

New Mazda 929 bound to make an impact

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Mazda has been on an automotive roll since it decided to be one of the very few Japanese automakers to throw caution to the wind and take a chance on daring styling.

That certainly is true of the MX-5 Miata which created a niche of its own and also of the MPV with that big side door which has become the hottest selling imported family van on the road today.

Readers may or may not know that Mazda was expected to be launching a whole new up-scale division called Pegasus which would have competed directly against Acura, Infiniti and Lexus. But the slump in the economy, which hit the up-scale segment hardest, caused Mazda to have second thoughts.

Luckily for us, whether it is just a new version 929 or it might have been the first Pegasus (Mazda won't say), the Hiroshima firm's new top-of-the-line four-door sedan improves on what I always considered to be the best-kept secret in the luxury car market segment.

The current 929 has everything you'd ever want in a luxosedan. It has a trendy 24-valve V6 engine. It has a marvellous sound system and it's swathed from stem to stern in beautiful leather. The trunk is huge and it has all the technotoys like engine-transmission management system and ABS. Priced around thirty-two grand, it looks a bargain beside its \$50,000 plus Lexus, Infiniti, or Fleetwood rivals.

The new 929, which was unveiled recently in Virginia, takes all that and finally puts it into a body which has a sense of style as opposed to a sense of drab.

Mazda stayed with front engine and rear drive which I applaud. They have moved the rear axle line back two inches over the current car and tried to keep overhand to a minimum. The chassis is 30 per cent stiffer than the previous model in the bargain.

The 3.0-litre V6 still produces 195 hp which might sound meagre but it more than does the job thanks to a marvelously responsive electronic overdrive automatic transmission (the only trans available).

Several Mazda executives took the time to repeat what was contained in a press handout which stated, "The new generation 929 was not penned for mass appeal."

They let the stylists loose telling them only to come up with

ROAD WORTHY

By JIM ROBINSON

a wind-cheating shape which would suggest "lavishness." It seems they succeeded on both counts.

The drag coefficient is just 0.30 yet the trunk will hold four golf bags. The distance between the wheelwell centres and the extremities of the car have been nailed spot on. In fact, it's the same sort of wheel to body ratio one sees and admires in the Jaguar Sovereign.

Our ride-and-drive was through the historic old hills of Virginia. We passed through Blue Ridge country and stopped for lunch at a little country inn. It turned out to be the favorite of the monied and horsey set such as actor Robert Duvall who eats there every Sunday when not filming. My co-driver, who has driven almost everything almost everywhere, proclaimed this part of Virginia to be "the prettiest ride I've ever had."

And was it hot! With the temperature in the upper-90s Fahrenheit, we certainly gave the climate control a workout. As a rule, I find climate control never gives you exactly the temperature desired. I'm always adjusting the dial up or down. In the 929, despite the heat, we set the car at 21 C and it stayed there all day.

One technotoy of note is the solar panel in the sunroof. While you're away, the power generated by the sun runs the fan to keep air moving in the interior and thus keep it cooler. It also trickle charges the battery at the same time.

The interior of our white 929 was done in cream leathers with ample room even in the back seat, something surprisingly lacking in some of the current crop of Japanese luxosedans.

Because the car has airbags for the driver and the front seat passenger, ventilation routing has resulted in the vents being located in odd spots. That didn't bother me much, although my co-driver found it a major drawback. He likes to drive with left leg against the door thus cutting off the air-vent which happens to be located in the door on the driver's side.

Curiously the new 929 does not have a tilt steering wheel. What it does have is no less than a 300-watt premium sound sys-

tem. Thankfully they have left a slot for cassette tapes as well as CDs. I should note much care was taken to reduce the number of buttons on the radio to the minimum to make selection easier. It works!

Mazda says this car's competition is considered to be primarily the Acura Legend sedan, thus the 929 will be priced lower in the \$37,000-\$38,000 range although the exact price has yet to be set. This should happen in September when the car enters the show-rooms.

The upper-scale sedan market is getting mighty crowded these days. Mazda must contend against the current crop of sumptuously-appointed sedans plus a whole slew coming down the pipe.

With its proven mechanicals, relatively lower price, and that

handsome new body, the Mazda 929 is bound to make an impact on the North American luxury

sedan buyer and it could only have done so with a car of the calibre of the new 929.



The new Mazda 929 shown on one of the many winding roads through Virginia horse country. The new sedan debuts in Mazda showrooms in mid-September.



