

BEST-HOMES

Get your lawn ready

(NC)—The days are longer, the snow has melted and you can smell it in the air - spring is finally here! It's time to get outside and prep your garden for the season ahead. The tips below from The Home Depot can help you get your garden back in shape and ready for spring in no time:

Step 1: Thatch Patrol

If your lawn feels spongy to the touch, chances are you have a build up of thatch -- a layer of dead grass that lies above the soil preventing air and moisture from reaching the roots. Thatch can be easily treated by raking your lawn. And by using an ergonomically designed rake that keeps your body in a proper position, you can comfortably remove thatch and unwanted weeds and debris in no time.

Step 2: Loosen the Soil

Walking, playing or running on the lawn can cause the soil to become compacted, preventing water or fertilizer from soaking into the grass. It also keeps air from circulating through the top layer and into the root system. Loosening the soil by punching holes in it (also known as lawn aeration)

will allow air, water and fertilizer to get to the roots. How often you aerate your lawn will depend on the density of the soil. You may also choose to bring in a professional rather than complete the task yourself. To make things simple, talk to a Home Depot associate about the best products and options available to you.

Step 3: Adding the finishing touches

Now that your lawn is tidy and aerated, it's time to feed it, but how much is too much when it comes to fertilizing? You can end the guessing game by using a "slow-release" fertilizer, where nutrients are provided over time, rather than all at once. A proper lawn feeding schedule also gives the root system the nutrients it needs to fill in any bare patches and fight off weeds. To complete this task in an eco-friendly way, use environmentally preferred fertilizer products or simply top dress your lawn with home grown compost.

A beautiful garden needs a strong foundation. Following these simple steps will get your lawn and garden in tip-top shape in no time. For more useful garden tips visit www.homedepot.ca.

