## Homeowners get the family spirit with backyard rinks

Gretzky and Gordie Howe got it has something to contain it. The their starts on the backyard rinks at liner must also be free of holes and their family homes. Perhaps a bud-seams. ding Jose Chouinard or Elizabeth days spent on the family rink.

rink give children a chance to your rink. Remember that you'll develop their skating skills, it gives need to leave a fair amount of plasthe whole family a place to laugh tic for overhang. and unwind, but most importantly, a place to spend time together.

Even though backyard rinks preparation to attend to. have become a tradition, many homeowners still don't know how to go about building a rink that will is relatively level. No yard is perlast the season and provide a suit- fect, but the flatter the ground surable skating surface.

Most will simply clear the snow build and flood. from a patch of level ground in their backyard, get out the hose, clear the snow away, you'll need to and start flooding on the first cold decide if you want to build boards day. Unfortunately, this method for your rink or simply use snow almost certainly leads to a rink for the sides. Boards are by far the which either refuse to ice over best, but it is possible to forgo properly, or is so unstable and lop-them. sided as to be unusable.

cessful backyard rink. It involves a wood. They'll have to be attached little planning and modest outlay, to two-by-four inch posts, so some but the results are well worth the digging will be necessary to anchor trouble.

may balk at the expense, but lack many winters to come. of a liner is the single greatest factor in having a rink that doesn't set sides of your rink, you'll need to correctly. Even though the ground be particularly careful that the

As legend tells it, Wayne settle in the shape of a rink unless

You can purchase a sheet of 40ft. Manley enjoyed the same advan- by 100ft. industrial plastic at most tage. Whatever the case, one building supply stores. Check for enduring memory young skaters all availability beforehand, and use hold is the rollicking fun of winter the dimensions of your backyard as well as the plastic as the yard-Not only does a good backyard stick for determining the size of

Before you run out to but a sheet of plastic though, there's some

Obviously, you'll have to pick out an area in your backyard which face, the easier the rink will be to

After you pick your spot and

If you choose boards, you'll There is a way to build a suc- want two-foot high section of plythe posts. As you can see, the The first rule is to always use a process gets a bit labour-intensive, plastic liner. This is crucial. You but the boards can be used for

If you decide to use snow for the may be frozen, water will never snow is packed tightly and as verti-

cally as possible. Pile snow around the boards or weigh it down securely over rink-to-be and tamp it solidly. the piled snow sides of the rink. Basically, you'll be making a two-foot high wall of packed snow.

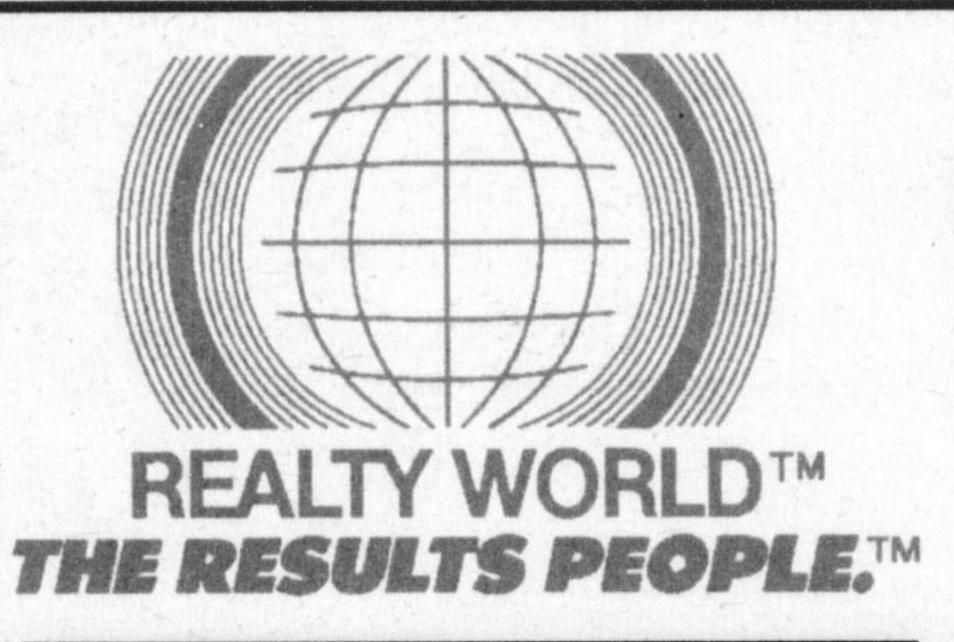
sheet to your rink. First, check the plastic thoroughly for holes or tears. Again, it's extremely important that the sheet be large enough to overhang the sides of the rink. Then, place the sheet over your rink and either staple it to the -7 C. Estimates range from about 12 to

