



FIREPLACES AND QUEBEC HEATERS ... can be found all over the VanCamp home at 168 King Street, Port Hope. This restored home is one of nine buildings

featured on a house tour organized by the parish of St. Mark's for Saturday, November 1, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

## St. Mark's house tour

# Captain Wallace's 1820 home restored

By Suzanne Stickley

At one time, King Street South in Port Hope could have been called Captain's Row. Many of the captains of lake schooners and later, steamboats, built homes along this street near the harbor.

One of the captain's homes with an expansive view of Lake Ontario is located at 168 King Street South and was recently restored by Silas and Kay VanCamp. "Canada House" as it was once named, is one of the nine buildings to be opened to the public during a house tour this Saturday.

Buildings connected historically to St. Mark's Church are to be opened for visits by the public on this house tour, organized by a group of St. Mark's parishioners working to restore the 153 year old

Church building. Proceeds from the tour, which begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, November 1, will be used to complete the work necessary to restore Ontario's oldest Church still in continuous use.

When the VanCamps purchased the building at 168 King Street South, it was divided into tiny, dingy apartments and many people felt the best thing they could do with the building was to burn it.

Two years of hard work and restoration intuition have gone into putting the VanCamps' home into its present beautiful condition. One of Mrs. VanCamp's first discoveries was a huge open hearth fireplace in the downstairs kitchen. She tapped on all the walls and decided there must be a fireplace under

one certain wall. All the panelling came off and lo and behold, a stone fireplace emerged.

Next the floor covering came up. Piles of linoleum were taken off to reveal wide pine boards, which were sanded and coated to gleam with a warm pine glow. The outside of the house was covered in insulbrick, so the VanCamps took the chance and ripped all the covering off to find the original siding underneath. The house is now painted in as close to the original color as possible.

This three-storey house was originally built for the family of Captain Wallace, who had nine children. On the third storey are a number of quaint little bedrooms, which the VanCamps have decorated in early Canadian fur-

niture. Each bed has an heirloom quilt, and each room has an antique washstand. One room opening onto a small balcony and fire escape, has a huge four-poster bed and could have been a very happy place for two of Captain Wallace's children.

The house was built in 1820 and designed by the architect Brogden who also designed St. Mark's Church. As Captain Wallace's children grew older and married, they moved away from home. Captain Wallace then rented the house to the Sagers, who turned it into an inn.

As an inn on the lake, the house passed through different hands. The guests slept upstairs in the former children's bedrooms, took their