



RENOVATING A STONE farm house means lots of hard work, but Mike and Joan Silk are having fun refurbishing their Ospringe home. Shutters

Hydro tests

Reduced voltage on July 18

Ontario Hydro will reduce system voltage by five per cent on July 18, as part of a regular series of twice a year tests.

The test will cover two one-hour periods, from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., and from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. It is not expected to affect residential, commercial or industrial customers.

"It's unlikely any customers will even be aware that the test is underway," says Roger Whitehead, system operation manager.

It is estimated that a five per cent reduction will reduce

system demand by two and a half per cent—about 390 megawatts, or enough to supply the needs of a city the size of London.

The tests are used to determine the advantages of voltage reduction, locate any operating or customer problems, and to ensure that Hydro operations staff are familiar with procedures.

The last voltage reduction test took place on Jan. 11 this year.

If bad weather or system problems occur on July 18, the testing will be delayed two days, to July 20.

Avoid confrontation with private landowners

Halton Region should not be encouraging public access to tablelands along the tops of the banks of major valleys unless those lands are publicly owned. That is a recommendation of the Halton Regional Planning Committee.

"If you want to seek access to public lands, okay, but this smacks of the Bruce Trail situation all over again. I'm sorry to keep harping on this but from Tobermory to Niagara Falls we've had nothing but static," Booth said.

The staff had suggested that provision for public access to table lands be encouraged. While it didn't say so in that section, the proposed official plan did take into consideration the rights and considerations of landowners under another section.

He sits on the Niagara Escarpment commission as well as the regional Council. Staffers suggested conditioning the clause so the rights and concerns of the owners were expressed, but Booth urged that the committee should abandon the idea of pushing for public use of private lands in any form.

Halton Hills Councillor Roy Booth said the policy would cause grave difficulties with private landowners.

Booth was successful in having the committee delete the clause from the plan.

LDC again postpones decision on severance

The region's Land Division Committee (LDC) again postponed a decision concerning the Home-Harley severance bid at the committee's meeting last week.

Colin Mason, of Mississauga, who represents Hedleigh Home and Vera Harley contends there are three parcels of land in question. Last Tuesday the committee learned from the region's lawyer D. Perlin that in his view there is only one parcel.

LDC chairman Brian Fletcher said he wanted to table the motion and hold the vote when all five committee members are together. Four members attended the meeting. All five heard the severance bid when it first appeared in May.

There were other complex legal issues, and the committee decided the courts could sort them out.

The committee deferred a decision at the first meeting in order to get a decision from

The property is held jointly by the applicants.

Official plan

Halton Regional Planning Director Ed Cumming hopes to have planning committee approval of the region's draft official plan within the next couple of weeks. The earliest the plan could go before Halton Regional Council would be Aug. 1.

In the previous hearing Mason told the LDC the application was to create two lots, each with a 1,500 foot depth, by splitting the centre line.

Once it receives council and committee approval, the plan will go on to the minister of Housing for consideration and final approval.

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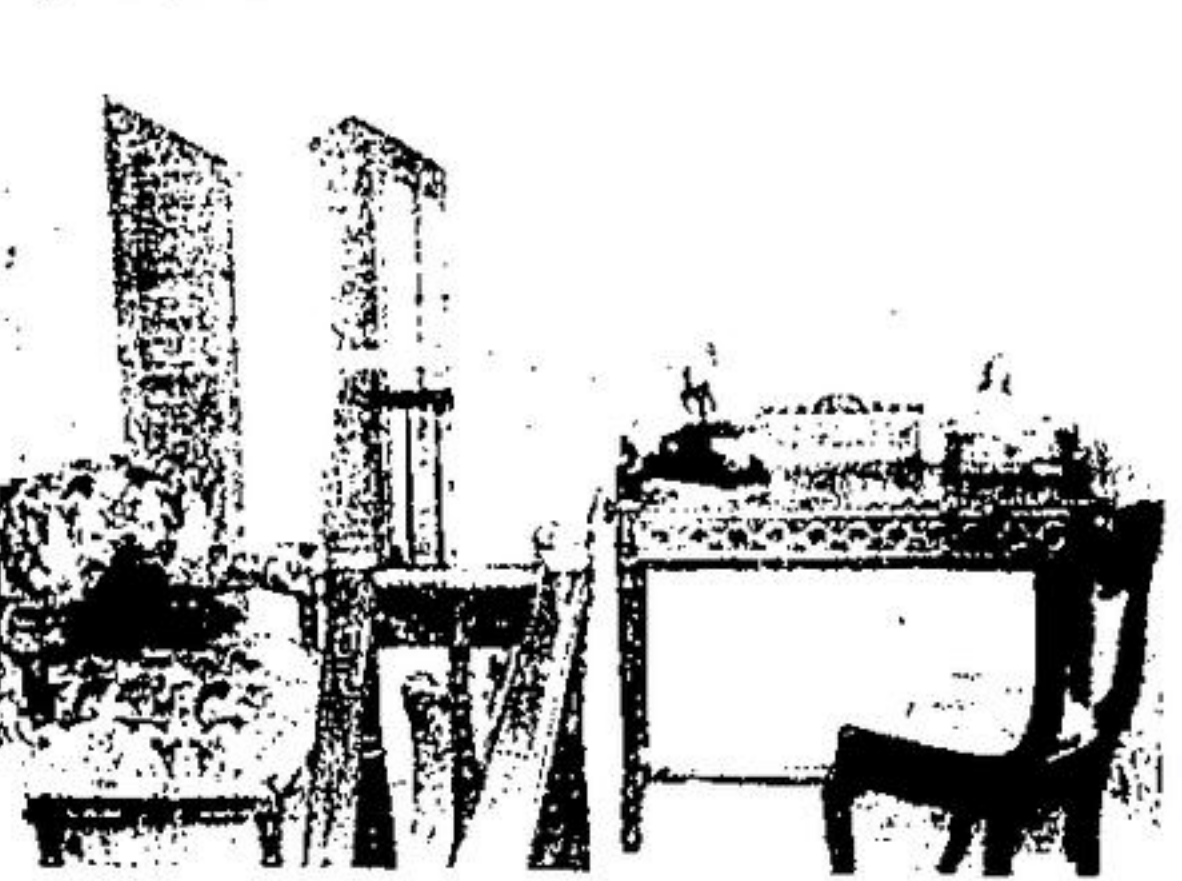
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added are from 150-year-old house in Streetsville. Porch, originally an old wood shed, helps shelter the new kitchen built from the drafty summer kitchen.



