

Badger editorial

Ward 8 residents go to the polls on Tues., Nov. 27, with a vote that could change the balance of power on City Council.

Reformer Marilyn Churley gave up her Ward 8 seat this summer to run successfully as the NDP candidate for Riverdale in the provincial election. As a result, Council's 9-8 reform majority has been reduced to an 8-8 stand-off between the reformers and the pro-development old guard.

Hence the importance of the by-election.

After conducting several long interviews with each of the major candidates, the Badger has decided to endorse Peter Tabuns, the NDP nominee. We feel Tabuns will provide his constituents with the principled, accountable representation needed to keep the spirit of reform alive on Council.

Tabuns is an environmentalist and housing activist with solid roots in the community. His support comes from daycare groups, housing and environmental organizations, and from anti-poverty workers such as Michael Shapcott of the Bread Not Circuses Coalition.

Tabuns appears committed to fighting against the development industry's continuing influence at City Hall. "The developers' agenda does not include homes for the homeless," he stated in his nomination speech.

He has publicly supported a full and meaningful review of the City's deal/plan for the Railway Lands, calling the

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Ward 8 Holds the Balance



Peter Tabuns (right), the Badger's choice for the Ward 8 by-election, is congratulated by constituents after winning the NDP nomination.

IS THE FIX IN?

Fair review of Railway Lands in Jeopardy

By Badger staff

A fair and open review of the most important development issue in Toronto history appears to have gone off the rails.

The city planner who developed the City's plan for the railway lands has been assigned to review her own work. And the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) panel which refused a motion by the City to defer the September hearing, included a member who approved the original plan.

Consequently, opponents of the 200-acre railway lands plan believe that not only is the City's review a farce, but that the quasi-judicial OMB hearing is stacked against them.

Reform Toronto is calling for the city planner to be replaced on the project and for the OMB to halt its current hearings.

The following is a portion of a letter sent to Toronto Planning Commissioner Robert Millward by the Reform Toronto Co-ordinator.

Dear Commissioner Millward:

I am writing to you on behalf of Reform Toronto to express our extreme dismay over the failure of the planning department, under the leadership of Ms. Eudora Pendergrast, to undertake a serious review of the railway lands as required by Council.

I was a participant in the futile exercise undertaken this summer by a coalition of citizens to work with the planning department to begin a review of the railway lands.

Planning department staff was led by Ms. Pendergrast, and she made it quite obvious by her actions and statements that the department had no serious intention of undertaking a comprehensive review.

The department was willing to "clear up any misunderstandings" the citizens might have about the project and make minor changes here and there, but Ms. Pendergrast made it abundantly clear that the department was just "going through the motions."

Appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board do not involve the department's responsibility. We believe that Council gave clear instructions to the planning department that a

serious review of the railway lands be undertaken.

Given that Ms. Pendergrast has not, in our opinion, fulfilled this objective, we request that a new planner be assigned to this task. If necessary, an outside planner who will approach this matter with integrity and dispatch. We have serious reservations as to whether a senior planner who was involved in the original plan for the railway lands is the appropriate person to review the plan ...

Giving Away the Store

The City's controversial plan/deal for the railway lands, hammered out in a series of secret meetings between the developers and a previous Council, calls for 14 million square feet of office space to be built between Yonge and Bathurst streets, Front Street and the Gardiner

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WHAT IS THE OMB?

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) is a special-purpose body created by the province to oversee municipal governments in Ontario. It is ultimately controlled by the Ministry of the Attorney General. Its 30 to 40 members, most of them lawyers and former politicians, are appointed by the government as patronage appointments.

The Board supervises municipal actions in such areas as debt financing and municipal boundaries. It also acts as a quasi-judicial appeal board for citizens or land owners challenging municipal zoning by-laws and planning decisions.

Members have direct authority in running their own affairs and use their own criteria in deciding who has status before the board and appeals. Once appointed, they are accountable to no one. In recent years there has been a strong tendency for members to support the rights of property over the broader interests of the community.

The OMB has overturned Toronto City Council decisions and will continue to do so as long as it exists in its present form. Time and time again, Council members have succumbed to the reasoning that if they fight developers on key issues they will be overruled at the OMB.

