



At sixteen and a half, our twins Kyle and Belinda are taking a driver's education course. It may be doing them a world of good, but it's making my life miserable. Whenever I get into the car and drive somewhere with either Kyle or Belinda now, they go on about all the bad driving habits I have.

For example, on the way to the store yesterday to buy some caulking and weatherstripping, Kyle told me that I didn't have a "space cushion". My back is fine, I told him. I don't need one of those gizmos. He meant I was too close to other cars.

So when we got in the store I

said he might as well become an expert on caulking and weatherstripping, too. This is the time of year, I told him, when you should invest a bit of money in some long-term energy savings. Air leakage can account for 20 to 30 per cent of your home's heat loss. Attics and basements are your worst culprits, with family and living rooms following closely behind.

Caulking is applied to fixed joints around your home, such as sill plates and window trim. Since a good caulking job should last for ten years or more, make sure the material you buy is suitable for the job.

Buy a good quality caulking gun that won't break easily and will hold the caulking tube securely in place.

Weatherstripping controls air leakage at joints that open, like windows, doors and attic hatches. Before you apply it, make sure your surfaces are smooth and level and free of dirt, flaking paint or old weatherstripping. You may not be able to do

a lot about the weather, but at least you can make sure your home is free of drafts and other energy-gobblers.

As Kyle drove us home, it occurred to me that caulking and weatherstripping the house is a lot like sending your kids to driver's ed: you can't do much about the weather, or crazy drivers, but at least you can do your best to protect against 'em!

This newspaper, in conjunction with Ontario Hydro, is bringing you Phil's Basement to help "bring home" ideas on how to save energy. To receive a copy of the brochure "Caulking and Weatherstripping: Little Jobs That Make a Big Difference", call Ontario Hydro at 1-800-263-9000 and tell them Phil sent you.

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SOUND INVESTMENT VENDOR TAKE BACK

