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MARTHA SUMMERS
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Out at the Ranch

with Bill Ellis



THE GARDEN

We were wandering through a garden centre the other day, admiring all the seeds and the vegetable and flower plants. They sit there looking so strong and showing such promise of growing to be large and gorgeous.

I was sorely tempted to load up with all sorts of seeds and plants and start up gardening again. But then I remembered back to those days when we started our gardening and all the hope we held for those bountiful harvests. And we worked at it. We harvested and we blanched and we packaged and we froze. We gave our friends bags of tomatoes and cucumbers and grapes until they pleaded -- stop already!

We watered and weeded and picked -- and wondered what we were going to do with all the stuff.

The answer was obvious. Cut down the size of the garden. So I grassed over half the garden and the following year I grassed over half the garden. And that was the fateful year disaster struck the garden. A family of raccoons took up residence in our neighborhood -- their descendants still leave muddy foot prints on our deck.

As I recall, we had a bumper grape crop that year and a small patch of Golden Seneca corn that showed real promise. About a week before the corn was ready for picking -- disaster. The raccoons knocked over every corn stock and took a few bites out of

each lovely cob. I headed for the gun rack for a shotgun and planned the all night vigil in the back yard. Pat counselled me away from any imprudent action with a shotgun. She reasoned that at best I would blow a window out of someone's home, get arrested for discharging a gun, give a neighbor a heart attack and raccoons really are so cute, don't you know!

When the grapes were about ready to pick, the raccoons started picking -- naturally. Each morning, there were piles of grape skins and seeds on the deck. What a mess -- and they left the wildest purple stains.

Down came the grape vines and the raccoons still show up every fall just to make sure we haven't planted any new vines.

I wouldn't mind giving up gardening if it was my own decision -- but to be forced out of gardening by a bunch of cute little animals -- it's humiliating. Pat, who always says soothing things, says that we are just as wise to buy the exact quality and quantity of produce we require, and we don't have to foist off bags of produce to friends and acquaintances all summer.

I did sneak two tomato plants into our flower garden this year. I am assured by the experts that raccoons do not eat tomatoes. We'll see!

Bill Ellis is an Associate Broker with Canada Trust Realty, Georgetown.



FABULOUS RAVINE LOT
\$149,000

Upgraded with new kitchen with ceramics, new windows, upgraded bathroom with jacuzzi. Detached garage. What a great start.
93-2-322



ERAMOSA - SUPERB 24 ACRES
\$329,000

Large principle rooms, overlooking spring-fed pond. Greenhouse, workshop, meadow and bush.
93-2-305



MILTON NORTH 10 ACRES
\$279,000

Lovely main floor family room with wood stove. Beamed living room with floor to ceiling fireplace. 2+ car garage and workshop.
93-2-296



ERIN 5 ACRES
\$239,900

Superb hardwood bush for walking or riding. Well maintained home and barn in move-in condition. Hardwood floors.
92-2-459



CABINET MAKERS - LOOK AGAIN

You can have it all - executive home plus insulated attached workshop with class. There is even room for your nanny in the finished loft. Cheltenham area.
93-2-195



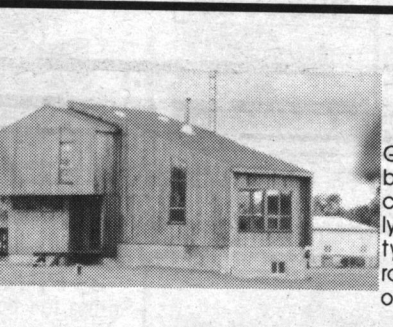
SUPERB CALEDON EXECUTIVE

A must to see inside, spacious and gracious with hardwood floors, 25' dining room with fireplace, 4 bedrooms and a great country kitchen. A 20 acre wooded wonderland.
93-2-147



HILLSBURGH DEAD END STREET
\$199,000

Spacious, open concept. 3+ bedrooms, large country kitchen, heated workshop plus 2 car garage. Great for a car buff!!
93-2-212