Remember Bay-Adelaide? That developer's strategy was the same as with the Railway Lands now. They're saying "a deal's a deal," and if Council tries to back out (which it rightly has already done by imposing holding controls throughout the area), they will take the City to the OMB. Indeed, that's what CN and CP have done: appeals before the Board are already under way, with the most important hearings coming up in January.

As citizens of Toronto, we have only one forum of political representation for local issues: City Council. The OMB, with its power to undermine City Council, is a fundamentally undemocratic institution that should be reformed, by the new Ontario government.



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EDITORIAL

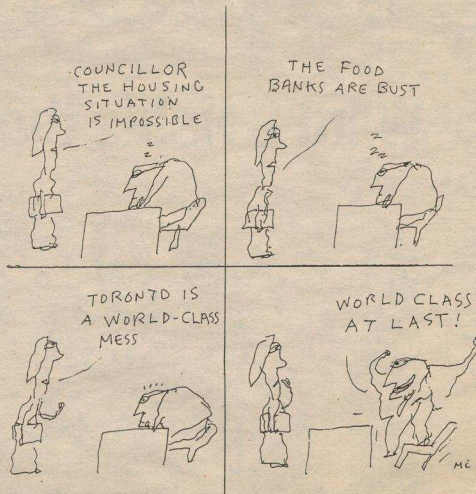
GET BACK TO WORK

Toronto City Council has devoted the first two years of its three-year term to negotiating deals for mega-projects: the Bay-Adelaide building, the Olympics and World's Fair bids and the Ballet Opera House. Council has ignored real problems facing the city in order to pursue the corporate media's cold and glittering image of Toronto the world-class city.

It's time for Council to start looking at the facts. Recent reports have revealed that the SkyDome is losing \$23 million a year servicing interest charges on a \$300 million debt. And the province is faced with coughing up taxpayers money to pay for a project we were told would pay for itself.

For the corporations, the SkyDome was the deal of the century. For \$5 million, each member of the consortium received a corporate box and a share in advertising revenue. As for the losses, the public will be picking up the tab.

The same people who brought us the SkyDome (Pauls Henderson and Godfrey, Trevor Eytan, et al) managed to get a majority of Council members to support the



Olympic Games, another project that boosters touted as "self-financing," but which would likely have cost taxpayers up to \$1 billion. The corporations, again, would have netted millions of dollars in advertising revenue with the public taking all the risks.

All this, apparently, together with the prospect of a recession, was enough to make the new Ontario government think twice about spending \$65 million of public money to finance Toronto's latest corporate playpen – the Ballet Opera House, which was strongly supported by City Council.

Unlike City Council, the new NDP government may be concerned about the social crisis facing Toronto and reacting to reports of 93,250 people in need of food assistance, 17,000 households on the waiting list for social housing, and more than 20,000 homeless.

What is Council doing? Why are Councillors so out of touch with the real world? Elected representatives sworn to protect the public interest should be aware that the constituency of concern is the community, not the corporations.

There is one year left; one year for Council to do something on the issues that count: food, housing and social services, the environment. If they fail, the same fate awaits them as the Ontario Liberals. The time has come for them to get back to work.

LETTERBOX

The following letters were written in reply to the last issue of the Badger, in which readers were invited to comment on what they think about the current direction of the city government, and about Reform Toronto's direction.

Paul Henderson is a case of extreme egotism; he's been competitive to a fault all his life and has a tantrum when he doesn't get [what he wants]. And a tantrum he had when Toronto lost out [on the Olympics].

He is a dangerous man. Toronto needs more compassion for the poor. If we can afford to spend billions on the Olympics, why can't that money be found for domestic needs? Greed – the bottom line. – *Anonymous*

I opposed even the idea of having the Olympics, let alone the way in which the process and organization was geared to serving the interests of the corporate elites in this city. – *Brian Craft*

Key problems: poor long-term planning; over development; pro-development philosophy; traffic congestion; lack of bicycle paths; lack of attention and money for quality public transit. – *Paula Vopni*

It is now quite clear that people feel let down by those whom they voted for ... Far too much time has been spent on issues which should have been put on the back burner. – *Olive Thiesenhausen*

Is the Fix In?