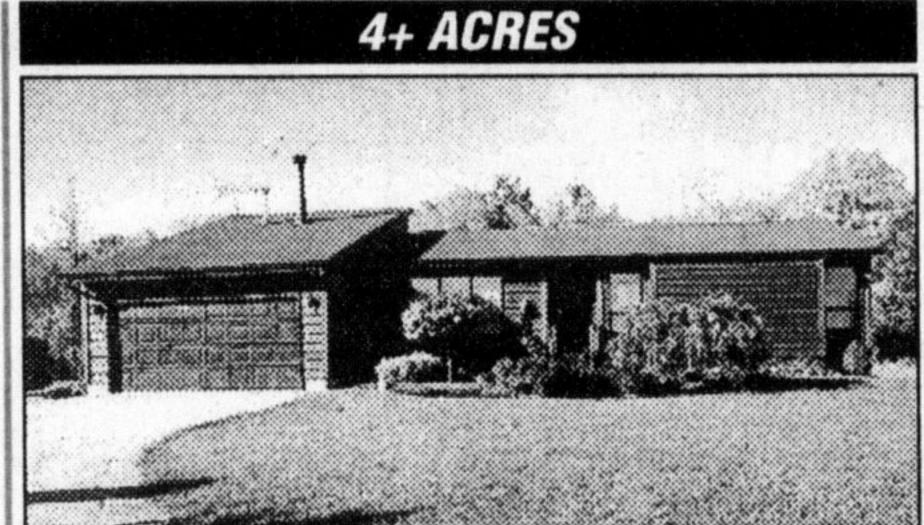
Now comes the critical step - flooding. Two factors will make or break The next stage is to apply the plastic this endeavour: temperature and attentiveness.

> You should keep your eye on the weather forecast and pick a two- or three-day period when the temperature is expected to rise no higher than -6 or

24 hours for the rink to fill.

Once you've flooded, attentiveness is a must. Check constantly to make sure the plastic liner hasn't been pulled down by the water's weight. It could take up to four days for the ice to become completely solid, so resist the temptation to skate or walk on it pre-





