

Letters

There are many benefits to restoring structures, Yonge St. economist says

In March of this year a decision was made to acquire a house at 10,039 Yonge Street for the relocation of our offices.

and it appears to have a stronger community identification with Centennial properties.

MUCH TALK

We had been in search of a historic building for some time prior to finding our present office space with much concentration in the Thornhill area since that is where we live

There seems to have been much talk about the preservation of historic properties in Richmond Hill especially the Presbyterian Manse immediately across the

road, since we have arrived in Richmond Hill. I would say, based on my experience with your newspaper and with the town officials, that Richmond Hill has selfish interests only in the preservation of historic buildings. It appears that only when a structure is

threatened with demolition that the municipal officials and the towns people gather to complain of the loss of its heritage.

We are immensely proud of our improvements assisted by Napier Simpson, Jr. as architect and Campbell Snider as general contractor.

The "before" and "after" photographs, which we so carefully kept a record, are self evident and I believe from the heads that turn from passing traffic, that many people feel that the streetscape of Yonge Street in Richmond Hill has been improved.

THORNHILL INTEREST

We feel that we have had much greater interest from Thornhill residents than those in Richmond Hill in our recycling of this 1860 vintage residence.

We have carried out, in our opinion, what we think is the preservation of one of the older residences of Richmond Hill and it has added to the beauty and flavour of Yonge Street.

When we first saw 10,039 Yonge Street this past winter, we noted that the other interested purchasers were largely interested in the building's demolition and the creation of a modern commercial building.

There is nothing wrong with modern buildings, of course, but the retention of the existing facility with modifications for current use can make for an extremely pleasant, comfortable and viable office operation.

I believe if we had decided to demolish the building and build a new building to the maximum limits of the Zoning Bylaw, that we would have certainly stirred up some controversy.

Private preservation projects carried out without public assistance whatsoever seem to be taken for granted.

MORE AWARE
We think it's time to become more aware of our heritage and in order to achieve this, it must be placed in front of our community in as many ways as possible so that they may come to appreciate the remaining few properties which add to the community's beauty and give us a sense of history and permanence.

It is very important to convince parties interested in retaining historic buildings that a successful project is based on the group's concern for the community as a whole and that private interests and particular individual conflicts must be set aside.

In our case the preservation project was carried out by a business interested in relocating in an historic building, however modest.

The remodeling or recycling of old houses within commercial areas can be carried out without destroying their character and they can become very useful additions to the building stock in a community.

The unaware, the passive, the unconvinced and the opposed members of the community must be made aware of our history and the need for conservation of such buildings where practical.

What better place to carry out such a project, but through a community newspaper such as yourselves.

ECONOMICS
The credit side of historic conservation is very real. Consider just one very practical economic fact favouring the retention of heritage buildings.

Heritage preservation significantly influences the attraction of tourist dollars and the spin-off benefits to a community can be effectively shown. The economic as well as the aesthetic and cultural justification for historic preservation is growing stronger with the demolition of interesting old buildings.

