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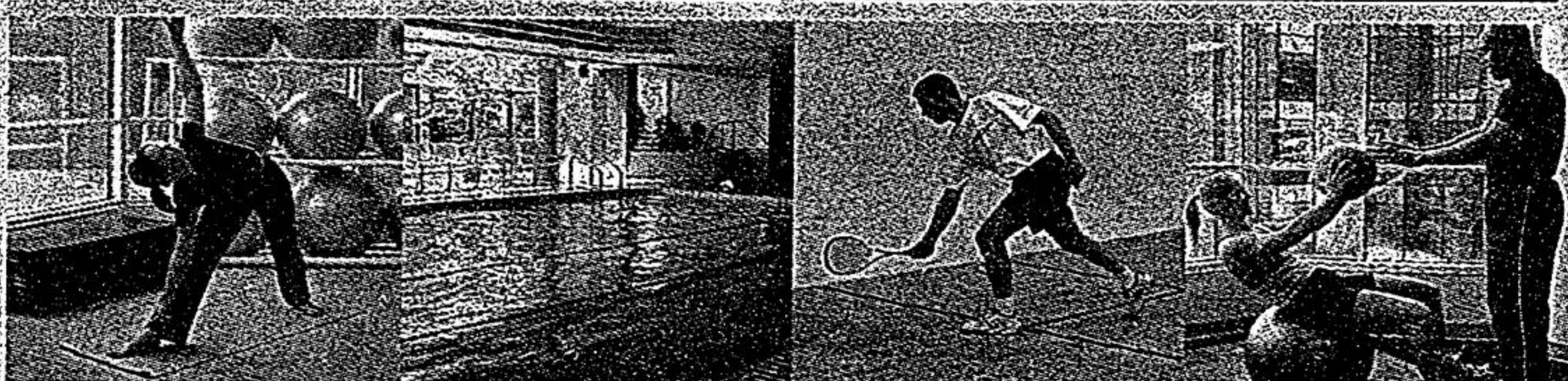
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# Polo for Heart shines for silver anniversary

International polo will assume a new lustre for the 25th annual Polo for Heart tournament, June 25 to 27, at the Gormley Polo Centre in Richmond Hill.

Polo for Heart's silver anniversary will open with a star-studded cast of both world-ranked polo players and visiting celebrities.

The annual charity tournament has raised more than \$3.5 million for heart and stroke research.

National TV coverage will also bring added stature to the event, with TSN providing primetime coverage of two of the feature high-goal games. TV host Rod Black will be joined by veteran polo analyst Tony Cappolla of West Palm Beach, Florida.

The road to the 25th anniversary is paved with a series of Polo for Heart social and community events for both patrons and sport fans.

For the festive holiday season, Polo for Heart joined forces with the Toronto Philharmonic under the magnetic baton of maestro Kerry Stratton for the annual Christmas concert Dec. 14. Entitled Christmas in Vienna, the right to conduct Radesky's March, in the second half of the program, was auctioned during intermission with all proceeds to Polo for Heart.

In October, 45 guests made a day trip to Niagara on the Lake for a private fashion show by La Crème Décor, a sumptuous afternoon tea at the Prince of Wales Hotel and a shopping spree at the delightfully festooned stores of the town.

In late April, two bus loads of enthusiastic shoppers (aka Polo for Heart patrons) visited the charming village of St. Jacobs, dined at the quaint Benjamin's Restaurant & Inn and later enjoyed a pri-

vate spring fashion show presented by La Crème and Essentially Black.

The annual Black & White Polo Ball June 10th at the Manor at Carrying Place Golf & Country Club sported a new image under the masterful co-chairpersonship of Beth Egan of Aurora and Susan Anderson.

A black and white theme permeated the event with a funky dress code encouraged.

An oyster bar and inspired food stations provided the substance, while local band Go-Freddie-Go provided the entertainment. More than \$30,000 was raised.

Fast-paced, international polo action remains the centrepiece of the 25th anniversary tournament, with two daily matches played at noon and 1:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with grandstand seating facing the polo field.

In between games, visitors can enjoy family spectating and interactive activities including children's workshops, carriage driving and "ballet on horseback" dressage demonstrations.

The boutique village is a shopping mecca of unique, one-of-a-kind merchandise from gifted craftspeople and artisans.

Visitors can enjoy the public food concessions or bring their own sumptuous picnic luncheon with daily prizes for best win, place and show gourmet presentations.

Polo for Heart is held at the Gormley Polo Centre, 30 minutes from downtown Toronto on Leslie Street just south of Bloomington Sideroad.

General admission is \$10 per person with children 12 and under free.

Parking is included. Gates open to the public at 10:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. all three days of the tournament.

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## AFTER 55 YEARS, TOROMARK FURNITURE HOUSE HAS CLOSED ITS DOORS.

To all the loyal and valued customers of Toromark, I wish to thank you for your patronage over the years. I trust that Toromark has served you well. You have been great customers and it was Toromark's pleasure to deal with you. Unfortunately, times change and Markham has changed. Over the past few years, with the big box stores growing so quickly and so large, it made it very difficult for a small quality service-oriented furniture store to survive.

My grandfather, Curt Fleischer, a wise merchant, could foresee the changes happening in Markham and he pleaded with me some six years ago to close the store but at my urging, it remained open in hope that there were enough customers who still appreciated friendly, reliable service and quality wood furniture. Unfortunately, those customers are a dying breed and although I tried desperately to keep the doors open, it became painfully apparent both financially and emotionally that it was time to stop the profuse "bleeding".

I had to do and I did what was best for my family and I am sure that Toromark customers will understand. I am continuing to do re-upholstering of your good quality furniture and, as well, the sale of some new merchandise. I will gladly bring samples to your home and attend with you at showrooms, if necessary. You may reach me at my home office by calling 905-669-7015.

When one door closes, another door opens and I hope to have the pleasure of serving you once again in the future.

**Stephen Rain**