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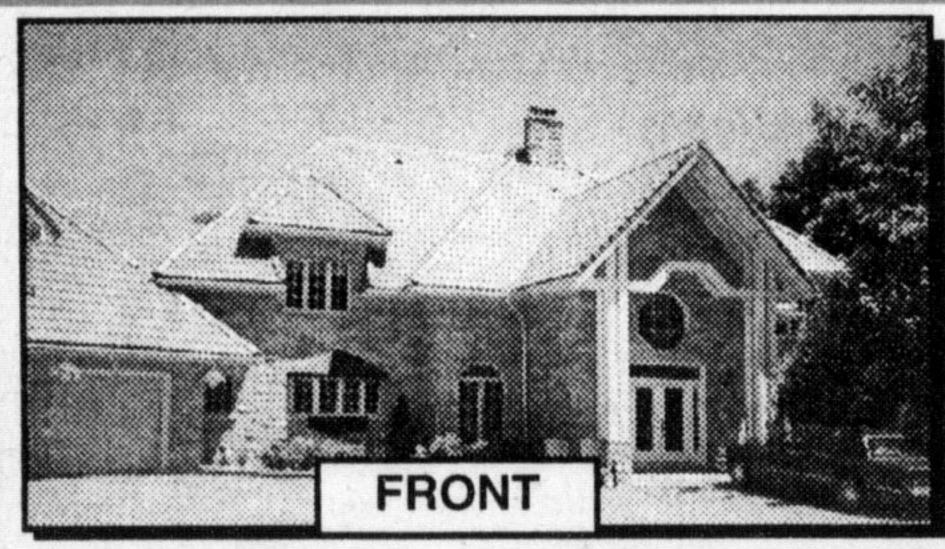
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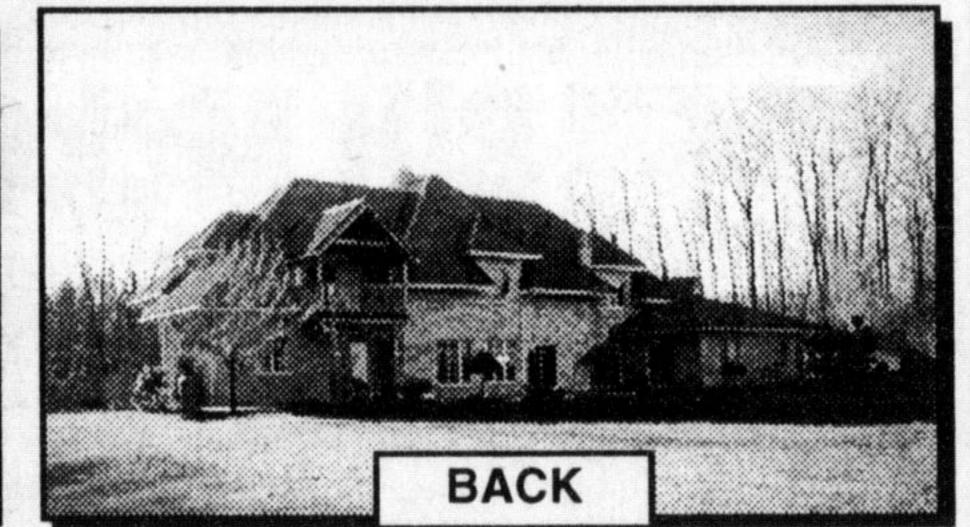
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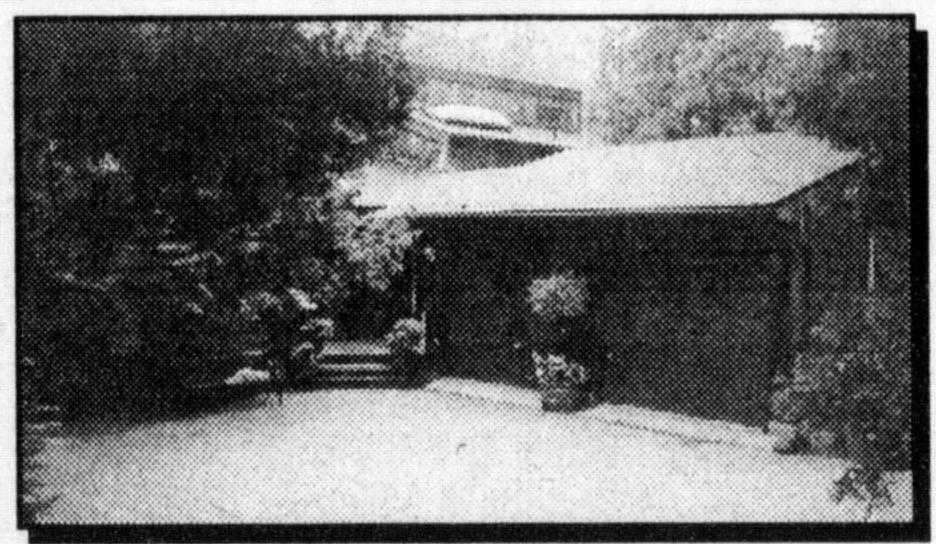
Prime location of 41 magnificent acres, only half an hour from the airport. North of Milton. This unique rambling country ranch is nestled in a picturesque setting of mature pines and maples, and a long private driveway. A sparkling brook flowing from two crystal dear spring fed ponds, stocked with beautiful Rainbow Trout. Professionally landscaped grounds, with pagoda bridge overlooking the water fall and rushing brook complete the picture. Also included in the estate is a fully self-contained rustic guest cottage featuring a floor to ceiling field stone fireplace, large picture windows and many other delightful features. Other buildings on the property include a large 20'x40' two car garage equipped with electronic garage door opener. A 24'x30' storage barn, rustic 24'x24' sugar cabin and a 10'x12' change house by the pond. John Weide