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expressway.

The deal gives away millions of dollars of development rights in exchange for 5,000 housing units.

Community organizations, including the Railway Lands Action Coalition (see page 6), have called for a drastic re-orientation that would turn the plan on its head and provide up to 15,000 new housing units and servicing for a new community modelled on the successful St. Lawrence neighbourhood to the east.

Under community pressure, Council voted in May to send the current plan back to the planners for a review.

But the planners claim there isn't time for the kind of review the public is calling for. They have made a few changes, which may actually have increased the overall density of the project. Meanwhile, Council has resorted once again to midnight meetings held behind closed doors. On Oct. 23, Council voted to adjourn an open meeting and enter into private negotiations with the developers to reach an agreement.

Going Over Council's Head

The railway companies have been playing hardball. They have launched appeals to the OMB to force the City's hand and deny it the time for a meaningful review. They want every inch of development rights they hammered out of the City in 1985. (In one or two cases they appear to be wanting more.)

These pressure tactics have worked before and they appear to be working again. The developers are claiming "a deal's a deal" and that Council can't back out now – even though public groups oppose the deal and despite the fact that Council was democratically elected and has a right to make its own decisions with respect to public lands.

Reform Toronto believes that there are no absolute rights belonging to the railway developers. Citizens through their elected councils have the right to change public policy, and no appointed board such as the OMB should be able to override the public political process.

Citizens must get involved to make sure that the press works and that Council acts to protect these public lands. There is strong public support for a

thorough review. The Railway Lands Action Coalition (see page 6) has gathered strength, the Crombie Commission has supported a meaningful review of the railway lands plan, and the new provincial government has enormous power to help the city protect its land interests.

It's true that nearly half of Council members, including the Mayor, play for the development industry. But that still leaves a slim majority on Council who have the collective power to insist on Toronto's right to determine its own direction, and not cave in to the pressure tactics of the developers. It's time for them to act.

If they don't act, then the province must intervene to secure these lands for the city. The stakes are high: the site in question, some 200 acres of undeveloped land, is prime real estate, worth millions of dollars to the railway companies.

theBadger

The Badger is the official voice of Reform Toronto, an organization devoted to keeping alive the spirit of municipal reform in the City of Toronto. The Badger is produced by volunteers and paid for by individual Torontonians through donations to Reform Toronto. Letters to the editor should be mailed to: Reform Toronto, 633 Lakeshore Blvd. W., #309, Toronto, Ont., M5V 3B9.

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No More Hogwash for Hogtown?

by Susan Eng

We can celebrate or mope about the recent Ontario election upset. Either way, we won't be sleeping through the aftermath as we might have slept through the election. Whoever said the only constant is change probably never thought it could apply to Ye Olde Ontario. With two apocalyptic changes in political stripes in five short years, we can be excused for blinking in the sun while we gather our senses.

Our first question on waking from this dream/nightmare is not: "What will this mean for Ontario?" but rather: "What will happen to me?" Many patronage appointees, I expect, are busy dusting off their resumes. But after the fall of a select few, the question will remain of whether our institutions will simply carry on business as usual.

I have watched with morbid fascination as institutions unceremoniously dump minions who fall out of favour with public opinion, but remain unhampered in perpetuating the offending behaviour. Worse, in a blaze of

The proliferation of guns must concern us all. What possible redeeming social value can there be in owning a gun in Toronto?

glory, the institution then produces a policy statement that seems to exhaust it for anything constructive – like implementing the thing.

If I can make a personal wish for the New World Order, it will be to cut the crap! We were dragging ourselves through the election until the fateful words: "Gimme a break!" Some say that was the turning point. I agree. That was when we woke up and started to flail at the layers upon layers of promises, hype and image-builders. Perhaps people voted for that simple sentiment rather than for any particular campaign promise.

This simple sentiment is particularly appealing in the area of policing. It is fertile ground for crap-cutting initiatives.

