

# Site Seeing

## Federal refund pays for energy upgrade

Two initiatives announced

Home buyers and renovators benefit

### Incentives

TRACY HANES  
TORONTO STAR

Two new federal government initiatives will provide financial incentives to homeowners who buy or build energy-saving houses or make energy-saving renovations.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. will offer a 10 per cent refund, effective immediately, on its mortgage loan premium

### City of Kawartha Lakes

# 'Super-E' houses rated for energy use

Homes have 72 to 76 Energuide rating  
System helps determine upgrade values

TRACY HANES  
TORONTO STAR

A new home development in the City of Kawartha Lakes is the first in the area to adopt the EnerGuide for New Houses.

Each of the homes in the 42-unit Elgin Park in Lindsay, built by Mason Homes, will carry a label rating its energy efficiency, similar to the EnerGuide system (an initiative of Natural Resources Canada), which is used to measure energy use and efficiency of appliances.

Mason Homes also launched the program this week at another of its developments, Maple Woodlands in Barrie.

Under the system, house blueprints are analyzed to assess efficiency and a rating out of 100 is calculated. A house built to basic Ontario Building Code standards will rate in the 60s, while R-2000 houses would rate above 80. For each point rise, more money is saved on utility bills.

Elgin Park sales representative Ron Gillowaychuk says houses in the development are Super E homes, which have features such as increased insulation and enhanced vapour barriers, and have an Energuide rating of between 72 and 76.

The system will also help home buyers determine the value of particular energy upgrades and features such as increased insulation, heat recovery ventilators or high-efficiency windows. Gillowaychuk says Elgin Park buyers can upgrade to features such as low-e and argon gas windows.

"Definitely a lot of people who come in here like that the houses are rated for energy efficiency and they understand it, because they are familiar with the EnerGuide ratings for appliances," says Gillowaychuk.

Gillowaychuk says the program has further credibility because the houses are independently evaluated.



Each of the new homes in Lindsay's 42-unit Elgin Park by Mason Homes will carry a label rating its energy efficiency.

Mason Homes president Gord Mason says the company implemented the program in response to consumer demand for energy-efficient, high-quality

housing.

Elgin Park is an infill development in an established neighbourhood in Lindsay, adjacent to schools, shopping and other

amenities. The town is about a 90-minute drive from downtown Toronto.

Lindsay, which is the largest town in the City of Kawartha Lakes (population 69,000), is situated on the Scugog River between Lakes Sturgeon and Scugog and is part of the Trent-Severn Waterway.

It has one of the widest downtown streets in Canada and a 3,000-foot boardwalk along the river.

The town also has many examples of Victorian architecture and is a popular vacation and recreation area.

All homes in Elgin Park are on lots with 60-foot or larger frontages. Bungalow models, ranging from 1,300 to 1,740 square feet, are priced from \$219,000 to \$259,000.

Two-storey models, 1,778 to 3,223 square feet in size, are priced from \$239,000 to \$319,000.

The sales office is at 1 Kirkconnell Rd. Call 705-324-1653 or 1-866-443-7900 for information or click on [www.masonhomes.ca](http://www.masonhomes.ca).