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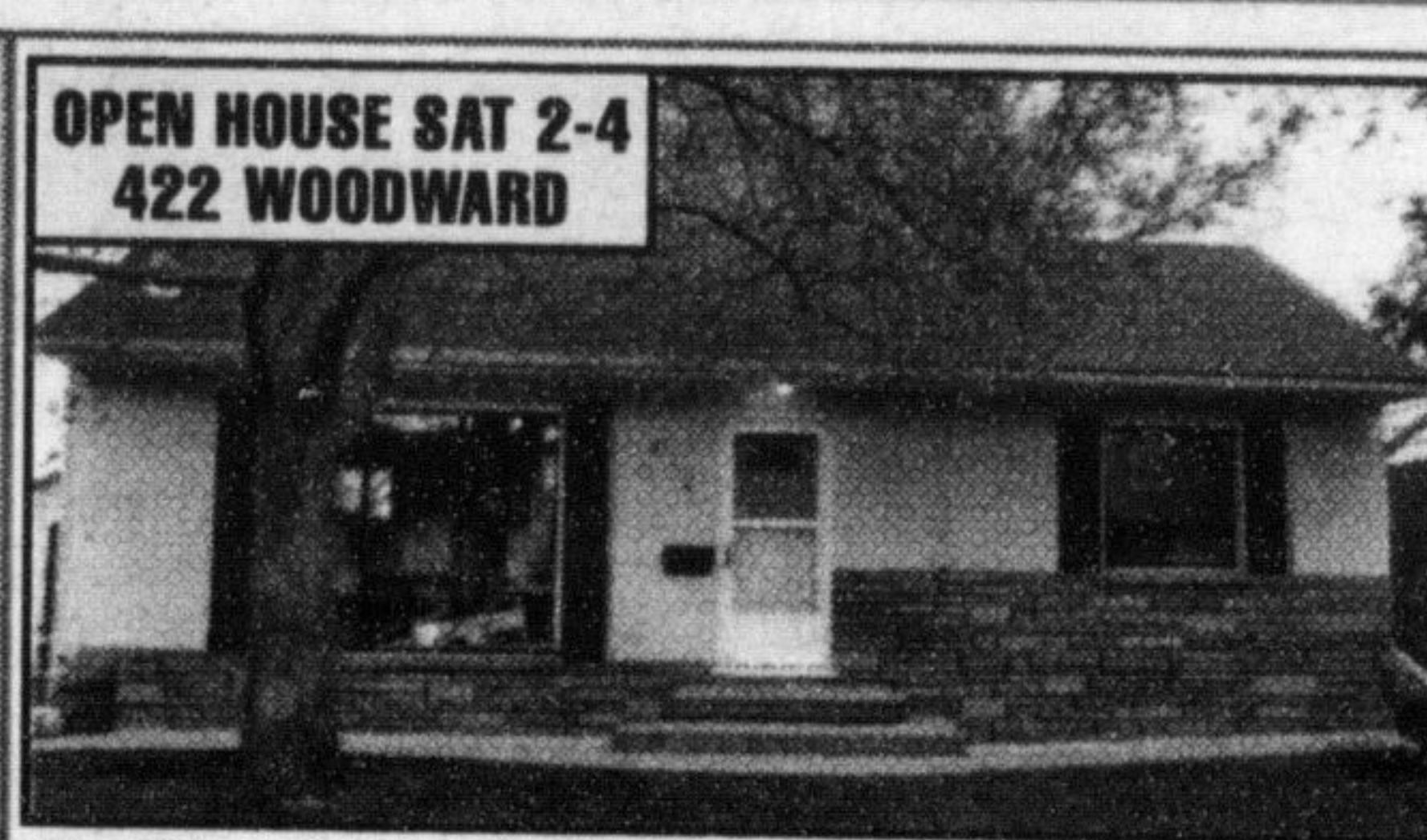
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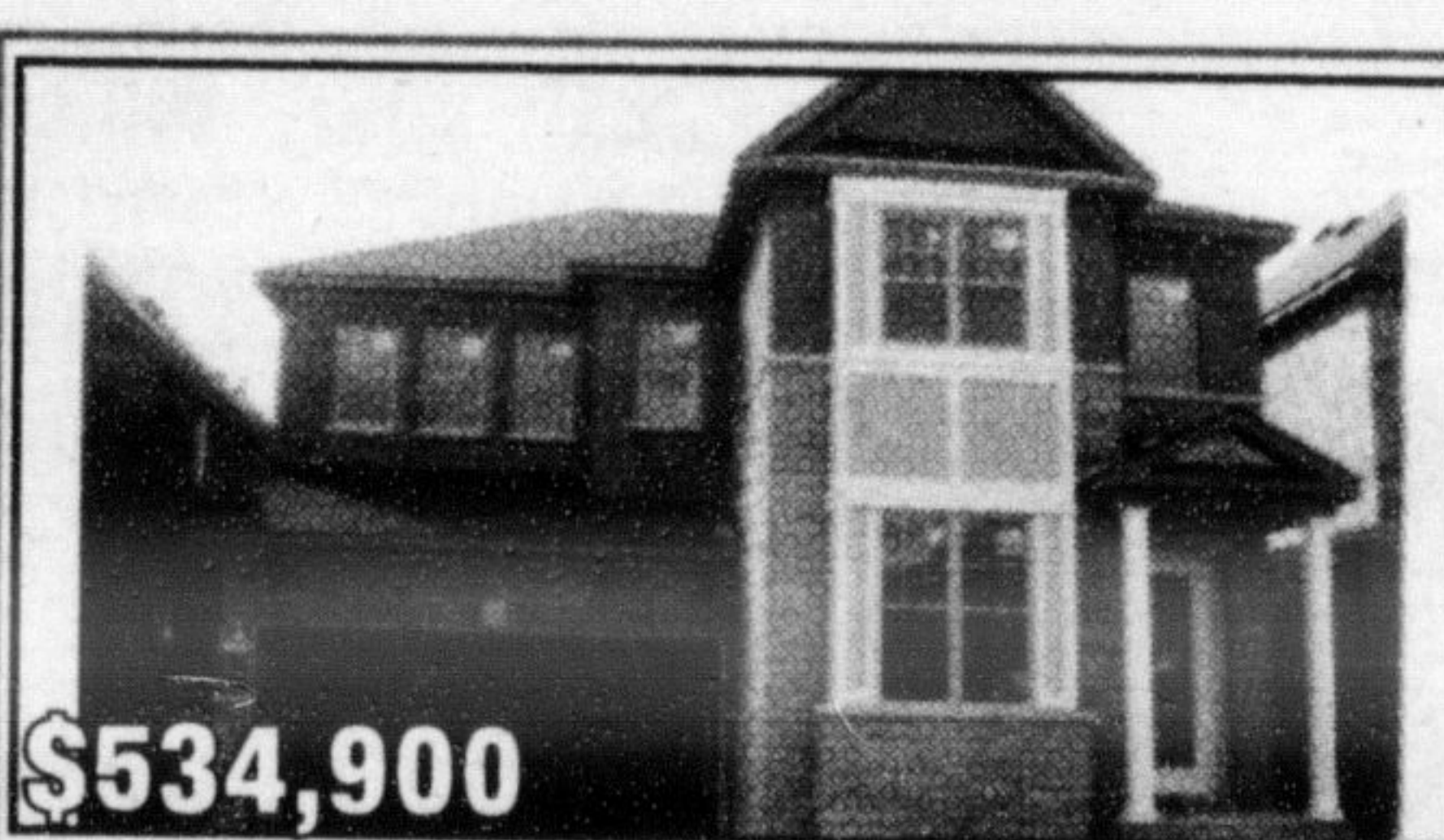
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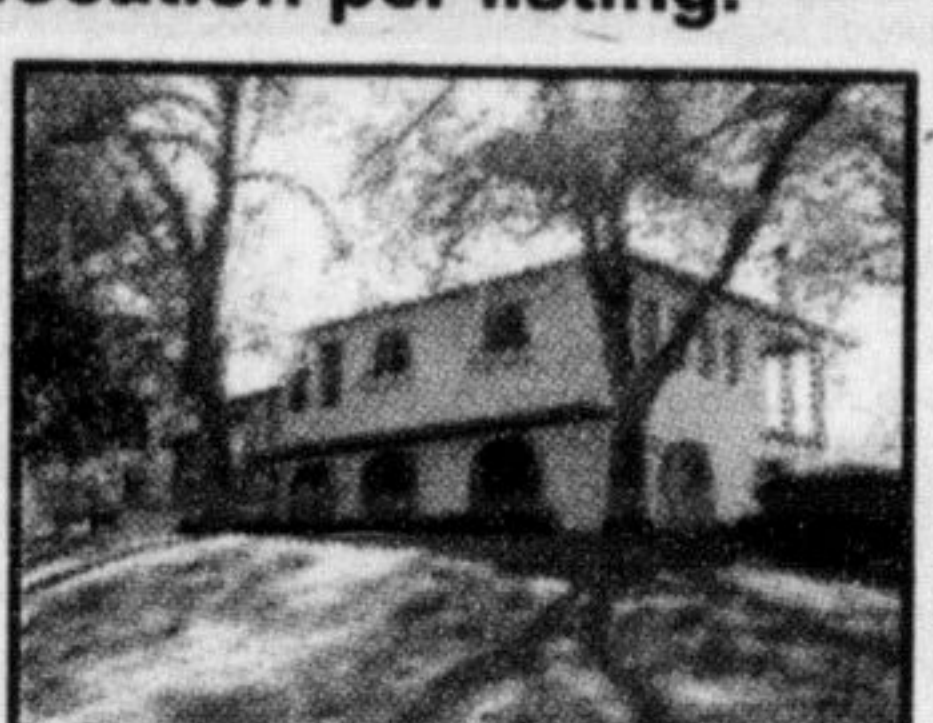
5 ACRE COUNTRY ESTATE WITH ESCARPMENT VIEW TWO HOUSES, POND, 1/2 G POOL