Race relations policy statements: Enough already! They should be prohibited unless they are accompanied by clear implementation plans with a timetable and sanctions. Otherwise, they are just more hogwash.

Accountability: This does not mean news releases and public consultations in which input is duly noted and filed. A police commission may not be a publicly elected body,



but its role is to ensure accountability by the police to the public it is meant to serve. A permanent citizens' advisory committee would be a more useful way of funneling public opinion on policing issues and priorities than all the thinly disguised photo opportunities now passing as public consultations.

Employment equity plans: Doomed to failure without goals and timetables, sanctions and people willing and able to implement them. Word is that this and the civilian complaints process, somewhat taken for granted in Toronto, blocked earlier passage of the Police Services Act (implementing the Race Relations Task Force recommendations). Nobody tries to pretend that anything other than the shooting of Marlon Neal unblocked the process. But, the act is not yet proclaimed and in force. That should be the new government's first order of business.

Drawing of firearms: The Metro force and police association continues to resist calls for filing reports because officers may jeopardize their lives in the few critical seconds it takes to decide whether to keep the gun holstered or file a report. Yet, at least one Canadian police force and several major American forces regularly file such reports. Besides, the real issue is whether the officer judges a life to be in danger, not whether s/he will be required to file a report.

Bang hang you're dead – the gun lobby: The proliferation of guns must concern us all. What possible redeeming social value can there be in owning a gun in Metro Toronto? There is no sport hunting in Metro. If people want to go hunting, they can lock up their guns at their hunting lodge or wherever they go for these manly pleasures. And surely, it's not sportsmanlike to shoot a deer with a semi-automatic. So why are these people talking rights?

Cops are Tops: There must be a stop to well-meaning but empty-headed slogans purporting to defend our cops. A *carte blanche* endorsement simply adds to the cynicism and erodes public confidence. The cops would be better served by a critical look at their daily routine and training to see where changes could be made, to improve not only their service and responsiveness but also their own job satisfaction.

The list is endless. Once we get on a roll, there will be a citizen's outcry against all manner of political and bureaucratic double-speak. That would save us all a lot of time and wear and tear on our patience, which we could put to better use – like taking a few concrete steps to improve our little town.

– Susan Eng is a Toronto lawyer and a Metropolitan Toronto Police Commissioner. She spoke at Reform Toronto's October meeting.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

TELL US WHAT INTERESTS AND IRRITATES YOU!

• About reforming the Toronto police:

• About other Issues.

I am interested in working with others in Ward _____ to elect a true reform Councillor in November 1991.

Life in Toronto is too fast

Take the time to tell us what interests and irritates YOU.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

MAIL TO:

REFORM TORONTO
633 Lakeshore Blvd. W., #309
Toronto ON M5V 3B9

(Make all cheques payable to "Reform Toronto")

I WANT TO JOIN REFORM TORONTO

Enclosed is my annual membership fee

\$20 Regular \$10 Student/Senior \$0 Unemployed

I WANT TO HELP PRINT MORE BADGERS

The Badger is funded by individual contributions from concerned Torontonians. I want to help Reform Toronto print more Badgers.

My cheque is enclosed for:

\$20 prints 400 Badgers \$50 prints 1,000 Badgers
 \$100 prints 2,000 Badgers Other \$ _____

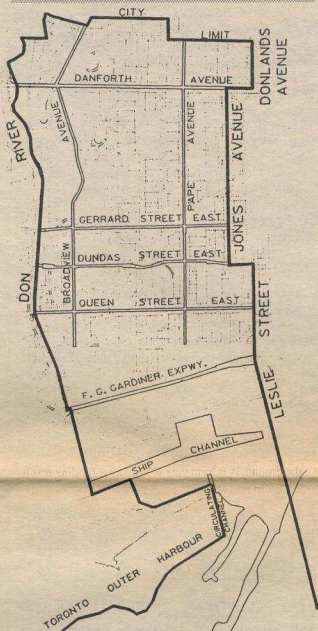
I WANT TO HELP DELIVER THE BADGER

The Badger is distributed door to door by volunteers. It's great exercise and important to let people know what's going on.

