

Doodads can spice up a room

Doodads— otherwise known as accessories. These are the personal finishing touches in your home. It can be collections of items you have gathered or just items you like. During the holidays you may put Santa or angel on an end table. Why not a piece of statuary the rest of the year? They're not just for the garden.

Creating tablescapes isn't hard. It is just a matter of grouping. If you can't do it, find someone to help because it adds so much character to a room! Decorative plates make great accessory pieces. Use them on a plate stand to put on a shelf or use them in a grouping on a wall. Plates are available year round and can be changed seasonally. The choice is up to you.

An area of decorating that has changed a lot in the last few years is area rugs. Machine-made rugs have made it more affordable. Area rugs can anchor a living room, add colour, cozy up a conversation area, define a dining room, add warmth to a cool floor—and let's be honest, they can hide a multitude

of sins. Some have seasonal motifs that make a statement. Check out the latest varieties if you haven't considered them for a while.

You might have lovely furniture, beautiful window coverings, and gorgeous carpets, but a room without wall art is a room without a smile. There is so much available for the walls today that it is affordable. The hardest part is choosing what you like. There are paintings, lithographs, posters, prints, architectural artifacts, crafts, mirrors, and combinations that could boggle the mind. Don't forget the rule of thumb about hanging art: It should be hung at eye level. It needs to be hung where it can be enjoyed.

And what about photographs? Do you have a wall that is a blank canvas? Do you have boxes of photos? Well, you have a piece of art just waiting to happen.

Another festive touch during the holidays is to frame pretty holiday cards. Group several of these on an end table or mantle or in a bookcase and



A tray of candlesticks can double as a centerpiece on the dining room table.

voila! Instant seasonal décor! After the holidays, substitute photos taken during that holiday in those frames. For a unique kitchen arrangement, frame several of your favourite restaurant menus. What fun! Art need not be expensive to make a statement.

Want another fast trick? Add a garland to your valance – it could be a floral garland, grapevine, a string of pearl garland, or even a strand of colourful beads. Add pretty ornaments hung with different lengths of sheer ribbon to your top treatments or cornices. It's a unique decorative treatment. If you have side panels, try tying them back to open up the window and add an electrified candle to the window. It will look beautiful, inside or out.

What about mirrors? They have many uses and don't have to be perfect. Check out the second hand stores. Instead of hanging the mirror on a wall, use it as a tray. On the coffee table try several mismatched candlesticks placed on the mirror "tray." What a beautiful effect, the "tray" can also double as a part of a centerpiece on the dining room table. Clean the mirror and use it with some decorative paper doilies or leaves and create a cheese tray or tray for cookies or candies that will have your guests thinking you are so smart.

Soft Goods— pillows, tablecloths, runners and throws. You can make pillows easy enough or you can buy pillows of every imaginable shape and colour. If you want your pillows to be personalized, you might try decorating them yourself with trim, tassels, ribbons, lace, buttons, shells, beads, and even jewelry. They can be sewn on or even hot-glued on. Try sewing pretty ornaments to the corners of a plain white tablecloth. It will make the tablecloth not only hang better but it will make the table look special.

