

The Economist & Sun welcomes submissions of upcoming events from community organizations. While every effort is made to include all submissions, there is no guarantee of publication. E-mail items to newsroom@econsun.com. Please avoid attachments; submit information in the body of the e-mail.

OPEN HOUSE

TODAY

Pathways Resource Centres celebrates 15 years of service to children in the Markham area. Come and join in the fun (singing, crafts, science and more) from 1 to 4 p.m. at 70 Main St. North, Markham. (Markham Road, one light north of the traffic light at Hwy. 7). Look for us behind the Japanese Restaurant with the bright yellow sign.

SALES

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Markham Guild of Village Crafts Bells and Bows Christmas Sale runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. This is where you will find a variety of fine crafts, handmade by Guild members, that will make your holiday gifts special. Visit www.guidingstar.ca/mgvc or call 905-294-7421.

SATURDAY, NOV. 12

Christmas bazaar takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hwy. 7 and Markham Road next to St. Andrew's United Church on Thomson Court featuring white elephant, bake sale, crafts and plant table.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TODAY

Jacob Moon will be performing original pop/rock/folk at Undergrounds Cafe at 7:30 p.m., in EastRidge Church on 10th line in Stouffville. Great live music, desserts, flavoured teas and coffee in a candlelit cafe atmosphere. Tickets are \$10. For more info, call 905-852-3377.

Arya Samaj Markham invites you to join the celebrations at Vedic Cultural Centre from 4 to 10 p.m., 4345-14th Avenue, Markham. Mela opens at 4 p.m. Cultural show begins at 5:30 p.m. Lots of shopping for clothing, music, jewelry and more. Food stalls, Dandia, Bhangra, Gidha, and a raffle. Free admission. For more information, call Shashi Sehgal 905-686-7323, Kamlesh Ghai 905-940-9427 or the centre at 905-475-5778.

SUNDAY

Girls Incorporated of York Region hosts the 26th Annual Howl on the Hill. Participate in the 5 or 10 km chip-timed run or hike in the woods or the 3-km trick-or-treat trail. Activities for children, continental breakfast and a barbecue lunch are all a part of this event. Register early for \$35. Children 10 and younger are free with a registered adult. \$40 to register the day of the event. The first 400 registrants receive free T-shirts. For more information, call Girls Inc. at 905-727-4897 or visit www.girlsincnyork.org.

MONDAY

No trick-or-treating? Then check out the Halloween program at Toronto Chinese Community Church featuring a family fair complete with games and prizes from 7 to 9 p.m., 100 Acadia Ave., in Markham. Free admission. For information, call Wesley Lim at 905-477-7533.

NOV 4 TO 6

The Thornhill Visual Artists Studio Tour and Sale and new Fall show runs Friday noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. featuring eleven artists. For info, visit www.thornhillva.com or call 905-764-3783.

MEETINGS

TUESDAY, NOV. 1

The Markham Stouffville Parkinson support group meets the first Tuesday of the month at Armadale Community Centre on Denison Street, west of McCowan Rd, at 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2

Markham High 5-0 Singles Friendship Club meets for dinner at 6 p.m. and meeting at 8 p.m. 55+ singles friendship group is for widowed, separated, divorced men and women. Activities include dinners, parties, theatre, hiking, etc. For further information and location of dinner, call 905-201-1635.

COURSES

THURSDAY, NOV. 3

Richmond Hill Library presents The Holocaust: One Survivor's Memoir from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Room A/B, 1 Atkinson St., Richmond Hill. Elisabeth De Jong discusses her two years in hiding, her discovery and her remaining time in Auschwitz. Register in person or by calling 905-884-9288, ext. 321.

MONDAY, NOV. 7

Are you thinking about going back to work? Develop the confidence and gain the knowledge you need by taking your First Steps with JVS. To register for Richmond Hill and Thornhill classes, call 1-877-767-0778, ext. 306 before Nov. 7.

