

Ontario's early Victorian history is sumptuous at heritage homes

By Colin S. Fisher

Take a drive almost anywhere in Ontario and you're sure to find evidence of our history in abundance. And, thankfully, many of the province's historic buildings retain their character to show visitors the life, times and atmosphere of eras gone by.

For most pioneering families, life was rugged. Political and environmental hardships abounded but, in a handful of households, life was leisurely, sumptuous and the stuff of which dreams are made.

Dundurn Castle in Hamilton represents the epitome of that more graceful lifestyle.

Billed as Canada's largest restored Victorian mansion, Dundurn was built in 1834 for Sir Allan MacNab, prime minister of the Province of Canada between 1854 and 1856. The startling opulence of the mid-1800's comes vividly alive in each of Dundurn's more than 30 refurbished rooms.

Without dispute, the massive drawing room is the crowning jewel. Rich reds, pinks and mauves so beloved by the Victorians give carpets and drapes an unforgettable brilliance when set amongst many of Sir Allan's original furnishings.

The dining room, complete with fine silver, china, crystal and a ten-legged dining table, can easily conjure visions of Sir Allan plotting the effective demise of William Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion of 1837.

But Dundurn offers more than a singular view of those times. Downstairs sets the domestic scene for the castle. Bread and beer are still baked and brewed in the enormous kitchen and smaller brewery. Dozens of bells still hand in the kitchen to summon long-gone servants to various rooms. Your imagination will be unleashed in any room, on any visit.

Further west in London, Ontario, the home of Sir Allan's contemporary, John Harris, shows a different view of Victorian life in our emerging country.

Smaller by far than Dundurn, Harris' Eldon House is no less interesting.

The oldest surviving private home in the city, Eldon House was built the same year as Dundurn and housed four generations of the Harris family until it was deced to London in 1959.

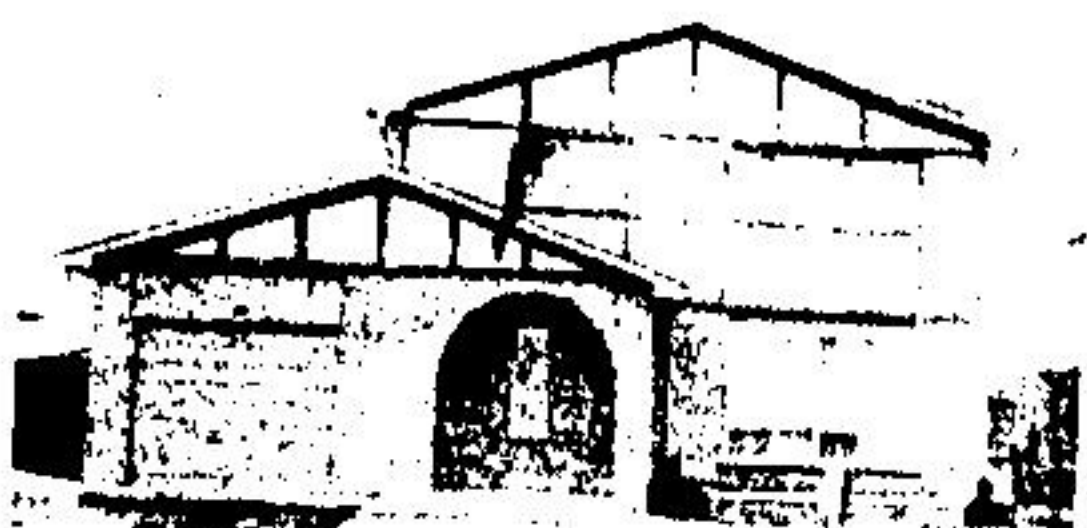
The home is filled with 125 years of a family's past from beautiful Canadian, English and Chinese furniture to momentos of African safaris to a most

(Continued on Page 9)

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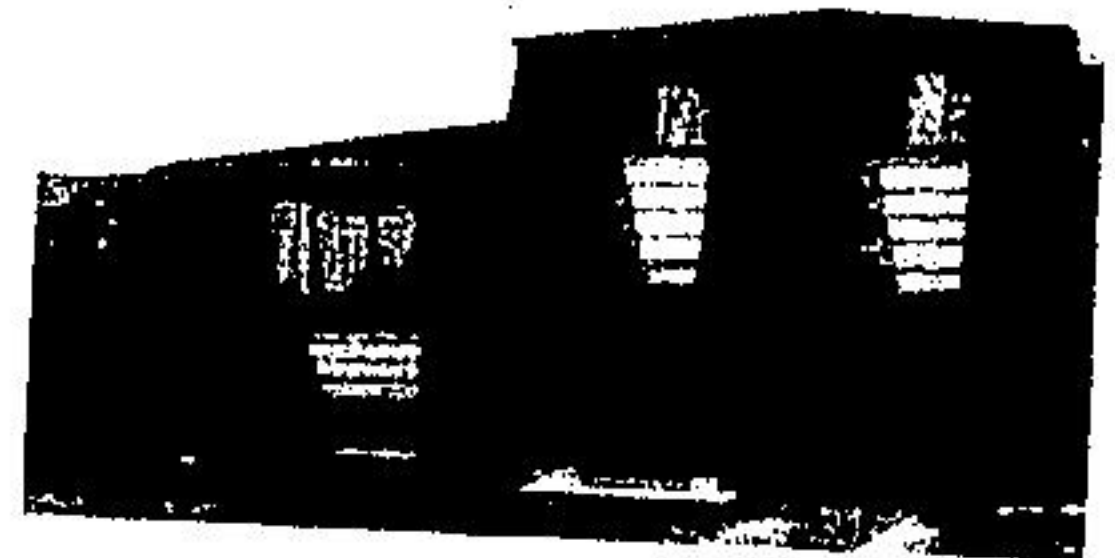
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LAKE AREA \$58,900.00

Excellent value for this modern 3 bedroom backsplit. Extra large kitchen, recreation room with Franklin fireplace. Bright living room. Above ground pool, patio, fully fenced and attached garage.



