

Kitchens are focal point of home activity

Kitchens are taking on a renewed importance in the '90s as they return to being the focal points of home activity, say members of the Toronto Home Builders' Association (THBA).

Morrie Wolfman, president of Paris Kitchens, said kitchens are becoming more family room-oriented as the old-fashioned, open-kitchen concept — where the kitchen, dining and living rooms essentially form one Great Room enjoys renewed popularity.

"There is also a trend to entertain at home rather than going out to restaurants; not just because of economics, but because it's more fun and personal. People today, including a lot of men, love to prepare food at home. It's a great couple activity," he said.

Regarding design, Wolfman said many new kitchens feature lighter, brighter cabinet finishes, so that they are airy-looking and cheerful to work in. As well, there's a strong move toward a "furniture look" in cabinets, such as the use of solid oak or oak veneers. And "the use of mouldings to create an eye-pleasing look is very much in vogue," he said.

"Kitchen design as it relates to function is very important," said Wolfman. "A good kitchen is complemented by all its parts, including counters, tiles, appliances, lighting and flooring."

Functionally, "there is a growing number of convenience-oriented cabinets on the market today, such as cabinets with built-in garbage cans and tray sections for quick and easy storage of utensils," he said.

Klaus Bogner, general manager for Normac Kitchens Ltd., said convenience extras can also include pot and pan drawers, and roll-out units. "More and more people are also asking for a slide-out garbage container from Europe that features separate recyclable/non-recyclable waste compartments," he said.

"The emphasis today is to make kitchens as usable as possible. Consumers are much more time-conscious now than in the past and therefore are willing to pay for convenience. In fact, many of them, particularly empty-nesters, insist on having convenience features," said Bogner.

In terms of design, Bogner said the clean, European look, which can include frameless cabinets with concealed hinges and obscured handles, and built-in, compact appliances, is in demand.

Bill Greer, sales manager for Raywal Ltd., concurs. He said the growing number of working couples in recent years has resulted in a greater demand for kitchens that offer "simplicity, convenience and easy maintenance."

In new homes particularly, Greer said kitchens are growing in size relative to other rooms because people are spending more time in them. "Kitchens have, in a sense, become family room extensions, in which husbands and even children are more involved than ever before," he said.

Cal McCathie, contracts sales manager for Canac Kitchens Ltd., agrees that kitchens in new and renovated homes are generally bigger than in the past. "Many kitchens today feature large windows, high ceilings and walkouts to the backyard," he said.

McCathie said the colour white is currently "very popular" in new kitchen cabinets and appliances. "We're also seeing more glass cabinets. And centre islands are popular in larger kitchens," he said.

The necessity of many European households to use available space and energy resources as efficiently as possible is having a major influence on the design and operation of kitchen appliances in the '90s.

Geoffrey Hedges, vice-president and general manager of Miele Appliances Ltd., said his company markets high-tech, German-made kitchen appliances, including ovens, fridges and dishwashers, that consume less than half the water and/or energy of standard North American units.



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IN-TOWN FEATURE

READY? GO! \$269,900



Located on Robertson Cres. this home has a huge greenhouse kitchen with moveable island. Such features as circular staircase, fin. rec. rm., covered patio, over 2200 sq. ft. Call Audrey.

IN-TOWN FEATURE

NEW \$124,900



Popular raised 3 storey has ground level family room and laundry room. 1 1/2 baths, large eat in kitchen. Please ask for Stewart.

SAY "CHEESE"

\$213,900



and picture yourself in this lovely 3 bedroom backdrop. Bright and cheerful throughout. Large eat in kitchen, separate dining room over looks large family room. For more details call Audrey.

SO MUCH TO OFFER

\$239,000



Lovely bungalow sitting on 2 1/2 acres with magnificent views, 3 bedrooms, family room, mostly finished basement. Pool with decking, 3 car garage.

MINUTES FROM TOWN

\$199,900



Main floor family room in this lovely bungalow is a bonus. Finished rec. room. Lovely views.

A ROYAL HOME

\$289,900



RECENT HUGE REDUCTION. This nearly new has a real "live-in kitchen" with a huge pantry, island, walkout overlooking the pond, etc. Main floor laundry, overheight basement, large double garage. Call Chris to view.

ARE YOU WILLING

\$159,900



to do some "HOME" work? Brick and aluminum backsplit in Dorset Park. Needs TLC and you could end up with an A+. Large lot on nice street, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room and much more. Call Audrey to find out more.

YOU'LL FEEL AT HOME

\$163,900



When you see this well cared for, bright, spacious 3 bedroom link, 2 1/2 baths. Fenced back yard has no neighbours behind, and privacy trees. For more details please ask for Stewart.