ARMOIRE AND MIRROR, designed and made by Eric Silk for the home of Mike and Joan Silk, is flanked by old family portraits hand framed by Mr. Silk.



MIRROR MADE from 150-year-old shutter and window shares the upper hall of the Silk home with a graceful lady's desk.

Building permits

Building permits in Acton valued \$100,823 have been issued for June.

The largest permit is for \$60,000 for an addition for Superior Glove Works on Vimy St. Four swimming pools for a total of \$18,508 and residential, alterations repairs and additions for a total \$12,800 helped add to the number of permits issued.

Two people applied for and received permits valued at \$8235 for residential garages and a permit was okayed for a commercial addition valued at \$1200.

Old stone farm house sees major renovations

by Jennifer Barr

Renovating a stone house is never easy. Those solid walls are virtually impenetrable and usually un-insulated. Windows are drafty and plumbing archaic.

But old stone farm houses are still the dream find for many suburban residents and renovating them becomes a lifelong hobby.

When Mike and Joan Silk, originally of Georgetown, bought their Ospringe stone house three years ago, they were delighted. The classic southern Ontario farm house surrounded by seven acres, was sold to them as a residence dating back to 1845. They are still hoping to prove this correct.

The renovations taking place in the Silk home during the past three years have been major ones and practically double the usable living space.

Father helps

Mike's father, retired Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police, Eric Silk, has been largely instrumental in producing authentic looking carpentry and custom furniture.

He has so many hobbies, I'm glad he found this one," laughs Joan.

"He's amazing," she continues. "He'll take some measurements and three days later he'll call to say will you come and get this cupboard, it's cluttering up the place" -and it fits perfectly!"

The original summer kitchen, and uninsulated drafty shed common to most old farm houses, has been transformed into a picturesque kitchen and extra bathroom, with masses of beautifully

carved cupboards, carefully chiselled beams and a stained glass window chandelier, all courtesy of Eric Silk.

The bathroom warms with plush, carpeting extending up the walls - a Mike Silk trademark also utilized effectively in the long living room.

But Mike, who is with the Mississauga Transit Corporation, is insistent that all the work on the house is the result of his father's efforts. "I may have held a board here and there," he says, modestly depreciating his own considerable efforts.

Joan Silk, history teacher at Georgetown High School, is also loud in her praise of Mr. Silk's work - "we couldn't have done it without him."

Divided Kitchen

The large original kitchen has been divided into a dining room whimsically called "the Rosewood Room", and a cosy library.

The large central hall way and staircase has been left in the original state. The living room is tastefully decorated with some of the beautiful furniture collected over the years by the Silks and is slated for renovation in the near future.

The upper and lower hallways are show places for Eric Silk's work and feature a pine armoire and mirror surrounded by hand-framed old photographs of both Joan's and Mike's families. Upstairs, a dainty lady's desk is flanked by a shuttered window mirror made from 150-year-old shutters gracing a house in Streetsville. The remaining shutters, reset, adorn the outside of the house.

Upstairs are four bedrooms

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Problems of drafts

The biggest problem when first moving in, according to the Silks, was the cold and drafts of the old house. Every room is insulated as it's renovated and the difference is noticeable immediately.

The Silks were also disconcerted by very low bedroom doorways and were going to raise them before deciding this would take away from the authenticity of the structure.

"Now, we've learned to duck."

Joan comments on the shallow fireplace found in the original kitchen.

"We couldn't believe it was real!"

Not only was it real but turned out to be the best drawing fireplace the Silks had ever encountered. Some dressing up and a new hearth added by Mike renewed the prosaic fireplace but the actual firebox was left untouched. Why spoil a good thing?

A Franklin stove in the living room and an old wood

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LDC grants bid in Glen

Halton Region Land Division Committee (LDC) last week granted a severance that creates a building lot on Prince Street in Glen Williams for Helen Bryan of Islington. She inherited the land in December of 1977 from her father.

The frontage on Prince Street is 192 feet and the property's size is eight-tenths of an acre. The lot is high in elevation and well drained, according to the health unit. There also are some old apple trees on the lot.

The property to be retained has a two-storey brick home.

According to Halton Region's interim planning policies some growth can be expected within Glen Williams.

It's always refreshing to see what a little ingenuity, industry, and a talented father - can do with an old stone farm house.

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