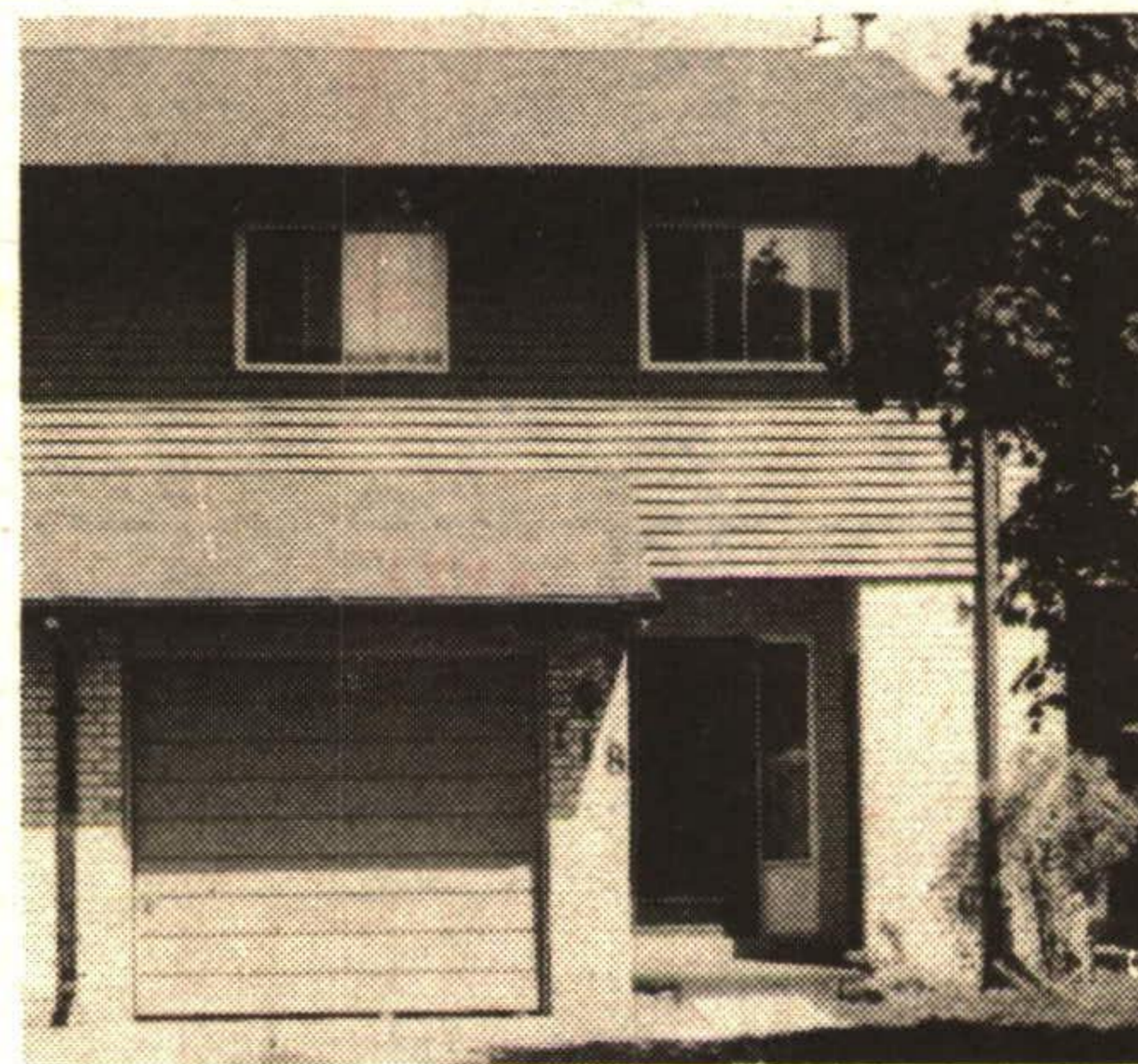
Angie Cormpilas
Sales Representative
Res. 873-3308



NRS BRAND REALTY INC., REALTOR
45 Mountainview Rd. N., Georgetown
873-0300 Tor. 840-1268

