

# You Are Reading . . . *The Independent & Free Press* Real Estate Digest

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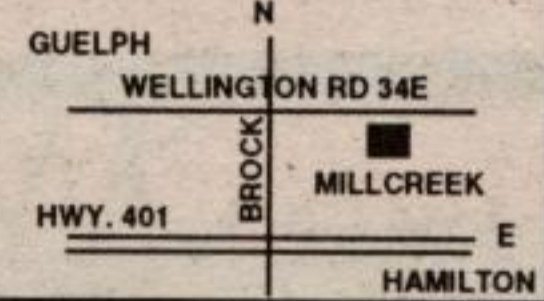
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## Tips when opening up the cottage

There's more to opening up your cottage than unlocking the doors, hauling your hammock out of storage and settling in for summer.

For a successful season, be well prepared to deal with the many chores and tasks that a winter of a disuse can leave in its wake.

When you first arrive at your cottage, take a good look around for signs of exterior damage caused by falling tree limbs, for example. Does it look like uninvited visitors have been before you? If you think you've been robbed, check out the cottage to see what, if anything is missing before you call police.

You're far more likely to discover, however, that the unwanted visitor are of the winged or four-footed variety. Porcupines will happily eat their way through plastic water pipes, and a squirrel family can set up home in the stuffing of your couch in no time. You'll smell the mice before you ever see them.

Make the cottage clean-up a family affair, from scrubbing the outhouse to spraying for bugs. If everyone makes a note of what needs renewing or replacing, you'll overlook very little.

Before you set up house in a wooden building surrounded by trees, make sure you have enough smoke detectors in working order for the size of your place. The cottage is probably far more flammable than your regular home, so check the detectors regularly, and keep a good supply of replacement batteries on hand throughout the summer.

Faulty wiring, hot coals from the fireplace and stove-top blazes are all hazards you should be well prepared to cope with. Fire extinguishers that can douse wood, electrical and oil and grease fires are essential for peace of mind. Don't underestimate the power of plenty of old-fashioned buckets if you're living by a lake.

Don't arrive without a first aid kit well stocked for any small emergency you may have to deal with. At some time or another you'll probably have to deal with the likes of insect stings, scrapes, overexposure to sun and close encounters with plants like poison ivy.

Don't forget to check out local medical help for your pet too. Mosquitoes are responsible for deadly heartworm in dogs, so have your vet put him on preventive medication to protect him before you leave home.

Don't consider letting anyone swim in the lake or take a boat out until all safety rules have been reviewed and agreed upon by every family member. Check the state of repair of all lifesaving equipment, from ropes to life jackets, and see what needs to be replaced.

When it comes to checking the mechanics of the cottage, look for signs of leaks or freezing before you turn on the water pumps. Turn on the electricity and check all your appliances. If you've used your oven to hide bits and pieces from rodents, remember to remove them all before you turn it on.

If you're still living with an outhouse, spray it well with bug killers and scrub it inside and out. An ideal outhouse is bug tight, with no gaps between the boards and screens over openings and the vent pipe.

Sound window screens are essential if you don't want to be bothered by bugs and blackflies. Spare materials brought from home can be used to make minor repairs.

Your first trip is a good time to rake up fallen leaves and other dead matter that might smother wild flowers. If you're on a beach, rake leaves off the sandy bottom of the lake to keep the swimming good and unwanted underwater plant life at bay.

*This article is provided by local Realtors and the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) for the benefit of consumers in the real estate market.*

## BRICK BUNGALOW \$88,500!!



Just 50 minutes from Georgetown in Village of Conn. Possible 4 bedroom home on 215' lot. Basement nearly finished. Excellent starter or retirement home. MLS #S6533

