

Building a deck - getting started

Building a deck can add a whole new dimension to your home - both inside and out. Many homeowners use decks as added living space, while others use it for entertaining.

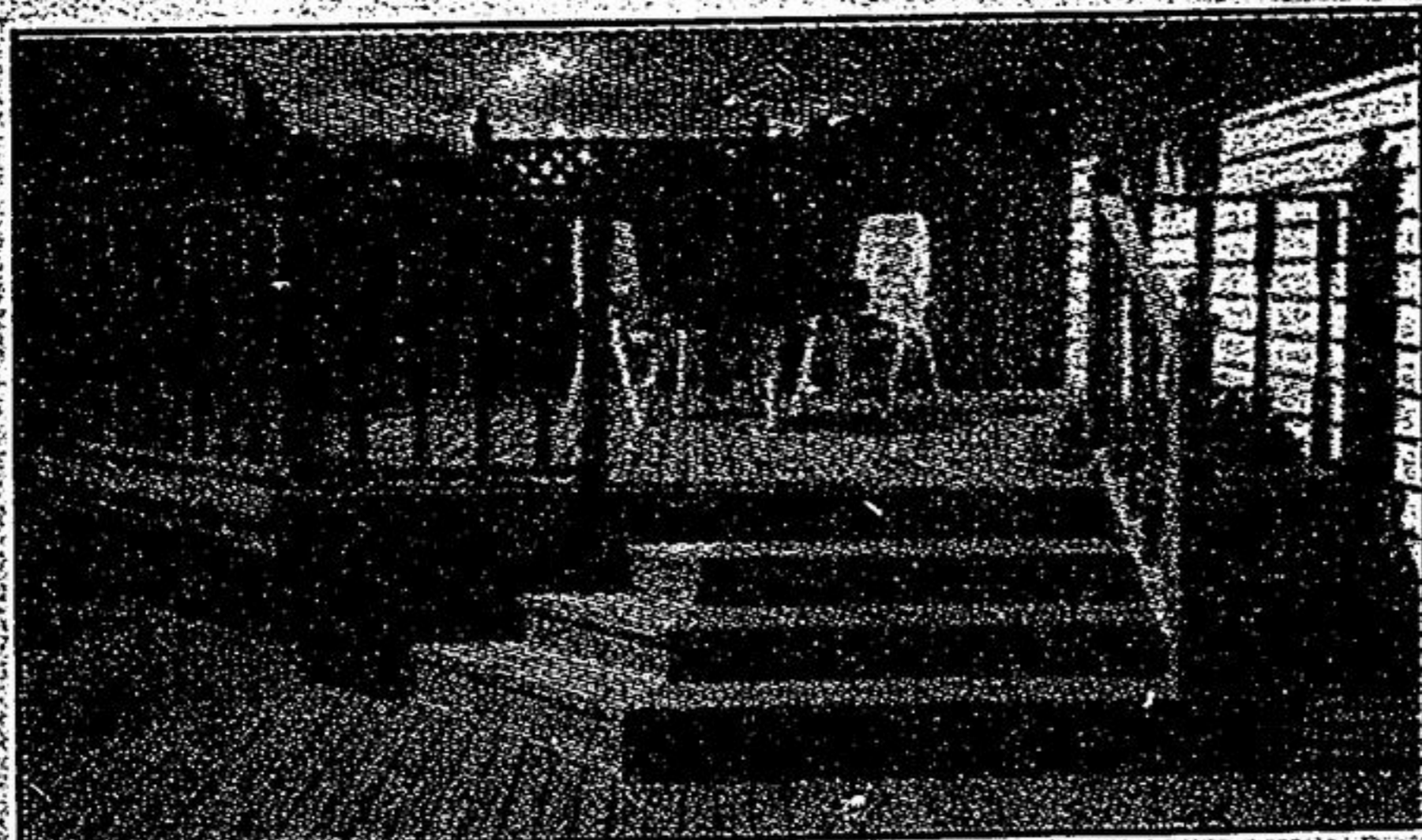
However you plan to use your deck, the best results can be achieved by following a set plan.

First and foremost, determine what the deck will be used for. Will it be situated near a kitchen or a family room? Do you want a small private deck for casual dining or a larger deck for entertaining?

codes and safety requirements are met. Don't assume it's okay to proceed if you don't know the by-laws. It's better to be safe than sorry.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

To build a deck you'll need a few basic tools, including a circular saw, power drill, screw driver, carpenter's square, measuring tape, claw hammer, shovel, post hole digger, string, pencil, chalk line



CHOOSING A LOCATION

You will need to consider where you want the deck located. There is no sense building on a spot where you plan to renovate in the future. Also, ask yourself whether your deck will receive sunlight or shade.

Your location of choice may not be practical.

Terrain, utilities, soil conditions, trees, plants and electrical needs should be considered as well.

BUILDING PERMITS

Before you go ahead and start building, check with your local municipality to see if you require a permit to build. In certain instances, you'll be asked to submit your plans and a nominal fee.

Your municipality may inspect your site to make sure that local building

and pic ax.

Materials are also an important consideration. For an accurate cost of materials, visit the The Home Depot or Lansing Buiddall in Markham. Both companies will provide quick, accurate computer-assisted designs, cost breakdowns and material requirements for your deck. Their knowledgeable staff will provide plenty of know-how about your deck project and are happy to offer assistance.

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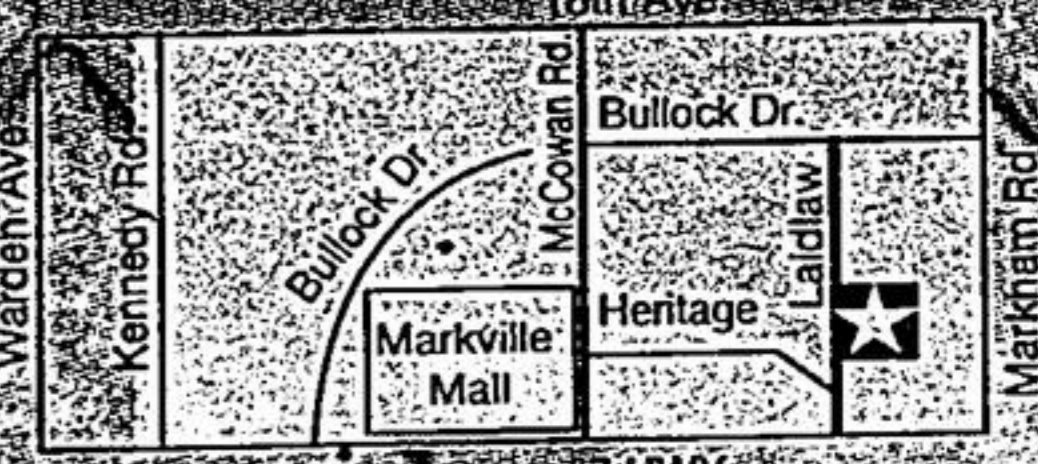
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