

Morning Hall On Concession 8 King Homes Pick

BY DONNA MATTHEWS
King Correspondent

We set out Thursday morning of last week on what has become the annual tour of country homes of King Township sponsored by the York Humane Guild of the Ontario Humane Society and co-convened by Mrs. Robert Silcox and Mrs. Michael Sifton.

There was no set order in which to view the houses. And as we already had our tickets, we began at the furthest northerly house, Idle Acres on Concession 2, just south of Davis Drive. This is the home of Tadek and Rosamond Wisniewski. Mr. Wisniewski is a graduate of Cambridge and was with the British Colonial Service before coming to Canada. Mrs. Wisniewski is an ardent supporter of the Humane Society and her mother as the Honorable Mrs. Reginald Felton, a first cousin of Winston Churchill and one of the world's best dressed women.

The large white house with grey trim is set on a slight rise overlooking acres of lawn. Only the main floor of this home was open to the viewers.

The living room with its off-white Aubusson (birds and flowers) rug had one whole wall of bookcases. Two sofas, one in deep blue velvet and the other done in a red, white and blue bold quilted design was accented touches of dull red/orange velvet.

RECLINING NUDE
An unusual sketch of a reclining nude adorned one wall. The table lamps were of a flower-like design of alabaster. The dining room had antique Canadian pine furniture. On the sideboard was a display of mustache cups. Plants provided touches of green throughout the rooms, with one planter being of beautiful inlaid polished wood.

From the living room you passed through glass doors and walked past tennis courts to a cedar guest house with wicker furnishings and an original abstract painting mounted on the ceiling.

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE
On the gently rolling lawns were examples of striking outdoor sculptures done by Frances Gage, E. B. Cox, and Leonard Oesterle. One was a larger than life-size nude woman drying her hair and

another was a lovely white dolphin seen across the willow surrounded pond and reached by crossing a wrought iron bridge.

We left the Wisniewski home and headed south to Owsdale, home of Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Calverley, located on concession 3, just south of the Aurora Sideroad. Dr. Calverley is a veterinarian and Mrs. Calverley is a member of Kingcraft House.

This is a warm, rugged modern brick family home with tennis courts over to one side of the front entrance. Throughout the house are many portraits of Calverleys of Dulton Hall.

LIVINGROOM FOCUS
The focal point of the living room is a huge antique piano mounted on a high platform beneath a skylight. This piano is reputed to have been played by Beethoven. The floors in this area are a dark walnut herringbone parquet.

The dining room is also the gallery of Calverley ancestors. The dining room suite is walnut with deep vibrant red velvet seats. Antique dinnerware is displayed in the china cabinet. A crystal chandelier hangs over the table.

The family room on the lower level is paneled in barnwood and opens out onto a patio and lovely pool. There is also a games room complete with billiard table.

The long hallway joining the family room and the games room was hung with oil paintings some of which had been painted by Mrs. Calverley. Strip focus lighting accented these pictures.

On the patio upper level was a goldfish pond surrounded by plants. The tour continued back indoors through the kitchen with dark walnut cupboards and electric braizer.

On the way out was a display of ribbons won by the Calverley family at the Aurora Horse Shows and the Toronto and North York Pony Club. A wall was hung with saddles and horse tack.

Southwards to "Chilterns", home of Gillian and John Ball, on the 16th Sideroad.

Mr. Ball is the chief librarian of the University of Toronto's Scarboro College and Mrs. Ball is a well-known local dramatist and frequent traveller to Mexico and Spain. She was also cross-country ski instructor at Seneca College, King Campus this past winter.

CHILDREN'S ROOMS
The Balls have two children and their bedrooms reflect the individual tastes of each. Christopher's room has a collection of Mexican toys, a guinea pig and Canadian pine furnishings.

Phillipa's room is very feminine with its spindle bed and beautiful doll house. White indoor shutters at the window and a pink window seat complete the picture.

In the livingroom barnwood and a brick fireplace compliment the blend of Canadiana and Old English pieces of furniture. The fire box is a pine cradle. Fern beams and cathedral ceiling complete the room. From the formal dining room a ship's ladder ascends up to a loft with more cathedral windows.

