



John and Norma Larkin of Larkin Realty Ltd. are proud to call Goodwood 'home'. John and Norma have transformed a 'shed' at the rear of the former Goodwood House Tavern into a beautiful two storey office. The project, completed by Larkin Construction, was ready for occupancy last fall. An official opening is planned for this spring. —Jim Thomas

Larkin Realty Ltd.

Goodwood is 'home'

By JIM THOMAS
GOODWOOD — Something old, something new

Very practical; beautiful too. This, in brief, describes the office 'home' of Larkin Realty Ltd., Hwy. 47 and Front Street, Goodwood.

The change in appearance, both inside and out, is so attractive, former residents returning to the village, would never believe the building's origin. For it was once a 'barn' located at the rear of the once-famous (or infamous) Goodwood House, built by Michael Chapman in 1859.

The hotel is long gone but the barn remains, an indicator of what can be accomplished with a little ingenuity and a lot of imagination.

The husband and wife team of John and Norma Larkin are justly proud of their headquarters. The two-storey structure serves as an office for both Larkin Realty and Larkin Construction.

Realty sales reps are Betty Bangay and Rodney King. Receptionist Cathy Beckett adds to the brightness of the interior.

John Larkin is first a contractor. He's been in that business 19 years. Four years ago, he and Norma entered real estate. Norma's a licensed broker. John

also qualifies and will obtain his license this spring.

Both have a stake in the community. They reside on the former Peter King farm, conc. 2, Uxbridge. Daughter Maureen, 9, attends Goodwood Public School. "We're all in one place," John says proudly, "we're part of the community."

Norma describes Goodwood School as "fantastic".

With respect to real estate, build-up is knocking on the door; in fact, in some areas, it's already here, they say.

Uxbridge is the next to boom," they claim.

A computerized break-down of property sales proves this with

land prices extending from \$1,000 to \$30,000 per acre, depending on location.

"It changes from week to week," John says.

Many purchases are for investment purposes, he says. "There's a lot of foreign money around."

Also, some farmers have moved north out of Markham. This has inflated prices in Uxbridge and beyond, he explains.

John and Norma see the real estate business as a two-way street. They want to serve the best interests of both buyer and seller.

Despite the fact their office identity remains 'low key', business has been good, John says. A handsome new sign, completed by Len Wideman, R.R. 4, Stouffville, will be erected soon. This will let everyone know Larkin Realty Ltd., is here to stay.

An 'Open House' will further substantiate this fact.

Seeing will then be believing. But those who remember the Goodwood House 'shed' and the old Township 'garage' will look, then look again.

The metamorphosis is truly amazing. For the community, it's the modernization of an eyesore. For the owners, it's a dream come true.



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