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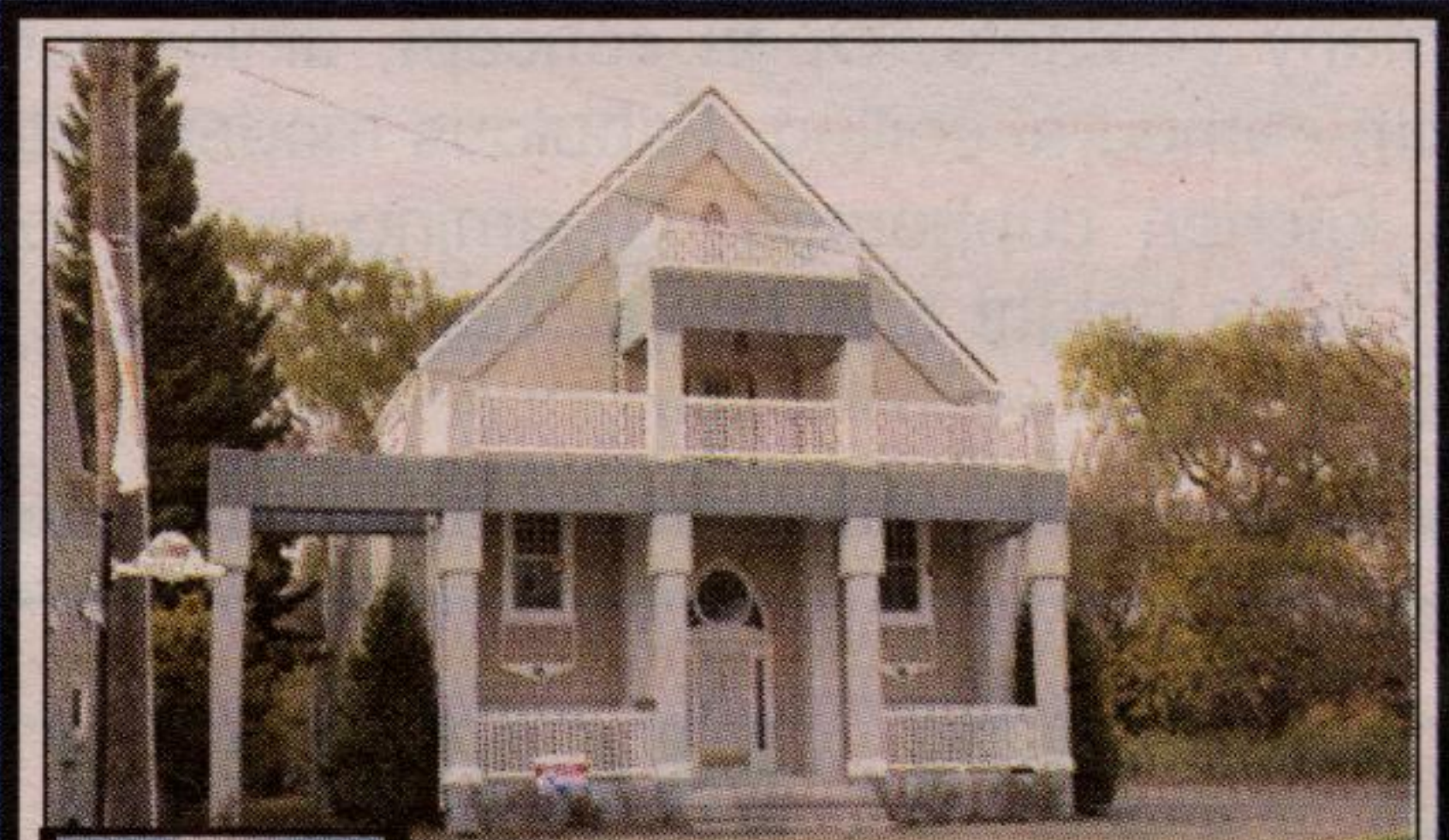
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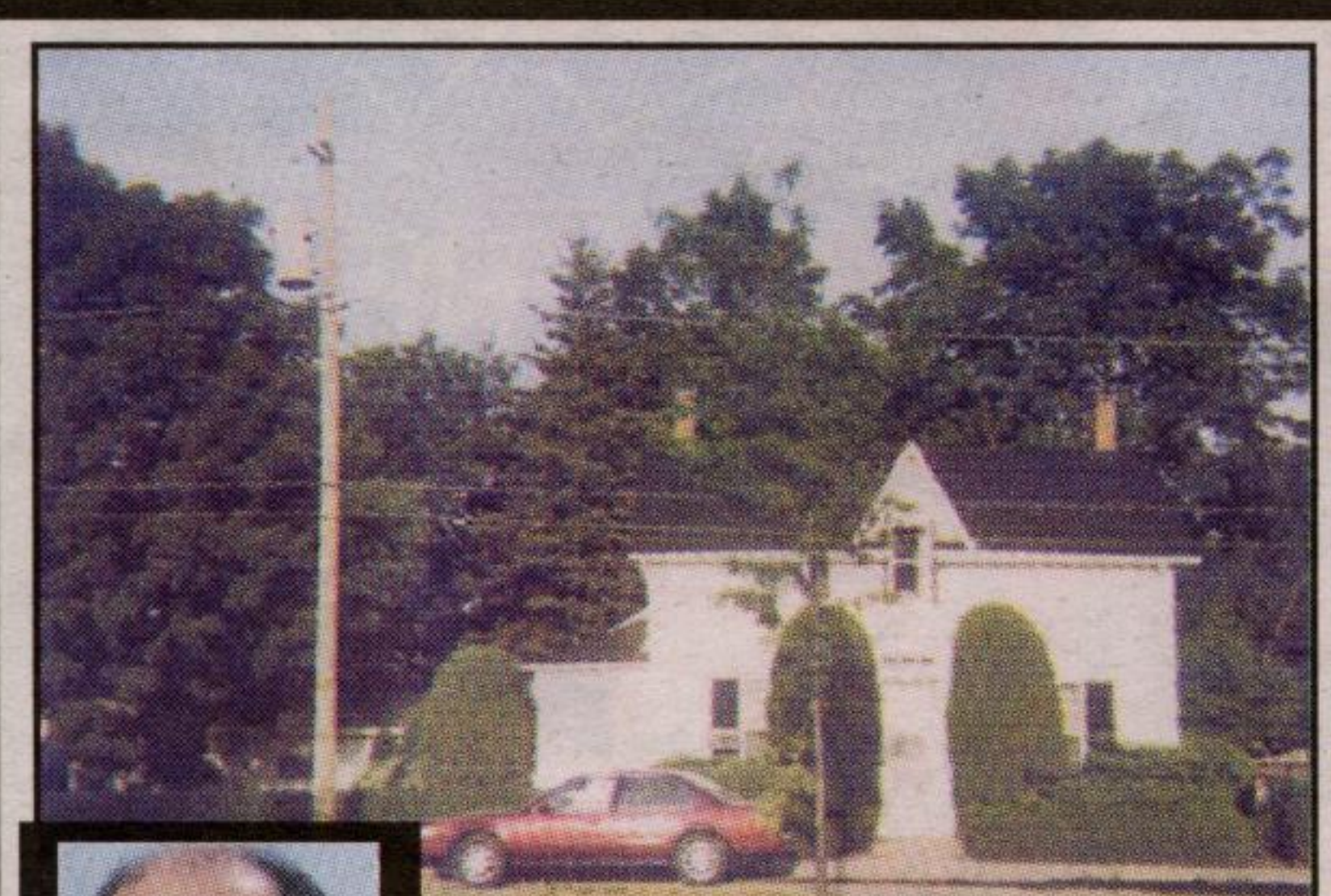
