



Larry Kelly stands in front of the house he bought and renovated. It is an historical building and once was called the Stanford Nursing Home. Mr. Kelly had assistance

from the late Napier Simpson in making sure everything was authentic in the newly renovated house.

Love of historical buildings found office for this man

A love of historical buildings and the desire to own a century-old house brought Lawrence and Valerie Kelly to Richmond Hill.

The office of Lawrence Kelly and Associates on the east side of Yonge Street just a few doors north of Major Mackenzie Drive is a centennial house.

It was built around 1860 and is a clapboard structure with just a touch of gingerbread.

When the Kellys bought the house in 1977 it was in deplorable condition and much consideration and consultation went into the offer to purchase.

Some area residents will remember the dingy yellow house with the brown-red trim that sat so close to the highway. It was once owned by the Harry Stanford family, who operated a nursing home there from 1928 until the early 1950s.

Many Richmond Hill babies were born in the Stanford Nursing Home. The Kellys bought the house on the advice of the late Napier Simpson, who was a friend of the family and who also agreed to help them restore it to a house of the 1860s.

Most of the expense for the renovations was in the exterior. The house was

completely repainted and a new porch had to be constructed to bring it as close to what it would have looked like way back then.

Inside the house some modern amenities were added, which are strictly 1979. Air conditioning, insulation and a 200 amp hydro service are some of the modern conveniences.

As much as possible, Napier Simpson recommended the use of white paint on the walls to brighten up the rooms. Three windows in the house were replaced to more closely resemble those of a century or more ago.

Wallpaper was covered with fresh paint.

The furnishings in the office today are mostly antiques bought at local auctions and antique stores.

The contractor was Campbell Snider of King Township, who followed Mr. Simpson's directions to the letter.

Recently the house was declared a historical building and the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) has decided to put a plaque on the house calling it the Stanford Nursing Home and stating when it was built.

Aurora Bridge Club results

Following is a list of results from recent Aurora Bridge Club play: In a November 19 Side Game there was a tie for first place: P. and J. Wolfendale tied with A. and M. Durnford.

Wednesday, November 21: North-South — Lil Thompson and Marie Ryan; Jean Goodwin and Sherry Vogan; Flo Rintoul and Janet Collie. East-West — Billye and Jack Maver; Rose Morrell and Grace Saunders; Ruth Browning and Bev Jones.

Monday, November 26: Ruth and Gerry

Browning; Victor Cronshaw and Bev Jones; Rose Morrell and Grace Saunders.

East-West: John Hunter and George Payment; Natalie Platner and Tom Halley; Marg Melnichuk and Heather Burling.

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Lady's not for praising either

By TOM DAVEY
In spite of some remarkable performances, the Curtain Club's latest production "The Lady's Not For Burning" fails to realize the play's potential.

Admittedly, Christopher Fry's play is difficult to stage but the Curtain Club has often succeeded brilliantly with difficult works.

Perhaps with this play, Director Cicely Thomson's artistic reach exceeded her directorial grasp.

Two newcomers bring an abundance of theatrical talent to the boards; Alex Kanarek, playing a discharged soldier with a penchant for suicide and Tina Newman, a woman falsely accused of witchcraft and sentenced to be burned at the stake.

He is arrogant, articulate and cynical and almost perfect for the role, apart from a few

minor lapses in the dialogue. She gives a truly faultless performance.

She is at once shy and intelligent yet capable of some deft verbal strokes when put to the test.

Almost effortlessly, she captures our attention whenever she is onstage with her quite palpable theatrical presence.

It would be difficult to fault two Curtain Club veterans — Keith Melville and Clive Ryland — for their tremendously funny interpretations of the legalities of witch burning.

Keith is a justice with a droll sense of humor and a vocabulary of Shakespearean proportions while Clive is a dithering mayor bent on burning the alleged witch to still his own passions.

In their frequent exchanges, the acting reaches a very high standard indeed. But

alas, this production is marred by some lacklustre scenes.

Dialogue with rich potential is sometimes uttered in flat monotonous and stage movement is sometimes stiff and awkward.

Accentuating these faults is the very professionalism of the four actors mentioned.

While Alex Kanarek climbs through a window or throws away a line he does it with style and elegance which contrasts with the flatness of some of the minor roles.

Perhaps this is the essence of the faults in this production.

Some of it is very good indeed and, regrettably, some scenes are mediocre.

Then too, there seems to be too many slips of the tongue which detracts from a play which relies so much on its dialogue. Verdict: the play is well worth seeing but the club is capable of much better work.

The play was produced by Beryl Radke and Joan Ryland.

Buster Vermeulen designed the excellent sets and Suzanne Stoner, the authentic looking costumes.

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