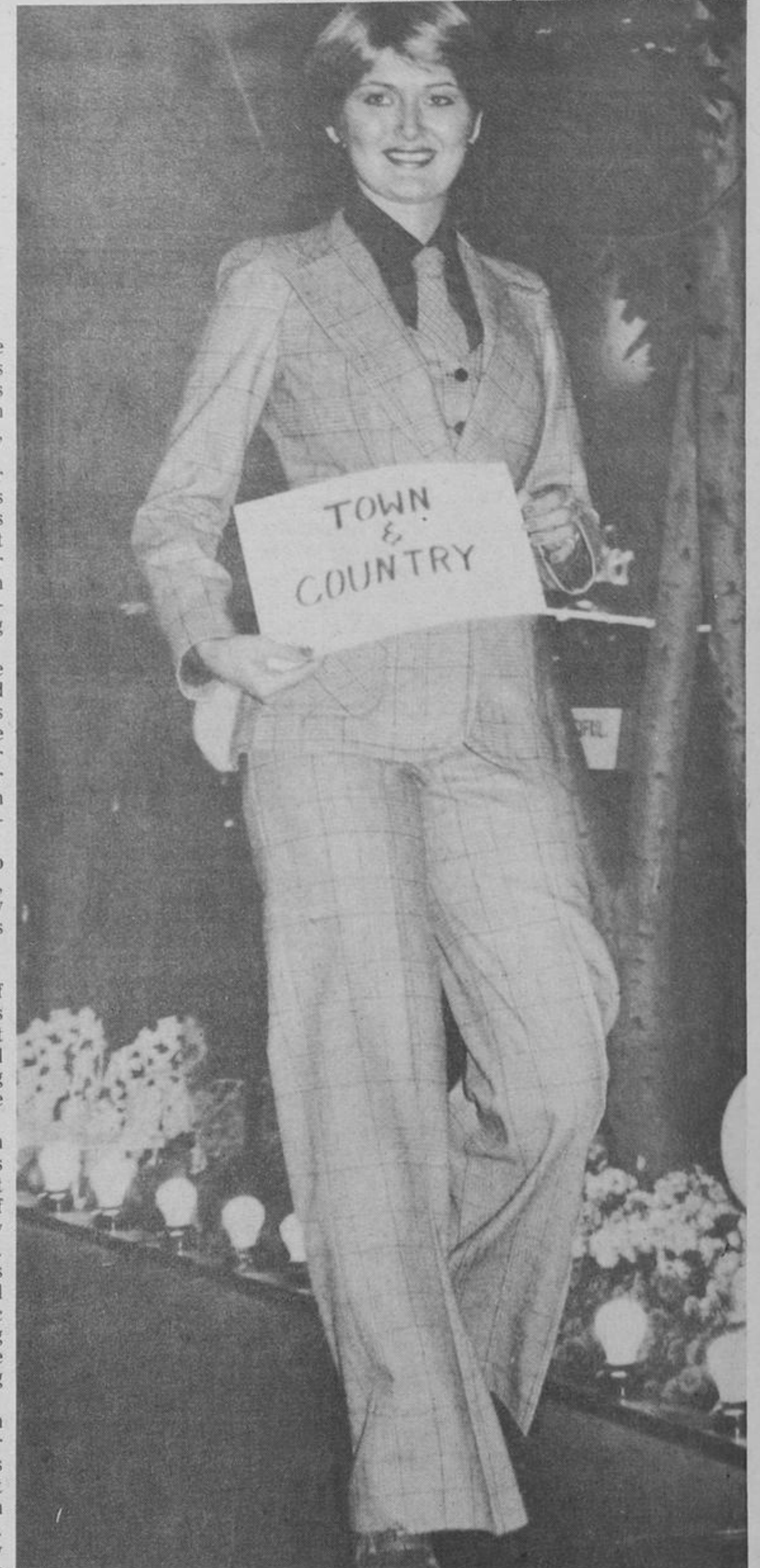
I have been in touch with the newspaper editors and various reporters over the past three to four months with very little, but promise.

We have shared our joy with the residents of Richmond Hill and would like very much more to make them aware what can be done and how it fits in with the community.

SEEK DETAILS
One thing that enhances an old building to both the owners and community is to know more about its past, its owners, its residents and its place in the community in time long past.

We look forward to obtaining more details on its owners, its builder and its use down through the ages and if anyone can enlighten us and the community, we would be very pleased to be in touch.

Lawrence A. Kelly
10039 Yonge Street,
Richmond Hill.



National Beauty
Yvonne Foster, this year's Miss Canada, was special guest at a fashion show held at Hillcrest Mall last week. Mall was presenting its fall fashions, and three day event was well attended.

Information officer misses stories with 2-edition paper

The letter from Mr. B. Napier Simpson, Jr. in last week's paper concerning the two editions

which you publish of your paper struck a responsive chord. I, too, have been at

times dismayed to find material in the Richmond Hill edition of the paper which did not appear in

the Thornhill edition.

As Information Officer with The York County Board of Education I keep an extensive file of newspaper clippings to which trustees and others refer from time to time.

It is disconcerting to find that I do not have a clipping from your paper because it appeared in an edition which I do not receive.

As a resident of the Town of Vaughan I also feel that information about the town and about Thornhill would be of interest to residents of Richmond Hill.

This is particularly true of material about the new Thornhill-Vaughan plan.

Most residents of Richmond Hill will have to travel through parts of Vaughan to get to work each day and proposed road patterns in the area are certainly of interest to them.

I feel, too, that the separate editions of the paper encourage people to have a parochial outlook instead of being concerned about matters outside their own particular area.

Margaret McLean
Information Officer
York County
Board of Education

Find us some industry, president tells mayor

David Schiller, Mayor, Town of Richmond Hill.

