

On trial basis

Midland Public Library begins cassette collection

by Shirley Whittington
Hockey or badminton instruction, shostakovich played by the Oxford String Quartet, conversations with Canadian authors - all are now available on video cassettes at the Midland Public Library.

It's part of a one month trial program organized by Michelle Gauthier, under the supervision of Catherine MacKenzie, reference librarian. Michelle has just completed her first year of a Master of Library Science degree, and she's enthusiastic about the possibilities of the cassette collection.

"Most of the tapes are in colour," she says. "They have been produced by the Ontario Educational

Communications Authority, and have been shown on Channel 19."

Tapes are viewed on a full sized television screen, and can be used by groups or individuals. The "stop-or-repeat" feature on the video tape replay (UTR) enables viewers to review any section of the tape in which they are particularly interested.

Use of the video tape cassettes and the TV receiver is open to anyone in the community, without charge. The unit is portable, although bulky (50 lbs.), and it can be taken out of the library, although Michelle suggests it is probably easier for groups to use it in the reference room at the library.

A display of the tapes and the capabilities of the program was held at the library Saturday afternoon. Thirty-five tapes covering travel, history, consumer affairs, cooking, psychology, family structure, music and Canadiana, are now available, and more are on order. An OECA catalogue is available so that particular tapes may be ordered.

Of particular interest are the Polka Dot Door series, and a 90 minute special on China.

Midland is the first library in the region to try the video cassette program. It is one more step toward making the community library a multi-media resource centre, readily available for enrichment and education.



Designer Joanne Brook

Design course at St. Paul's

Are you interested in design and colour, as applied to crafts and decorating? On May 1 and 2, there'll be an opportunity to learn from Joanne Brook who is half of J. and J. Brook Interior Design of Toronto. Ms. Brook is holding a two day workshop at St. Paul's United Church, and the course is designed for people who haven't had formal training in the field.

Registration for the course, which

will run from 9:30 to 4:30 on each of the two days, is open. The fee is \$18 and registration forms are available at the Midland Library, at the Midland Times office or at the Chamber of Commerce. Area co-ordinator Bonnie Morrison has a word of advice for interested people: "The course will run only if there are enough students, so registration forms should be filled out and mailed in advance. Don't count on getting in at the door on May 1!"

