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P H O T O G R A P H Y

Experience the Difference in a
Stoneshire Home



Stoneshire Homes photographed by MindTravellers Inc.



Building Better Homes

Energy efficient homes by Stoneshire.

You would be hard-pressed to find an Edmontonian who isn't worried about the high cost of heating their home this winter. According to Brian J. Mitchell with the City of Edmonton's Office of the Environment, the average Edmonton-area resident will spend about \$1,600 this year, after rebates, to heat their homes with natural gas. For most of us, this means turning down the thermostat, sealing our windows with plastic and a hair dryer, and adding warm layers, both to our beds, and our bodies. But while we spend this winter dreading that monthly gas bill, some forward-thinking Edmontonians will avoid paying it altogether.

This year's high energy costs convinced Gordon and Belinda Schroder to build an energy efficient, and environmentally friendly home, that will completely eliminate the need for a gas line, and a gas bill. "We are going with geothermal technology, triple pane windows, dual argon fill on all the glass, and a new style of spray foam insulation," says Gordon, "Energy costs are never going to go down, and sooner or later we all have to do something." And, while building a home with energy efficient technology does require a larger initial investment than other new homes, the low heating costs mean Gordon and Belinda can expect to recover their investment in as little as 4 years.

Bob Meunier is the owner of Edmonton-based Stoneshire Homes, and the custom builder in charge of Gordon and Belinda's new home. According to Bob, the rising cost of natural gas has pushed many of his clients to consider new energy-saving technologies. He estimates that ninety percent of the homes he's building now are, at the client's request, exceptionally energy efficient. "It's been a dramatic shift", he says, "and its changed considerably from last year. . .in fact, the majority of our clients now express an interest in these new technologies".

Advanced energy efficient technology is not something most of us are familiar with, and homeowners understandably have questions. "The industry is changing and there's a lot of fact-finding going on for consumers right now," says Bob Meunier. In order to address questions and concerns, he recently held a seminar for clients and trades people, that brought everyone up to speed. He's confident that both he, and his trades people, can competently guide any prospective homeowner through the process of building a more energy efficient home.

Perhaps the most exciting of the new technologies available, is the geothermal heating system. Buried deep in the hom-

owner's yard, a heat exchange process uses the near constant temperature of the earth to regulate the heat inside the home. This environmentally-friendly technology is similar to a refrigerator or air conditioner, and uses a loop system to transfer heat from the earth to your home, substantially cutting down on heating costs, and eliminating the need for a gas line.

According to Bob, Stoneshire Homes can integrate other energy-saving technologies along with, or without the geothermal system. He says combining unique alternatives in home insulation systems, high-efficiency heating systems, innovative windows, and heat-recovery ventilation, can all ensure that a home is both airtight, and well ventilated. And, all of these options can be carefully combined to suit the homeowner's aim and budget. Of course, Bob's dedication to homeowner satisfaction is first and foremost on his mind when building any type of home. Clients wanting a custom built energy efficient home, can expect the same care, consideration, and expertise as they would expect with any Stoneshire Home.



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- Carmen Barry