TUESDAY, NOV. 8

Markham Museum offers family fun with Family Math. Family tickets cost \$100 for eight sessions, starting Nov. 8, at the museum, 9350 Hwy. 48. For information or to register, call 905-294-4576.

REGISTRATION

YOGA

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9:30 to 10:40 a.m. or 7:30 to 8:40 p.m.
Please register by Mon. Nov. 7th
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PREPARE FOR THE ROAD AHEAD.

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 19
2 Weekends

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Reader's Pick For Window Replacement

Changing windows has become a dreaded but inevitable reality for many homeowners. The builder-grade windows that graced many homes when they were new have slowly been deteriorating over the years. Wood has become damp and spongy, paint is peeling, glass panes have fogged up, weather stripping has come off, and there is even mould on many interior surfaces.

This was the case with Joanne and Rob's Unionville home when they decided to replace the windows. Vinyl or wood, fiberglass or aluminum, leave the old frames in or remove the entire window. These were some of the choices they found themselves facing as they began entertaining quotes. "Our product is much better because we have this type of glass" one sales person would say. Or "Don't use their window, it will cause you problems" were some of the comments Joanne recalls hearing.

"We had to take everyone's opinions and try and sort them out for ourselves," says Rob. "By getting several quotes we became more familiar with some of the window choices and options, so when it came to making a decision we felt we made an informed one."

The family picked a local company from Stouffville. "Simply put we had an instant comfort level with them" says Joanne. "They were familiar with most other product lines and could answer specific questions about them. Their attention to detail, and helpful recommendations, together with the fact that they took care of every aspect of the job made it one stop shopping." "Repairing brickwork, creating new openings, even picking a colour that better suited the house were all ideas we hadn't heard" recalls Joanne.

The couple both agrees the biggest visual change was replacing the original standard height double doors with a more welcoming eight foot tall door and sidelights. The door boasts a handmade wrought iron panel and matching grip set. "Everyone loves the front door" says Joanne, "we get so many compliments. At the end of the day we were extremely pleased with the results and the professionalism with which every aspect of the job was handled."

