

Streetcars at the door

Dave Stirling's birthplace is now a newspaper office

By DIANE MARSHALL
Typewriters have taken over the living room, classified ads are in the dining room and the circulation department has moved into the upstairs bedrooms.

Who'd have thought the old homestead would ever become a newspaper office?

David Stirling, who was born in 1908 in the big white house where the Liberal office is now located and lived in Richmond Hill until 1941, did not seem too surprised to find us here.

Everything changes, it is a sign of the times.

"Richmond Hill is so much different from when I lived here but it is still nostalgic to come back," he said.

What was the town like in those days, Mr. Stirling?

"When my parents built this house in 1906, we were out in the country. There were farms to the north of us and the centre of town was marked by the Richmond Hotel which was on the southwest corner where Arnold St. is now.

"There were a couple of service stations across the street from us and the rest was countryside.

"Our neighbours to the south were the Moyles who built a two-storey red brick house where the liquor store is now. Crosby Ave. did not exist.

"My father had one of the first cars in town. He and Mom used to take all day excursions to Toronto which was a mighty long haul in those days. There were streetcars running through Richmond Hill from Toronto and as far north as Newmarket."

Some of the old Richmond Hill landmarks still are in use today although in different surroundings.

Mr. Stirling attended McConaghy Public School and Richmond Hill High School which consisted only of the central portion then.

"I used to snowshoe into school in the winter and in the summer I remember heading down to the CNR tracks where we picked the most delicious wild strawberries. I doubt very much that they would exist now.

Sometimes we would hop a train and head to Schomberg for the day." When Mr. Stirling left Richmond Hill in 1941, the population was only 1,540. Things have really expanded since then. He is now retired and living in Windsor.

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Garden contest organized by group

BY NAZNEEN SADIG 881-4408

Bayview Fairways Ratepayers Association has organized a garden contest for the residents of the subdivision. The judging will take place on Sunday, September 11. The contest will be judged on the most attractive and best kept front yard.

Mr. Bunston will be the judge from Weall and Cullen Nurseries and three prizes will be awarded to the winners.

In an effort to assist residents to know their neighbours better a bridge group is being formed for this winter.

Beginners and advanced groups will be formed, and the idea is to play at least one game per month.

Players will open their home to another couple at least once.

Fall projects include a movie show suitable for children during the winter months and a fund raising Monte Carlo night for the adults.

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