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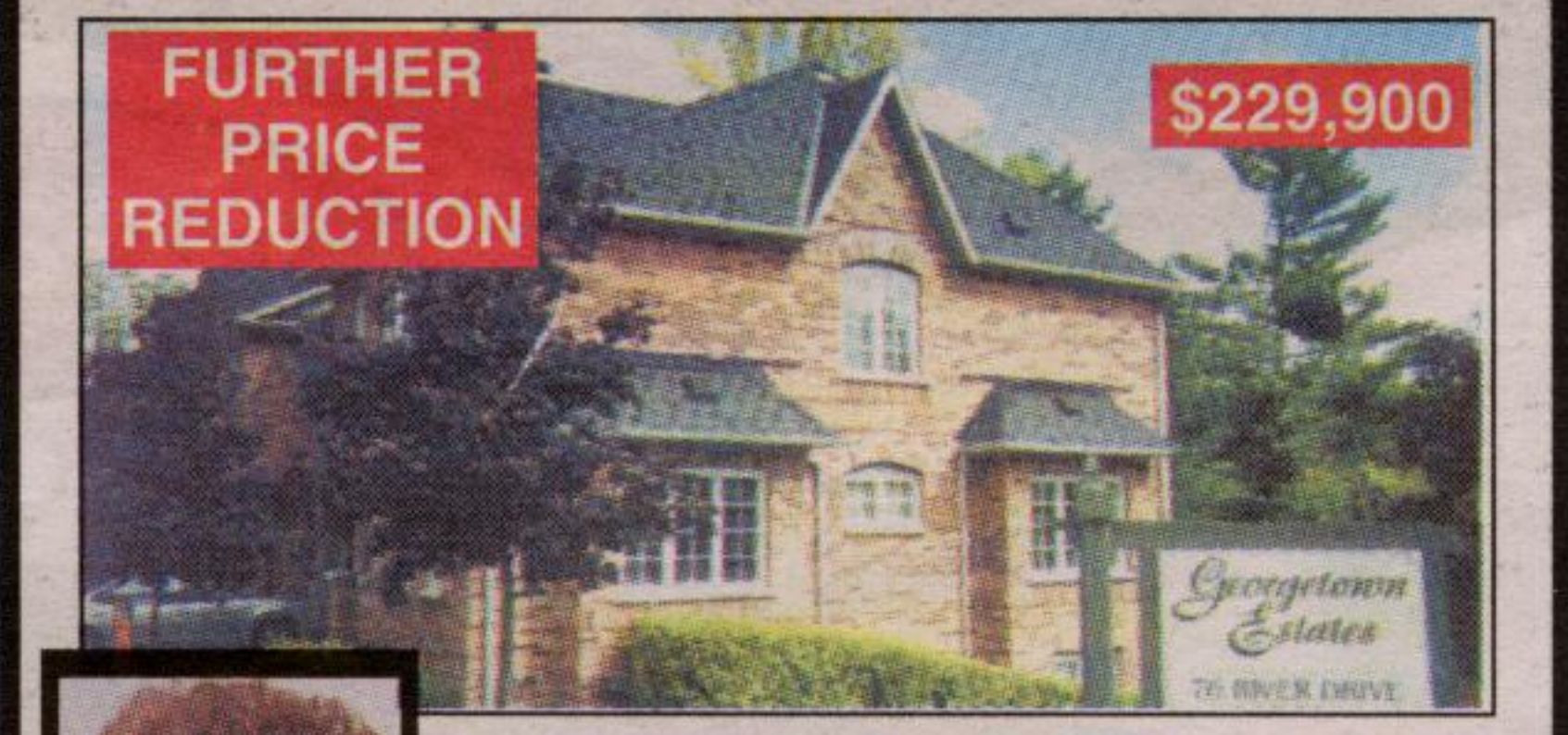
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