

Home tour reveals fascinating history

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If you've got some free time

tomorrow between noon and 5 p.m., the United Church Women (UCW) of the Trinity Church in Uxbridge is offering a fascinating look at some beautiful houses in the area on the annual Tour of Homes. This year's tour starts off at Bristol Pond Estates, and takes

you on a scenic drive through Siloam, Sandford, Leaskdale and Blackwater, returning home to Uxbridge via Greenbank.

The first port of call, Mr. and Mrs. Harding's home at Bristol Ponds, is a faithful reproduction of an 1850s gingerbread or carpenter gothic house.

This grey board and batten home, with white gingerbread trim, is beautifully decorated in country style with a host of interesting features.

The tour continues north on the 3rd Concession of Uxbridge, to the Watsons' farmhouse, designed and built by the owners, which makes maximum use of natural light while maintaining an atmosphere of elegant and comfortable country charm.

Those familiar with the Gooseberry Patch at Sandford won't be surprised to find that owners Pat and Graham Beaton's attractive 1970 home features a large collection of their unique and beautiful crafts.

Of special interest is the kitchen, which has built-in wine rack and barbecue, while hanging from the overhead beams are dried herbs straight from the garden.

The next tour stop is at the Duncan and Brown home, east of Durham 23 on Durham 13, which will appeal to the many lovers of Canadiana. Built circa 1840 and retaining the atmosphere of that period, it boasts the original brick fireplace, authentic hardware and woodwork and painted floors.

For those who are fascinated by historic homes, but prefer the convenience of modern living, "The Pines" at Blackwater is a unique example of how the two elements can be combined. The dwelling was created from two separate log homes, dating from the mid 1800s.

Painstakingly reconstructed by local contractor Kevin Doble, the fireplaces and walls are built with old brick from the Catholic church in Port Perry. This delightful home features beautiful wooden stairways, and a light and airy hallway, which is open to the top floor.

The Epp home in Greenbank offers a complete contrast; the modern, custom-built house is situated on a beautiful lot, with a creek running close to the back of the property.

Among its many features are a large master bedroom with ensuite bathroom and pine panelling in the bright, lower level family room, which also overlooks the backyard.

The Wasylenky home at Heritage Hills Estates is the final stop on the tour. This open concept dwelling has a cathedral ceiling, stone fireplace, pine wainscoting and hardwood flooring in the large living room.

The kitchen is enhanced by skylights and the sunken family room offers a comfortable and informal relaxation area.

Wall stencilling, folk art, and porcelain dolls add unique touches to this attractive and unusual home. At the end of the tour, participants are invited to drop into the Friendship Hall of Trinity Church, located on First Ave. in Uxbridge, where refreshments will be provided.

This popular annual event has become a tradition in Uxbridge and helps to raise money for projects such as church restoration and decoration, as well as overseas missions.

Organizer Edna Meyers estimates 500 people joined the tour last year, and she's hoping they'll top that figure this time.

