## How to give your home a quick fix-up without spending a fortune

think it needs some fixing up here and there, but wonders even on a relatively tight budget don't want to spend a king's ransom, there are depending of course - how much actually needs plenty of relatively simple, cost-effective things you can do to give your new digs a boost and create more pleasant surroundings.

You may find, for instance, the asphalt or concrete driveway you've acquired with your home is in a sad state of repair or that your aluminum siding looks a little dull and dingy. And what are you going to do about that ancient door which hides the view of that striking, hand-carved front door?

With just a little ingenuity and perseverance,

If you've recently purchased a home and you'll discover that you can probably work

## Outside

However, before you decide to tackle any projects, be realistic. If you need major work done (like replacing a foundation footing), obviously a little patching here or there isn't going to be terribly effective. Unless it's an emergency - it may be better to wait until you have the funds to have the job done properly by professionals.

On the other hand, there are many things you can do yourself, or hire someone to do for a reasonable cost. For instance, if your chimney looks like it's in rough shape, you can have it re-pointed instead of replacing it altogether.

If you have aluminum siding that looks like it's seen better days, don't automatically assume you have to replace it; you can have it power washed by professional cleaners. You may want to try cleaning it yourself with the proper cleansers. (Check with your local hardware or building supply store to see what products they recommend for this task.)

Minor cracks in your driveway, sidewalk or

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outer foundation walls can be remedied with the appropriate patching compound. (However, consult an expert for anything that appears to be the least bit serious.) You can also buy special sealants for your driveway to give it a new, glossy sheen. Again, it's important to check with your local building supply or hardware store to see what's recommended.

If your storm doors are in bad shape, you should definitely consider replacing them. While this may seem expensive, there are many energy-efficient choices to choose from and these will help enhance the overall look of your

see next page



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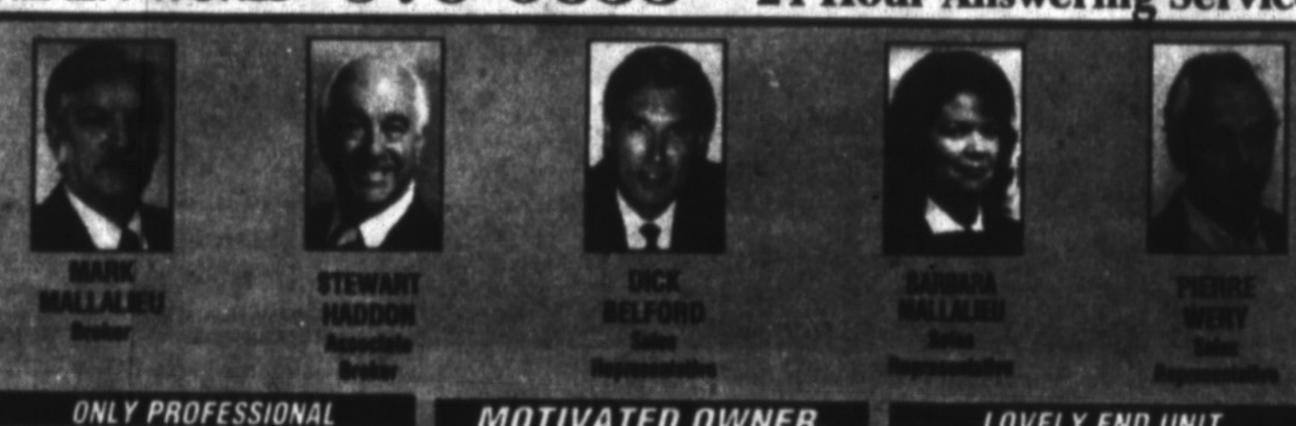
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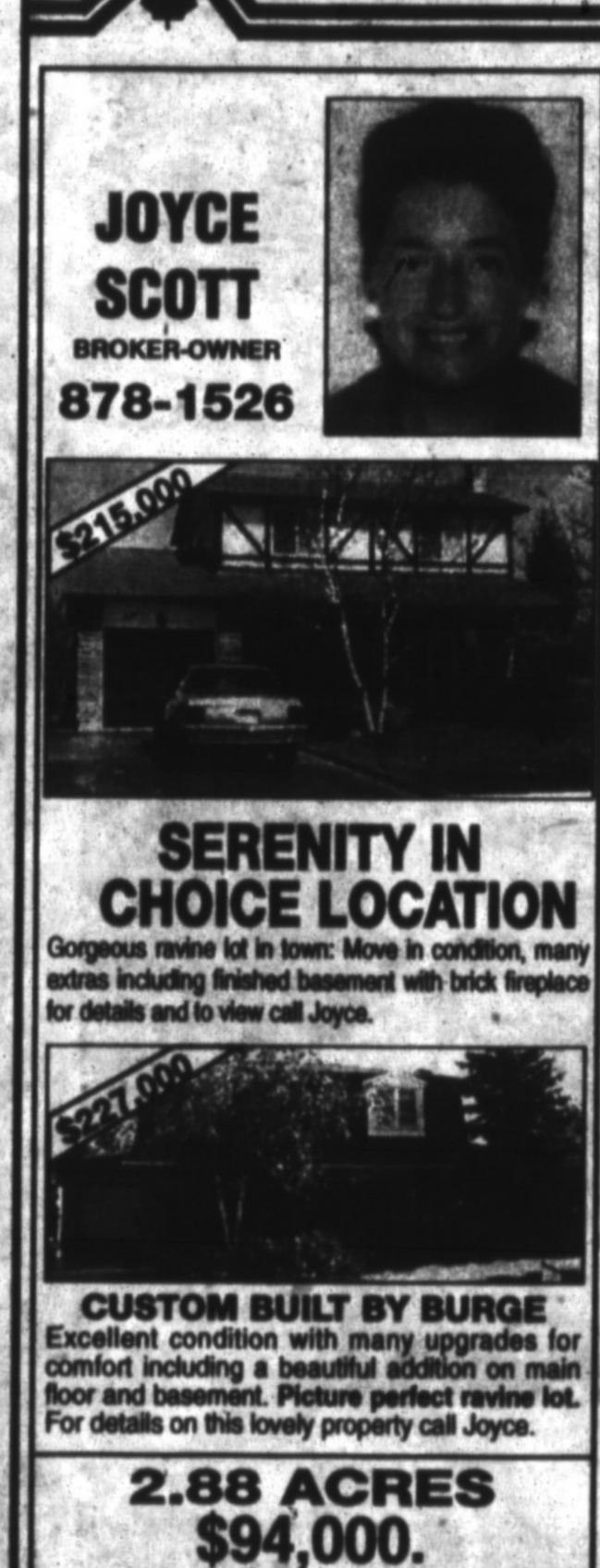
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