

Renovation contract protects homeowners

A standard Residential Renovation Contract is now available to homeowners from the Toronto Home Builders' sociation (THBA).

The standard contract is designed to "protect homeowners from tailgate renovators, and to eliminate the confusing legalese found in many other contracts," said Lou Frustaglio, chairman of the THBA Renovation and Redevelopment Council.

Subjects covered include: Description of Work, Performance of Work/Standards, Payment, Timing, Permits, Insurance, and the resolution of any disputes.

The standard contract's introduction is timely in light of the proposed federal Goods and Services Tax, which will boost renovation costs by 7 per cent come lan. 1.

'There could be a flurry this fall and winter as homeowners and renovators rush to beat the tax. This may result in disputes

over projects that run past Dec. 31," said Frustaglio. "Many of the problems faced by homeowners in regard to renovation can be traced to poorly written contracts or, even worse, no contract at all."

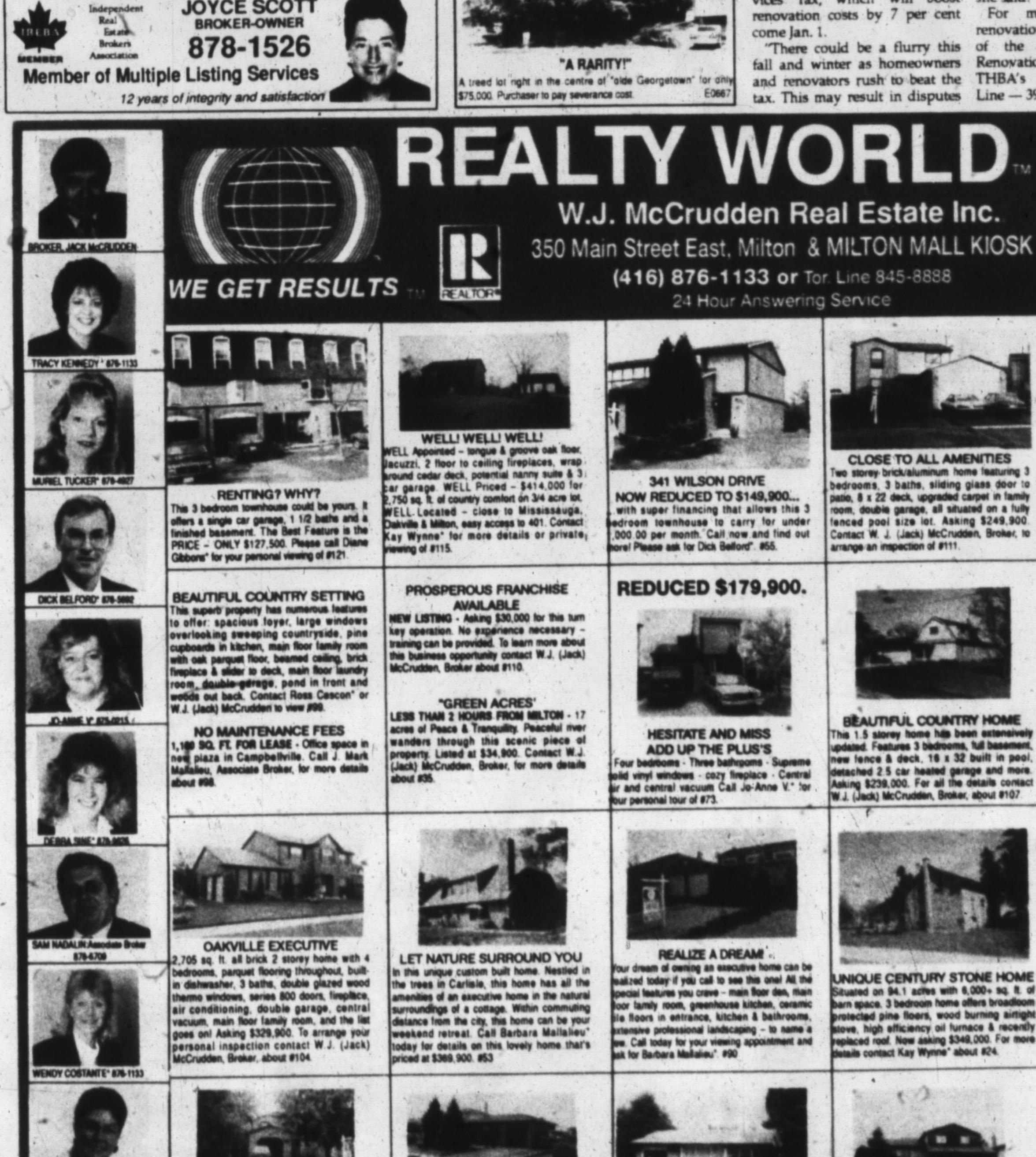
Endorsed by the Metropolitian Toronto Licensing Commission, the standard contract is easy to understand, thereby minimizing the possibility of misunderstandings between homeowners and renovators.