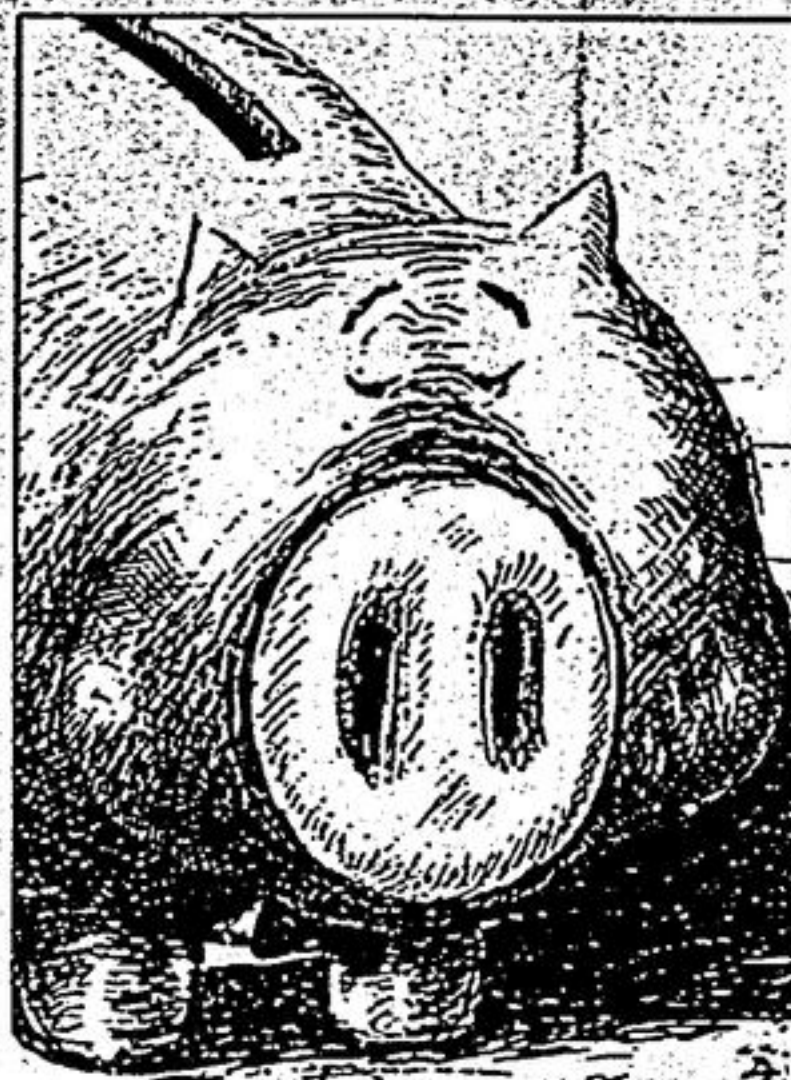
Tickets for the tour of homes are \$10 each and can be obtained at the church office, or from any of the drug stores in town. They can also be purchased on the day of the tour itself, at any of the homes featured or at the church.



