

Club disbands, efforts remain

by Mary Dawson

THORNHILL — South Thornhill will be the poorer for the decision of the Doncaster Ladies Club to surrender its charter at the end of this year.

This small group of women, which held its last meeting recently, has been active for almost 30 years undertaking its own projects for the good of the community and supporting all others working to make Doncaster a better place in which to live. Ninety-one-year-old Mabel Mizen is the only surviving charter member.

Included in its endeavors have been boxes for Britain, equipment for a baseball team, a projector and blackout curtains for Henderson Avenue School, helping the School for Retarded Children get established, donations to the Hurrican Hazel relief fund, providing tents and other equipment for the Girl Guides and giving financial support to a hockey house league for many years.

The group also made substantial cash donations to Camp Tom Tom, a school rink and a piano for the local mission church. They gave assistance to burned-out families, remembered all the senior citizens in the community at Christmas and for several years provided two young patients at the Villa Hospital with spending money each month. In times of need baskets of groceries and layettes were provided.

Nor did the club confine its help to its own community. When a young woman from Doncaster went to teach in an isolated Indian reservation in Manitoba the Ladies Club assisted her in providing Christmas gifts and warm clothing for all children in the school and gave financial help to enable a couple of these children to visit Doncaster with their teacher.

More recently a cash contribution was made to the work of the Woodgreen Community Centre in Toronto.

David Porter, attendance counsellor for the York County Board of Education, found the Ladies Club a very dependable source of help in problem cases. Money for judo lessons, clothing and room and board helped several young men find themselves and become good citizens.

The money for all these activities was raised by fees, teas, marathon euchres, quilt and afghan raffles.

To find accommodation for some of these events the club used to go as far away as Buttonville. The members were determined to provide a community hall in Doncaster. As a first step property at the corner of Clarke and Henderson Avenues was acquired.

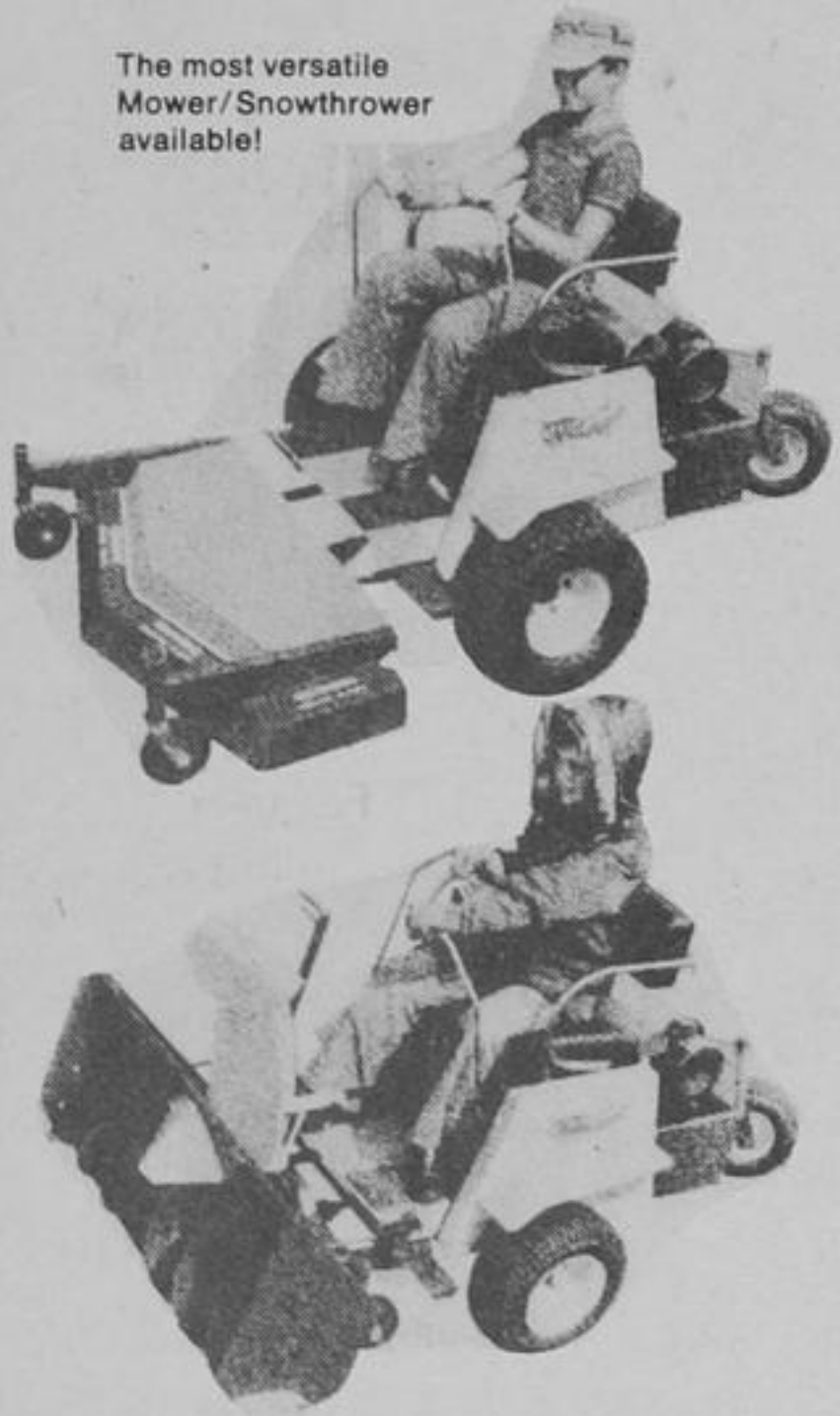
When schools and a mission church with auditoriums were built in the community the need for a meeting place was filled and the club disposed of its property, carefully investing the money. For a decade the annual interest earned provided scholarships for young people of the community in all grades from eight to 13.