The kitchen opens onto a patio deck with a lower gravel terrace. A pet goat was contentedly tethered on the grass.

At this point we headed for the King Valley Ski Centre and the display of books, plants and treasures and trivias. Also lunch and washrooms awaited us there.

Lunch was packed in a bag sealed with a happy face and the greeting "Have A Happy Lunchtime". Included were sandwiches, cole slaw and cookies and squares. Tea and coffee were included. Sherry was also available.

From the ski centre we went to Sherwood Farm, home of Phillip and Mae Shewood on concession 7, south of the King Vaughan Town Line.

Mr. Shewood is a horse breeder and Almoner. The 1971 winner of the Queens Plate was bred here as well as Good Old Mort and Grey Whiz. Solar Path, coming hopeful is now in training at Sherwood Farm. Mrs. Shewood is a member of the York Central Hospital Auxiliary.

LOVELY STONE HOUSE
This large square Georgian stone house is lovely. To one side of the entrance a hall leads to the sun porch with hanging plants and canework patterned wallpaper on the ceiling. The kitchen ceiling is papered in a blue and white mattress ticking pattern with red and blue patchwork paper on the valance.

The dining room has a carpet of old rose over the wide pine floors. Another unusual wallpaper is used in this room... a gold, green and dull copper foil. On the table was a hand-crocheted tablecloth.

The stairway landing had a large fan shaped window overlooking the pool. On the walls everywhere were prints of English hunt scenes.

In the living room was a soft gold and turquoise Aubusson rug accenting French Provincial furnishings. On an end wall was a needlepoint picture done in rocaille beads. At the other end of

the room was a deep bay window. The view from the room was centred on the hills of King and on the barn and paddocks in the distance.

Off the living room was an intimate dark paneled den with maroon leather couch, fireplace and a wall of bookshelves.

On the lower level a player piano was merrily plinking out an old tune. The games room was beyond this with red velvet shaded lamps hanging low over the billiard table. A grandfather clock stood in one corner. The downstairs washroom had a collection of antique chamber pot lids hanging on the wall.

Back up to King Sideroad and west towards Nibleton to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Godsoe. Fiddlehead Farm, is their weekend home. Mr. Godsoe is the chairman of Newcom Holdings Limited and he grows fiddlehead ferns both in the country and in his Kilbarry Road, Toronto garden.

FARMHOUSE ANTIQUES
This 150-year-old farmhouse has had additions built on to form a delightful setting for antiques from the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec.

There is a definite cottage atmosphere in this low ceilinged home. Canadian pine furniture is everywhere making for a comfortable lived-in weekend retreat. Doorways are arched, beams are blackened, and the fireplace is hand-hewn. Pine accents are used even in the bathrooms. One bedroom has an iron bedstead, and a pine cathedral shaped mirror. Hand-hooked and braided rugs are in all rooms.

The dining room with pine arched backed chairs had an unusual antique lamp hung over the table which was set for dinner with antique dishes. Floral wallpaper matched the valance and proved a foil for the plain white cotton curtains.

Morning Hall, home of Frances and Allan Wilson, on Concession 8 was next Entry to this home is through a tower into the Norman French mansion with brick arched doorways and fireplaces of ancient brick. All interior decorating and planning was done by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and reflects their interest.

The living room has white stuccoed walls, leaded windows, and dark parquet floors. Overlooking the living room from an upper landing is a dark cherrywood balcony rescued from a wreckers and formerly park of a Rosedale home.

The master bedroom suite was done in Wedgewood blue with multi-floral drapes and white sheers. On the king-size bed was a soft blue and white eiderdown lined with pink. Two deep maroon tub chairs were at one end of the room facing a white settee.

BATHROOM STONE
The much talked about bathroom was papered in gold patterned foil and has a stone floor. Basin and counters are black with gold facets and the tub is enclosed in stone. A huge double-arched stained glass window in reds, golds and greens forms the wall alongside the

bathtub. Green plants make this a combination greenhouse, bathroom and chapel. A large china cabinet at one end houses towels, soaps and curios.

The dining room looks out over a screened latticed patio. On one dining room wall is an Elizabethan tapestry. The table is a dark pine trestle table with high backed red velvet chairs.

