

Design with Windows

Changing windows has become a dreaded but certain reality for many homeowners. The very windows that helped convince couples to buy their dream homes, have slowly been deteriorating over the years. Wood has become damp and spongy; paint no longer stays on, glass panes have fogged up, weather-stripping has come off, and they no longer keep out the elements.

This was the case with Joanne and Rob's Unionville home when they decided to replace the windows.

"We had to take everyone's opinions and try to 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, Fieldstone Windows.

"Simply put, we felt comfortable with them," said Joanne.

"They seemed to know what they were doing and offered suggestions no one else had. Repairing brickwork, creating new openings, even picking a colour that better suited the house were all ideas we hadn't heard."



"Our products regularly featured on the hit TV Series My Parents' House on HGTV"

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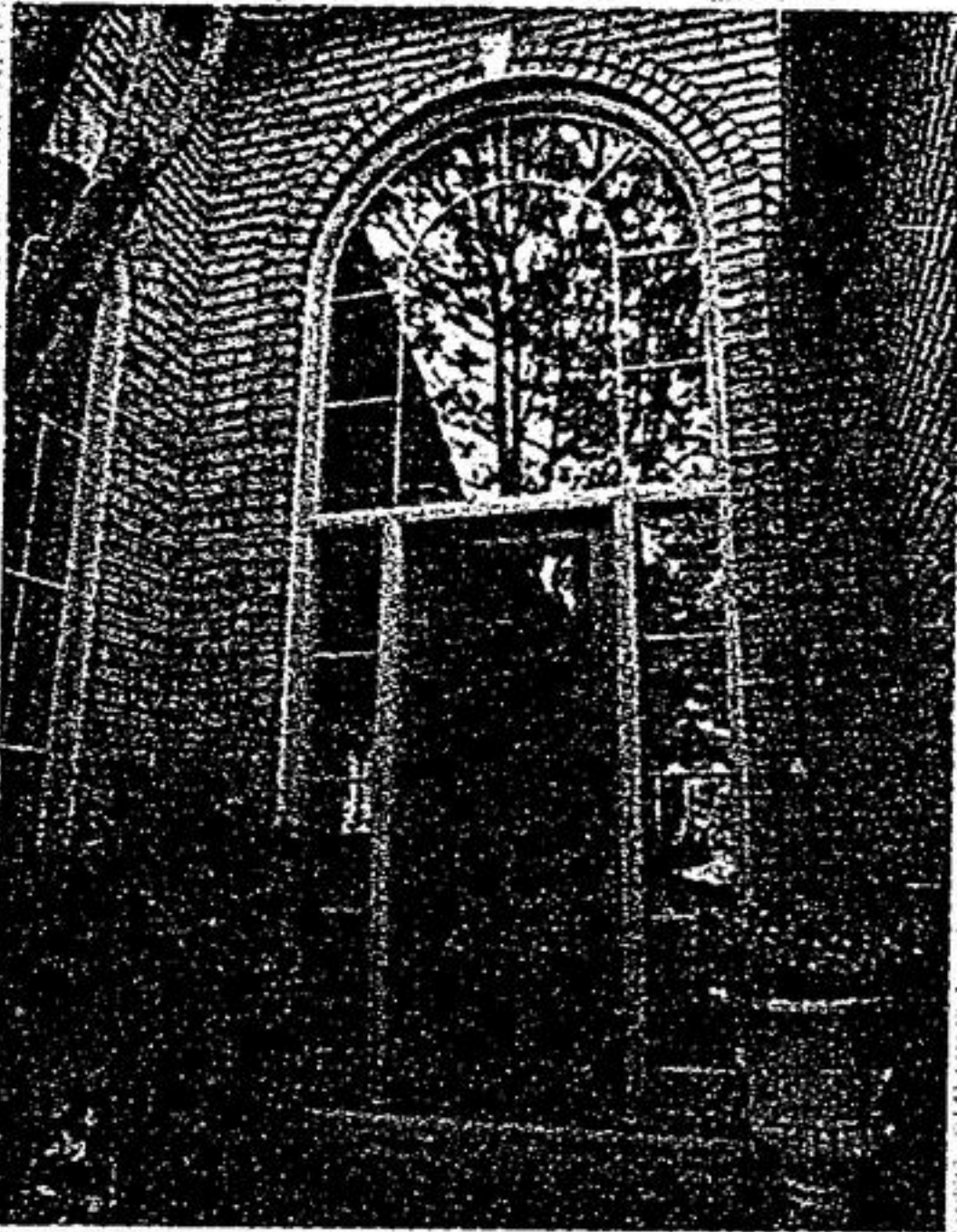
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The couple both agreed the biggest visual change was replacing the original standard height double doors with a more welcoming 8' tall door and sidelights. The door boasts a hand made wrought iron panel and matching grip-set.



