

Coming winter is the real scary Halloween trick

Halloween is just a few days away and little trick or treaters are ready to hit our rural roads decked out in an assortment of costumes.

Pumpkins were seen growing in abundance in our fields over summer and fall. Now, they line the roadsides waiting to find a home to glow in.

Long ago it was thought that on Halloween night the spirits of the dead arose and came seeking the living. To ward off these evil spirits it was decid-



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

ed to carve gruesome faces on pumpkins and set them in a window. It was hoped this would frighten the spirits and keep them at bay.

We've come a long way since then. Halloween has become the second biggest retail holiday next to Christmas. Millions are spent on costumes and even more on candy and decorations.

Last year I helped judge our rural Halloween displays and was amazed at the effort put into decorating homes and yards.

Tombstones with eerie music playing and glowing skeletons waving in the

breeze were seen from Stouffville right up to Uxbridge.

These yard displays became family events where mom and dads and all the kids helped plan the spookiest show on the street.

Older kids volunteered to sit dressed in full costume waiting to greet and entertain little trick or treaters.

Flashing strobe lights and stuffed figures along with gigantic spiders decorated front porches and to see it was to believe it.

We rural routers are not alone. It seems big kids everywhere want to get in on the holiday fun and Halloween is not just for the little ones anymore.

Once this holiday conjured up thoughts of ghosts and goblins. Those days seem far behind now, as Halloween has become a time for revelry and merry-making and thoughts of demons are far removed.

It is not uncommon to see doors open and candies being handed out by costumed adults who seem to have as much, if not even more fun than the kids who wait for them.

Just a few years ago cornstalks with a stuffed figure sitting on a bale of hay seemed really festive and in

the spirit of Halloween.

The Big Guy and I had ghosts made out of sheets hanging from our fir trees with spooky music playing hauntingly.

At the time it seemed outrageous, but now it is pretty tame stuff compared to some of the yards seen around our rural countryside.

Whatever the reason, Halloween has become an event that many rural routers celebrate.

Maybe the thought of the upcoming winter scares us silly!

One rural router had a chilling thought to end the month of October. There is a tree outside his shop window which produces berries and this has become his winter monitor.

Five years running he has accurately predicted the weather and was right each time.

If the tree has a few berries, the winter will be mild. If the tree has loads of red berries the winter will be a killer.

I don't want to be the bearer of bad news, but the tree had more berries than he has ever seen this year. Sorry folks, now that's really scary.

Happy Halloween!

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Thursday, November 6th, 1997

