

Revised routes/schedules

Starting July 1, 2007, YRT is revising select bus schedules and routes within the Town of Markham.

Route 1 - Highway 7	Route 2a - 14th Avenue
Route 8 - Kennedy	Route 9/9A - Stouffville Local
Route 40 - Unionville Local	Route 41 - Markham Local
Route 301 - Markham Express	Route 302 - Unionville Express

For more information, call YRT / Viva at 1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978) or visit the YRT / Viva website at www.yrt.ca

York, connected.



Jack Wilkinson, left and Keith Grose of Century Mill Lumber say customers like their old-time lumber yard on Stouffville Road.

STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

There are many reasons Canadians decide to replace their existing windows. Fogged-up glass, rotting and cracked frames, drafty and inoperable sashes are just some of the issues that top the list. Despite rising energy costs, and environmental awareness, architectural details and style are stronger motives for some. Thank-fully with today's energy efficient windows consumers shouldn't have to choose style over performance.

Replacement windows and doors are now available in a wider variety of materials and finishes than ever before. Fiberglass and composite materials are the relative newcomers, but vinyl and wood products still dominate the market.

Choosing the right product is still only one of many choices the consumer must make. Many home improvement companies favor an "insert" style of installation, where the new window is fastened directly into the old window frame. This is a quicker and less expensive option because very little carpentry is involved. The preferred installation involves removing the entire window to the rough opening, and replacing everything

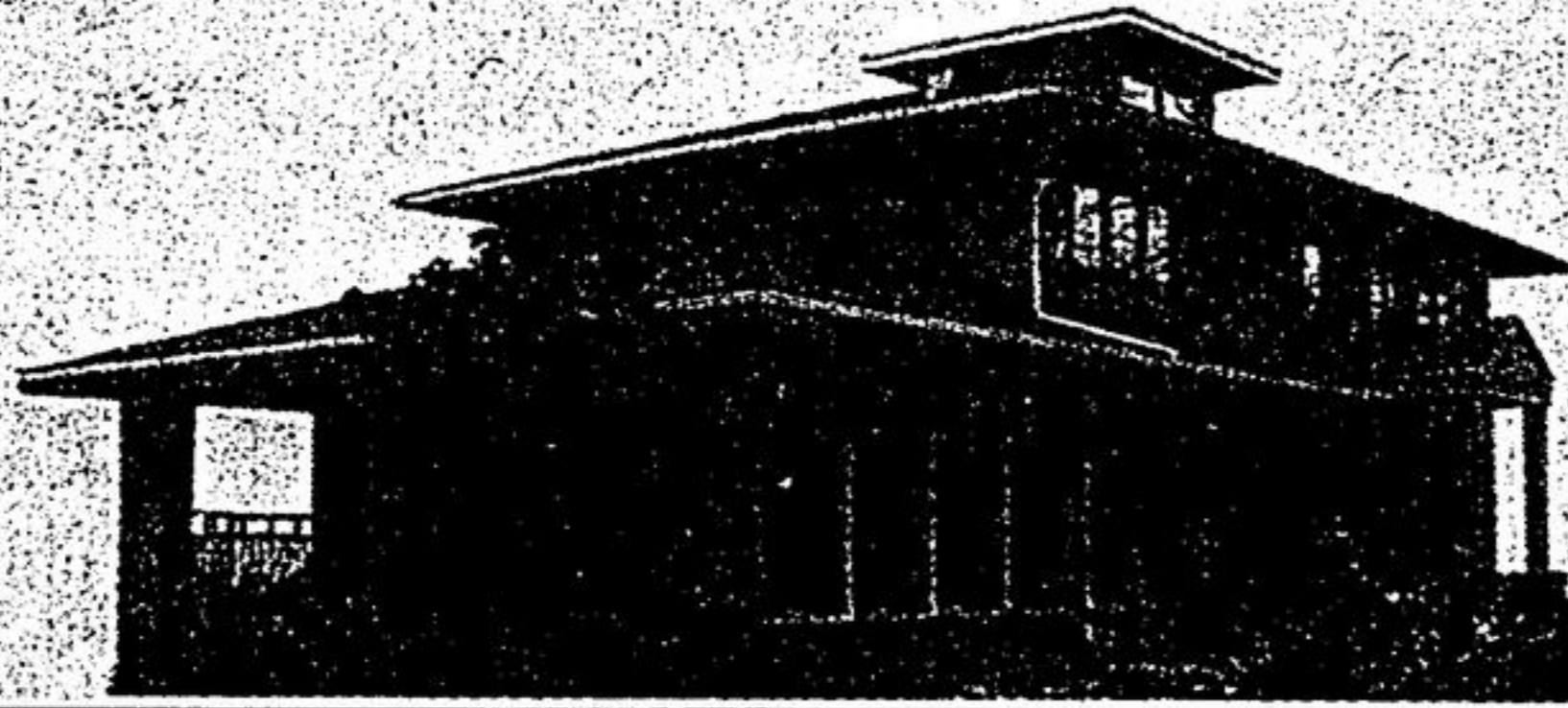
including the interior mouldings. Older homes with large mouldings or brick and block construction may be better with the insert method.

A reputable company should be able to inform the homeowner of their options and provide solutions that perform well and add to the home's architecture. A good window is only as good as its installation, so always check references and if possible visit completed projects.

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Old-fashioned service still key 156 years later

Part of a series on winners of the 2007 Stouffville Business Awards.

BY JACKSON HAYES

Though the river no longer rushes past their door and the old hand tools simply decorate the walls now, Century Mill Lumber co-owners Jack Wilkinson and Keith Grose know the road that got them to where they are today.

The 156-year-old lumber company received the heritage award at this year's Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce business awards ceremony this year.

"I certainly appreciated it (the award)," said Mr. Wilkinson, 59. "It makes you pause and think why we are this old and why are we still going and still viable."

Still on the original site, although sporting a new name, Century Mill Lumber has been operating on the south side of Stouffville Road, between Kennedy and McCowan roads since 1851. Originally called Ratcliff Lumber, the mill started as a water-powered sawmill thanks to its location on a tributary of the Rouge River.

Most of the original buildings were lost in a fire, ignited by lightning, hit the business in 1982. Since then, the mill has been rebuilt and updated and continues to be family owned and operated. Mr. Wilkinson married into the Ratcliff family and started

STOUFFVILLE BUSINESS

working at the mill 30-years ago. Mr. Grose has been there for six years.

When asked how their mom-and-pop operation competes in a world of big box stores such as Home Depot and Rona, the two owners say that in addition to carrying a different selection of sizes and species, they have forged a good relationship with some of their competition.

"We refer to each other because we can't handle everything," Mr. Wilkinson said. "Home Depot in Barrie often sends people down to us."

And thanks to a catalogue of wood, including hemlock, foreign hardwoods and white cedar, the quiet, family-run mill with eight employees has carved out a niche for itself in the local lumber market.

"I think a lot of people tend to like this sort of old-fashioned mill idea," said Mr. Grose, 39.

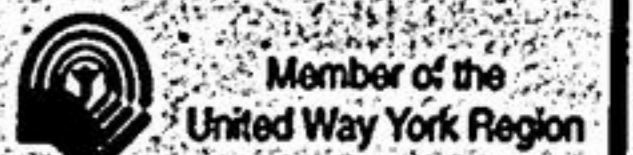
The smell of pine and sawdust permeate the parking lot as the owners describe the key to their success. Above all, they attribute the mill's longevity to appreciation of their customers and the absence of any disingenuous sales pitches.

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