



A CENTURY OF HOME COMFORT:

T.H. OLIVER *turns* 100

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~ Steve Desjardins

T.H.Oliver Heating & Cooling celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, marking a century of bringing warmth and comfort to local homes. Founded in 1924 by T.H. (Howard) Oliver, the company has survived and thrived through decades of technological change, always maintaining its commitment to quality service and innovation.

Howard Oliver, a man with a keen interest in technology, established the company during a time of industrial change. His passion for electromechanical and electronic advancements drove the business’s early success. His vision was simple: improve the comfort and quality of life for local families by bringing modern heating and cooling technologies into their homes.

Today, under the stewardship of Steve Desjardins, who took over the business in 1999, T.H. Oliver Heating & Cooling continues to uphold the founder’s principles.

“Our philosophy has always been to improve the lives of local families through technology,” said Desjardins. Indeed, the business may have a long history, but that doesn’t mean they are ‘old school.’

Heat pumps have been getting plenty of headlines, and are the latest tech in heating and cooling. Unlike traditional furnaces, which burn fossil fuels, they use inverter compressors – developed by Daikin – to extract heat from the outdoor air. Even in colder temperatures.

Desjardins explains that these “hybrid, dual-fuel” systems (heat pump, plus furnace) employ the heat pump for both heating and cooling throughout much of the year, with the gas furnace cycling on only during the most frigid temps – when a heat pump alone would struggle. Their Daikin FIT system combines both units with a programmable WIFI smart thermostat to manage the operation: heating, cooling, scheduling, set points, and more – while monitoring indoor air quality.

“The Daikin One system gives you control – allowing you flexibility to find the right balance between indoor comfort and lowering your carbon footprint,” he explained. “In the future, this balance may even be managed by such parameters as the cost of gas or electricity, and whether it is ‘off peak’, allowing you to keep costs down while keeping your home comfortable.”

Heat pumps are not only quiet, they do an excellent job of dehumidifying



BY NEIL MOORE

the typically humid summer air. “By removing moisture, it feels cooler at a given temperature, so you can set your thermostat a little higher (saving you money) when the air conditioning is on.”

The rise of heat pumps has been bolstered by government incentives, encouraging homeowners to switch to this greener option. While the previous rebate program ended in February 2024, homeowners are anticipating a new program to be announced.

Innovation, however, is only part of the story. T.H. Oliver has built its reputation on service. The company provides a wide range, from installing and maintaining heat pumps to installing, repairing and retrofitting gas furnaces, central air conditioners, humidifiers, HRVs, air cleaners, and fireplaces. They also offer specialized services like duct cleaning, which has become increasingly important as homeowners focus on indoor air quality.

As the company celebrates its centennial, Desjardins acknowledges the responsibility that comes with maintaining the standards set by Howard Oliver. “We build on the foundation of integrity and technical expertise that Mr. Oliver established,” he said. “This legacy has created strong, lasting relationships with many of Aurora’s original families, who continue to trust us with their home comfort needs.”

As the company steps into its second century, it does so with the same pioneering spirit that launched it. T.H. Oliver remains a trusted name, blending tradition with innovation to meet today’s needs. Howard Oliver’s legacy endures, keeping the company ahead of the curve – because in the heating and cooling business, standing still isn’t just boring, it’s not an option.

136 Wellington St E #4, Aurora, ON L4G
905-727-4258



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