HORSE PADDOCKS

\$279,900



Greystone up the road, Chudleigh's around the bend. This Cape Cod features open concept on main floor with 2 level kitchen/dining/family room area, 2 story, fireplace, living rm., main laundry, breakfast bar, woodstone, whirlpool tub in ensuite. French doors, garage potential. Call Chris for more info.

LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

\$174,900



You would be surprised at how much room there actually is. 4 level backsplit has vaulted ceilings, French doors lead into the L-shaped LVR. Eat in kitchen has W/O to deck & landscaped yard, apple tree, etc. 3 bedrooms have big windows to let in natural light. Fin. basement has rec. room, rec. room, bar & work area. Lots of storage. Call Chris to take a look.

"George and I were extremely happy with Audrey and Chris's selling performance & how they attempted to help us relocate. The frequent contact was great and we really liked the photographs and printed brochures. Everything was up-to-date & very professional. Also lots of advanced warning about showings and lots of helpful advice."
-Gerry Hanna, Milton.
"Very Pleasant & Knowledgeable - would recommend them to anyone!"
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PLEASING HOME



\$174,900

Well maintained home in nice area. DR has W/O to deck, step down to patio. Kitchen opens up into dining room. Appis. included. Sitting area at top of stairs. Bmnt is mostly fin. w/ rec. rm & a bar. Close to schools & shopping.

CAMPBELLVILLE CONTEMPORARY



\$449,000

Big Bricks, Bigger Windows, Higher Ceilings, Biggest En-suite.

540 LAURIER



\$239,900

Finished, finished, finished. Have lots of visitors? 4 beds up, plus 2 down, 3 1/2 baths and several sitting areas takes care of the crowds.

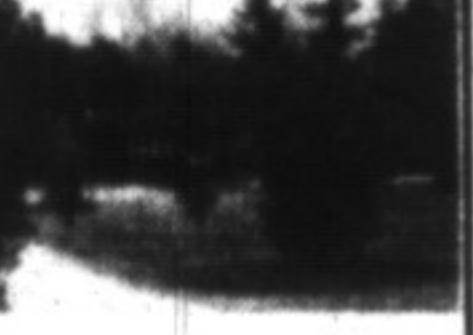
DO IT NOW



\$187,900

Call to see this attractive, nicely revamped 3 bedroom backsplit. Lower level has 3 piece bath with talon foot tub, kitchen, laundry, workroom and cold cellar. Family room with heritage stove. Call Audrey.

10+ ACRES



\$299,000

Plus 20'x24' shed, 4 bdrm bungalow, fully fin. bmnt, with hot tub, 3 pce., stone fireplace & walkout. Upstairs has wood floors, french doors & lots more! Call Chris for more.

TEA FOR TWO



\$167,500

... or twenty in this spacious side split. Loaded with all the extras, main floor family room with fireplace, garage, finished basement. Large eat-in kitchen with walk out to fenced yard with shed. To view call Audrey.

IN-LAW SUITE

\$239,900



Is the mother-in-law moving in, or do you have an independent tenant that wants their "own pad"? 3+ bdrm. house, close to high school, on a cul-de-sac. Huge master bdrm, ensuite, F.R. has FP, bay windows overlooking backyard w/ mature trees. Big eat-in kitchen has W/O to yard.

SPRING IS HERE

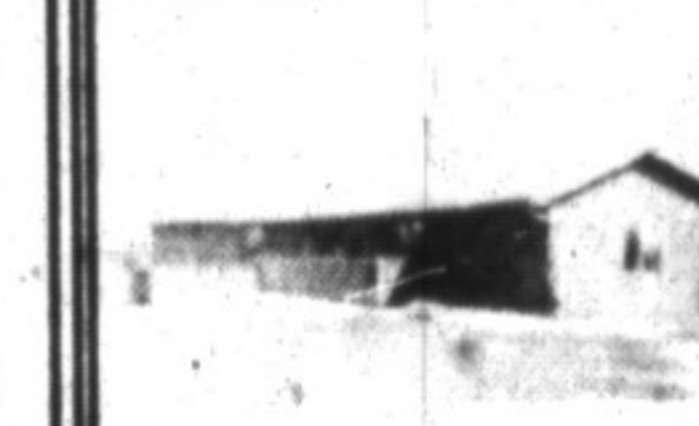
\$159,900



And what better way to enjoy it, than sitting on the interlocking stone patio, in the beautifully landscaped backyard. Freshly painted, 3 bdrm. house with W/O to backyard from dining room. Big eat-in kitchen, has lots of cupboards, finished basement has pre-wiring.