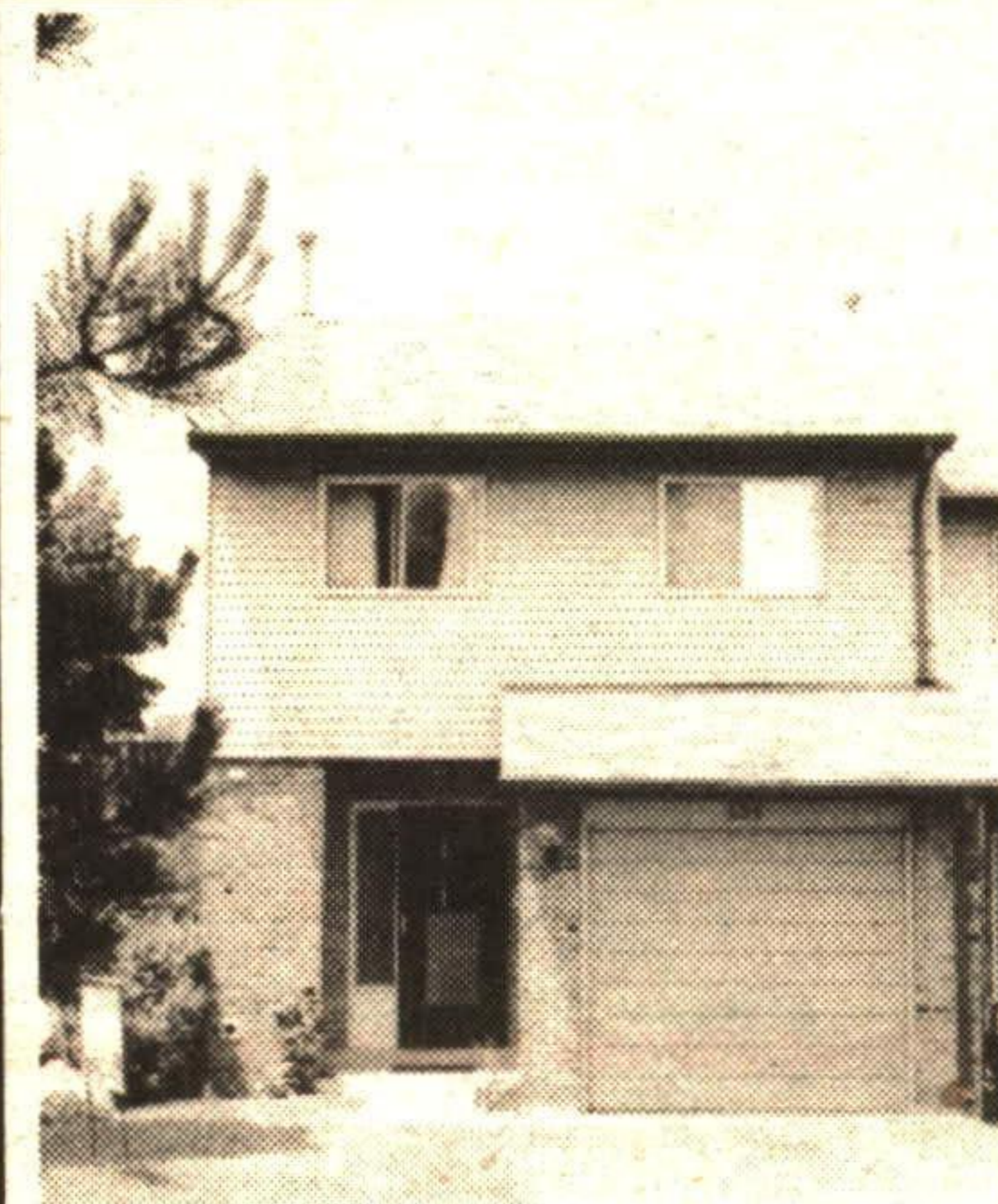
BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME HERE

Beautifully located on 8th Line close to prestigious Wildwood Road is this 2 1/2 acre building lot that has it all. Silver Creek running all year and trees. Want to see? Just call! Angie Cormpilas, Sales Rep. NRS9566



RIVER RUN "A" MODEL TOWNHOME

4 bedroom townhome with finished walkout basement in a great neighbourhood. Main floor powder room. Large master bedroom with semi ensuite. Living room has walkout to balcony. Priced to Sell! Call now! Angie Cormpilas, Sales Rep. 873-0300, 873-3308. NRS9617



NO EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE HERE \$149,900

Well kept and nicely decorated end unit townhome with upgraded broadloom, walkout, finished family room with wet bar. Trees offer privacy on the patio. This you have to see!! Please call Angie Cormpilas, Sales Rep. NRS9628



TUCKED AWAY ...

from the hussle and bussle, yet, 3 minutes to Georgetown off prestigious Wildwood Road you will discover ... A PIECE OF PARADISE. Gorgeous wooded acreage with a quaint Tip Top shape home, Silvercreek in the back yard running all year. Had enough of words? Come and see the peacefulness, privacy and tranquility with us. Asking \$599,900. Call Angie Cormpilas or Nancy Kelman, Sales Reps. 873-0300 or 873-3308. NRS9533

Deal With Success!