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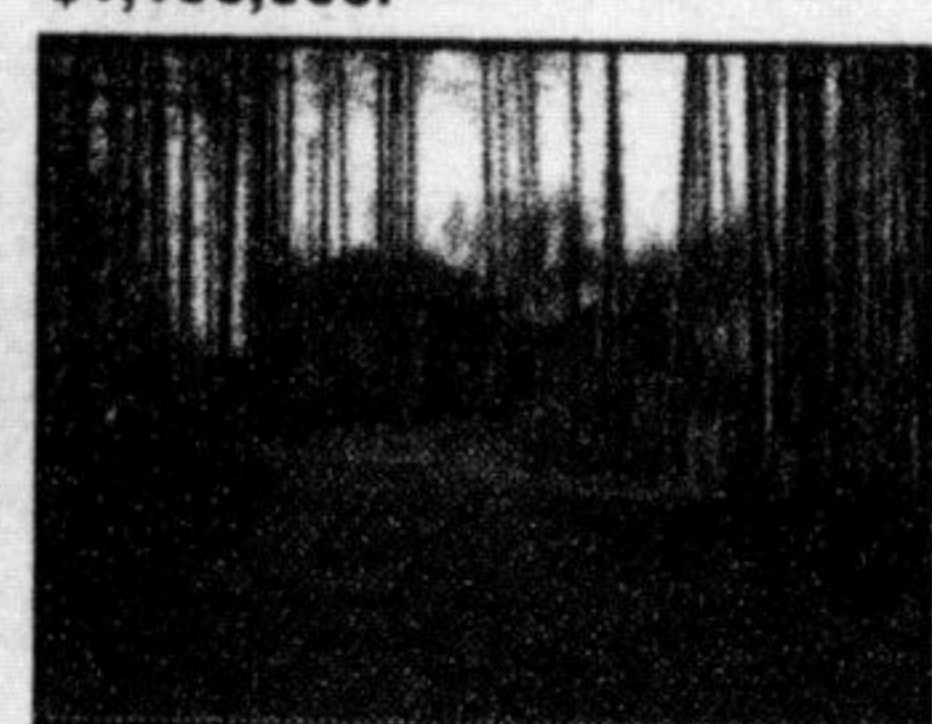
9 ACRE COUNTRY ESTATE

