

Three couples celebrate century of married life

On Saturday, Aug. 23, Don and Vi Raymer, Bruce and Eleanor Raymer and Barry and Elizabeth Raymer celebrated a total of 100 years of marriage in Tavistock, Ont. Among the hundreds of people who helped them mark this momentous occasion were Ruby and Frank Burkholder of Stouffville, sister and brother-in-law of

COMMUNITY

Don and aunt and uncle of Bruce and Barry.

Aug. 23 was Don and Vi's 50th anniversary, while the two younger couples were both celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries.

"They must have had over 500 people go through the door on Saturday between 2 and 4," said Ruby, adding that so many well-wishers showed up, one guest joked that some of them must have been going out the door and coming back for a second round of greetings.

"I couldn't believe they knew so many people — it really was quite a day."

After the open house, the family hosted a sit-down turkey dinner for 167 in Tavistock Hall, which was followed by a program of entertainment by friends and family.

"They even did a skit of Red Green and somebody asked if they were the real actors that put on the television show. People were rolling in the aisles."

Don and Vi and their family lived and farmed in Markham until 1969, said Ruby.

"Bruce and Barry went to Markham High School and a lot of people in this area would know the family."

The couple has two other sons, Brian and Brad. In lieu of gifts, the Raymers asked that people make donations to the food bank and hundreds of dollars were raised during the afternoon.

"Sunday at noon, Don and Vi put on a buffet lunch for 40 people. They have a big dining room area in their apartment building in Tavistock."

It was an unforgettable weekend for the whole family, said a tired but happy Ruby soon after she and Frank returned to Stouffville.

—Kate Gilderdale

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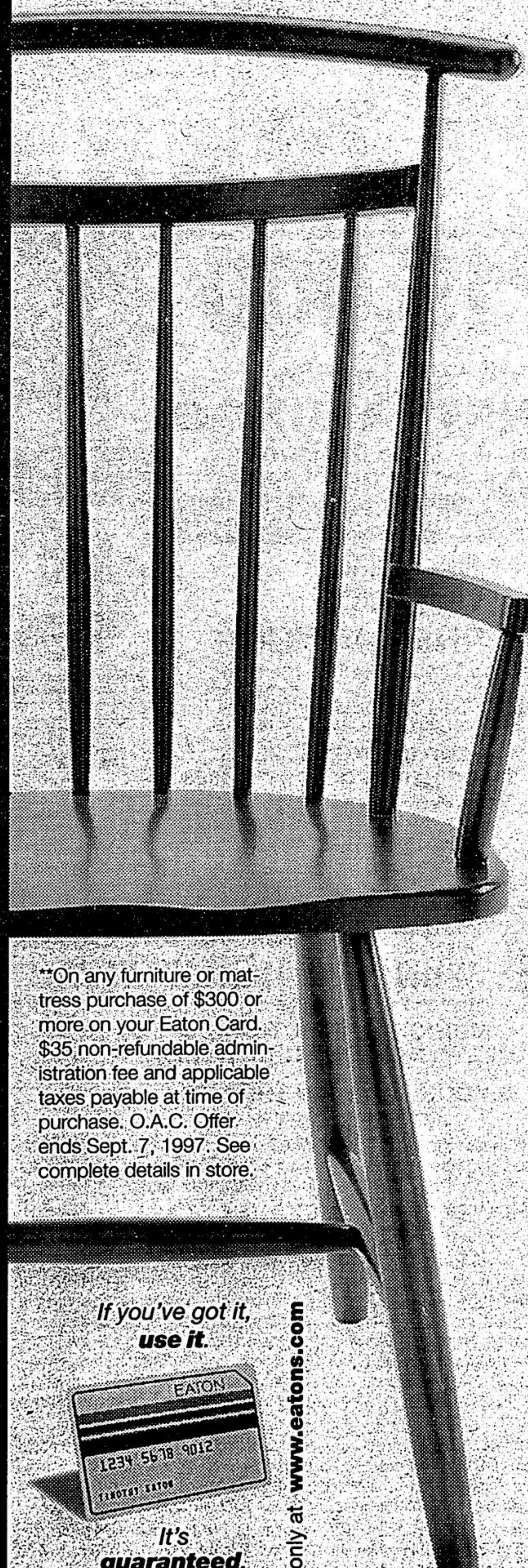
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