

Bedbugs: An old blight we thought long gone

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“In the past seven years, Toronto has seen bedbug infestations skyrocket. Public health received 46 reports in 2003: they got 1,500 in a seven-month period in 2008. A 2003 survey of Toronto pest control companies totalled 1,315 treatments; by 2007, a single company reported as many as 5,400 treatments. These infestations do not, as many people believe, originate in shelters and low-income housing. A survey of pest control companies in 2003 reported 70 per cent of bedbug treatments were made to single-family dwellings, compared with 18 per cent to apartment buildings and eight per cent to shelters. I met a man who spent 18 months and \$10,000 treating his semi-detached home in the city’s west end. Six of his closest neighbours have bedbugs, but it’s practically a street secret: they are all anxious about property values.”

The Itch, by Jane Wells, is of a story of one Torontonians’ battle with bedbugs. It is published in this February’s edition of [Toronto Life](#).

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