

Spring Homes & Gardens

Focusing on home and garden projects



John McRobbie shows one of the brand new basement windows that was recently installed at his home on Aaron Drive.

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Hooley and his partner, Bruce Hunter, are helping homeowner George Gibbons to renovate the two-storey brick century house that features a widow's peak on the east end of the roofline.

Hooley was using one of several power saws in his possession to cut a piece of lumber for the L-shaped porch that he's building. As he sawed through the board in quick order, he pointed out that traditional tools like hammers and screwdrivers have gone by the wayside. Instead, an air compressor provides the power for air hammers and drills have taken over the jobs of screwdrivers.

In the time span of less than a week, new flooring has been put down on the 20-ft X 20-ft porch, a new railing that includes decorative spindles has been installed, and the porch's roof has been resingled. Lattice has been placed between the floor of the porch and the ground.

When all the renovations are completed, the house will go on the real estate market, he said. That might be in May, he added.

Raymond and Lucinda Marks have landscaping in mind as their spring project. The retired couple moved from Hamilton last May and purchased a new home on Pheasant Way. Landscaping in the front of their home has al-

ready been done, they said, with much of the material being purchased from local suppliers.

This year, they intend to improve their back yard. A part of the deck is already completed, but Raymond wants to add more area so there's room for a swing set and a barbecue. He also hopes to lay a patio and make a Zen garden.

The couple's plan is being put on hold for a couple weeks, though, so that Raymond can recover from a recent heart attack.

Norma and John McRobbie's spring project was prompted by an advertisement they read in the Maple Leaf about a month ago. They were in the market for some new windows so they called Dan the Window Man.

"We've been here on Aaron Drive for 28 years so this is our year for renovations," Norma commented. "Our basement windows were too drafty and they rattled when the wind blew.

"We called and there was someone here the same day," she said about the initial consultation that took place just prior to the Easter weekend. "We find that we get better service from the locals," she noted.

Last week, six new basement windows were installed, along with a new window in the bathroom.

"These new ones open like a door," she said, "which makes them a lot easier to clean, and they lock automatically when you close them.

"We're very happy with our purchase, especially with the pricing, and they didn't leave behind a speck of dirt when they were done," she said. "I've never been so pleased."

Husband John appreciated the company's willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. They pointed out to him that the living room and dining room windows were caulked with the wrong material so they redid them and didn't charge anything, he said.

The McRobbie's are already thinking about their next project. "It's going to be the roof," Norma said.