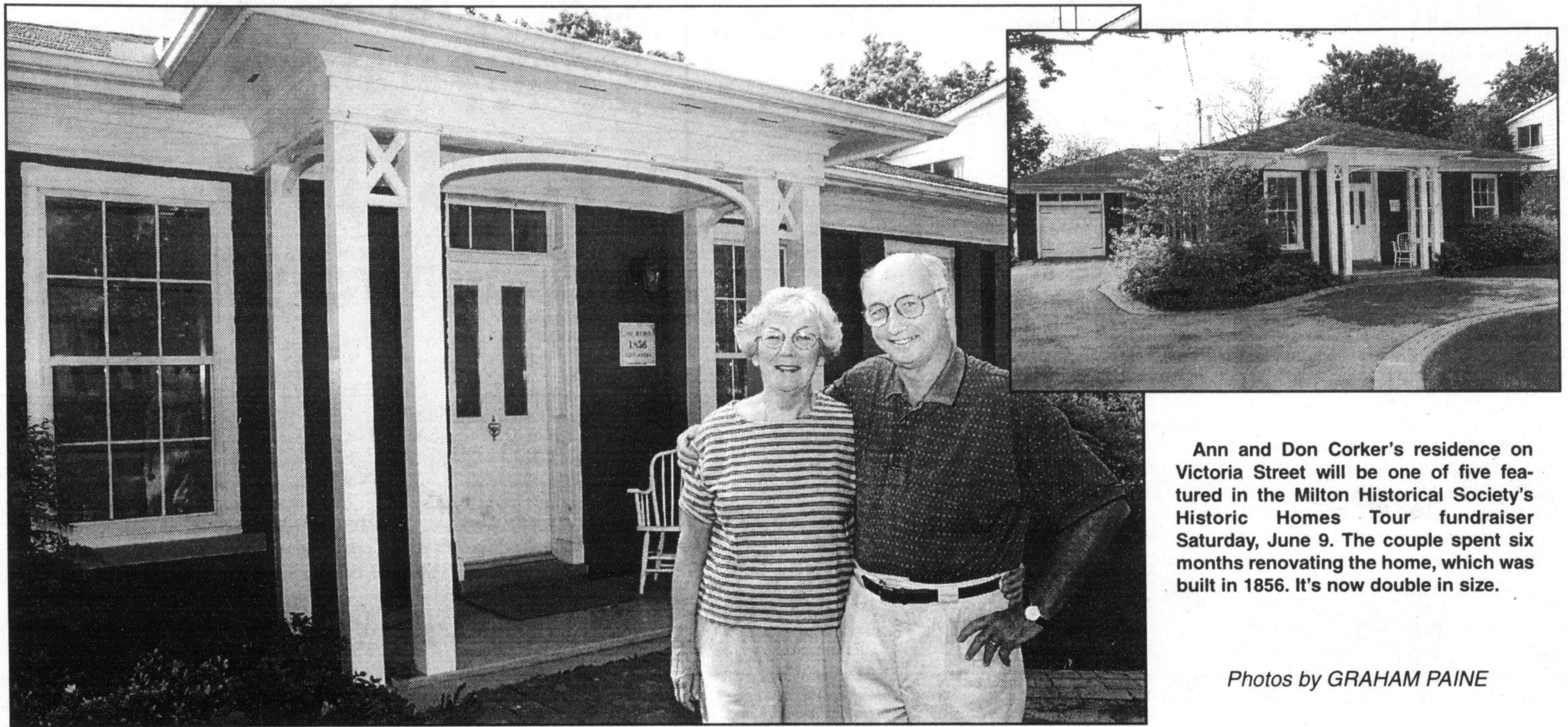




Champion COMMUNITY Page



Ann and Don Corker's residence on Victoria Street will be one of five featured in the Milton Historical Society's Historic Homes Tour fundraiser Saturday, June 9. The couple spent six months renovating the home, which was built in 1856. It's now double in size.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Corkers' 1856 house is one of five featured in historical society's Historic Homes Tour

By FANNIE SUNSHINE
The Champion

What attracted Ann and Don Corker to their home on Victoria Street was the "perfect" location.

"We moved here in 1995 from Campbellville," Ms Corker said. "When we bought the house it was 900 square feet; now we've doubled the size."

The house, built in 1856, is one of five homes to be featured in the June 9 Historic Homes Tour, presented by the Milton Historical Society.

"We took out the walls, ceiling and floors," Ms Corker said.

"There was no central heating."

The Corkers had the back wall torn down to make way for a kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.

New plumbing, heating and electrical work also went into renovating the house.

She said she used to drive along the street and often thought to herself this was the type of area she wanted to live in.

"We knew it would be a big task to renovate the house," Ms Corker said.

"There was no furnace, nothing had been done in a long time. The renovations took six months to complete."

Interested in history

The Corkers aren't members of the Milton Historical Society but take interest in what the organization does, Ms Corker said.

"That's why I agreed to be part of the tour. I've declined several times. People (on the tour) will walk through the front door and out the back. I also hope to see the other homes on the tour."

Ms Corker's interest in antiques and history also attracted her to the house, she said.

"We're very happy," she said.

"To me it's the perfect place to be. We receive many compliments (of the house) from people."

"We knew it would be a big task to renovate the house. There was no furnace, nothing had been done in a long time. The renovations took six months to complete."

ANN CORKER

Living in this particular area of town makes it easy to walk to church or to the shops on Main Street, she said.

"We looked at other homes but in the end we were led to this one. It's perfect for us."

Even though the renovating was a tough project, it was also rewarding, Mr. Corker added.

"We tried pretty hard to preserve as much as we could," he said.

"The brick is fragile — it's not glazed the way brick is today. We found the best way to preserve the brick was to paint it."

Mr. Corker also discovered a Toronto and Hamilton newspaper from 1930 hidden under the carpet.

"I was hoping I would find more things," he admitted.

House originally a cottage

The house was originally built as a cottage, Ms Corker said.

"It was designed as a simple, plain home, nothing but good accommodation. The outside of the house hasn't changed, just the interior."

Tickets for the Historic Homes Tour cost \$15 and are available at Bergsma's, From Our Farm, Jo'Leen's, Delacourt's, Harris Stationery and Peggy's at Milton Mall.

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