Dodds' Blue ribbon reminder

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner Rick Dodds is never far from his family's thoughts.

Dodds, formerly of Acton, is stationed in the former Yugoslavia as part of United Nations forces, and his family has marked his absence by tying blue ribbons outside their Meadvale Road home.

Proud father, Herb Dodds, said the blue ribbons signify that the troops overseas are not forgotten and that people are praying for their safe return.

Dodds' wife, Shelley and their two young daughters, Stephanie, Rick is away.

It was Shelley who hung the blue ribbons on trees and the mailbox outside her in-laws' home.

"When Rick left in early April, we put the ribbons on the trees and they will stay up until he returns in October," Shelley said in a recent interview.

Dodds, a member of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia, Canadian Light Infantry, and his family are stationed in Winnipeg, where the blue ribbons are a common sight.

"Everywhere you look there are blue ribbons. All my friends' hus-4, and Lauren, 1, have moved from bands are gone and they have put overseas until his tour of duty ends CFB Winnipeg to Acton, while up blue ribbons. When the guys in October.

were shipped out, we lined the route to the airport with the ribbons," Shelley said.

"We just want people to remember that Canadian troops are there. People see things on TV and they don't realize that the soldiers over there are people they might know.

"My mother-in-laws' friends, who remember Rick growing up in Acton, have put ribbons up too."

The Dodds are in regular phone contact with Rick, who tries to call once a week and writes often.

Rick will be in Acton in August for holidays and then will return

Store closure surprises

Downtown Acton has lost another merchant, but this time it is not because of the recession.

P&C Originals closed Friday, after less than a year in business, claiming the building owner did not do repairs ordered by the Town's building inspectors.

In an interview Tuesday, P&C co-owner Carol Kollar said she was disappointed that she was forced to close, or face a fine.

"When we opened last May we applied for a business licence and in September a building inspector said repairs would have to be done to bring the store up to code."

"Our landlord, who subleased to us, said last month that everything was okay, the work would be done, but on April 9 the Town told me that if the repairs weren't done in 30 days I could be fined up to \$5,000."

Town by-law enforcement officer Ron Stein was surprised to learn that the store had closed.

"We'd been in negotiations with the owner and landlord, as late as last week it looked like the work was going to be done.

"As long as someone intends to comply, I would use discretion and not initiate action against them," Stein said.