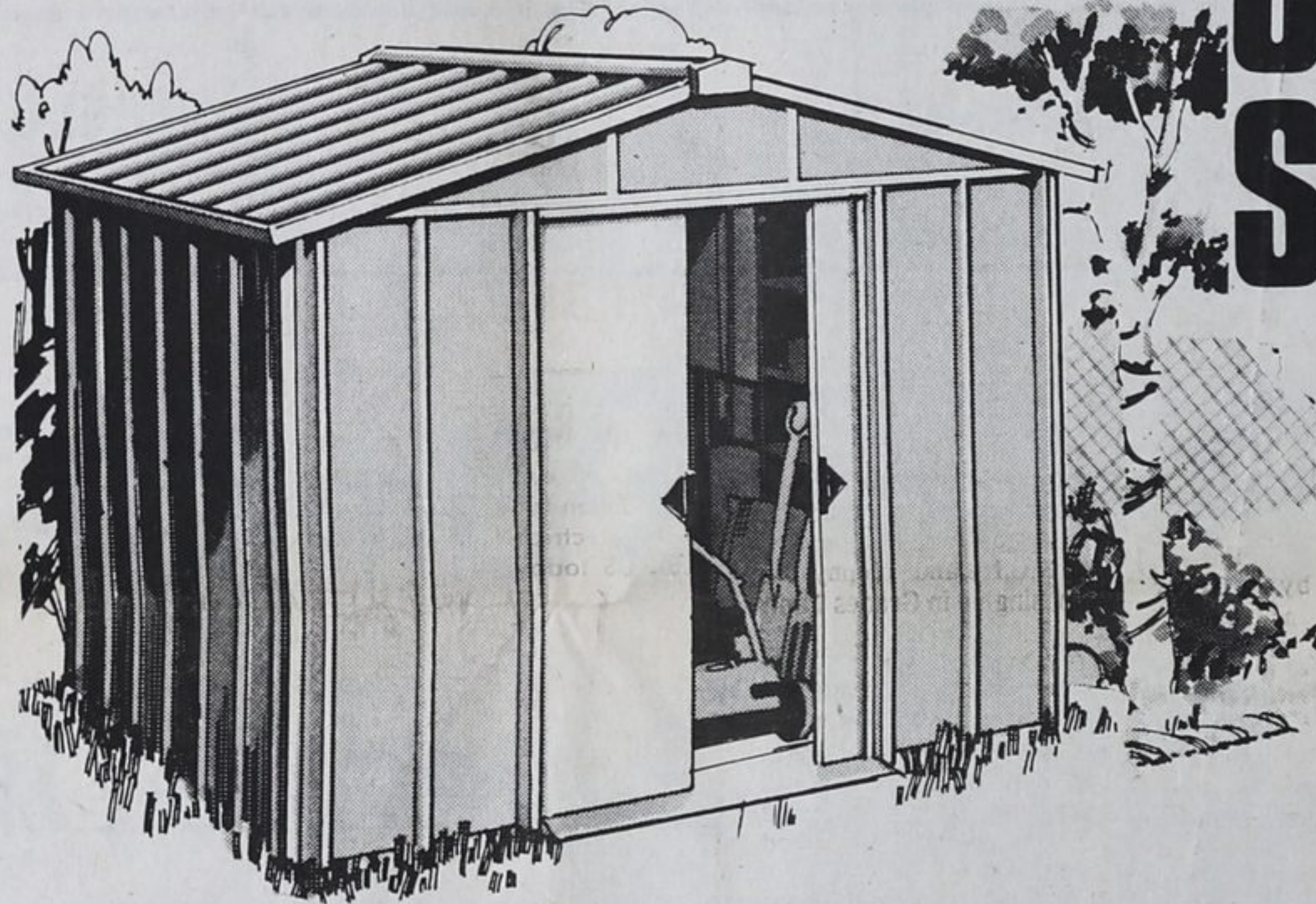
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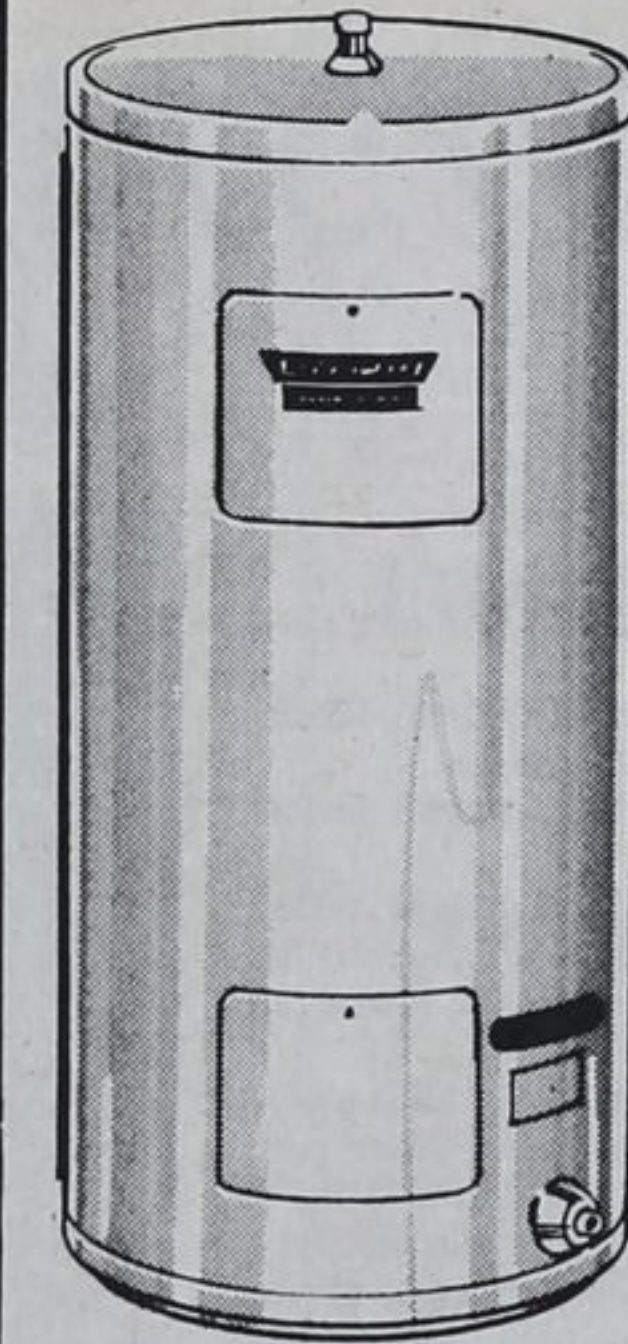
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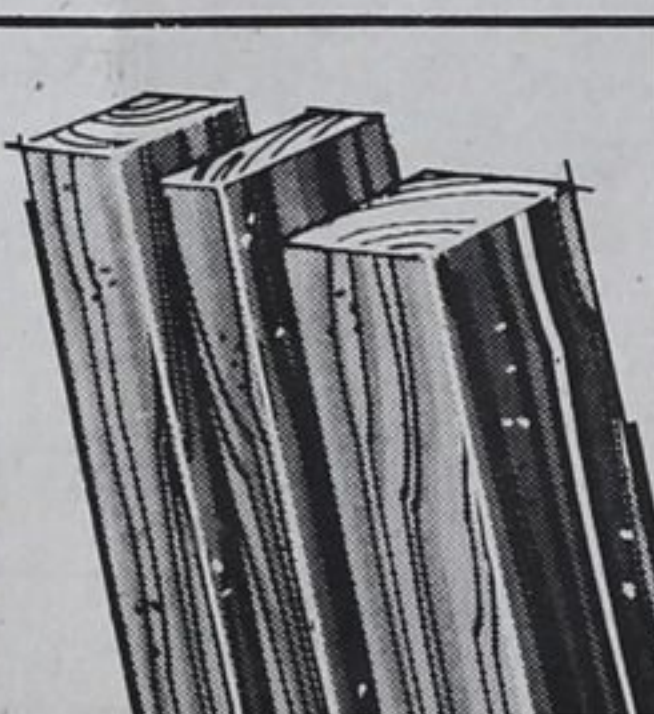
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