Call me and I will help deliver

If the residents of Ward 8 do not send a reformer to Council on Nov. 27, the developers may get what they want in the railway lands: a forest of high rises that will mean 50,000 more commuters coming downtown during the day, many of them parking in adjacent neighbourhoods such as Riverdale.

**WARD 8 VOTER INFORMATION
ELECTION DATE: NOV 27, 1990**



Here are answers to some questions about how to vote in the Ward 8 by-election.

• **How do I know if I'm on the voting list?**
Call the City Clerk's office at 392-7036, and they'll tell you.

• **What if I'm not on the list?**

Do one of three things:

- 1) Go down to the City Clerk's office at City Hall, and they will add your name to the list;
- 2) Go to the Pape Recreation Centre at 953 Gerrard St. East, between Oct. 25 and Nov. 8; or,
- 3) Go to the poll on election day, Nov. 27, and the returning officer will have you swear an oath that makes you eligible to vote.

• **Where is my polling station?**

Call the City Clerk's office, 392-7036.

**Pape Rec Centre (953 Gerrard E.)
hours of revision:**

- Oct. 25 and 26: 5-8 pm
- Oct. 27: 11-5 pm
- Oct. 29-Nov. 2: 5-8 pm
- Nov. 3: 11-5 pm
- Nov. 5-8: 5-8 pm

Above all, don't forget to vote! This by-election is crucial to the city; the balance of power on City Council is in your hands!

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current plan an example of "massive overdevelopment." He supports the Railway Lands Action Coalition, the principal group fighting the plan, and is critical of the pseudo-review (see report, page 1) currently being conducted by the planning department.

Linda Lynch, Tabus' main opponent, is much less clear on the development issues. She does not appear to have followed the railway lands debate closely, and is only now grappling with the issue.

In 1988, the Badger endorsed Lynch's unsuccessful run for a Metro seat against ultra right-winger Paul Christie. An environmental consultant, she was involved in the community fight against the Cherry Street incinerator.

At the time, Lynch said she was uneasy about the Badger endorsement because she didn't want "to alienate the right-wing vote." But this time, Lynch is taking on a bona fide reformer.

Furthermore, she wouldn't tell the Badger who supports her; in consequence, the Lynch political base remains unclear. But if people know you by your friends, the following may shed some light.

Fred Beavis, former old guard councillor for the ward, says he wouldn't support the NDP nominee, and that "Linda Lynch is a good candidate." Old guard Councillor Tom Clifford (of neighbouring Ward 9) says, "if it came down to the two [Tabus and Lynch], I would definitely have to support Linda Lynch."

An old guard councillor would never endorse someone he perceived to be a reformer.

Lynch says she has been viewed by the right as being left-wing, and by the left as right-wing. At one point in her interview with the Badger, she described herself as "a pendulum" - swinging from left to right and back again, depending on the issue.

The Badger considers this ambiguity a serious problem. It suggests Lynch does not consider the reform members of Council her natural allies, and that she does

not acknowledge the importance of working with the reformers to beat back the agenda of the right-wing developer-owned block on Council.

Tabus, on the contrary, speaks unequivocally of the importance of "changing the political base in the west

end" (developer-owned wards 1, 2 and 3), and "winning in the east end" (again, developer-owned territory), and over time eroding the hold that developers have on Council.

Development issues are of particular importance to Ward 8 because of the problem of over-parking. Since 1980, the old guard have had their way on Council and approved almost every high density application that came before them. The result is that Toronto's official plan was destroyed and thousands of new commuters have been drawn

into the downtown to work in the new office buildings. People are parking anywhere they can, including Ward 8.

This Council will be deciding on whether to allow up to 14 million sq. feet of new commercial development in the railway lands. The old guard, led by Art Eggleton, are doing everything they can to help their buddies in the development industry get what they want. The reformers will need all the strength they can find to oppose the railway lands plan, and set Toronto on a better course.

In our opinion, Ward 8 residents have a choice between a clear reformer, and a candidate who, if elected, could drift into the old guard camp. The balance of power on City Council is at stake.