Glenda Hughes*
Sales Rep.



John Hill*
Sales Rep.



OUR "8 DIAMOND" SALES STATUS AND 11-1/2 YEARS OF QUALITY SERVICE PUTS US...

"A CUT ABOVE"



NRS BRAND REALTY INC., REALTOR
AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER BROKER
45 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., GEORGETOWN
Toronto Line: 840-1268 Fax: 873-2477
873-0300
RESIDENCE: 877-8402



A HONEY

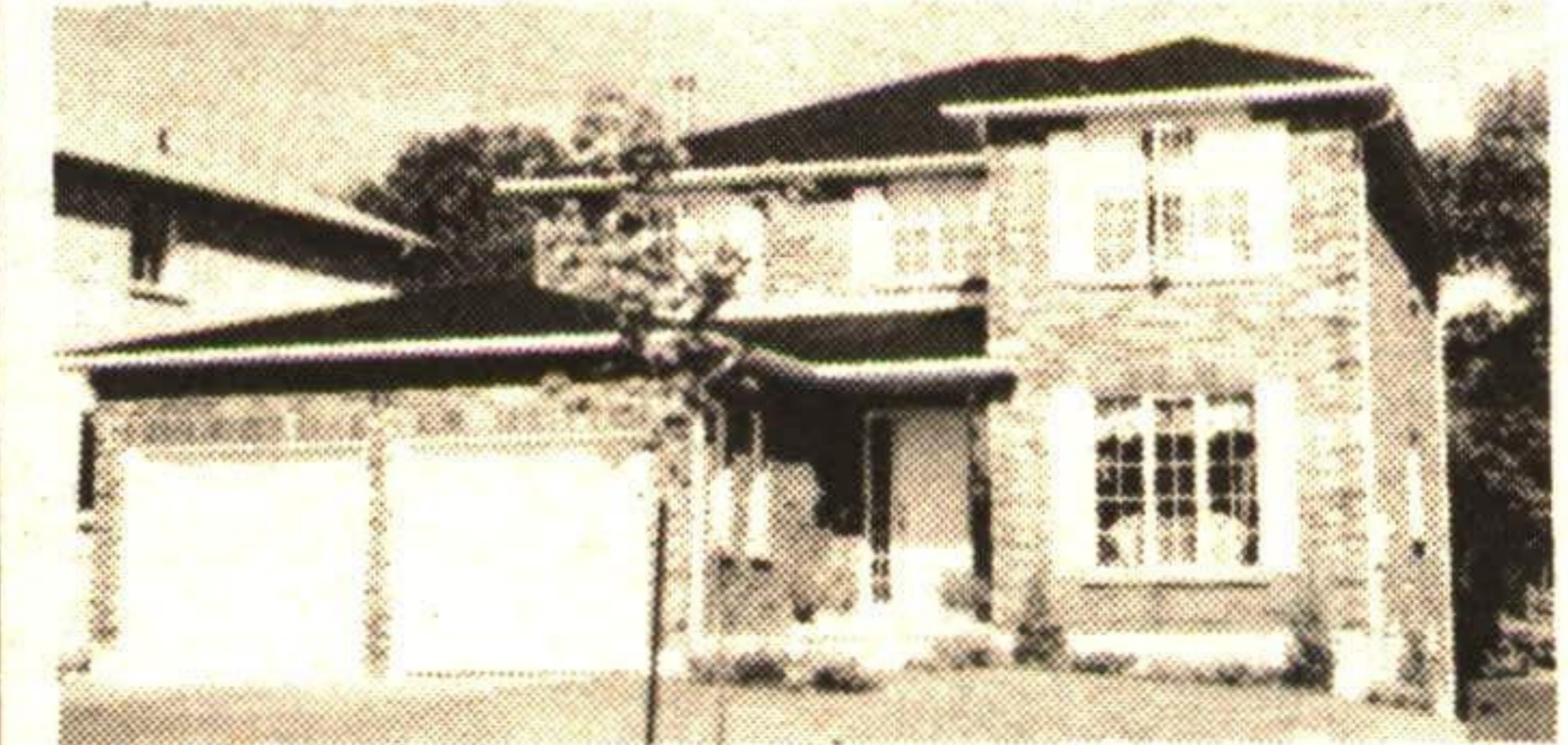
* Spotless 3 bedroom
* Gleaming hardwood
* Pretty lot across from Fairy Lake
Call Glenda Hughes*. NRS9544

* New bath
* Garage



LIVE IN "THE PARK!"