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10 ACRES \$89,900.

Ranch bungalow, featuring separate dining room, living room with fireplace, modern kitchen and 3 bedrooms. Recreation room, with fireplace. Private office. The left wing can easily be converted to a separate apartment for your own special needs or just for those extra additions to your family. The versatile land has both mixed bush and open fields. Bring an offer TODAY.



BRICK HOME

2 storey home close to downtown, park, lake and arena. Home is presently duplexed and your mortgage payment will carry like rent. This fine home can easily be converted to a single family home. \$55,900.00.



ERIN \$48,000.00

1 1/2 storey brick home, 3 bedrooms, possible 4 bedrooms, large kitchen and living room, full basement. Mature trees and long lot.



50 ACRE FARM

Your imagination cannot perceive elegance and excitement of this much talked about farm. Gently rolling parcel with many fields, your private pond, grand maple trees arching the driveway. The contemporary home is two storeys with all the modern conveniences, 3 bedrooms and fireplace in living room. The garage could avail itself to three cars and there are two finished rooms above plus a workshop. The steel pole barn is 60'x40' with 5 boxed stalls and silo. Extra garage with car pit and small cabin. Train your horse here. \$165,000.00.

\$39,900.00

3 bedroom, 2 storey condominium Townhouse. Featuring recreation room with walkout, completely redecorated and privately situated.

PRIVATE PARK

Elegant display of varied landscaping. Mixed forest, gently rolling fenced fields, ponds hidden away to let you enjoy this fantasy in your own privacy. This 3 bedroom home built from brick and cedar must be seen. Fifty-five foot deck with many walkouts, 2 fireplaces, recreation room with bar, 3 washrooms, sunken bath tub, winding staircase, study and many more rooms. 22'x32' barn with loft, four box stalls and automatic water, double car garage, all this stationed on 10 acres. \$145,000.00.

FOR RENT

Georgetown, 3 bedroom semi \$325.00 per month.



SCENIC VIEW

Imagine this two storey custom built home with 2400 square feet on each floor. 17' wide balcony, with walkouts from the master bedroom and dining room. Two stone fireplaces (floor to ceiling). Huge living room and dining room, study, 4 bedrooms with room for 2 more, large modern kitchen, same floor laundry room, 3 washrooms, 6' wide halls, large open foyer with spiral stairs. Extra rooms for billiards, workshop etc. You can see the beautiful countryside for miles, on 11.6 acres. Paved drive. Barn 35x60, Central Air and many more features. \$149,000.

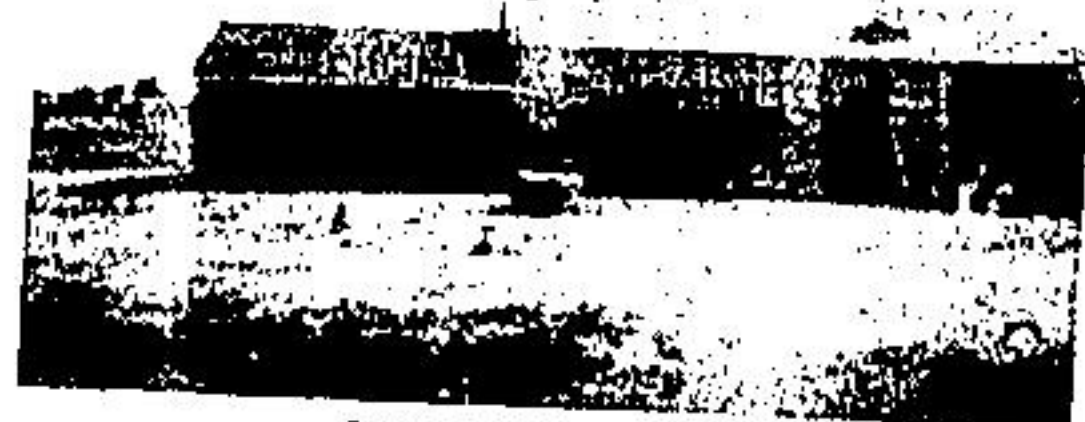


EXQUISITE VIEW OF LAKE

From this immaculate brick side split, 4 bedrooms, partially finished R.R. Ground floor F.R. with walkout. Situated on a picturesque, quiet crescent. A must to see. \$66,900.

10 ACRES, SEVERAL PONDS

Close to Acton, 10 minutes from 401. Beautiful vacant land, pond sites, both hardwood and cedar bush. This won't last, only \$45,000.



COUNTRY LIVING

New home, in country, 2 fireplaces, deck, 3 bedrooms, eat in kitchen, entrance foyer, 2 bathrooms. All this only \$69,900. Call today.

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