

This abandoned house

By ANN KORNUA

Jackie Hope and her husband Kevin were looking for the ultimate home renovations project when they decided in 1999 to buy an abandoned house in Erin. The house, which was located in the heart of rural farm country, was more than just your typical fixer-upper, it was falling apart. After being abandoned for years, the house itself was suffering from extensive water damage and didn't even have a furnace. With hard work and dedication, this eyesore has been transformed into an attractive home.

The Hopes are not contractors. Most of their renovation knowledge and skills they learned from books and television. Jackie remembers "there was no furnace and no kitchen when we first moved in four years ago. There was even tar all over the floor. It was a real mess when we moved in."

The couple struggled with repairing water damaged support beams and

installing new windows. "It was a lot of hard work but we knew that this place just needed a little TLC." Jackie said. "The first few years were the hardest, installing bedrooms, installing a water softener and yanking out years of rotten old insulation. No one could guess that this house stood abandoned only five short years ago. We always run into snags like bad electrical problems in the house but part of fixing up an old home is trial and error and we would just find ways around it. Everything in this house now is done right and up to standard."

The property itself is 60 acres of sweeping fields and pine trees 15 minutes from downtown Erin. Many of the farmers in the area knew of the existence of the abandoned property but since the tree line had grown in so extensively the house was hidden from the road. The house is said to have been built in the 1970's as a cottage by an

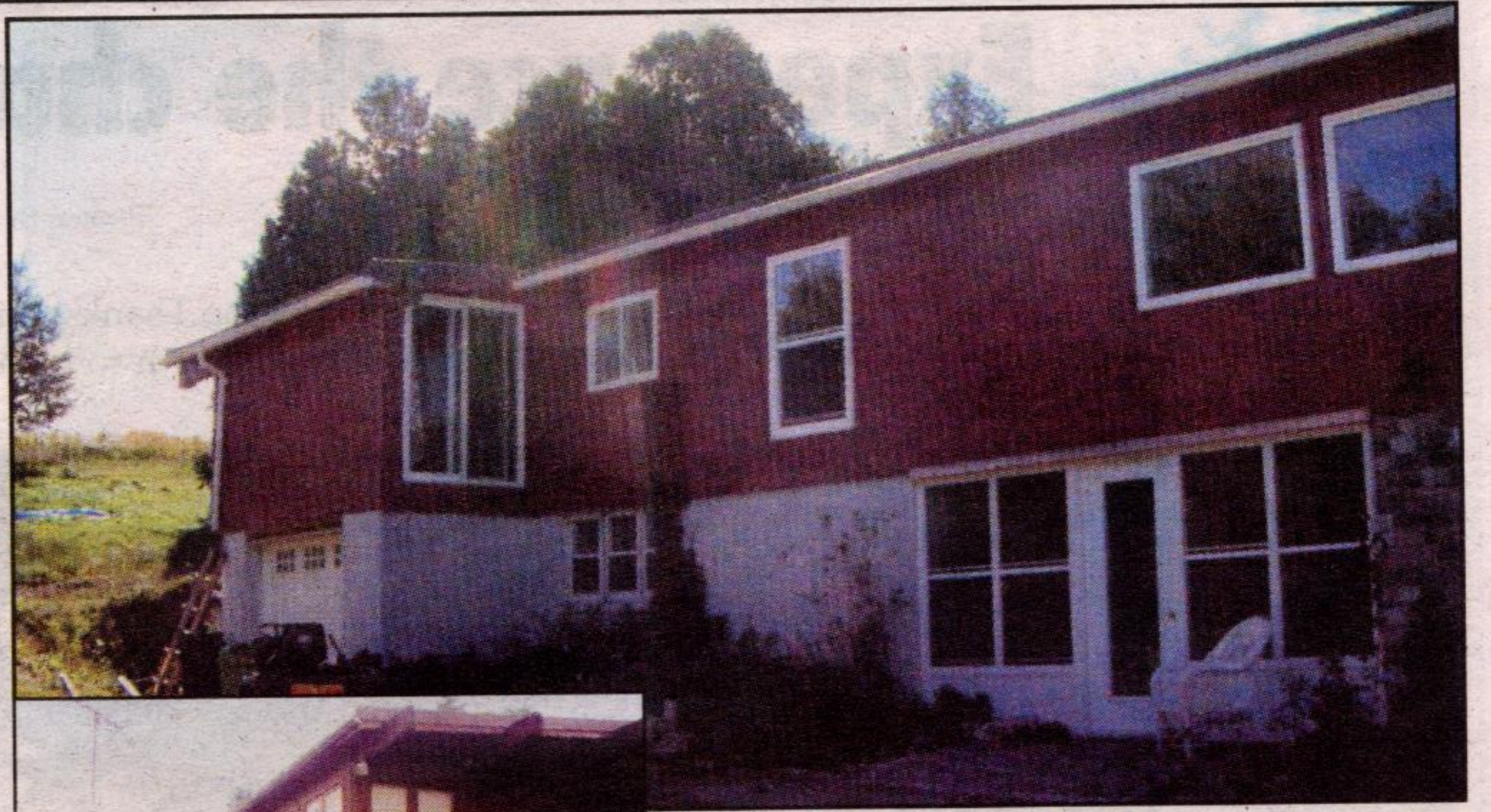


PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA

The Hope's home, now minus the old worn out deck and stone entranceway.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Hope's house as it was when the family moved in back in 1999.

unknown architect and was quickly sold thereafter. The rest of the property is much older as evidenced by the remains of an old barn structure just a few yards from the house.

