

Charming hosts and hospitality at Graystones

By DENISE McDONALD
Gracious hospitality and the warmest down home country charm will greet all those fortunate to cross the threshold of "Graystones" bed and breakfast house in Uxbridge.

"B and B is not something that as soon as you finish delivering a plate of food, the laughter stops. You just don't turn on and turn off the charm," said Dale Taylor, who together with wife June, own and operate Graystones, one of four bed and breakfast houses in the Uxbridge area.

According to the Taylors, they were attracted to the idea of operating a B and B in 1975 when Dale worked at the Mayfair Hotel in London, England.

"It's the only way to get back into the hinterland and meet the people," he said.

However, it wasn't until after they purchased their elegant country manor, built in 1936 and greatly reminiscent of houses gracing the Isles of Scotland, their dream became reality.

"Both Dale and I have different reasons for having a B and B," said June. "All through his growing up years he was taught your table is always open. As for myself, when I was a little girl, I would pass houses like this and often wished people living in them would come to their front doors, see me and say: Would you like to come in? This is my way of doing that."

Yet when the Taylors purchased their dream home in the fall of 1985, it was scarcely the house it is today.

Totally deserted and left to the abuses of nature, its windows were all open with animals running throughout. Inside, the doors lacked handles and wires replaced light fixtures.

Today, it stands as a monument to the dedication and hard

work provided by friends and family.

"It takes a certain type of people who actively seek out the B and B," said Dale. "They have to be adventurers, be inquisitive and very comfortable with people."

Most of the Taylor's company come to the Uxbridge area for weddings, family reunions, seminars or the international horse event held at I.E.S.S. near Newmarket.

"People who frequent the B and B want to get off the beaten track and back into the hinterland," Dale said. "They also want to know where to go when in a strange place."

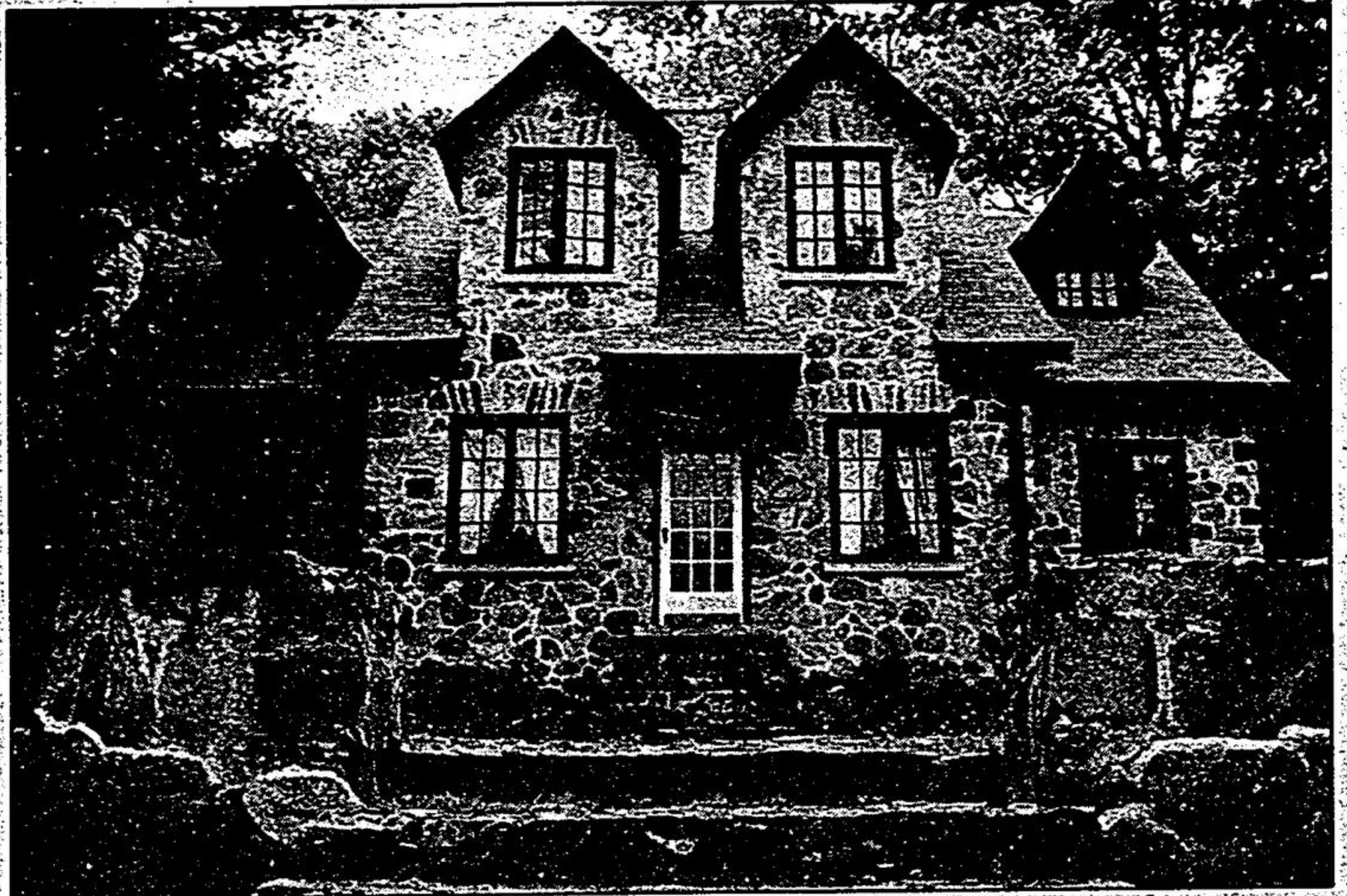
With accomodation for up to four couples, guests are served a continental breakfast or "anything you don't cook" through the week and full country fare of pancakes, home fries, fresh fruit, eggs, peameal bacon and hot porridge on weekends.

"All our guests get a nice warm welcome and are met with a glass of wine or some sort of beverage," said Dale. "And we don't have a hard and fast check out time. We just work around it, otherwise we're in the wrong business."

The Taylors were also largely responsible for establishing a Bed and Breakfast Association, made up of Graystones, Bartons, Woodnewton and Willowwind B and B's.

"Most people who come to a B and B are intrigued because they never know what they're going to find," Dale added.

"That's why we formed the association because as soon as they cross the threshold they should be guaranteed clean water, etc. There has to be some sort of requisite that must be met."



This gracious stone manor (above) nestled in the hills of Brookdale Valley, Uxbridge is the home of Graystones Bed and Breakfast House, owned and operated by Dale and June Taylor (below). -Denise McDonald



"We're not matyrs," he continued. "We don't want people to think we live in a stone house and want to share our lives. All B and B does is afford us the opportunity to meet new people." Dale and June Taylor can be reached at 852-7222.

Have your say:

What should be the top priority for the expansion of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre?



FRANK WHEATLEY
I don't know if you've heard of an excellent facility. One thing that would be very nice if they could build a swimming pool. It's one thing that everybody can use.



DIANE WOODS
I think we should have a playground. We have a lot of children in the area. Another thing that would be nice is to have a tennis court. I think we're all lucky here.



BOB WOODS
I think we should have a tennis court. We have a lot of people in the area who would like to play tennis. I think we're all lucky here.



CHRIS WOODS
I think we should have a swimming pool. It's one thing that everybody can use. I think we're all lucky here.