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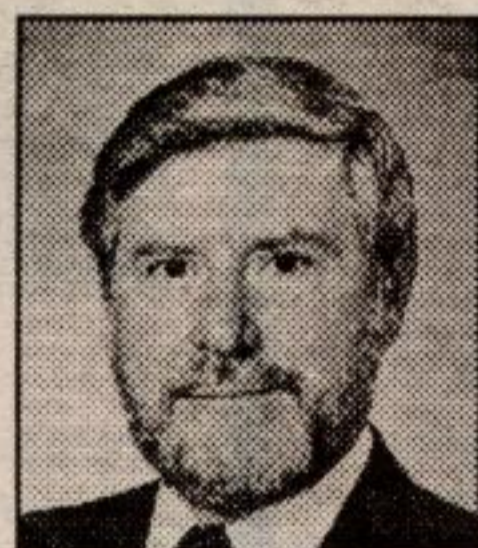
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Betty McKend\*



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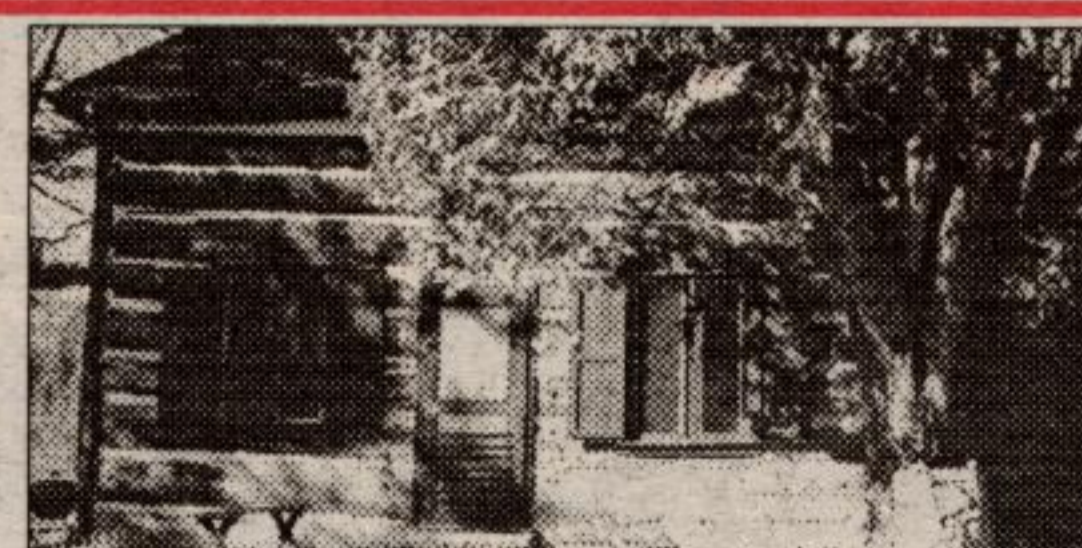
**\$142,000 BUYS YOU -**

Condo living (no outside maintenance worries), comfortable mortgage, 3 bdrms, living room with fireplace, walkout from kitchen to deck overlooking miles of country, walkout from professionally finished bright basement. Like the style? Call **Mary Maan\***. 31-167