Next year, the Hopes will start working on their next large project in the house when they refinish the roof and install a new fence around the property.



Inside the Hope's refinished dining room, complete with new floors and window accenting from the original cedar ceiling which Jackie refinished and salvaged from years of water damage.

The clean tasting truth about sushi

By ANN KORNUA

A proposed law that would ban the serving of raw fish that has not been previously frozen, has raised an outcry from the sushi industry. Sushi lovers are upset at the law because freezing certain kinds of fish will ruin the texture and flavour. For centuries sushi has been consumed without any dire side effects and many people feel that Health Canada is over reacting in its zeal to protect consumers. The resulting outcry has forced the Province to withdraw the proposed law.



The preparation of sushi requires that the fish used be of the highest quality, that it is absolutely fresh, and that the highest level of hygiene is observed. Dining at well-established and reputable sushi restaurants is the best way to enjoy the experience.

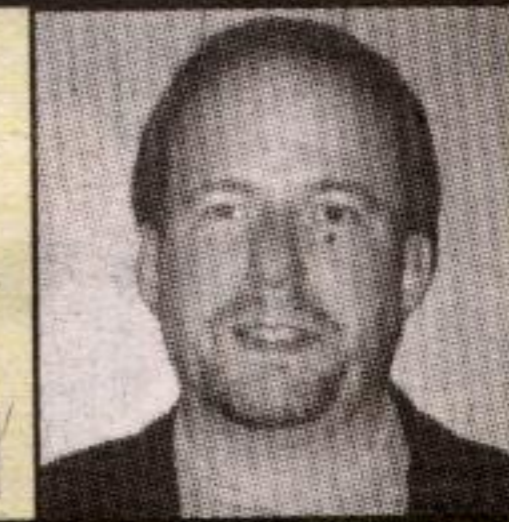
In Halton, one of the best sushi restaurants is Midori Sushi located on 3006 Derry Road in Milton right across the road from Milton District Hospital.

The Korean sushi chef John Suh, first came to Canada a year ago and opened his restaurant in Milton. Back in Korea he had studied the art of making sushi for 10 years and his skill is evident in the dishes he prepares. John explains that the freezing of fish makes for poor quality sushi. "They think fish is very dangerous food but I think it's not. The most important thing is how I prepare the fish." The success of his restaurant shows that John has been doing that just right.

There are many types of sushi. Sushi can be categorized into two types: nigiri and maki. Nigiri is served in pairs and is simply any kind of fish sliced raw and served on rice with a touch of wasabi mustard. Maki, which is also called rolled sushi, combines fish, vegetables and rice all wrapped up in sheets of seaweed and served as six or eight slices.

Sushi is delicious and appeals to many palates.

the mayor's column



The Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance, of which I am a member, met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs on October 7. The Countryside Mayor's Alliance is comprised of the smaller municipalities within the GTA that make up 60% of the land mass. This includes Milton, Halton Hills, to Scugog. We discussed many issues with Minister John Gerretsen, including Mississauga's request to dissolve Peel Regional Government. In the long term, this could have a negative impact on Halton Hills. We also discussed the preservation of agricultural lands and discussed the Minister supporting the draft GTA Agriculture Plan. The Minister is still going over the document. All the Mayor's raised concerns with respect to the "Places to Grow" Provincial initiative. We all acknowledge that this is the first time in 30 years that the Province has come to the Municipal planning table, but we still have concerns. Ours in Halton Hills is the projected growth that will eventually merge Georgetown to Milton. Also discussed was the proposed Provincial Gas Tax that may only be going to municipalities with public transit. The Minister was very gracious and listened to the thirteen Mayor's concerns.

Halton Hills is a community that cares! Throughout the year many citizens of Halton Hills volunteer with organizations to host worthwhile events to make our community a better place. From baseball tournaments to dog walks and special banquets, we have it all. Speaking of a community that cares, there were so many volunteers from Halton Hills and Milton who came together to search for 9 year old Kate Flanagan on Sunday, October

3. Little Kate went missing for over nine hours. She was found safe and sound at about 1:20 a.m. by local residents Keith and Sharon Carmen. Councillor Bryan Lewis and myself were on hand to witness over 200 volunteers offering to help search for Kate. Members of Halton Regional Police, area Police Departments, Halton Hills and Milton Fire Departments, Rural Watch, and the Rural Community Consultation Committee all provided assistance. This speaks volumes for our community, and we are very proud of everyone. Thankfully, it was a happy ending for the family.

Have you taken the "Nature Challenge"? The Dr. David Suzuki Foundation has researched the "ten most effective ways" we can help conserve nature and improve our quality of life. You may try the nature challenge by going to www.davidsuzuki.org

On behalf of Council, I welcome the following new businesses:
Acton - Active Ears
Georgetown - Patrick's Barber Shop

Congratulations to Purity Life Health Products Ltd. on its 20th anniversary. This local company recently received the 2004 Canadian Health Food Association Spotlight Award.

Mayor's Showcase: Wendy West has her oil paintings and bronze sculptures on display.

Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca