

THE OLD NO. 2 SCHOOL HOUSE isn't what it used to be! Sashed windows are flanked with shutters and a front door added where a window used to be.

After
century
of service

1860 school house now a lovely home

**STORY AND PHOTOS
BY JOYCE BEATON**
The sign at the door of the Allsop home reads "Welcome To Timnath-serah—Joshua 19:50". The quote refers to a division of land God made to the children of Israel. Joshua's request for a home of his own was answered in a place called Timnath-serah. Jim and Margaret Allsop feel this parallels their search for a home in Nassagaweya. They had previously lived in Islington for 22 years. There

they raised two sons, Jim who is a social worker with the United Church in Cape Breton, and John who is completing his studies to become an ordained minister. The Allsops are dedicated to the work of their church. Once the boys were grown and away from home they felt a definite personal calling. They found themselves being directed into the work being done by the Bezek Christian Retreat Centre in Nassagaweya.

School house
Down the road from Bezek is a delightful old stone house. No one including Jim and Margaret would suspect it was once a school house. Over a year ago they knocked on the door of the house and offered to purchase it. They were convinced this was the place they should make their new home, close to the work at Bezek. Louis Sampson was the owner at the time. He and his wife Margaret had bought the

school house, S.S. No. 2, in October, 1960, just two weeks after the students vacated it to attend the new Brookville composite school. The building was full of files and rat holes and cracked walls but the Sampsons had been determined to renovate. As Margaret Allsop describes it, "Mr. and Mrs. Sampson, with a great deal of love and at obvious cost, preserved, maintained and restored the old stone building to a thing of beauty."

Renovations done
They made the most of the deep windows and the thick 18 inch sills (the width of the stone walls) by enhancing them with 24 pane sashes. The 14 foot high ceilings were lowered to 10 feet, still a couple of feet higher than ceilings in most modern homes.

The whole interior had to be replastered and new flooring laid. A front door and a sunroom and porch have been added to the back of the house.

A stone fireplace was built, flanked with deep-silled windows, across the wall where the old school blackboard used to stand.

The original one room building now is designed to accommodate a living room, dining room, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. All are light and spacious and tastefully decorated by the Allsops.

1902 coin
The acre of land has been fenced in split rail cedar, and trees and shrubs planted. Eight beautiful maple trees outline the side garden.

The Allsops have added a vegetable garden. Margaret reports finding a 1902 quarter while digging in the garden this spring. They surmise it probably belonged to the schoolmaster, as children didn't have that kind of spending money.

The property for the schoolhouse in the 1860's was given to the school trustees by a local farmer. He would probably be pleased to know his gift is still appreciated. Jim and Margaret have made it into a home which reflects their love for God and each other.



JIM AND MARGARET ALLSOP sit in what was The stone fireplace is on the wall once occupied by the teaching area of the one room school house. a large blackboard.

Traffic control at MDHS

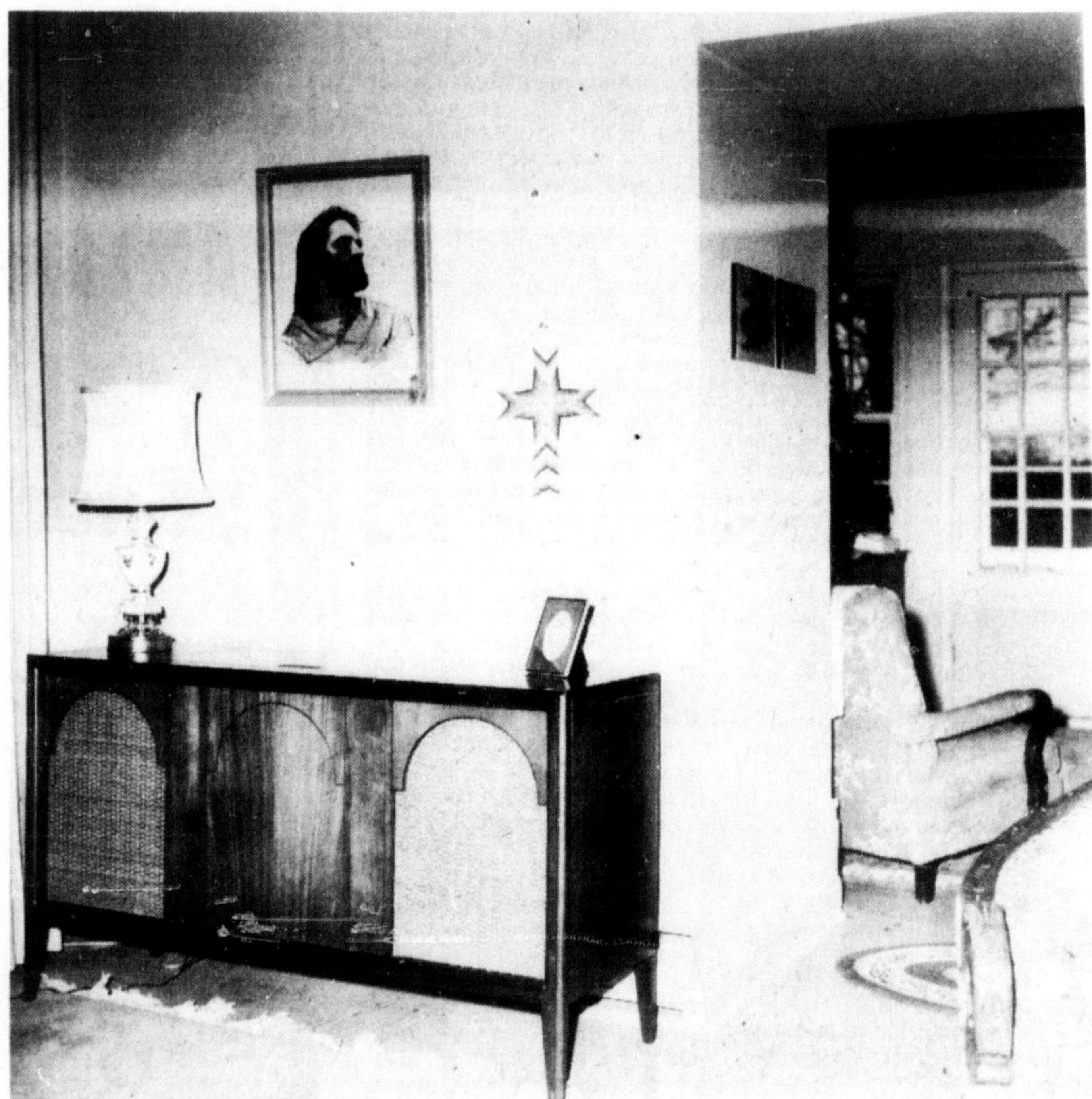
Traffic control bumps and warning signs will be installed at Milton District High School to reduce the speed at which some vehicles have become accustomed to travelling. The board made the decision Thursday, after receiving legal opinion on the liability.

—The Royal Winter Fair ends Saturday, November 17.

—The new contact centre serving North Halton will be officially in business tomorrow (Thursday). It is manned by volunteers trained to cope with emergency situations or distribute information.

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THE THICK STONE WALLS of the old school house can be seen in this alcove. The sunroom and porch addition serves as a reading room and easy access to the garden.

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