Board & Batten Victorian style home on a beautiful treed park type lot, in Georgetown. Gourmet kitchen, beautiful master with ensuite. Full of charm! Call Glenda Hughes* to view. NRS9497



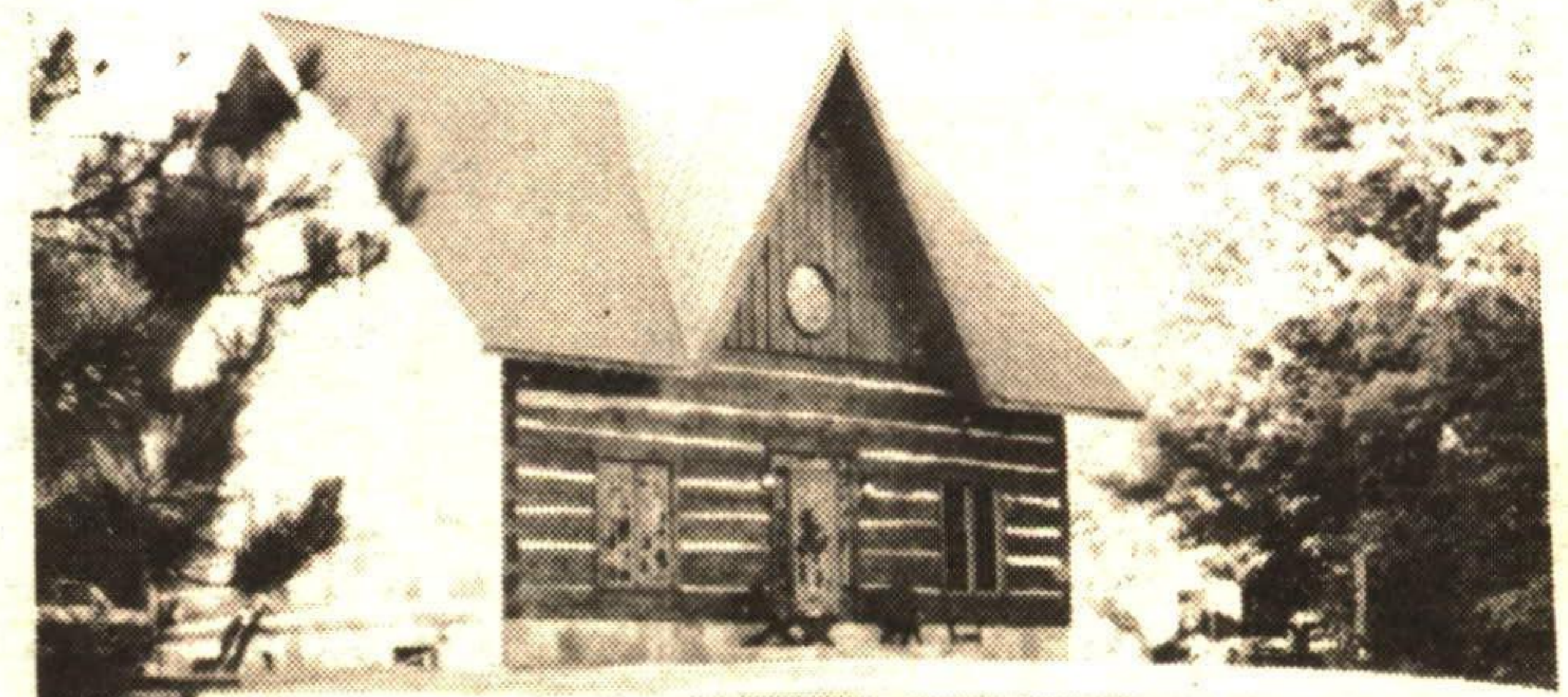
ELEGANCE!

Sparkling clean, neutral decor and located in Georgetown's Park District. Beautifully treed lot, grand entrance, and lots of bells & whistles for \$299,900. Call Glenda Hughes* to be impressed. NRS9630



COUNTRY DREAM!

Beautiful new Viceroy home on 10 private treed acres near Hwy. # 24. "Nothing but the best" the rule here with top quality floor coverings, custom oak kitchen with built-in appliances, gorgeous master suite and a huge bright partially finished basement with 4th bedroom. \$319,000. Call John Hill*. NRS9555



PARADISE FOUND!

Charming log home on 15 acres with pond and trees, trees, trees. Lots of pine inside, 1 1/2 baths, 4 bedrooms and extra high basement workshop. Step on the oversized deck and enjoy the birds while having your morning coffee. It's a treasure at \$375,000. Call Glenda Hughes*. NRS9562