"Some other changes included creating a novelty window in the kitchen backsplash and dressing up the dining room with french doors rather than the old sliding ones. Upgraded mouldings and 3-dimensional s.d.l. grills were the final touch. "We're thrilled with the results" says Joanne. "We get a lot of compliments"

Mentoring program helps immigrants feel more at home

BY PATRICK MANGION
Staff Writer

At first glance, it would seem Nigeria native Oluseun Odunlami and her mentor, Karen Rubin, are a study in contrast.

But last year, their common interest in law brought them together — Ms Rubin is a 28-year veteran lawyer at Amex Canada's Markham headquarters and Ms Odunlami was a lawyer in Africa, working in municipal government and the banking industry.

Now a Thornhill resident, she emigrated with her husband and their three children nine years ago.

Her story reads like so many others in immigrant-rich York Region.

Without recognition of her foreign credentials, finding meaningful work in her chosen profession was a struggle.

In the eyes of Corporate Canada, Ms Odunlami would be considered a risk.

But to the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC), Ms Odunlami, who is her 40s, was an ideal candidate for the organization's mentoring program.

'She asked me to raise my head high and walk tall.'

Oluseun Odunlami
Nigerian emigrant

Pairing up Canadian professionals with immigrants who have a similar skill set gives newcomers a leg up in a competitive job market, said Sangeeta Subramanian, who oversees program.

The program is delivered in York by COSTI Immigrant Services, which provides social services for Greater Toronto Area immigrants.

Last week, TRIEC celebrated the first Mentoring Partnership Awards in Toronto, where Ms Rubin had the distinction of being the first mentor of the year.

Having mentored several Amex colleagues over the years, Ms Rubin immediately agreed to TRIEC's program when the head of United Way of York Region, Rahul Bhardwaj, made his pitch last year, she recalled.

The two women would meet about once a week for several hours.

It carried on for about three months.

In that time, Ms Odunlami was introduced to a network of high-powered Bay Street lawyers, offered invaluable professional advice and polished her resume.

"I helped her build her self confidence with the skills she already had," Ms Rubin said.

"(Ms Odunlami) oversaw a \$4 million budget at her municipal government job in Nigeria. We looked at what she had and how to sell it."

A grateful Ms Odunlami was on hand when Ms Rubin was honoured.

"She went on to introduce me to several attorneys. This helped me a lot and increased my networks," she said.

"She asked me to raise my head high and walk tall."

Today, she is working in Toronto's financial district and waiting to hear if she has been accepted at the University of Ottawa's specially designed program for lawyers with foreign credentials.

For more information, visit www.triec.ca

West Nile Virus

Spoil a mosquito's dinner plans

Some mosquitoes carry West Nile Virus and their bites may lead to West Nile Virus infection.

Clean up! The best way to keep mosquitoes away is to clean up areas of stagnant water around your home where they like to breed.



What you can do

- Clean up and empty containers where water collects (old tires, tin cans, flower pots, etc)
- Change water in bird baths weekly
- Remove water that collects on pool covers
- Turn over items such as wading pools, wheelbarrows, and small boats
- Clear leaves and twigs from eavestroughs, storm and roof gutters
- Unclog drainage ditches so that water flows freely
- Make sure swimming pool pump is circulating
- Clear out dense shrubbery where mosquitoes like to rest
- Turn over compost frequently
- Fill in low depressions in lawn areas
- Check door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair
- Drill holes in the bottoms of containers so water can't collect

For more information about West Nile Virus contact York Region Health Services Health Connection

1-800-361-5653

www.york.ca

York Region