With 5 car garage, barn, workshop, drive sheds, pond, 1/2 G pool, gated circular drive, very private with surrounding trees, 2600 sq ft home, forest view, large rooms. 11716 Dublin Line, Milton North. \$949,000 New Price.



90 ACRE FARM

With or without established businesses, new barn, retail store, bungalow and bank barn. Income opportunity over \$100K profit/year, goat dairy, 45 acres workable, 7 acre apple orchard, paddocks, icrests, 2500 sqft upgraded bungalow w/ pool/hot tub, Eramosa. \$1,250,000.



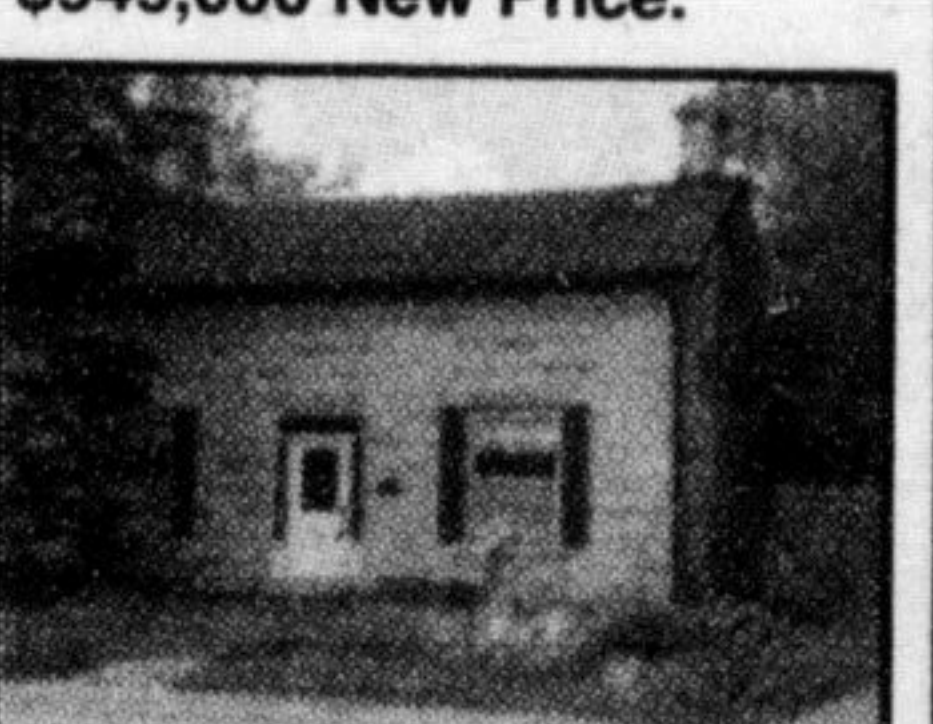
2 ACRE NEWLY BUILT

4700 sq ft home 2 months old, 4700 sq ft + 2400 sq ft finished W/O basement, 3 car garage, best of materials, big principal rooms. Amongst million dollar homes. 4325 Random Acres, Milton North. \$1,499,000.



