

Women's Institutes hold annual meeting

President Anne Jackson played hostess to the May meeting of the Thornhill Women's Institute with two visitors attending. Roll call was answered with the presentation of an item for the 'bring and buy' sale, which took place following the business part of the meeting. Members are asked to contribute a craft item for the display table instituted some years ago by Mrs. Jackson as a point of interest at annual meetings.

The sale of art objects will go to the propagation of the Erlund Lee Home at Stoney Creek.

The home was purchased by the Women's Institutes as a memorial of the first Women's Institute formed in 1897. Secretary Alva Thompson extended an open invitation to all members to attend a joint celebration of her own 50th Wedding Anniversary and her daughters, Shirley Morehouse's, 25th Anniversary at her Port Perry home on June 17.

Ten members of the Women's Institute of Thornhill attended the 79th Annual Meeting of York East District Women's Institutes at Wexford last Thursday. They were: Anne Jackson, Alva Thompson, Mattie Wismer, Ruby Glassey, Vi Drew, Stella Wilking, Lillian Jamieson, Mabel Weavers, and Sylvia Hamblin.

Mrs. Stella Wilkins Thornhill, was a District Director for York East and Mrs. W. Drew, Thornhill, is Chairman of Citizenship and World Affairs.

The Associated Country Women of the World, of which Women's Institutes are part, boasts 8 million members worldwide. They will celebrate their 50th Anniversary in 1980. Women's Institute Week is the week of June 4-9. The Women's Institute Y.E. Rally will be held at Scarborough Civic Centre

on September 18. The York East District Annual Meeting will take place at Victoria Square, next year. The Annual Convention for Women's Institutes takes place at the Royal York Hotel November 9-10.

Thornhill Women's Institute meetings beginning in September will be held at Gallanough Library, Brooke Street, Thornhill.

New radar units for York Police

York Regional Police will pay \$8,600 for six new hand held radar units.

The purchase was approved by the police commission last week. In a report to the commission, Police Chief Bruce Crawford explained that six of the force's 14 radar units must be replaced because of age.

Chief Crawford explained that the new hand-held units can be aimed at an oncoming car to clock the speed. Also included in the purchase are portable power packs which allow the units to be used outside police cruisers, the chief said. The units will be purchased from Tribar Industries.