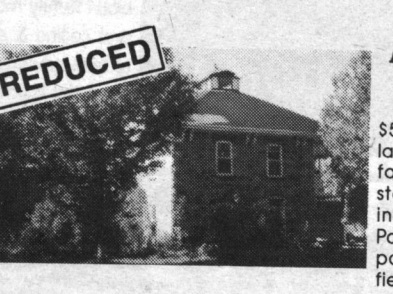
ERIN 10 ACRES
\$249,000

Good location, 3 bedroom, open concept with lovely views of property. Finished rec room. 24 x 40 barn or workshop.
92-2-275



CALEDON EHS REDUCED
\$244,900

Backs onto a ravine. Bright and spacious, bleached oak kitchen, hardwood floors, finished loft.
92-2-495



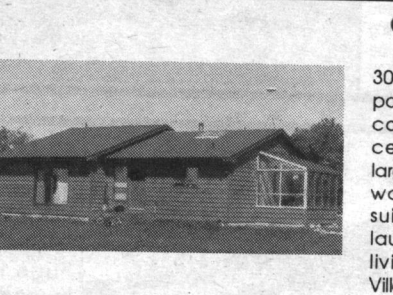
ERIN - 84 ACRE HORSE FARM

\$519,000 includes large century stone farmhouse, 38 box stall and a super indoor arena. Paddocks, spring fed pond, stream and fields complete the setting.
92-2-485



GEORGETOWN STARTER
\$157,000

Fabulous mature 339 foot deep lot, charming 3 bedroom home with character.
93-2-225



COUNTRY VALUE 3.3 ACRES

300 feet frontage on paved road. Open concept, vaulted ceilings, sunroom, large bedrooms with walkouts, full ensuite, main floor laundry. One level living south of Erin Village. \$178,500.
93-2-260



GEORGETOWN REDUCED
\$159,900

Have a good look, large master bdrm. with semi ensuite, main floor laundry, separate entrance to quality in-law suite with Ikea kitchen. Private yard.
92-2-253



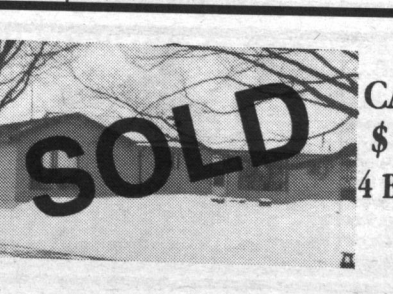
GEORGETOWN INCOME PRODUCING
\$319,000

Well maintained in good location. Separate large 2 car garage, plenty of parking. Adjacent corner lot available at \$99,900.
93-2-266



HALTON 2.75 ACRES

93-2-162



CALEDON \$179,000 4 BEDROOMS

93-2-203

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BARGAIN HUNTERS

WOW! \$123,900 COUNTRY! 4- bedroom home at Crewsons Corners. Main floor family room with wood-burning stove. Kitchen newly re-dry walled. Come and see this now! RMAC92-80



BARGAIN \$125,500 - BEAUTIFUL DUPLEX. Live in one, rent the other. Upstairs apartment completely updated including bathroom and kitchen. New furnace and roof in 1992. Walk to "GO" station. Call now for this super investment. RMAC93-33



EXECUTIVE LOVERS

1 ACRE SOUTH OF GEORGETOWN - \$274,000 Many updates on this 3-bedroom sidesplit. Extension built 3 years ago consists of double garage, workshop, full bathroom, laundry/mudroom. Gorgeous recreation room with recessed lighting, wall bar, brick hearth and wood-burning stove. Eat-in updated oak kitchen with walkout to the lot. RMAC93-24



REDUCED

2200 sq. ft. home in Georgetown \$226,900 on fully fenced lot. MF family room with fireplace. Curved oak staircase leads to gallery. Master bedroom with its own bathroom and lots of closet space. Central air. RMAC93-10



WALKOUT BASEMENT

COUNTRY WITH IN-LAW POTENTIAL - \$189,900. 1 acre, walkout from basement to lot. Double garage, huge country kitchen. This spacious brick home offers country living yet is close to school. RMAC92-74



GEORGETOWN BARGAIN - \$185,000. Country-in-town. Come and look, with large private gentle sloping ravine lot. Enjoy breakfast on the patio. Super recreation room with walkout. RMAC93-48