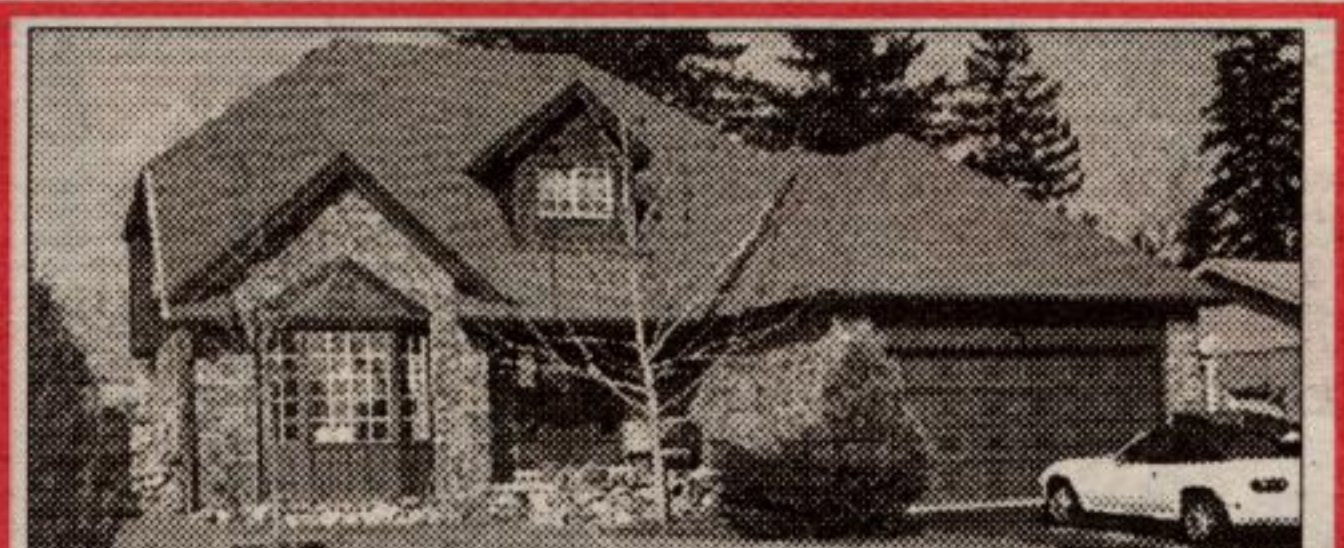
**LOCATION - LOCATION - LOCATION**

Well sited on a large country lot overlooking the Credit River Valley. Custom built 3 bedroom bungalow. Picture windows. Oversized double garage. Circular drive. Offered at \$239,900. Phone **Carole MacLeod\***. 10-7



**ORIGINAL LOG HOME**

• Built 1823 • Only \$300,000. • Open hearth stone fireplace • Large country kitchen • Screened sun room • 25 rolling, treed acres with spring fed pond. Call **Donna Robbins\*** for viewing. 10-4



**\$215,000 'OLDE WORLD CHARM'**

New world amenities. Attractive 3 bedroom home with individual accents. Fireplace in living room and family room. Deck overlooking heritage lands. Take a look! Call **Betty McKend\***. 32-75



**SUPERB COUNTRY LOCATION!!!**

10.3 acres of picturesque property on a dead end road. Lots of Maple & Pine trees complete the setting. Backing onto Maple sugar bush. Over 1400 sq. ft. of living space in this delightful 8 room bungalow. Attached single car garage with access to home. Walkout from king room to private deck & patio area. 2 large sheds. 28'x 35' and 21' x 40', 1 workshop 24' x 48' with concrete floor & 200 amp service. Call **Julia Stuart\***. 2-10



**FREEHOLD TOWNHOUSE! END UNIT!**

\$152,900. Why pay rent? Why pay condo fees? This home features large master bedroom with semi-ensuite bathroom, w/o from living room to fenced yard, view of the ravine, extra 3 pc. bath and finished rec room on a 24' x 138' lot. Call **Marilyn Champ\***. 4-91

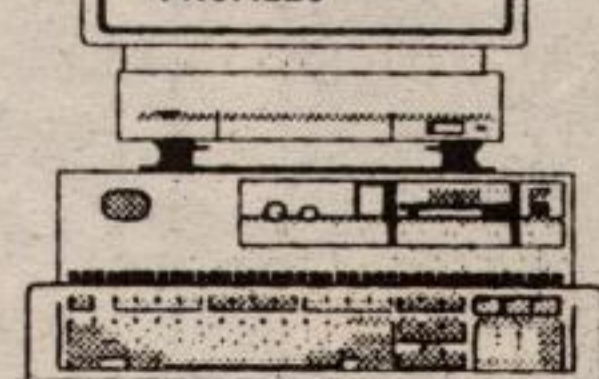
**VACANT LAND - ESTATE LOTS!**

**\$69,900** 3/4 acre, Eramosa. Overlooking Speed River. 5-101  
**\$285,000** 15 acres on Caledon Mountain with spring-fed pond. 5-79  
**\$449,000** 100 acres Halton Hills with Credit River running through. 5-92  
**\$975,000** 97 acres on Caledon Mountain with unobstructed view of Toronto Skyline. 5-94

Call **Richard Judd\***

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