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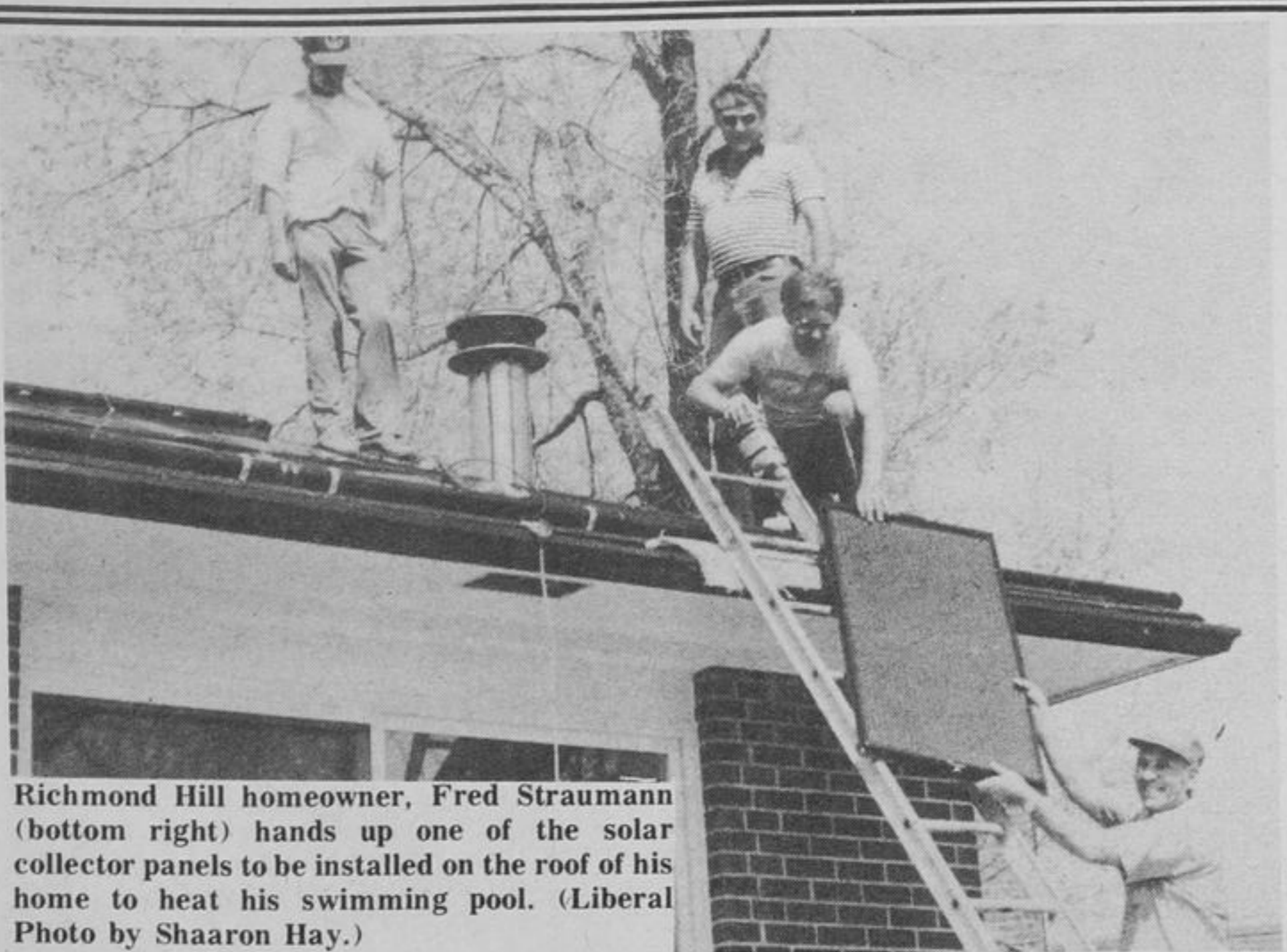
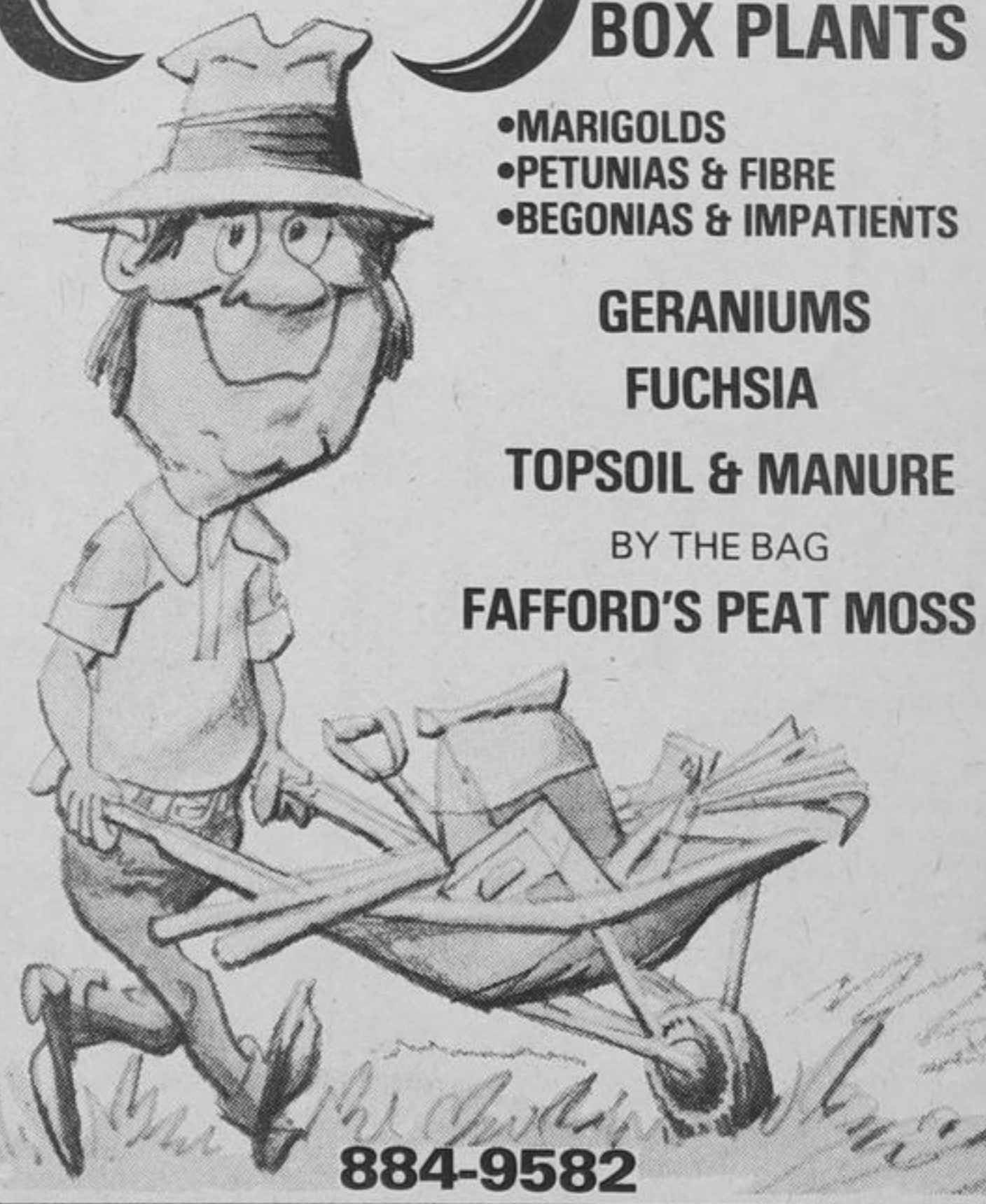
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Richmond Hill homeowner, Fred Straumann (bottom right) hands up one of the solar collector panels to be installed on the roof of his home to heat his swimming pool. (Liberal Photo by Shaaron Hay.)