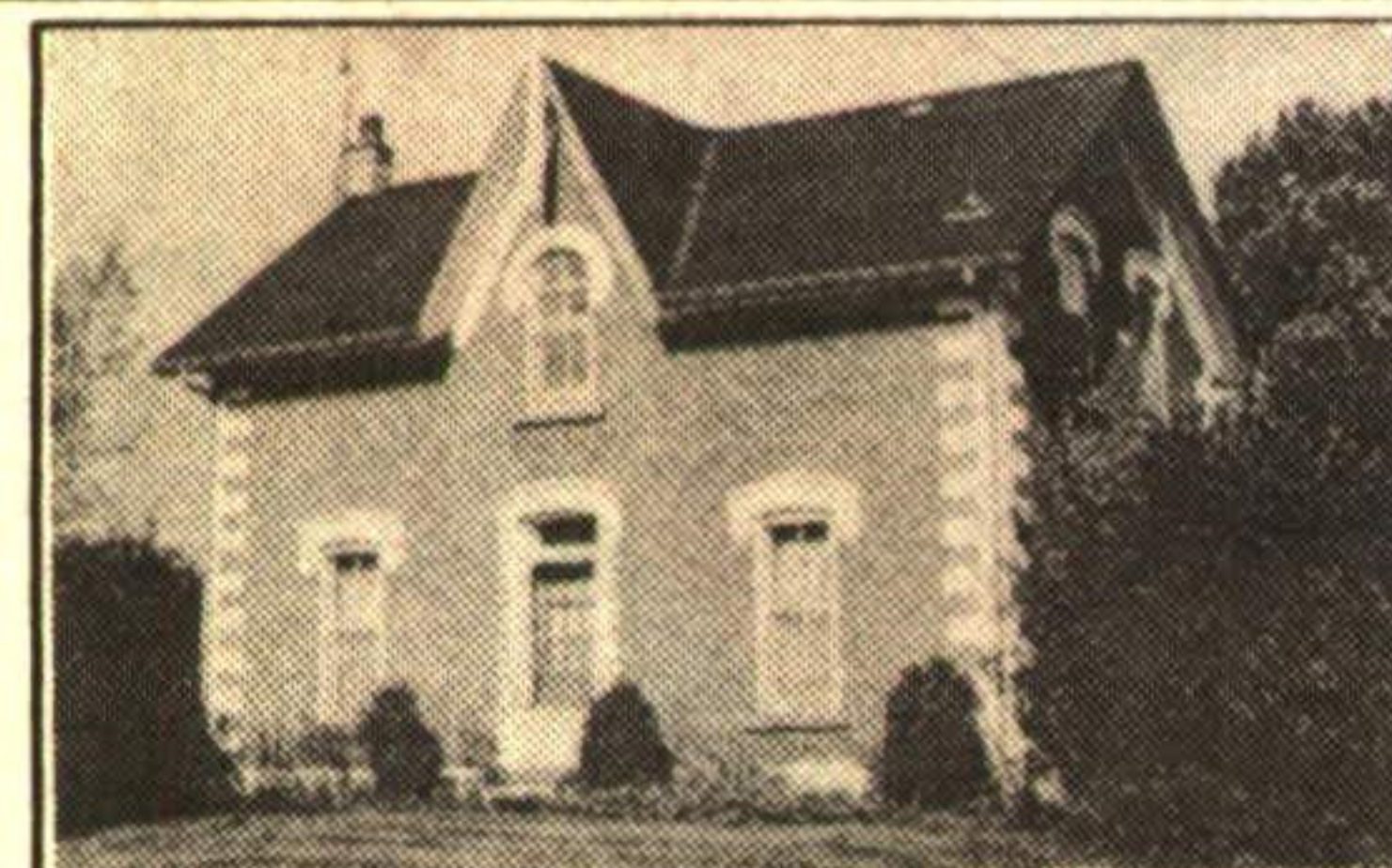
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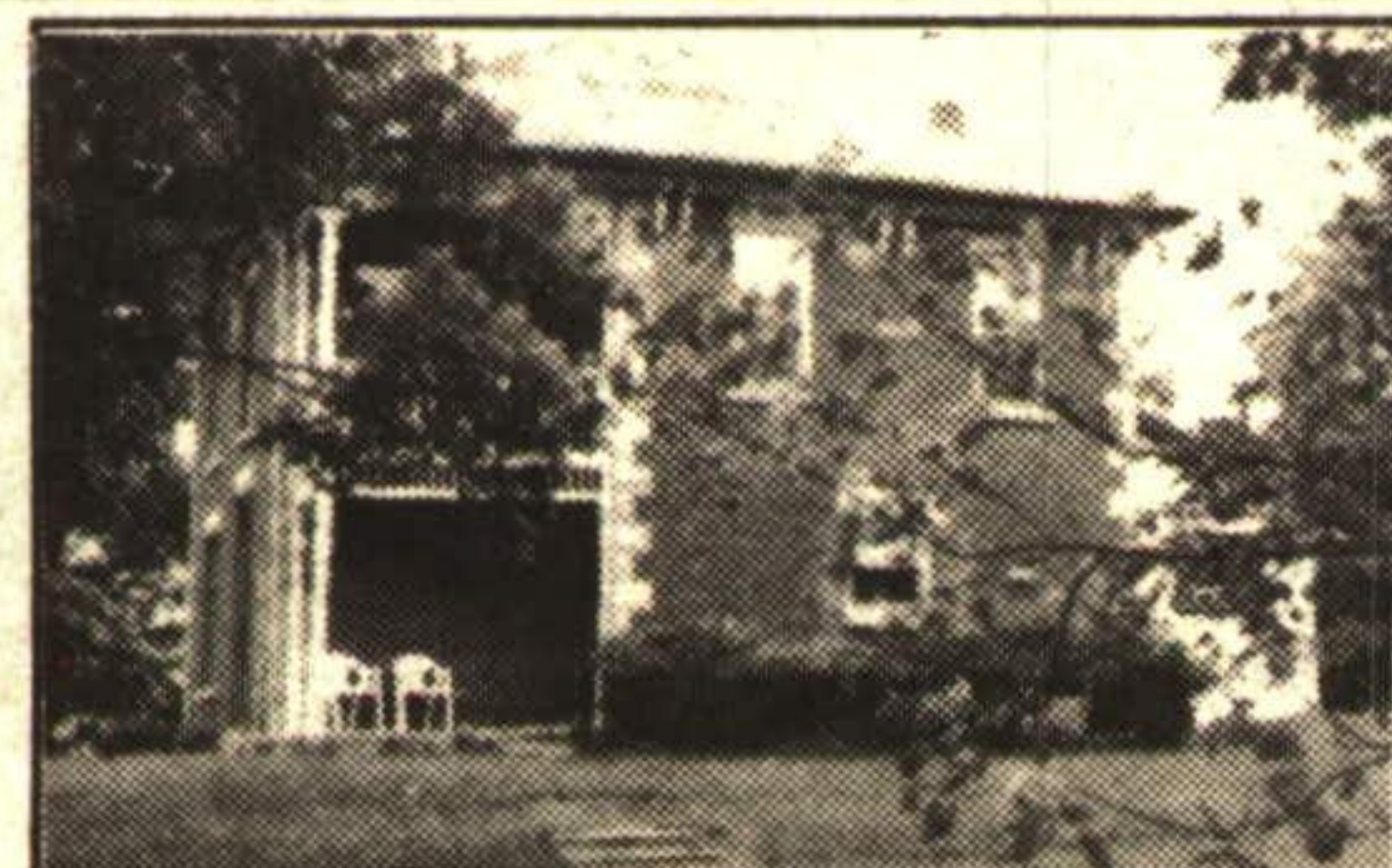
CALL NORMA SHERIDAN, 846-2270



10 PRETTY AC - HUGE BARN \$339,000

This home says 'welcome' as you walk through the door. By no means perfect, but well worth adding the finishing touches. At present the ave. 5 bedrooms, cosy sitting room, farmhouse kitchen with woodstove, small "T" room, main floor laundry. Pine board floors and pine clad windows in livingroom. Pool too - built above ground. Pottery workshop too. 2 car garage. Magnificent maples line the driveway. You should see this one - soon!

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ORANGEVILLE VICTORIAN CHARM

10 acres - \$325,000. Years of loving restoration are reflected in this beautiful home. Not a huge house - the picture makes it look large - but cosy & inviting. 3 nice bedrooms, main floor laundry, wonderful chefs kitchen, powder room, only the back kitchen is left for you to 'do' - it would make a fine family room. Huge pond - barn, fireplace & bookshelves in living room - beautiful floors. A treat to show.

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