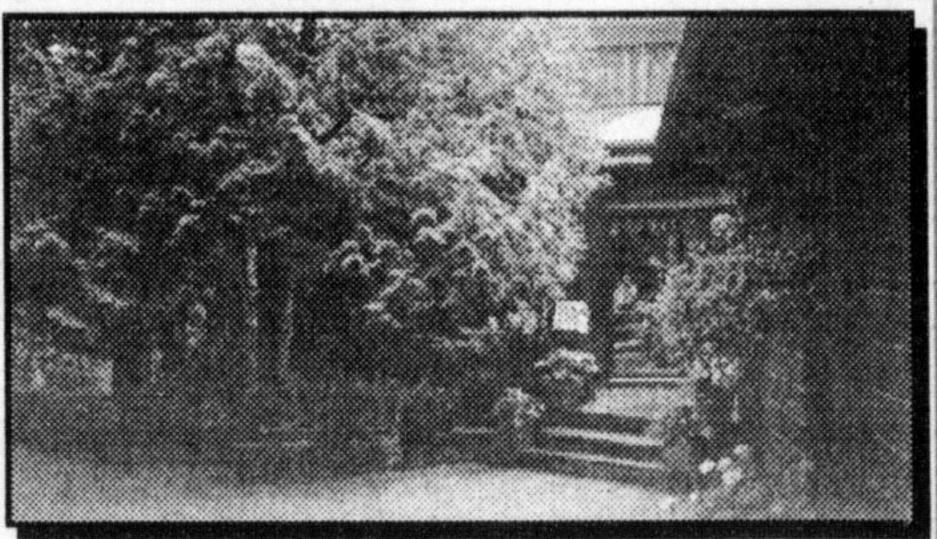




REDUCED COUNTRY ESTATE - A 10++ \$689,000

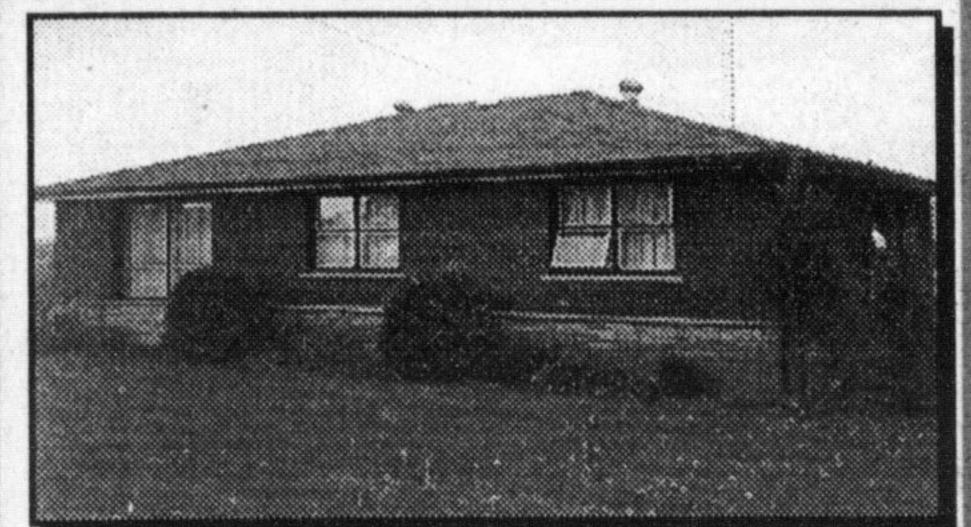
This quality built stone-style home with Marley roof situated on 5 acres. Inground pool 43 ft. x 18 ft. Huge half-style living room is 2 floors high with 4-sided fireplace, wraparound staircase and cathedral ceilings. Master bedroom with 5-piece ensuite and sauna, walk-in doset. Oak kitchen with quality finishings. Separate pantry, in-law/nanny suite. Huge bedroom or studio over triple garage. Ceilings higher throughout. A huge family/party room on the 2nd floor, complete with kitchen which overlooks centre of home. Covered balcony decking. Ground source heat. Approx. 6200 sq.ft., Southwest of Campbellville. Must see! John Weide 844-5000