Solar panels raise pool's temperature

By SHAARON HAY
Liberal Staff Writer

Fred Straumann believes the time of fuel rationing is coming, and he is determined to be prepared.

Last week the Richmond Hill resident became the first homeowner in Richmond Hill to install solar heating panels, similar to those installed by the town at Richvale Community Centre.

Solar energy is not unknown to Mr. Straumann.

When he built a pool in his backyard in 1975 he did not install a heater, saying even at that time he felt fuel would eventually be rationed in this country.

Mr. Straumann said he began studying books from local libraries about energy conservation, and solar heating in particular, with the idea of someday building his own unit.

Then, after studying commercially available systems Mr. Straumann said he found them to be superior in efficiency to a "do-it-yourself-unit".

The solar collector, as installed by the Community Centre and now Mr. Straumann, was designed by a Canadian for the Canadian climate and is manufactured by a Canadian company, "Aqualol", located in Smiths Falls, Ontario.

Maurice Gardner, one of the owners of "Solar Swim", an Orangeville company distributing these units, said this system operates under the same principle as other solar collectors — the pool water is forced through collectors to capture the heat from the sun, be warmed and return to the pool.

"There is nothing new under the sun," said Mr. Gardner.

What is unique about the Aqualol collectors, is the "glazed" high temperature plastic panels. This glazing, or transparent cover to the collector, traps the heat to transfer to the water pumped into the many narrow ducts.

"It produces a 'greenhouse' effect, said Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Straumann said, as a homeowner, he was most impressed with the compact size of the unit — each panel is two feet by four feet.

For the Straumann pool 16 panels will be screwed to the roof and covered with a special sealant to make sure there will be no leaks.

These small panels make the system adaptable to awkward roof lines present on some older homes, said Mr. Straumann.

Most solar heaters for swimming pools calculate the size of unit necessary equal to one-half the pool area.

Because of the efficiency of these Aqualol collectors, Mr. Straumann said they only require an area equal to one-third the pool area.

Another factor which pleased the Richmond Hill resident is the weight of the units.

At any given time, there will be only 150 pounds of water on the roof, he said.

"Do-it-yourself coils can end up with a ton of water on the roof," he added.

The initial layout for the unit is a little higher (\$1,600 for a fully automatic unit, installed), said Mr. Straumann, but it would pay for itself in four to five years — "then it's home free," he added.

As far as efficiency is concerned, Mr. Straumann said before the heater was installed the pool temperature was 58 degrees.

Two days later it was up to 70 degrees.

Mr. Straumann is hopeful the investment will stretch the season out for his family — almost another two months.

The Richvale Community Centre has 280 panels which will be put into action sometime within the next two weeks, said Isolda Clark from the Parks and Recreation Department of the town.

Mrs. Clark said they are hoping for a June 1 opening.

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