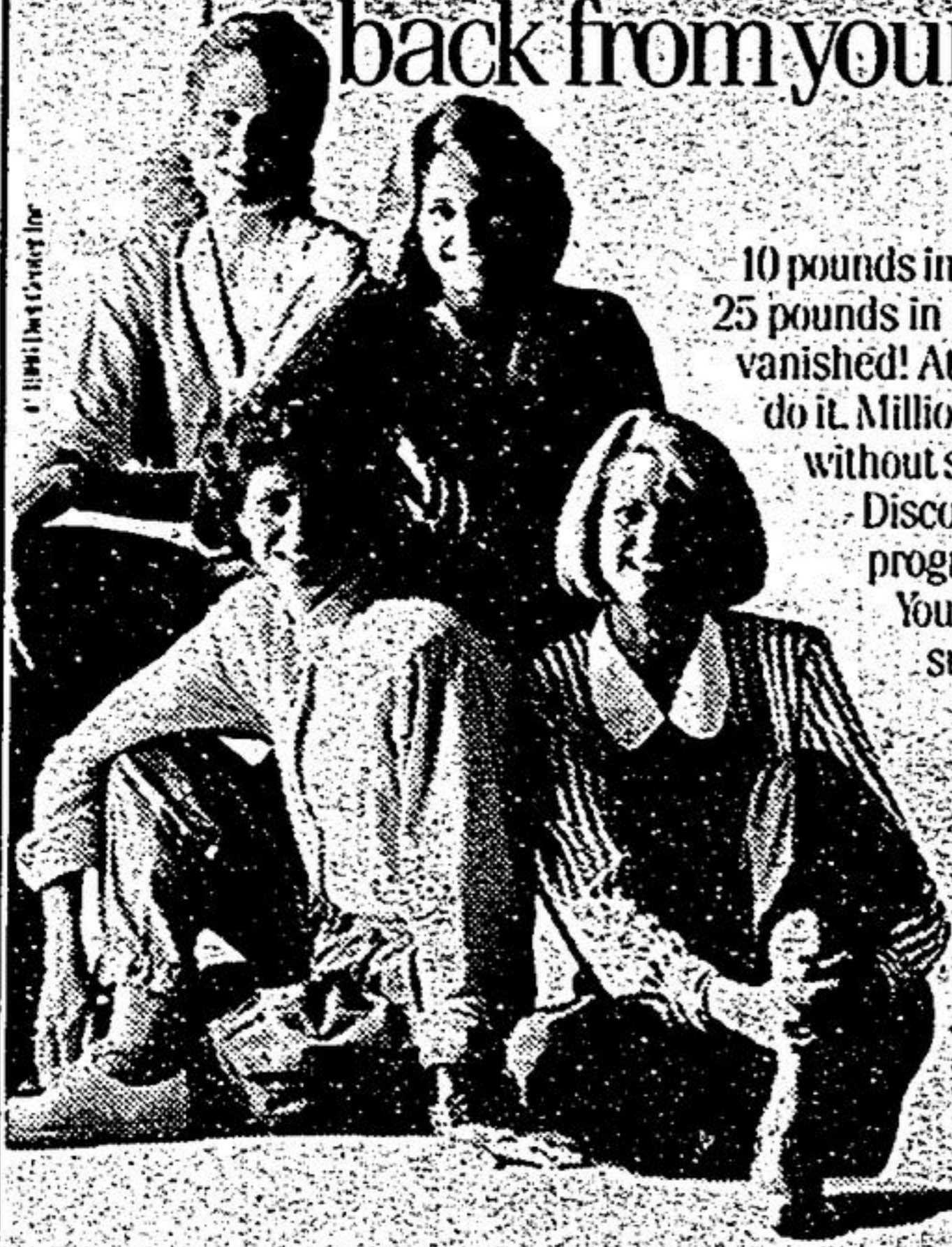


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# Times have changed in four generations, but family still close

By NANCY HOSKIN  
Great grandmother, Pearl Barkey, 73, sat comfortably looking over her brood.

Grandmother, Joyce Miller, 52, looked on with adoring eyes, while her two daughters explained to their girls why the photographer wanted to take the family's picture and why some members were left out.

Mrs. Barkey has lived in Stouffville since she was married. Moving from the "big city" was quite a change, she commented. She has four children, all living close by, as well as, 14 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mrs. Barkey recalled the years she raised her children during the depression while her husband served in the Navy. Life in Stouffville was quiet, but comfortable.

"Life was simple. I never had any problems with the children, even when their father was away. I believed in discipline and was always there for them," Mrs. Barkey said.

She was asked: "How does it feel to be a great grandmother?"