1/2 ACRE PRIVATE COUNTRY HOME

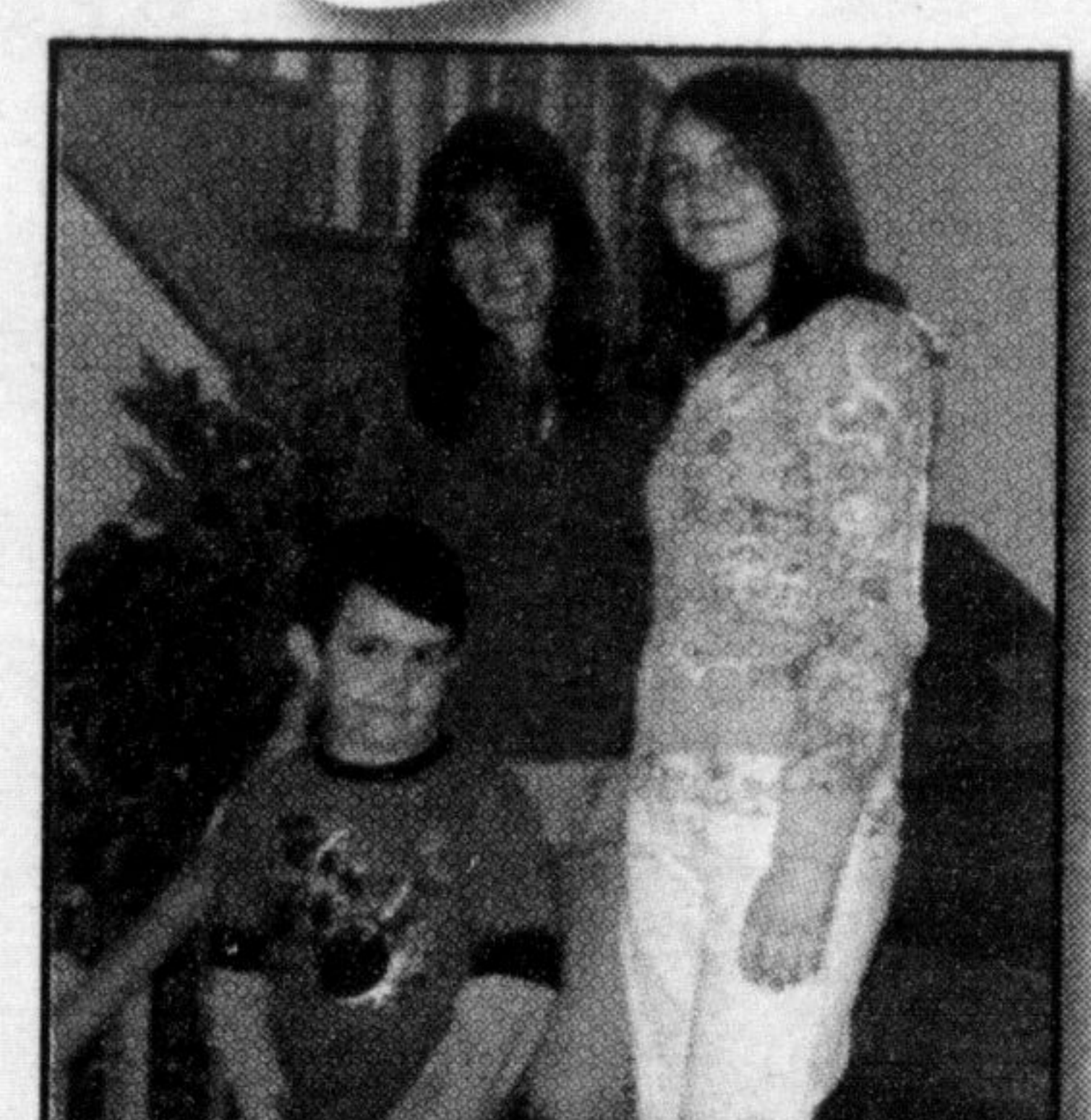
2200 sq ft, 6 car paved driveway, 2 car garage, on cul de sac private road. In the scenic artistic town of Eden Mills, Milton North. \$449,000.



1/2 ACRE UPGRADED CENTURY STONE HOME

Private backyard backing onto trees, centre island kitchen, 4 bedrooms, pine plank floor, huge deck. 10761 Guelph Line, Milton North. \$429,000.

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Kim Scott of Royal LePage Meadowtowne Realty, Milton and The Canadian Champion wish to congratulate Laurie, Jessica and Jacob on their new home.

Make your first move by checking out this week's Best Homes published every Wednesday in The Canadian Champion.

The Canadian Champion's Best Homes real estate section is a great place to start your home search. Laurie, Jessica and Jacob, along with Kim Scott were able to find the home of their dreams.

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