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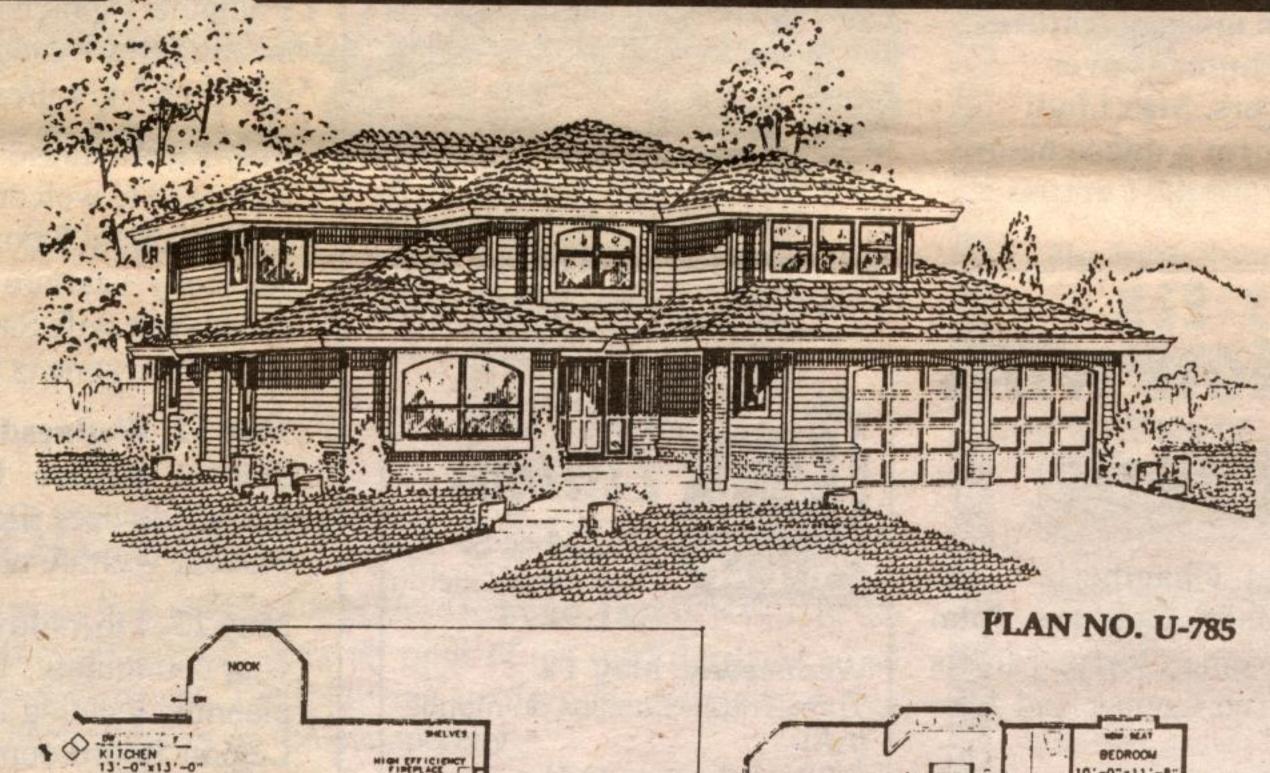
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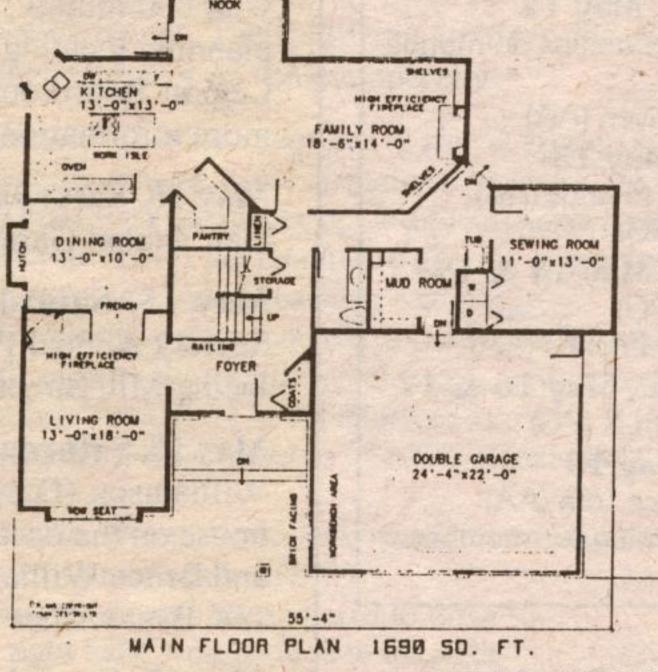
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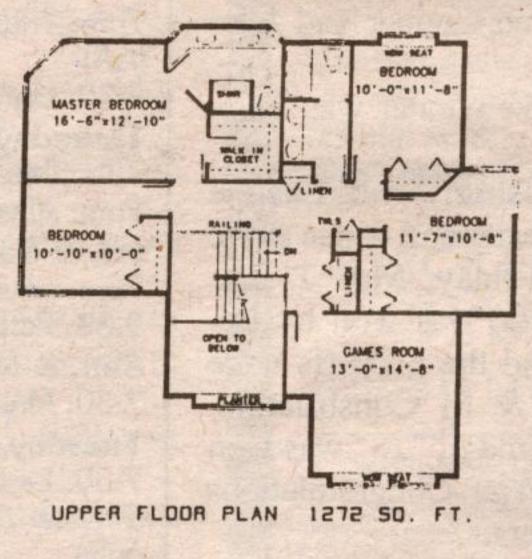
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