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**'Tis the season for thieves too
Protect your home from burglary**

The holiday season is a time of sharing. But don't take it to the extreme by sharing your household belongings with burglars. With so many people shopping, getting new gifts, going out for parties, and leaving on vacation, this is the season of joy for thieves too.

Unfortunately, this reality became all too clear for Nepean, Ontario resident Jane Furlong when she returned home from an afternoon of Christmas shopping last December. "I couldn't believe my eyes," she remembered. "My door was broken open and all of the drawers, cupboards and closets were left opened. My belongings were either missing or strewn all over the floor."

A quick inventory of her personal items revealed the loss of her TV, stereo, DVD, laptop and precious family jewelry. A frantic look under the Christmas tree brought to light her worst fears—the burglars even snatched her presents under the tree.

"I just broke down in tears. I felt hurt, cheated and most of all violated by this callous attack on my privacy," Furlong added.

Patrice De Luca, V.P. of Marketing and Business Development for Protectron Security Systems, says Furlong's reaction is consistent with victims of burglary. "It takes people months and sometimes years to feel safe again after an intrusion."

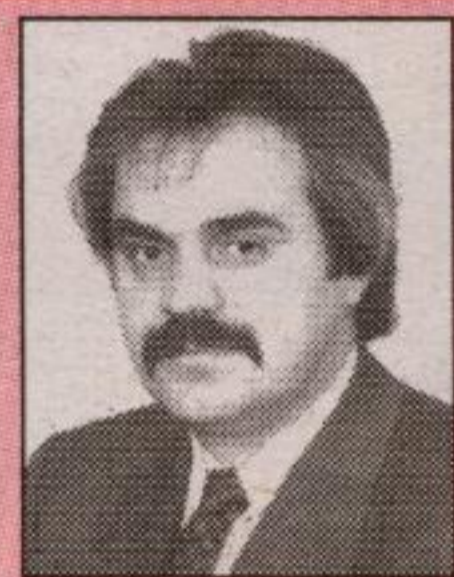
And Furlong is not alone. According to a recent Statistics Canada study, Canada has the highest yearly rate of home intrusions

of all the industrialized countries.

That's why De Luca recommends that when you're out for the night at a Christmas party, shopping or other seasonal events, make an extra effort to remember some of the following year-round anti-burglary steps:

- Don't leave valuables in sight through windows, where they will tempt burglars.
- Invest in high-quality, name-brand deadbolt locks for all exterior doors.
- Alarm systems are an effective deterrent. Nine out of ten convicted burglars agree they'd avoid a house protected by an alarm system.
- Security system decals and signs are also an effective deterrent.
- Make sure your security system includes a loud inside alarm, detectors at all exterior doors, and motion sensors in main living areas.
- Use timers to turn lights, televisions and sound systems on and off at different times to give your home a "lived-in look" when you're away.
- Don't let mail, newspapers or flyers accumulate while you're away, tipping off criminals. Have the post office hold mail, have newspapers suspended, and have a neighbor or friend clear away flyers.
- Don't let the burglar know that you purchased expensive electronic equipment such as PC, home theater, DVD, sound systems or game console by throwing the boxes in full view. For more information on home security visit www.protectron.com.

—News Canada



PETER HRKAC
REMAX HALL OF FAME MEMBER



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**Blue Springs Realty
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YVONNE HRKAC

