

SITE STORY

Uxbridge, Barrie
and Lindsay

Energy smart

Mason Homes continues to be a pioneer in energy-efficient housing

CATHERINE DALEY
Special to The Sun

MASON HOMES has done it again. As a recognized industry leader in energy efficient homes, Mason recently received recognition for the first ENERGY STAR qualified home to be built in southern Ontario.

The ENERGY STAR qualification indicates a home that meets the federal government's specifications for energy efficiency in a home. While similar to the R2000 program, it is slightly different. All homes are rated out of 100. If built to code, the energy efficient rating would be around 60; with an ENERGY STAR qualification, the home scores at least an 80. Ontario has one of the best building codes in North America, but with the implementation of the EnerGuide program the energy efficiency of a house is that much better.

"With the ENERGY STAR standard, it signifies you're the best in class," says Lenard Hart, manager of Built Environments at EnerQuality Corp., the company responsible for running the federal government

programs in Ontario.

Mason Homes was the first production-start builder to implement the EnerGuide Program for New Houses in an attempt to build a more energy efficient home — and since then, the program has grown extensively. In fact, Mason Homes was presented with the prestigious Builder of the Year award for 2004. While the recognition is great for the builder, the consumer is the real winner — with possible natural gas savings of more than 50% (by model) versus the minimum Ontario building standards. Mason will soon be offering this energy-efficiency as an option at all their sites.

The EnerGuide for New Homes program analyzes a home's blueprints to assess its energy efficiency. A certified independent third-party auditor tests the performance of a new home through computer modelling and a blow-door test, which validates the seals and insulation. The modelling takes into account certain variables like wall and ceiling insulations, window placement and glass type. In addition, the efficiency of the furnace, water heater, ven-

tilation and mechanical systems are assessed.

"With an ENERGY STAR home you save at least 1000 kWh of electricity per year," Hart says. "Along with better ventilation and gas savings, you get a much more balanced house."

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— Lenard Hart, manager, Built Environments, EnerQuality Corp.

The recipient of the ENERGY STAR qualification was the Riveridge model at Maple Woodlands in Barrie. The practical layout not only conserves energy, but also is conducive to a vibrant family lifestyle. A formal room sits at the front of the home. The U-shaped kitchen is ideal for food preparation and the breakfast area is open to the family room. Direct entrance into the garage from the main level is possible, where the grade permits.

The laundry room is positioned on

the upper level to better service the four bedrooms, while the master retreat includes a double-door entry along with a large walk-in closet and four-piece ensuite.

Townhomes, semis and detached homes (including bungalows) are available at Maple Woodlands in Barrie with prices starting in the low \$180s. Eleven models are now open for viewing.

Maplebridge in Uxbridge is close to Toronto, with a small-town feel. Townhomes, bungalow-towns, and fully detached models feature brick exteriors on wide 50- and 56-ft. lots, priced from \$230s.

Elgin Park in Lindsay features spacious bungalow and two-storey homes on 33- and 60-ft. lots, and a collection of semis starting at \$159,900. Three fully decorated model homes are open.

Mason Homes is now accepting reservations for the much-anticipated Highlands in Lindsay. Call the Elgin Park office at 1-705-324-1653 to get your name on the list.

Buy into a conscientious lifestyle with a quality built, energy efficient home from Mason.

FAST FACTS

■ **LOCATION:** Barrie, Uxbridge, Lindsay

■ **BUILDER:** Mason Homes

■ **PRICES:** Townhomes, semis and detached homes at Maple Woodlands are priced from the low \$180s; townhomes, bungalow-towns and detached models at Maplebridge are priced from the \$230s; bungalow and two-storey homes on 33- and 60-ft. lots at Elgin Park are priced from \$159,900.

■ **FOR INFORMATION:**

Call 1-866-243-0159 (Maplebridge) or email uxbridge@masonhomes.ca, call 705-324-1653 (Elgin Park) or email lindsay@masonhomes.ca, 1-877-90MASON (Maple Woodlands) or email barrie@masonhomes.ca.

* Visit www.masonhomes.ca for more information about new neighbourhoods