CGA by the Numbers:
High efficiency natural gas furnaces’ ascendancy

In this issue we chart how high efficiency natural gas furnaces have become the most sought after furnace in the market.

What we see is that of the 15.2 million home furnaces in Canada over 7.1 million are fuelled by natural gas, over 4.5 million of which are now high efficiency models (efficiency of 90 per cent or greater). Natural gas high efficiency furnace technology has taken market share from all other furnace types, including from older lower efficiency natural gas models. This transition to high efficiency natural gas resulted from a collaboration among utilities, furnace manufacturers, and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). The result was a high efficiency condensing furnace supported with funding from utility-run efficiency improvement programs and backed by regulations on energy efficiency for space heating equipment from NRCan.

By switching to low cost natural gas, Canadian households have saved millions of dollars compared to electricity, heating oil, or propane options. In so doing they have cut their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 35 per cent since 1990.