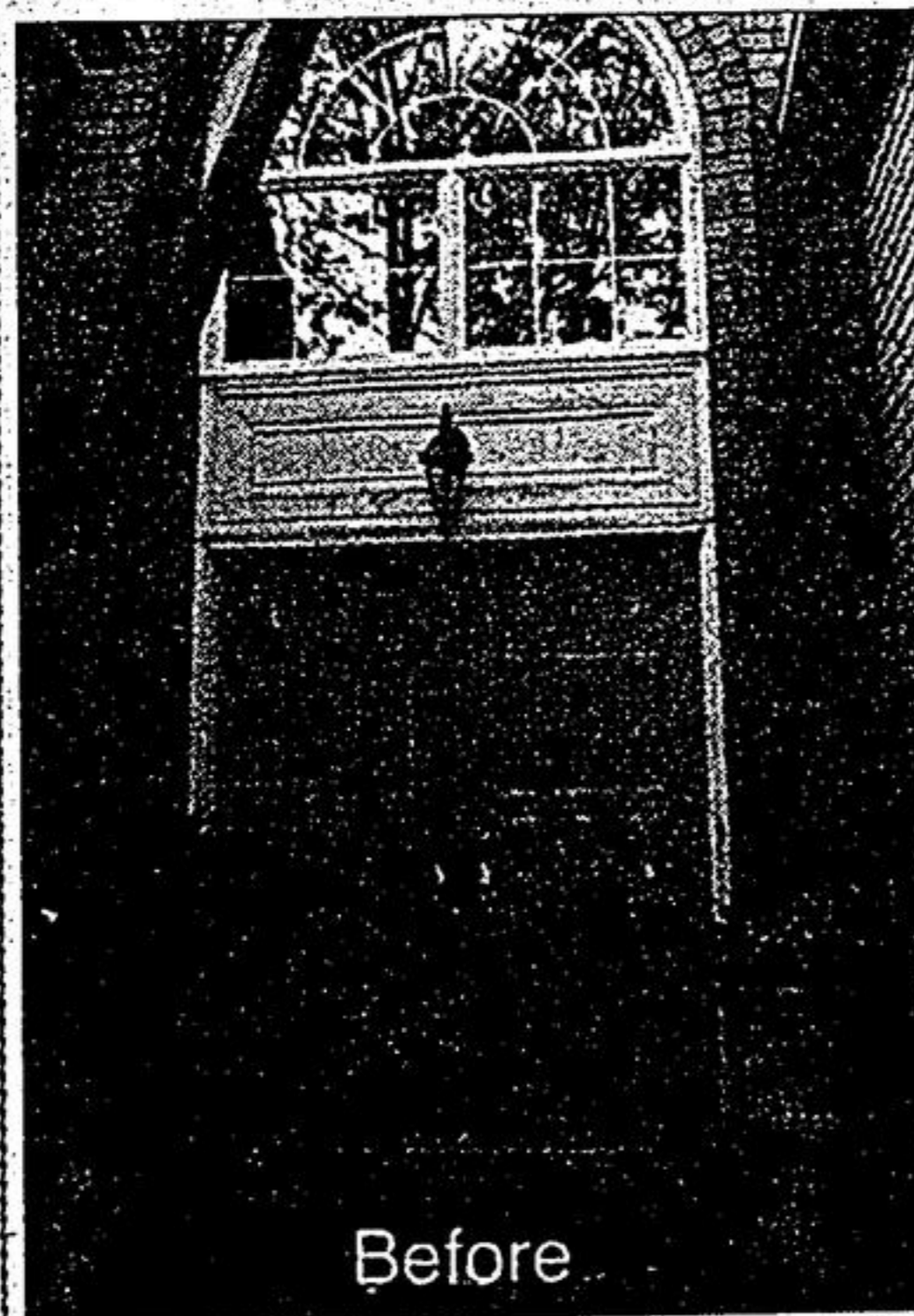
Although replacing windows is an unfortunate and costly reality it can also be an opportunity to change your home's style, increase its efficiency and enhance curb appeal.

What they did.