Sleepy Hollow Golf & Country Club

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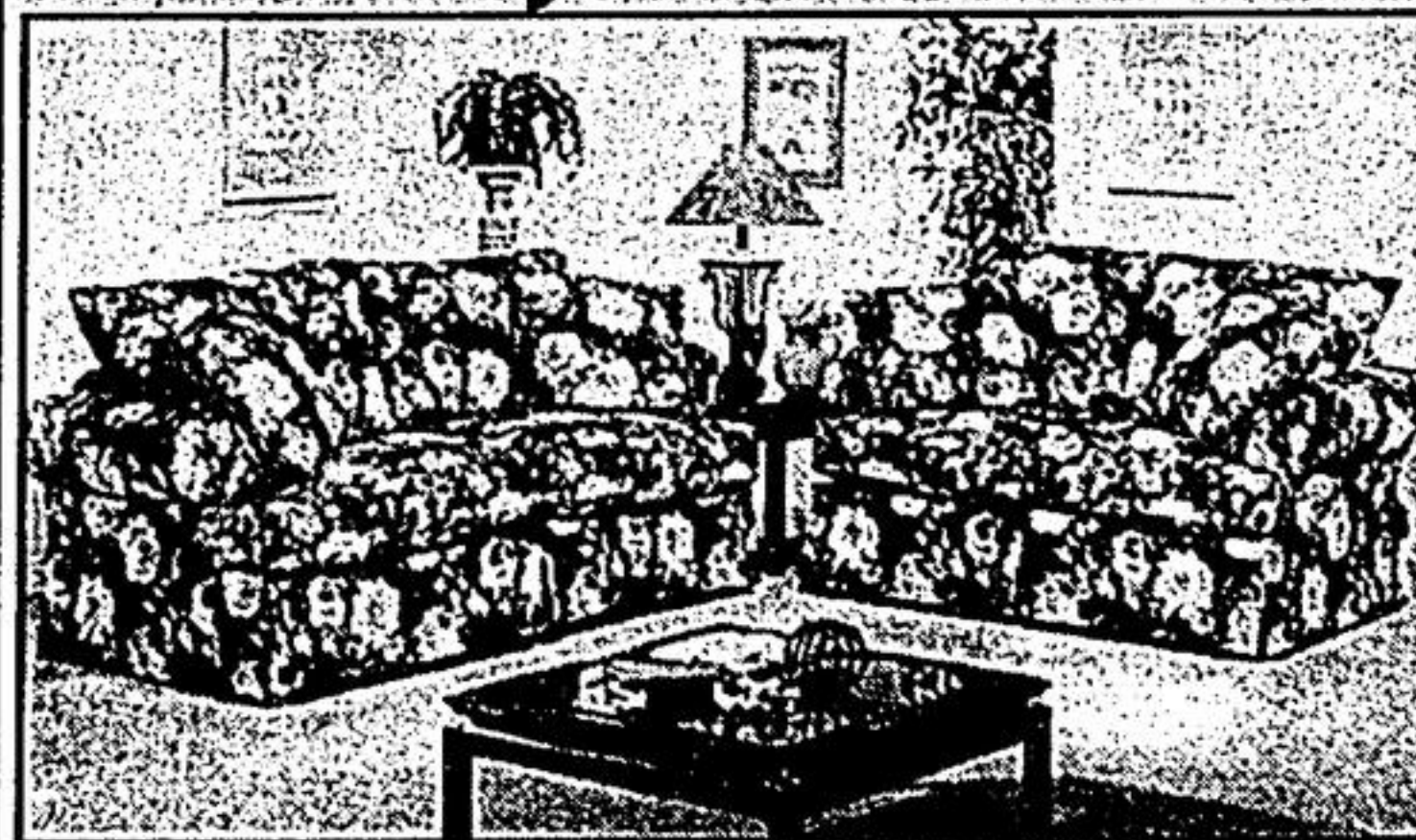
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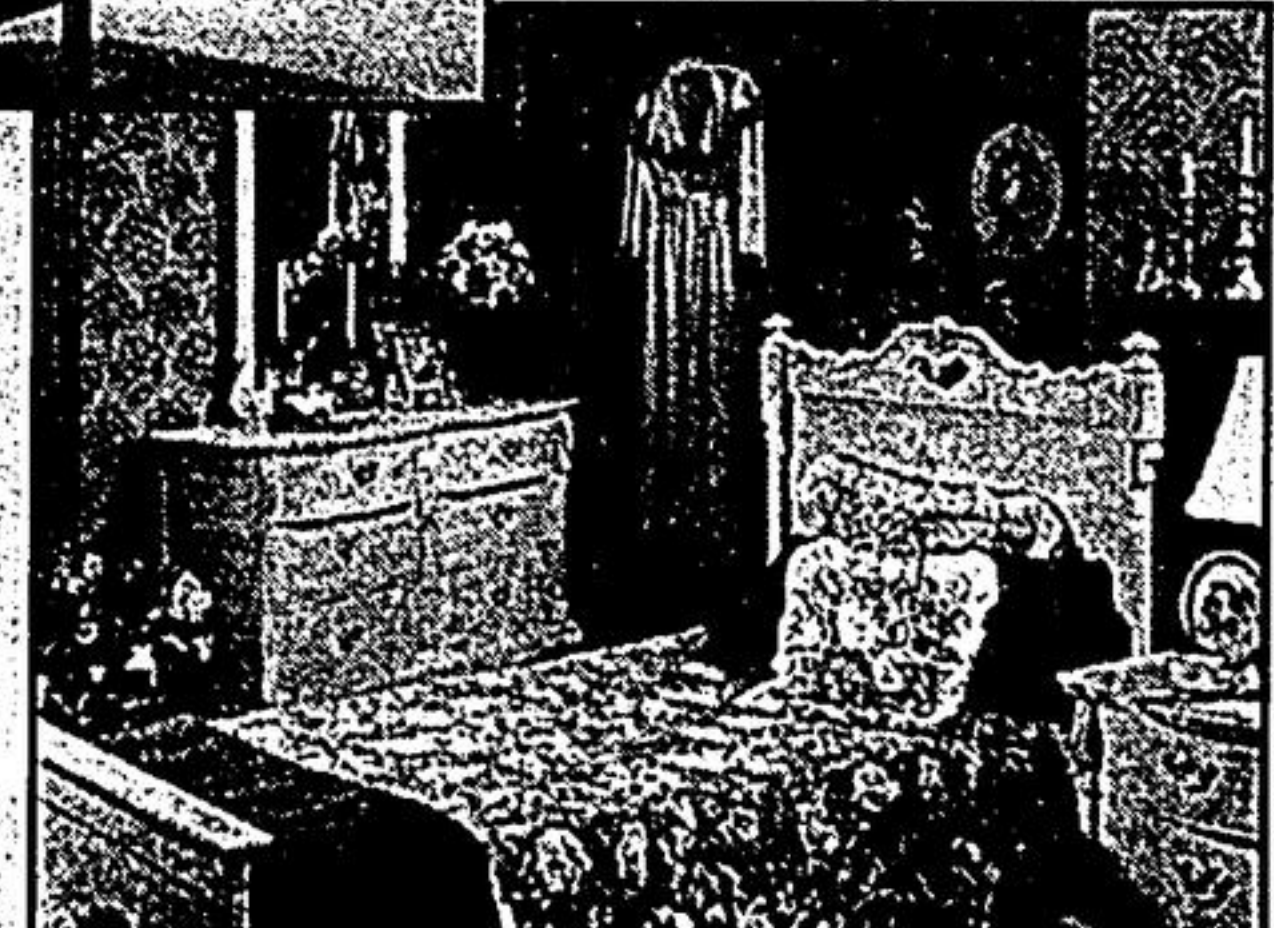
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Museum hosted thank-you ceremony

The Whitechurch-Stouffville Museum & Heritage Advisory Board hosted a dedication ceremony last Sunday for the museum's new identification sign in order to thank those manufacturers, suppliers and neighbours who contributed so generously to the construction of the new sign.

A brief unveiling ceremony was followed by the serving of coffee, tea and goodies at Vandorf Public School.