Marilyn Lister, president of the Consumers' Association of Canada, praised the contract as a move in the right direction. "Anything that helps consumers in their dealings with trades is welcomed by our association," she said.

For more information on renovation, or to obtain a copy of the Standard Residential Renovation Contract, call the THBA's Housing Information Line - 391-HOME.

ROSS CESCON" 878-2756

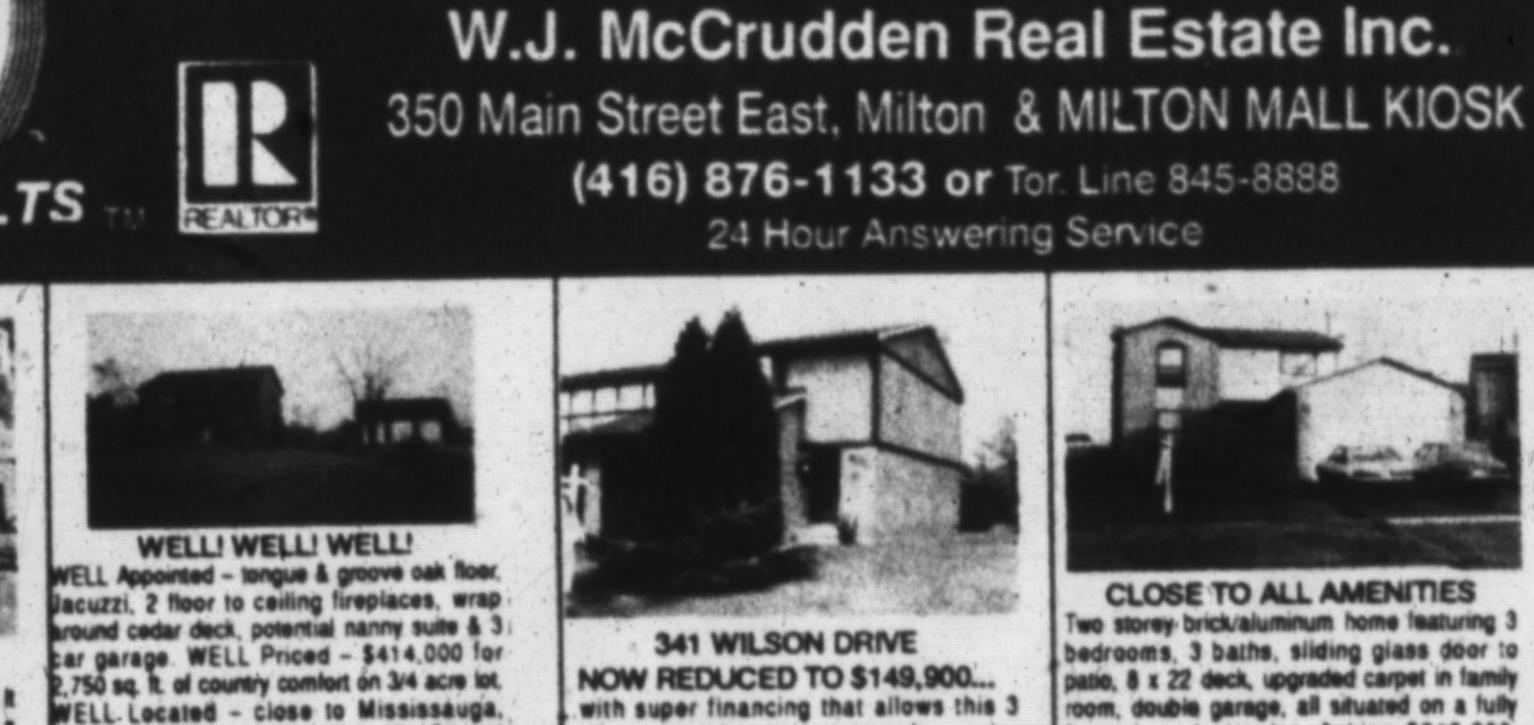
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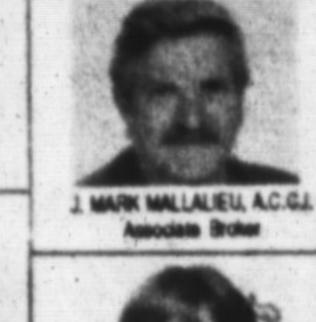


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