Dear Sir,

I am sure I am one of many frustrated businessmen trying to do business and grow in our illustrious Town of Richmond Hill.

We have been trying for approximately one and a half years to expand our present facilities to accommodate the volume of business we are capable of doing.

We have been frustrated at every turn by your planning department coming up with all their landscape problems and silly requirements.

It's now come to a point we have made an offer to property outside your jurisdiction in order to expand.

There will be 26 fewer people drawing payroll in the Town of Richmond Hill and that much less money that you and your fellow councillors will have to spend.

In the approximate three years you have been Mayor, in my opinion, you have done nothing — stop growth, stop development and made no important decision whatsoever.

This is great — you can't make mistakes if you don't do anything and apparently that is your objective.

It's very fortunate for you and people in politics like you that there's an aggressive business man to build industry and help support you and your family.

My suggestion to you is to leave your desk and go out and find some industry and help build our

country into something better. Our counterparts in the United States are aggressive and realize the need of industrial development for the country to grow.

American communities offer many incentives for businesses to locate in their areas.

The only hope Richmond Hill has is that you and your councillors are defeated in the next election.

I don't think it's possible because you spend all your energy and time conning people who don't care, into voting for you.

Wishing you well and hoping for a better future.

F. W. Palmer,
President,
York Metal Spinning,
35 Industrial Road,
Richmond Hill
C.C. The Liberal

Permit extended for model boaters

Thank you for your write-up in The Liberal, September 28, re: Power Model Boats on the Mill Pond.

We have applied for and received an extension to our permit to use the Mill Pond on the weekends.

Weather permitting we hope to get a few more days in before the inclement weather forces us to our basements to build for next year.

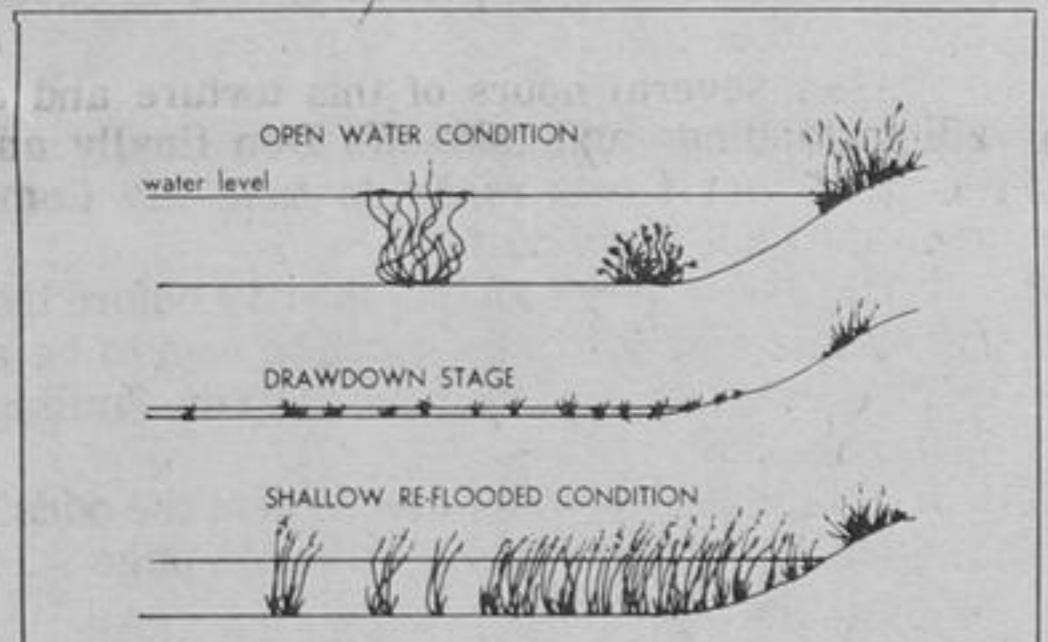
The last paragraph in the article should have read "each radio controlled boat is worth up to \$500."

Maybe if one's time to build could be expressed in dollars, then maybe a boat could exceed \$500. It's the fun of using

one's hands and patience that we get pleasure out of building these boats from scratch.

Thank you once again for the write-up.

Doug Hinchcliffe,
Richmond Hill - Aurora
Model Boat Club,
425 Centre St. E.,
Richmond Hill.



Marsh World

Ducks Unlimited (Canada)

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