PONDS, RIVER, VIEW

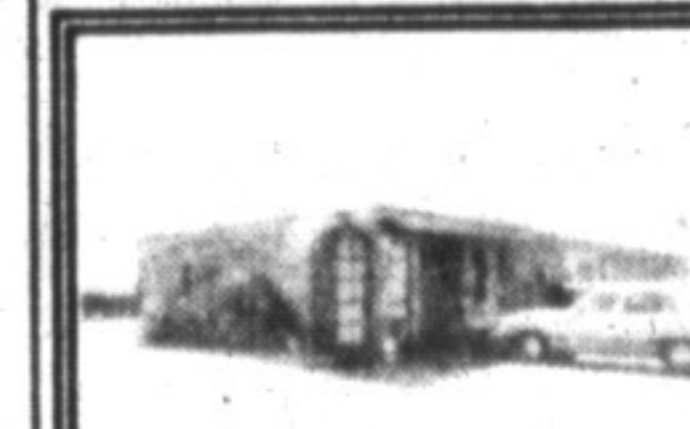
\$249,000



50 acres. Living room overlooking ravine with river. For more details please ask for Stewart.

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

\$173,000



Nestled in a beautiful rustic setting. Offers 2 bedrooms, potential for 3rd, or rec. room. Large closets, big windows, fireplace in living room. Approximately 1/2 acres. For more details please ask for Stewart.

DREAM BY YOUR OWN FIREPLACE

\$172,900



Spring may be here, the days may be getting warmer, but the evenings are still cool and what better way to chase those chills away, than in front of your own fireplace, in the cozy living room. 4 bdrms, master ensuite, fin. basement. Fine landscaping throughout. Please ask for Stewart to view.

CABIN CLASS

\$369,000



Imported Italian tile, Barzotti kitchen with built in appliances, whirlpool tub. Lots of oak, pine and cedar. Sun room has walk-out to deck. Custom built by owner in 1987. "Confederator" log home is situated on 10+ acres of lush, cleared land and a pond. Call Chris for more.

"A WORLD OF LIVING"

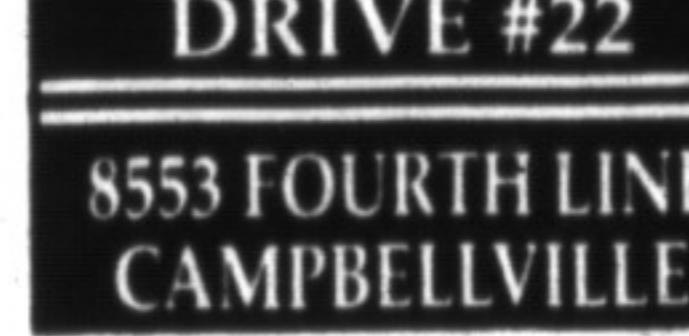
\$729,000



This 6 bdrm. Spanish style home offers a world of luxury living. 54 inch BBQ & interlocking patio, large stately mbr., lot has B.R.'s, W/O to deck, trees w/ stream, paved lane when gates & heated bus shelter.

561 CHILDS DRIVE #22

\$126,900



8553 FOURTH LINE CAMPBELLVILLE \$259,900

VACANT LAND

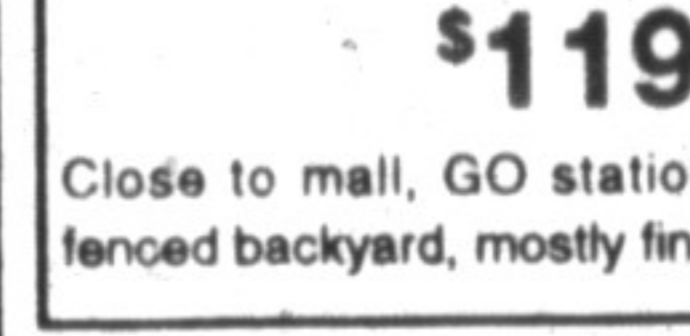
\$174,900



Building permit available on 12.8 acre parcel. Central location, close to Burlington, Geolph, Georgetown.

CHILDS DRIVE

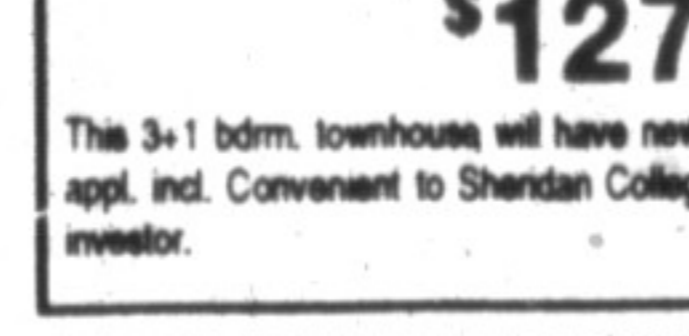
\$119,900



Close to mall, GO station, walk to downtown, fenced backyard, mostly fin. basement.

ALL DRESSED UP & WAITING

\$127,900



This 3+1 bdrm. townhouse will have new paint job & carpeting at closing. 4 appl. incl. Convenient to Sheridan College in Oakville makes it ideal for the investor.

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