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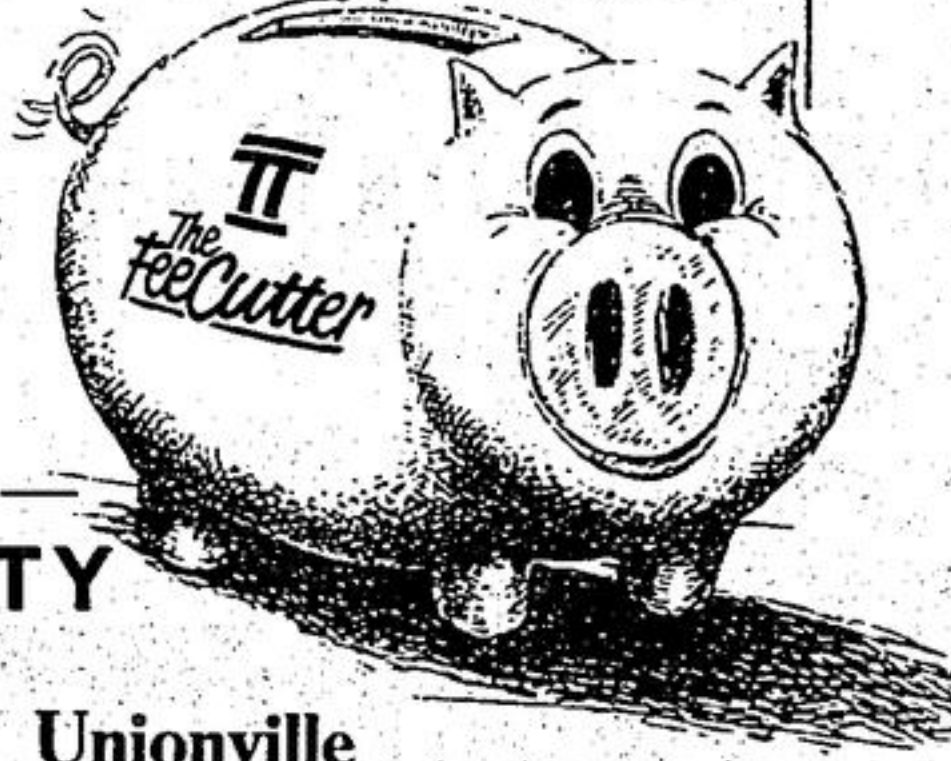
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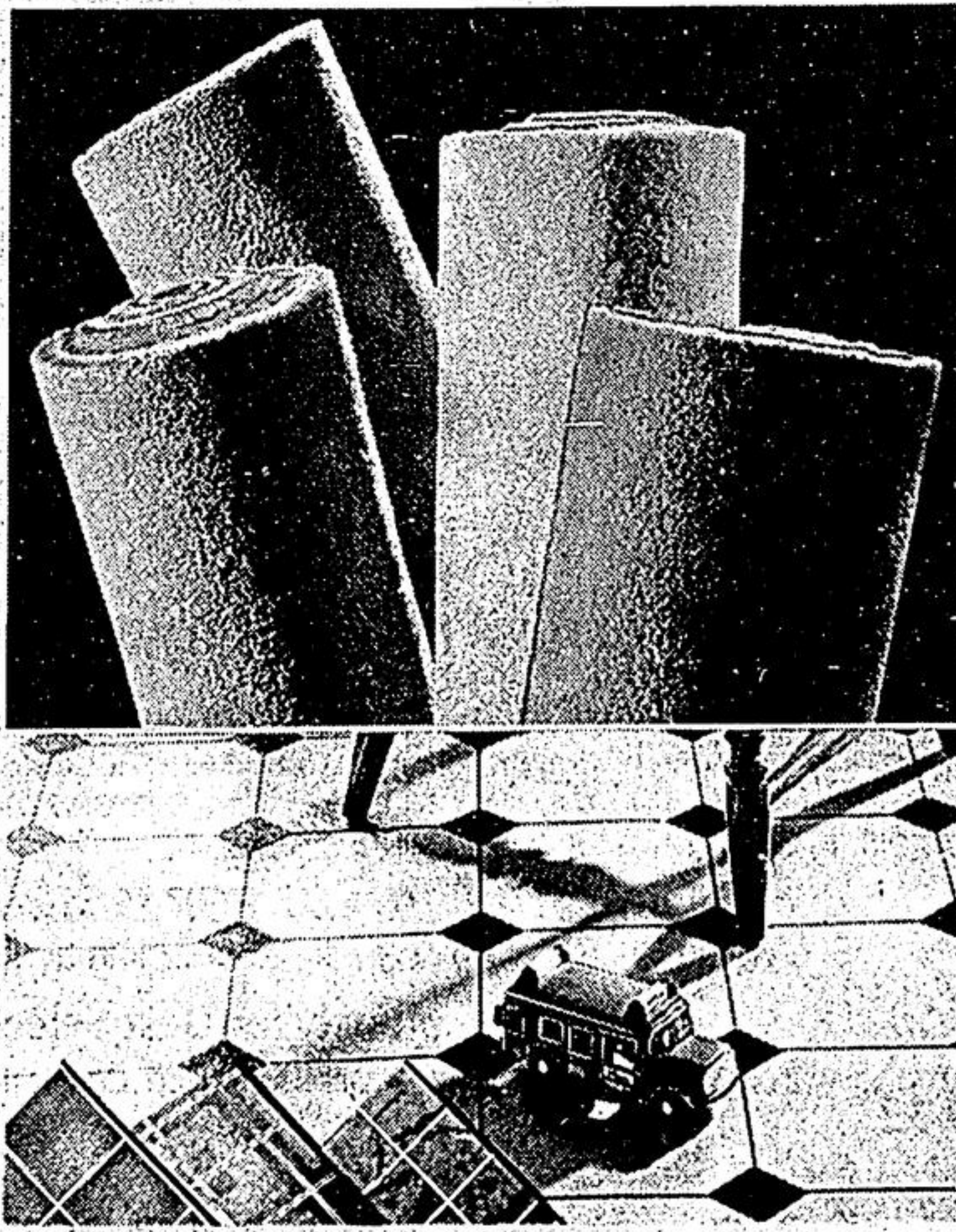
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