

Explore on your own during Architecture Week

Anyone who has ever wondered about the location of certain churches, stores and houses in Stouffville and surrounding hamlets has a chance to do some exploring.

To celebrate Architecture Week from Sept. 24 to Oct. 1, residents are being invited to go on self-directed driving tours of Lemonville, Ringwood, Bethesda and Stouffville and play the role of architecture detective.

The program is being launched at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library tonight at 7:30 p.m. with a presentation by local history buffs, Ruth Burkholder, Stephen Sword and Marion Lewis.

Architecture Week is hosted yearly by the Ontario Association of Architects to raise awareness of the profession across the province.

Local architect and artist Christine Parsons-Wood will have a display at the library about the materials that are used for building a variety of structures.

A questionnaire to guide history buffs along their driving tour is available at the presentation and by logging on to the library's website at www.whitchurch-library.on.ca

Those going on the tours are encouraged to look at the communities as a whole as well as at individual homes, churches and stores to see

Our Town

with Hannelore Volpe

how they were built, what materials were used and why they were located where they are.

Two schools, Whitchurch Highlands Public School, 13812 Warden Ave. at Bloomington Road and Hillcrest School at 13452 Kennedy Rd. are part of the tour.

New playground ready

Ballantrae Public School's kindergarten pupils no longer have to play in a dirt yard.

They now have paved playground for their portable climbers, skipping ropes, tricycles and other toys.

Two large old trees were kept to provide shade and several seating areas were created.

The new fenced playground is the result of the school's kindergarten parents and staff, school council, York Region District School Board staff and local contractors working together.

Last spring, several parents decided something had to be done about the kindergarten yard. Parents Jennie

Creegan, Annalisa Cariglia-Bell, Marina Brock and Carla Schouten were instrumental in spearheading the initiative.

After checking a number of plans, they contacted local contractors, who did the work and funded most of the project. They included Schickedanz Bros. Ltd., Pilen Construction of Canada Ltd., Melfer Construction, S.C.S. Consulting Group Ltd., Miller Compost and Vicdom Sand and Gravel.

The companies worked over the summer to have the kindergarten

yard ready for the school year, principal Mary Carnaghan said.

The project is one part of the school's long-term 'greening' plan, which includes planting flowers and other plants to emphasize the school's greening and environmental projects.

One parent from the school, Ellen Brillinger, painted a mural on the side of the toy bunker.

The new kindergarten yard was introduced to the community at the school's annual barbecue and meet the teacher night Wednesday.

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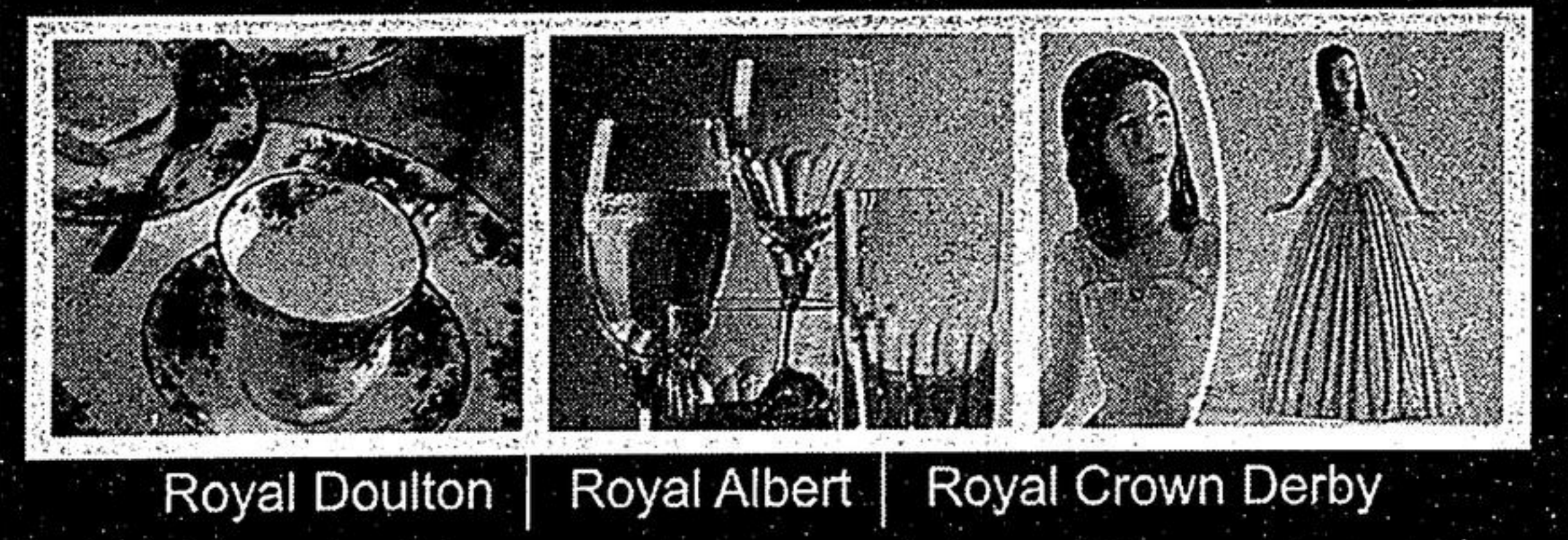
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