Off the modern kitchen with its central butcher block counter and copper utensils is a family room with fireplace, couches and separate pine floored eating area. Over the fireplace is an Oxen yoke.

The lower level is devoted to recreation including a gym, sauna, modern chrome and leather furniture, bar and dance floor. All this is tied together by the use of "supergraphics".

UNANIMOUS FAVORITE
One wall is devoted to pictures and photos of the Wilson family. Large white pillars provide an unusual accent to these rooms. The bar stools were at one time tractor seats.

The way out was through a barnwood paneled mud room onto a small patio deck overlooking an artificial lake.

This home was our unanimous favourite and a lovely blend of ancient and modern.

Second last on the tour was the home of C. M. Carmichael, named "Southerly". Mr. Carmichael is the President of Firth, Brown Steel Company Limited. The home was designed by King architect Denis Bowman and is surrounded by the birch woods of King Township. Mayor of King Township Margaret Britnell resides next door.

One unusual feature of this very open plan house was the use of partitions rather than walls in several areas giving a rather Oriental effect. Much use is made of wood and fabric texture.

OUTDOOR OPENINGS
Both living room and master bedroom lead to outdoors. Wallpaper in the living room is a neutral grasscloth. One corner features a sunken ceramic tiled area with a corner fireplace with copper hood and a triangle shaped glass coffee table is there.

In the kitchen a skylight

and high windows provide illumination. outdoors a lovely pool is reached by steps formed from railway ties.

Final and last stop for us on the tour was the residence of Kurt and Joy Larsen. This home is one of the original houses in the picturesque Kingscross Estates. Set far back from the road, the home is approached through levels of terraces with pools and fountains.

The living room has a deep gold couch with striking blue accents. A grey/green mottled deep shag rug acts as foil for the bear skin rug. A deep blue transparent glass table lamp adorns an end table catching the light from the window. Kitchen windows are framed by sunny yellow curtains.

The rosewood dining room suite was set for dinner with lovely grey/beige stone dinnerware backed by red strip plate matting.

BEDROOM SUN DECK
The bedrooms on the upper level open onto a cedar sun deck which affords a panoramic view of the area and of the renowned circular pedestal house.

In the lower rooms carpeted in deep purple, a conversation pit with fireplace dominates the room. This room with its glass topped driftwood table opens onto another sun deck with nearby pool.

Off this room is a cork walled study with massive desk. Curious and knickknacks from the Larsen's world travels are placed about the room. In one corner is a weaving loom and samples of the completed work were on display.

Joy Larsen is the co-owner of Colour and Contrast Consultants Limited and the new Pheasant's Feather in Snowball Village. Kurt Larsen is president of Blue Giant Equipment Canada Limited.

Thus ended another tour of country homes. Tired but impressed!

KING TWP.: Council has agreed to lend the services of Township Engineer Ben Pitoni to a group in the Holland Marsh which is planning a new recreational area. They have the land and now plan to start clearing bush, install drainage, etc.

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Church News

At St. John's Anglican Sunday there will be morning prayer at 10 am not 10:30 (but just for this week). This is because the parish picnic is to be held and it is hoped to leave the church at 10:45 am. The picnic will be held at St. Mark's Chapel at Oak Ridges. Each family is to bring enough first course food to supply their needs, plus one more person (cold cuts, rolls, salads, sandwiches celery, carrots, pickles, mayonnaise, etc.) They should also bring a tablecloth, paper plates and their own cutlery. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Sunday at the service of Holy Communion the flowers on the altar were placed there to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and

Mrs. Edward Weaver and son George by Sydney and Olive Goldsmith.

Sunday there was a bikeathon to raise funds for Camp Koinonia's 25th anniversary celebrations. The distance was 20 miles beginning at St. Mark's Chapel in Oak Ridges and finishing at St. John's. The ladies of the ACW provided dessert and beverage at the end of the hike for riders and helpers.

St. John's Mixed Blessings sang on the evening of June 2 to Lambert Lodge in Toronto and on June 8 at "The Fishnet" in Richvale.

Community News
This week birthday wishes go to Kelly Howard who will be June 16, to Kevin Brilinger who will be 13 June 18 and to Mark Latham who will be eight June 19.

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