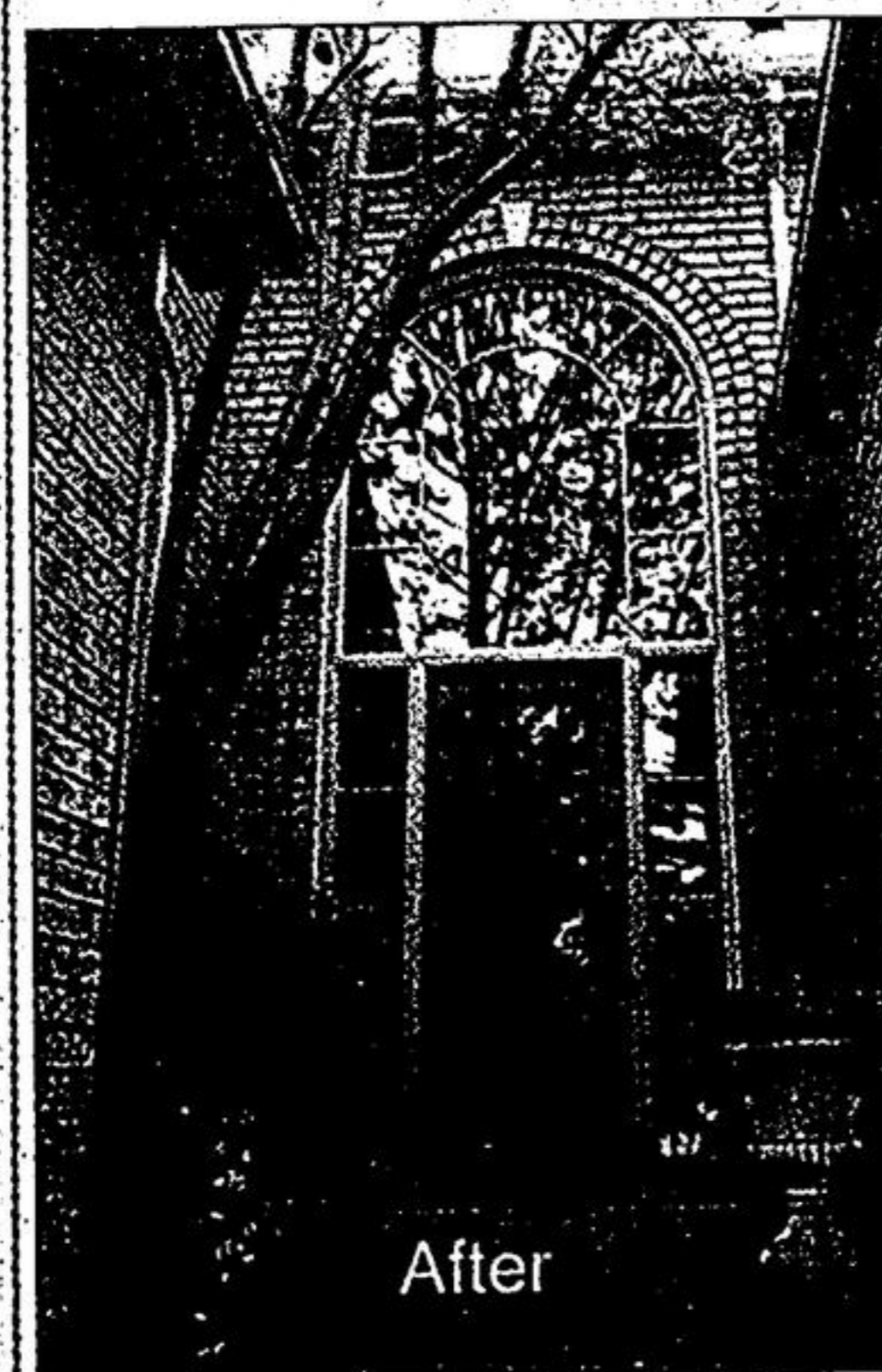
1. Enlarge the front door by removing a small wall section between it and the window above creating a dramatic entrance.
2. Had a custom designed wrought iron panel and grip set installed.
3. Upgraded the exterior colors from blah beige to sophisticated clay
4. Added depth with the use of 3 dimensional simulated divided lite grills for a traditional sash look.
5. Created novelty window in the kitchen backsplash to keep an eye on the pool while cooking.
6. Enlarged two other kitchen windows for a better backyard view.
7. Dressed up the dining room by replacing the sliding door with a more formal set of French Doors.
8. Upgraded the mouldings.

Tips for Choosing a Window Company

1. Even though many windows look the same, subtle details can be the difference between a good and poor product.
2. Deal locally, take your time. Companies far away may want to force a sale and will be harder to get service from.
3. Ask for references, drive by the houses, talk to the owners, look inside.
4. Ask questions, become informed, don't take one opinion as the only solution.
5. Plan ahead, custom windows can take 4-10 weeks to manufacture, depending on the product.
6. The best results require a quality product and a quality installation. The best window installed poorly will fail.
7. Don't be lured by amazing sales, limited time offers and one time only deals. Quality usually costs more. If it seems to be too good to be true, it usually is.
8. A company that specializes in windows is more likely to give better results than one that does many kinds of services. The saying "Jack of all trades, master of none" is often true.
9. Warranties are not yardsticks of quality and are only as good as the company that offers them. A long warranty will not make a poor window better.



Before



After

Photos courtesy of Fieldstone Windows Ltd.