The invested capital of \$6,000 will become available in January 1977 and at that time will be turned over to York Central Hospital to furnish two rooms, providing accommodation for six patients. In this way the Doncaster Ladies Club will continue to serve the community in the future and will not be forgotten.

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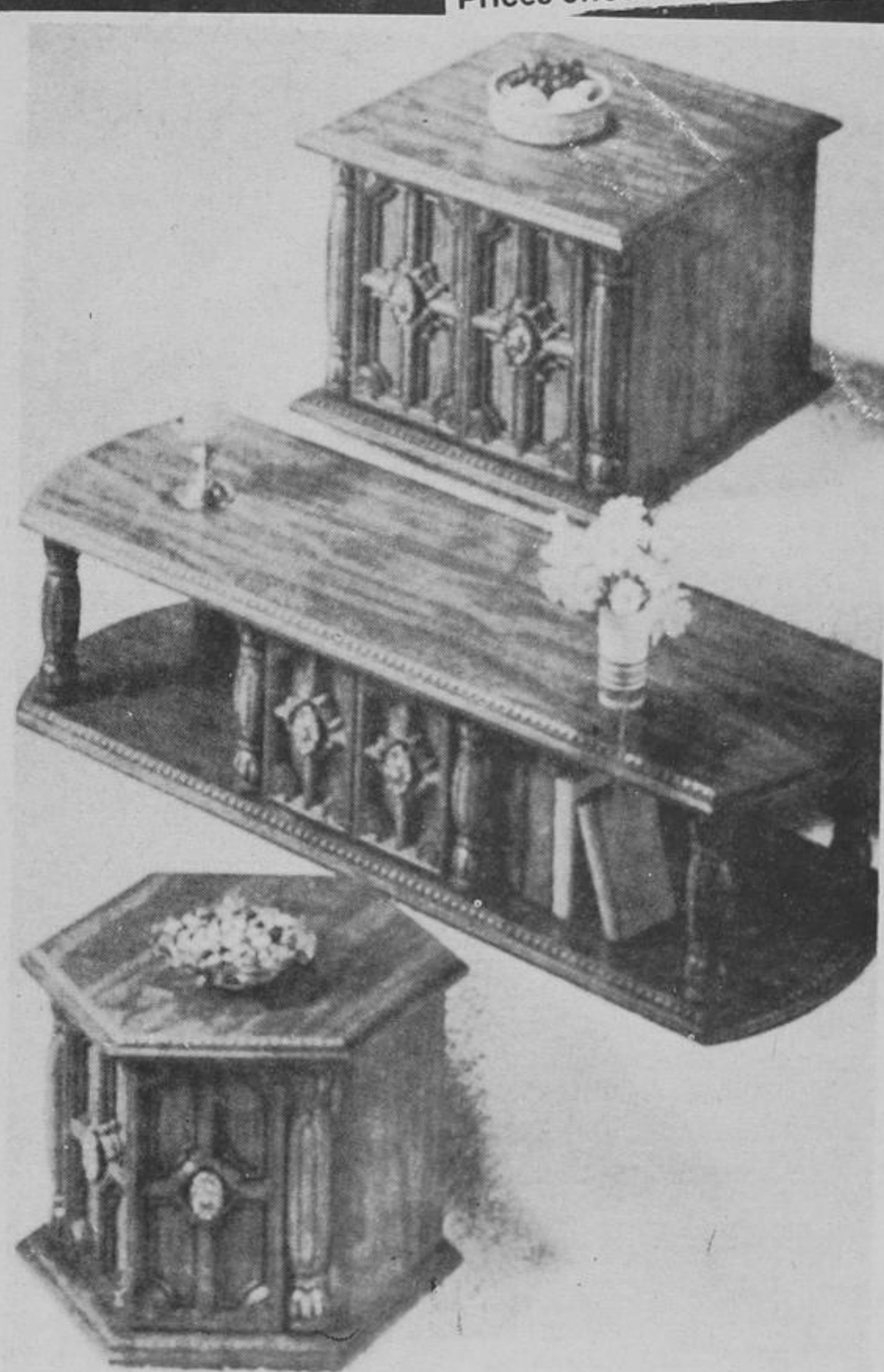
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