

Community Safety Village hosts public

BY CONRAD BOYCE

If you and your family have visited the popular Bruce's Mill Conservation Area (just east of Warden Avenue and Stouffville Road) in the last few months, no doubt your curiosity has been piqued by the colourful group of tiny buildings under construction to your left as you enter the park.

The Lilliputian metropolis is the Community Safety Village of York Region, and you are welcome to satisfy your curiosity Sat., May 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as the York Region Police, one of the three major educational partners in the complex (the others being Fire Services and Emergency Services) host a grand open house at the site.

Dozens of corporate partners have co-operated in bringing the Safety Village to life. The village, dedicated to building a safer future for all citizens of the region, will hold a number of day camps this summer and host its first school classes in the fall.

In addition to a large classroom building and welcome centre, the village consists of 28 miniature buildings, typical of any Ontario village, including a fire hall, police station, railway sta-

tion, town hall, church and school. There are working traffic lights and a railway crossing, and 30 battery-operated miniature cars, and bicycles, designed to teach traffic safety to any young school class.

'It's really a one-stop place for learning how to live safely.'

"Our programs initially will be aimed at the Grade 1-5 level," says Melanie Duke, fire safety educator at the village. "Eventually, that range will be expanded, both downward and upward, and we'll be welcoming groups of adults as well. Although our major emphasis is on traffic and fire safety, we'll also be offering sessions in such areas as electrical safety, Internet safety, street-proofing, even sports and water safety. It's really a one-stop place for learning how to live safely."

To give your children a preview of this marvellous village, bring them down to Bruce's Mill on May 14. For more information, call Karen Richard, co-ordinator of the Community Safety Village, at 905-927-1919, ext. 21.



PHOTO BY CONRAD BOYCE

Miniature battery-operated cars will be a highlight for young visitors to the Community Safety Village.

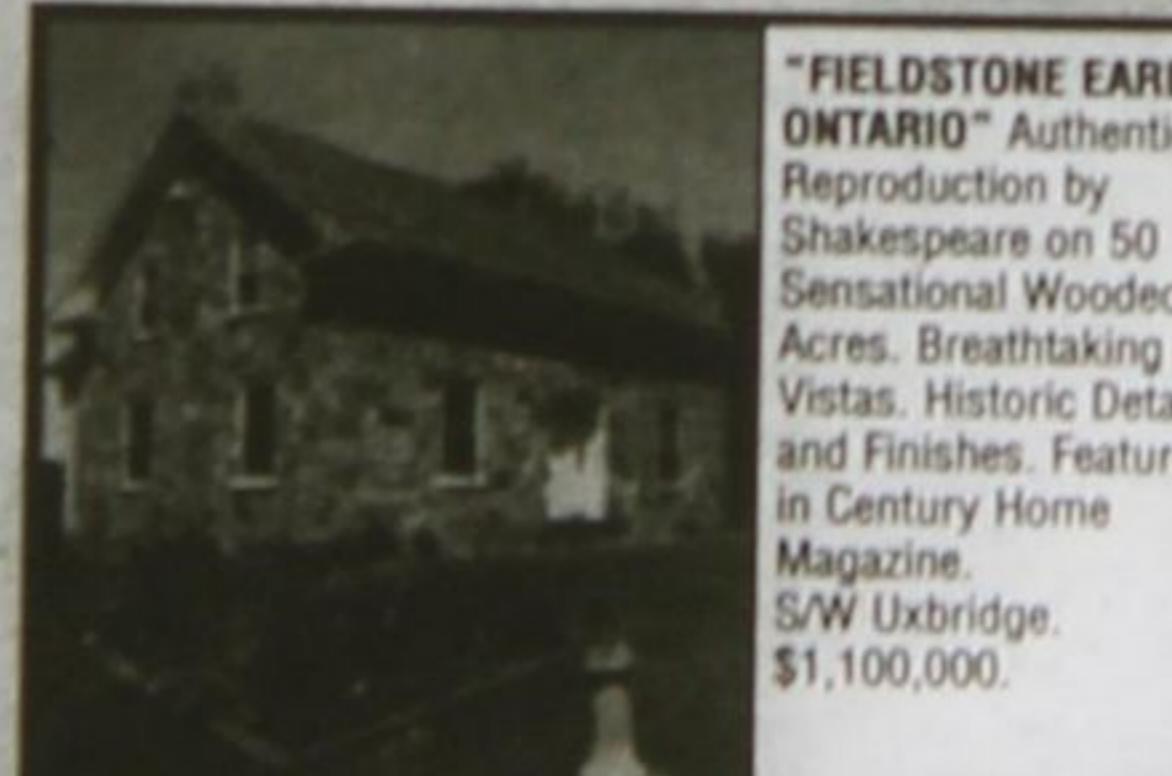


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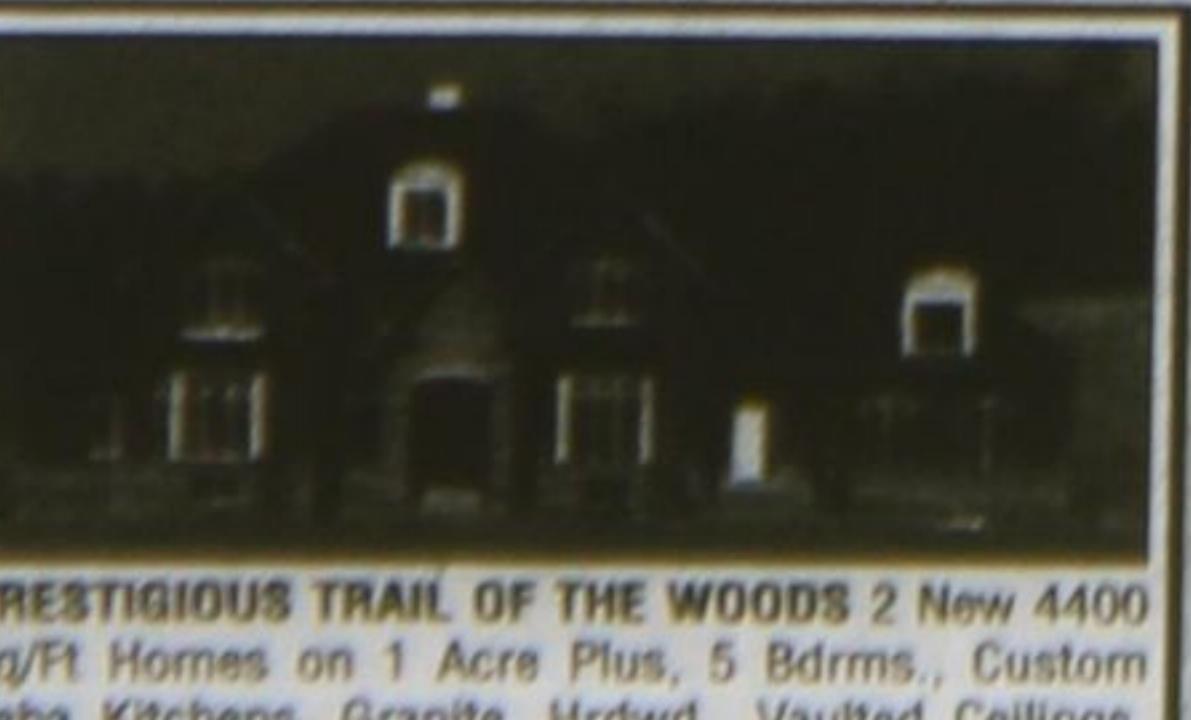
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