

science

Out with the bad air in with the good

by Gazette staff

You could have lived here!

Apartment buildings in various shapes and sizes are seen in the skylines of cities and towns across the nation. As more people move

into the city, available housing for them diminishes. Builders trying to cash in on the continuing urban sprawl may disregard housing regulations which in the long term could make a difference.

I visited several apartments and

houses near Dalhousie campus and discovered some consistent household problems. The most consistent problem was a lack of proper air circulation. Everyone knows the replenishment of oxygen is important. Even with leaks in the interior frame-

work around windows, a room needs adequate circulation, which besides replenishing oxygen, controls humidity. Low levels of humidity can cause discomfort while high levels can cause condensation, promoting mold and mildew on walls and in corners.

There is a house on Harvey Street built several decades ago with a Victorian accent on the outside and deteriorated structure on the inside. The owner assures you the building is safe, but what else can a sale-minded owner say? He has an investment to protect and bleed.

As I walked through the crumbling hallways, I discovered the upstairs area had been especially tailored to fit the definition of an apartment. Complete kitchens were added and a narrow hallway ran down to the rooms. As I entered the kitchen I noticed a slight change in elevation likely caused by the heavy stove and refrigerator, or caused by the poorly built floor.

Another apartment near campus had a different problem. The poor circulation of air was evident as well as the peeling paint on the walls and ceilings. Whether the paint was lead-, oil- or water-based, harmful toxins can easily be transported to the lungs through the air.

Curiously, I examined the hallways and lecture halls around the university. The only major problem that could lurk here is the that of adequate (or otherwise) air circulation.

To find out more about the air circulation at Dalhousie I went to see Dr. William Louch, the safety inspector. I pictured walking into a

large luxurious office as safety, along with air quality, should receive primary attention. However, I walked into a small office surrounded with reading materials, a computer and an air quality monitor.

Dalhousie University consumes 460 million KW/hours of energy yearly, a portion of which goes to providing a comfortable, productive work environment. "According to the American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers Inc. the ventilation systems must circulate a minimum of 20 per cent fresh air," said Louch.

"Dal meets these requirements and more," he said. The society also requires 10 air changes per hour in animal care facilities or chemical laboratories. In a typical circulation system at Dal, air is drawn from outside and channelled through a damper, filter, hot and cool coils. Stale air from the building is channelled to the exterior as this process takes place. A maximum of 80 per cent is recycled to recover heat but even with this large recovery rate, carbon dioxide levels remain far below the 800 ppm safety level.

Dr. Louch presented graphs of the carbon levels in several locations around the university. Most of the levels were around 200 ppm. So it is comforting to know around the university we are breathing clean acceptable air.

So when hunting for an apartment next year, keep an open eye about the problems mentioned above. It will help reduce illnesses and maybe even increase your GPA, giving you solid ground to stand on.



ATTENTION ALL 1994 GRADS



Joan Who?.....BA
(no photo available!!)

Deadline for submitting graduating photos is

April 25th

If you have any questions please call the
Pharos Yearbook office at 494 - 3542



with a
Leading Healthcare Provider
Premier Rehabilitation Services.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS
SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS

Join a caring Interdisciplinary Team of professionals in modern facilities specializing in the latest methods of aged care rehab.

Competitive Salaries
Relocation Assistance
All Licenses Fees Paid
Medical & Life Insurance Paid
Career Development Opportunities
Continuing Education
State of the Art Equipment
Other Outstanding Benefits

Send or fax CV to

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 2420 Boone, NC 28607
FAX 704-262-5741 or call 800-284-4001

Premier
Rehabilitation Services

A CMS Subsidiary Formerly Communi-Care/Pro-Rehab, Inc.



EST. 1974

**10% Discount
for Students**

**Guru
Restaurant**

• Specializing in Both Vegetarian
and Non - Vegetarian Cuisine
• Private Parties & Catering
TAKE OUT AVAILABLE

422 - 6347

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Recommended Where To Eat In Canada
(1979 - 1994)

5234 BLOWERS STREET • HALIFAX
Visit Our New Location

