

# Not much has changed as Unionville House brings on its own nostalgia

by NORMAN H. MATTHEWS

In the early 1800s, Andrew Eckardt helped to clear the land where the "thriving Village of Unionville" stands, and John Webber was the proprietor of the Queen's Hotel, being one of the "most commodious and attractive hotels north of Toronto".

The village was, at that time, "the place of meeting of the township council" and the population numbered "about 300." William Spence "commenced business for himself as a merchant tailor"..... "the business in the near future promising to be a prosperous one".

These facts from yesteryear are from Volume II of a book entitled the History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario, published in 1885 by C. Blackett Robinson.

In some ways, things haven't changed, with new enterprises springing up in some of the old mansions in the hope of being prosperous businesses. Such is the case of The Unionville House restaurant located on the east side of Main Street, north of No. 7 highway.

An old home with painted wooden floors, the restaurant caters to those with a hunger for good food and a bit of nostalgia. Tables and chairs are wooden; far from comfortable and at tables for two, lacking in

leg room. Colors of the three small adjoining rooms are off-white walls with teal blue trim, with table cloths and chinaware to match.

On a recent Saturday night they were filled to capacity with about 30 people at one sitting. Table lamps are mostly converted stone ware crocks, although the table behind us was given a candle lamp. Background music was pleasant and subtle.

**SALAD LACKING**  
The photo-copied dinner menu offers five main fares and once we had ordered, we helped ourselves to hors d'oeuvres and salad from a wooden stand in the larger dining room. Unfortunately, the contents of the salad bowl

## dining out with norm

were almost gone at that moment and only lettuce was available, plus separate bowls of fresh mushrooms, crackers, melba toast, several spreads and dressings. Another patron asked the owner to replenish the salad bowl and we noticed that the new batch contained colorful pieces of other vegetables.

**AH, GLUTTONY**  
My companion in epicureanism (cultivating a refined taste for the pleasures of the table, often referred to as gluttony) chose the special casserole of the day at \$5.15 which comprised a thick pork chop topped with slices of apple, served on a bed of rice and complemented by broccoli and carrots. She found the meat dry and somewhat difficult to cut with the knife provided (using the

hot spices that made it more like a thin stew. The spices in both soups might be a little strong for the average person and they were served while we were still eating our salad. Due to the smallness of our table, this presented a minor problem.

One luxury that I enjoyed was a small loaf of bread served on a wooden board with a choice of plain or parsley butter and a knife to cut your own pieces.

House wines are available by the glass or en carafe, with our choice being the 17 ounce (1/2 litre) of white, dry wine at \$3.75 and it certainly added to the meal and the mood of the evening. Their licence at present only seems to cover beer and wine.

Desserts are advertised at 80 cents each and consist of white forest cake, lemon cake, or ice cream with fresh raspberry sauce or cherry brandy with bing cherries. Both of us selected the ice cream, with my companion enjoying the raspberry and I the cherry brandy. A variety of domestic and imported teas are available, as well as coffee at 40 cents; our choice being the lemon tea and orange pekoe tea. The charge for our meal was \$19.75 plus \$1.97 tax and \$2 gratuity for a total of \$23.72.

serrated bread knife instead). Certainly, it was an ample serving of food and she was unable to finish.

Stuffed trout was my craving and it was quite succulent with its filling of mixed sea foods and a side dish of egg sauce. I would have preferred it to be served complete and not headless ever since I've mastered the tendency to stare back at the eyes. It is served with rice, with broccoli and carrots adding color. The carrot slices were lacking in flavor and appeal and I would have thought that baby carrots prepared in butter would have been more suitable.

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Desserts are advertised

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Hillcrest Mall is three years old, and it's planning a 10-day birthday party beginning today.

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In Centre Court, the mall plans "The Most Beautiful Garden", complete with talking flowers.

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