"Just terrific, I love them all. As time goes on and the older you get you lose track of your friends. My children, all of them, make up for that and keep me young," she replied.

Mr. Barkey attended Stouffville High School, as did his children and his grandchildren. And odds are fairly high that a fourth generation will enter the doors of the same high school as Mrs. Miller's daughter, Barb, 32, lives in Stouffville with her husband and daughters, Wendy, 11, and Heather, 8.

Mrs. Miller's other daughter, Bev, 29, remains close to the family homestead, living in Dickson's Hill. She and her husband have two children. Pam, 3, will carry on the lineage of daughters with her cousins.

The Miller family owns Ashlake Farm, a sprawling 150 acre plot of land on McCowan Rd. across from the Markham Fairgrounds. Held in the family for over 100 years, they tend dairy cattle.

## Cover photo

Our front page photo features four generations of Pearl Barkey's family — all living in the Stouffville area. Shown in the back row are Bev Reesor (left), her sister Barb Lee (right) and their mother Joyce Miller. In front are Pam Reesor, 3, Wendy Lee, 11 and their great grandmother Pearl Barkey, 73. Seated in front is Heather Lee, 8.

— Sjoerd Witteveen

As a young mother Mrs. Miller spent her days being a homemaker and helped her husband with the activities that surrounded the family business. Meals were prepared for the farm hands, calves needed to be feed and occasionally she drove a tractor.

"There are many advantages to living on a farm," Mrs. Miller said. "One being that you are totally in control of the situation. You always know where your children are."

"Families would bring their kids over to play and there were plenty of cousins to keep our children busy on weekends," she added. "Living in the country was a healthy environment."

"Having a friend over was a big treat. It didn't matter whose friend it was, they became everybody's pal," added Barb.

Barb and Bev were asked what worries young mothers might have today?

"If they live close enough, kids walk to school, like mine, and sometimes you wonder if they ever got there, even in Stouffville," Barb said. "Because kids are involved in so many activities you don't always know who they're hanging around, or who their parents are, which is a worry at times. Growing up in the country, mom knew everyone we were friends with and their families."

Neither daughter works outside the home.

"It wasn't paying to go back to work," said Bev, who is a registered nurse. "Our tax bracket would be higher and by the time you paid for child care it wasn't worth it."

"I always wanted to stay home."

I enjoy cooking and sewing and never could find the time when I worked to get everything done. And when they need me the girls know where to find me," said Barb.

And what is the fourth generation like where fads and peer pressure strike at early ages?

"Children today are so far advanced," commented Mrs. Barkey. "They learn more by the activities they're exposed to. We never had television and nursery school when mine were growing up. But, I also think today's children are lacking in discipline. Parents don't have the time to spend with their children because their schedules are too busy."

"Children need to be entertained more. We used to make our own fun, now you have to constantly keep them occupied with activities," said Barb.

At the end of our interview, when eyes were elsewhere, Barb handed me a piece of paper with the following poem she had written for her Mom:

### Mothers

Everyone has one.  
They come in different shapes and sizes.  
No two are alike.  
They are the center of our life, and as we grow, they are always there to pick us up when we fall, when we are happy, when we are sad.  
They are with us to share the good and the bad.  
In our lives  
In our hearts  
In our memories  
There will always be Mothers.  
Barb

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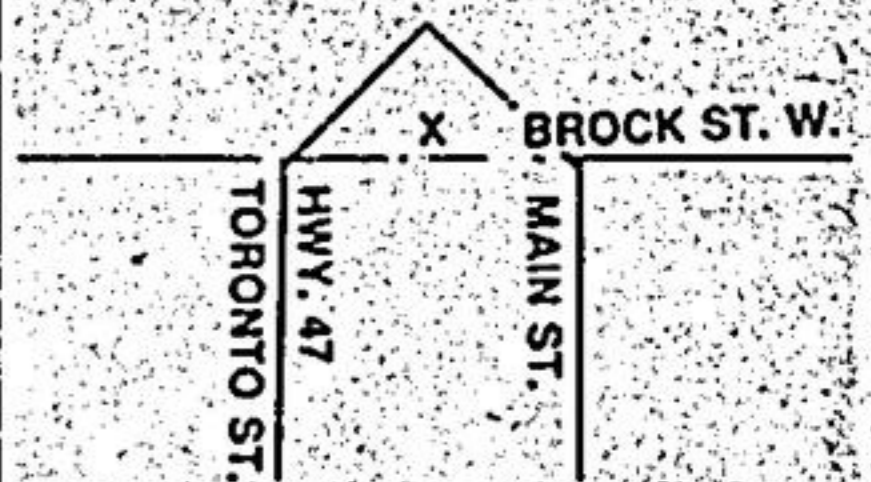
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