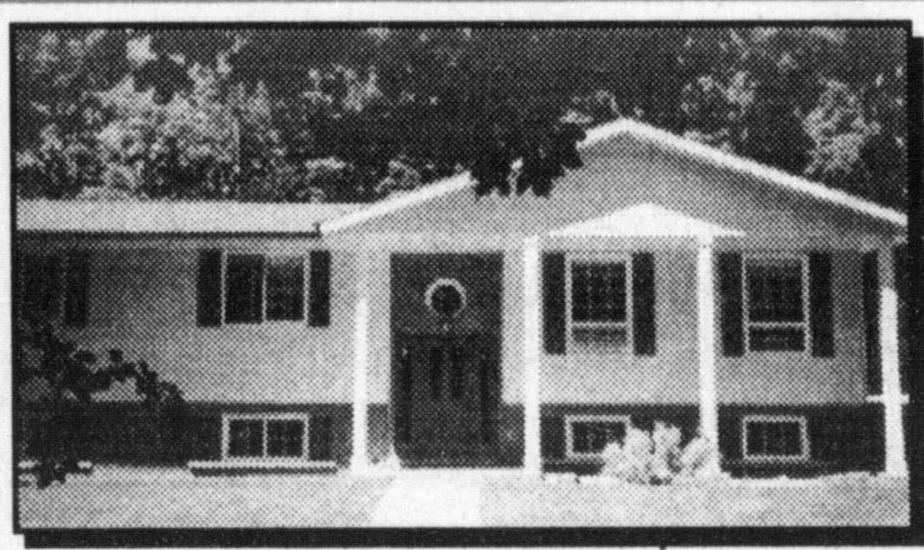
NEAR CAMPBELLVILLE - RETREAT IN THE COUNTRY \$329,900

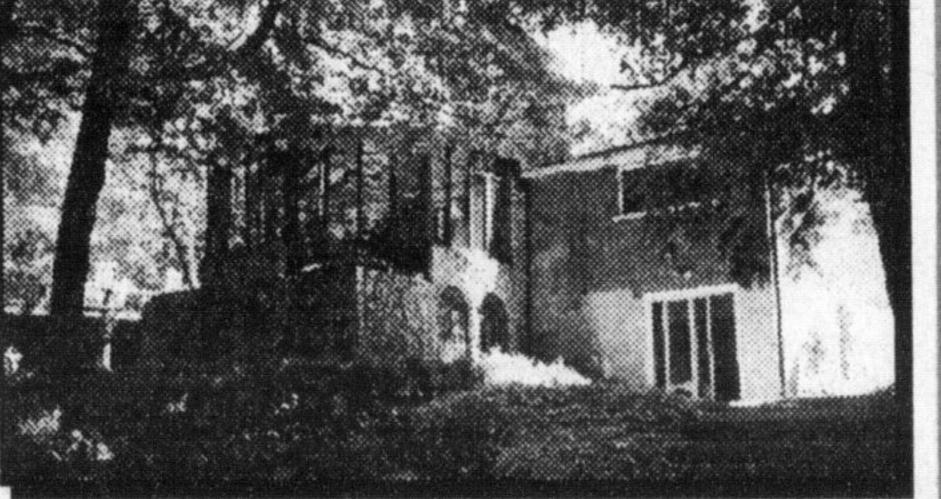
A beautifully appointed custom home - country damer. Large 20 ft. kitchen with skylight, quality abit its and woodburning stove. Step into the screen ear part in k on to it is very private treed woodl as v no e n. L no Fe nily room w/stone FP and walkout to balcony. Where all eligs, we broadloom and hardwood floor g. Wa. tor line, y from, central air, interlock driveway plus many, ...any extras. Take a look inside! Paradise found just 3, v/ of campbellville. John Weide 844-5000



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118 acres. Ideal building site for estate home or horse farm, land is level, rolling, treed in parts, investigate!

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