HOMES OF DISTINCTION



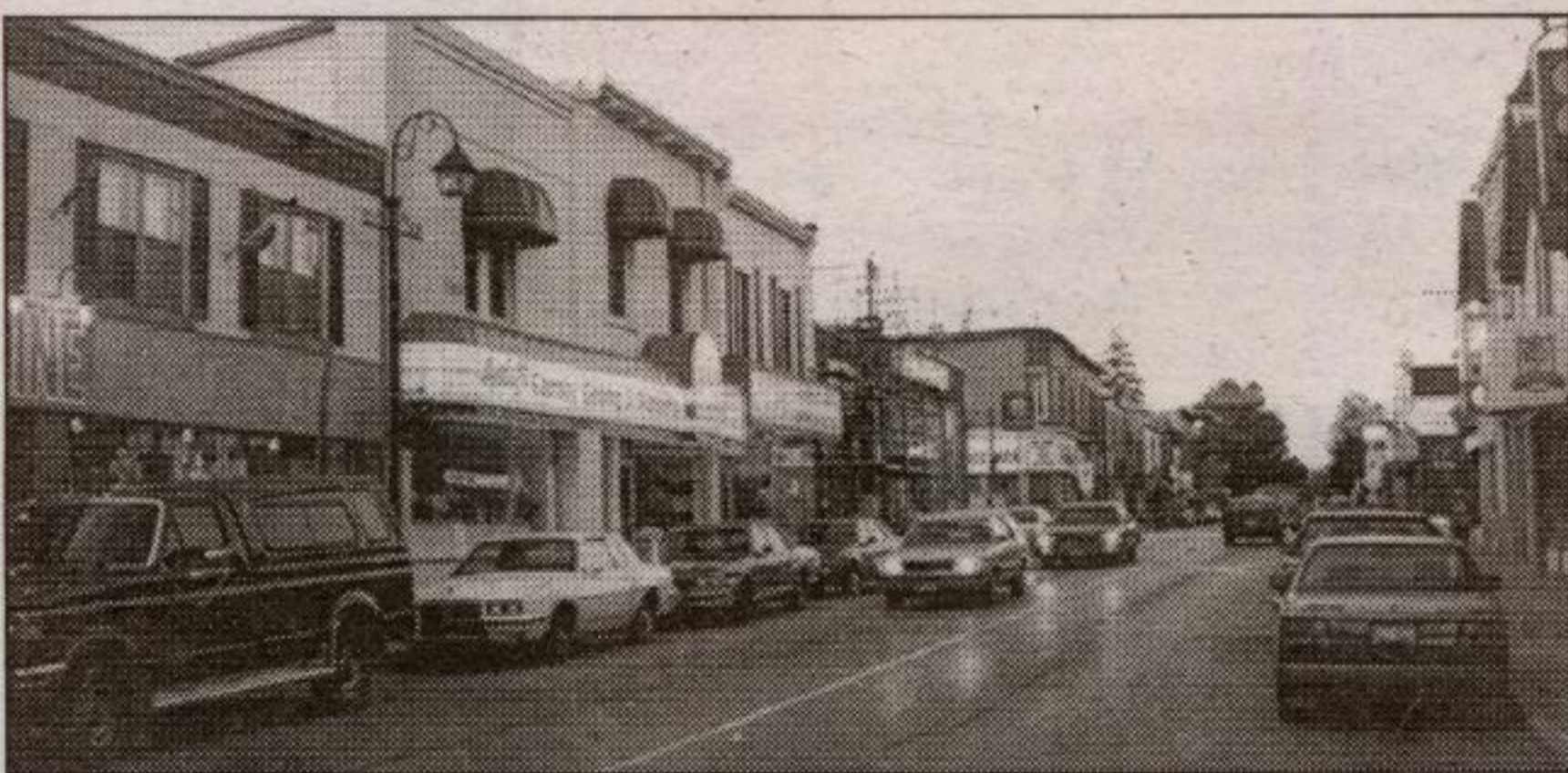
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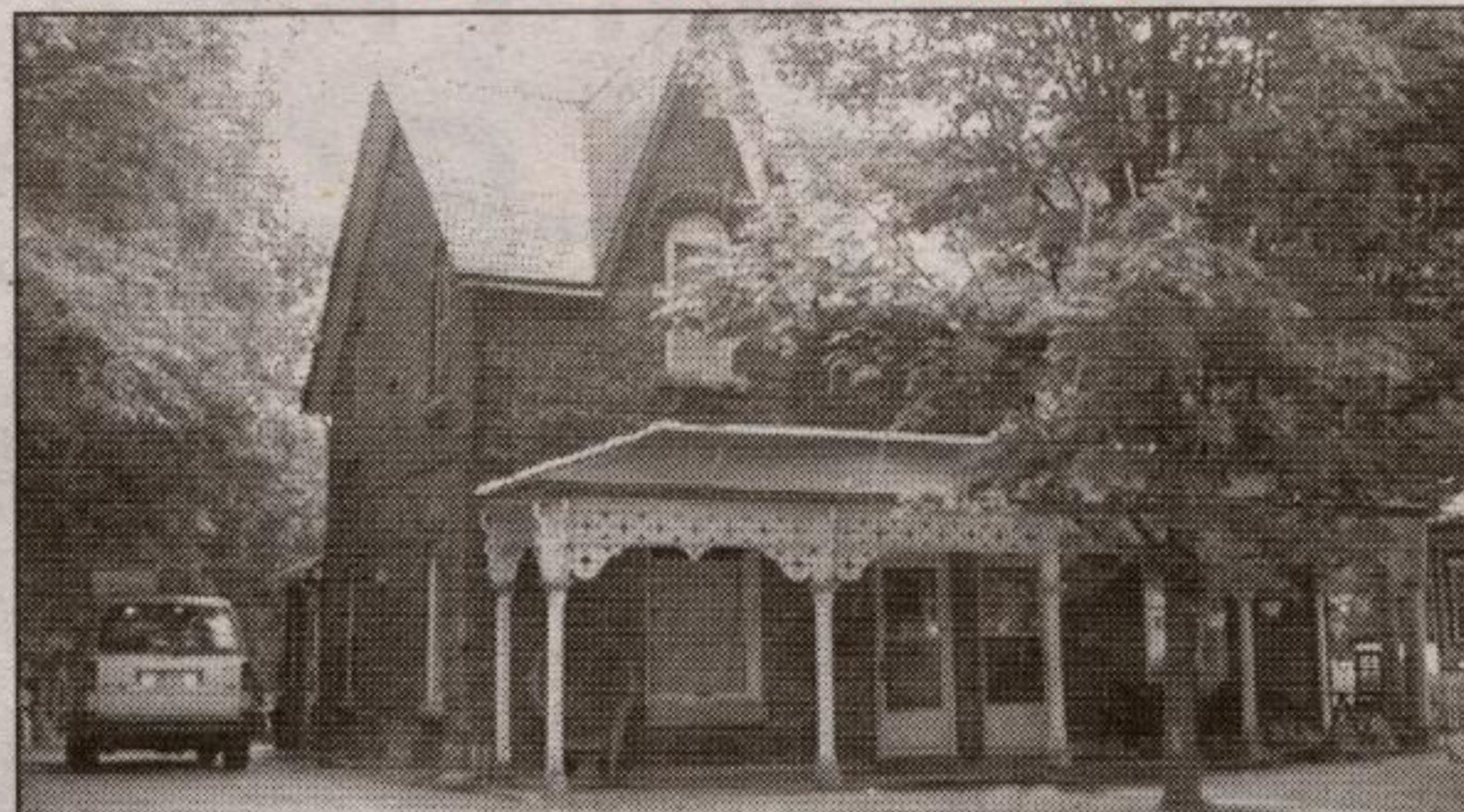
Tons of upgrades in this lovely all brick home. Open concept design, just under 2700 sq. ft. plus bonus of "Drop Dead Gorgeous" prof. fin. basement with quality laminate floors, full 3 pc. bath & sound insulated to above. Cathedral ceiling & gas FP in family room, French doors, hardwood floors, upgr. broadloom, central air, security system, vinyl windows & much more. MLS#W160460

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