Ward 8 citizens who wish to strengthen the reform group on Council should make an effort to get out to the polls on Nov. 27 to vote for Tabus. Churley was one of the strongest reformers on Council, and we can't afford to lose the consistent support for reform positions that came from Ward 8.

(Note: two minor candidates, Daniel Browning, and Carol Mark, have entered the race. Browning is a resident of Riverdale Hospital running on a platform of housing for the disabled. Carol Mark did not return the Badger's phone calls.)

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BADGER ENDORSEMENT

Peter Tabus has pledged to work with reformers on Council to fight against the over-development of the downtown, which is choking the city and making it increasingly unlivable.

Tabus sees a direct link between politicians selling out to developers and the specific problems of Ward 8 residents: he says Ward 8 (Riverdale) is increasingly being used as a staging area for commuter traffic. People are parking in neighbourhoods on the fringes of the downtown core, and the result, he says, is that the parking problem has become greater during the day than at night.

He's fiercely critical of the city's deal/plan with the railway companies to build over 14 million sq. feet of office space (the equivalent of 6.5 Empire State buildings) around the SkyDome, bringing some 50,000 more commuters into the downtown every day. He has publicly committed himself to working with the Railway Lands Action Coalition, a community group representing ordinary Torontonians, in the fight for a fair and open review of the railway lands plan.

Tabus is the property manager at the Oak Street Co-op. He is the president of Citizens for a Safe Environment and treasurer of the Pat Schulz Memorial Trust Fund, a daycare advocacy group. He has a long history as a housing activist, serving as vice-president of the Co-op Housing Federation of Toronto, and was a founding member of the Co-op Housing Association of Ontario. He is currently the president of the East Toronto NDP.

The Badger believes Tabus is a solid community-



based candidate who deserves the support of Ward 8 residents on election day, Nov. 27. For more information on the election, see the Badger editorial on page 1. For information on how to vote, see this page.

HOW YOUR COUNCILLOR VOTED

Harbour Commission

Council voted 9-8 to prevent Executive Committee members Layton, Nowlan and Disero from remaining on the Toronto Harbour Commission. Layton and Nowlan had rightly used their position to fight against the expansion of the Island Airport, which citizens across Toronto had opposed. The vote was on a Jacobek motion. It appears to be crafty Tom's way of seeming to oppose expansion (see Island Airport vote) while really being in favour of it.

Nuclear Weapons

It may surprise some people to know that eight members of council want to continue the Cold War in the Toronto harbour. Greenpeace and the Toronto Disarmament Network brought this one to Council, which voted on whether to ban nuclear weapons on ships in the harbour. Close votes like this one take on new importance with the loss of Marilyn Churley, a consistent reform vote on Council. With an old guard member in her place, the reformers would have lost.

The Terrace

Toronto kids fought hard and organized to push Council to find a new roller skating rink to replace the Terrace, which was demolished in 1989 to build condominiums. Council finally acted (see report, p.8) by defeating a motion to defer its contribution of \$5 million.

Railway Lands

There is a powerful block on Council who oppose a fair and open review of the plan for the railway lands - the most important land issue Toronto has ever debated. Councillors voted on whether to lift a holding by-law currently in place to give the city time to review the plan and incorporate community input. Six members, as you can see, are not afraid to go on the record as supporting the railway developers. Watch Eggleton and Walker, who voted here with the reformers: the railway companies have taken the city to the OMB over the freeze, and they will likely win their appeal; thus a council member can vote with the reformers, knowing the freeze will be lifted in any case.

Beauty Contests

This was Marilyn Churley's final contribution (before she vacated her seat to run provincially) to the advancement of women's rights at City Hall. Council voted to end the absurd and demeaning practice of

CITY COUNCIL VOTING RECORD : THE TWO YEAR MARK

	Layton	Amer	Churley	Nowlan	Maxwell	Silva	Levine	Hall	Gardner	Walker	Jacobek	Disero	Boytschuk	O'Donohue	Mayor Eggleton	Clifford	Korwin-Kuczynski
Ward 8 By-Election	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Photos on Ballots	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Olympics	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Ballet Opera House	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Railway Lands	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bay-Adelaide	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Harbourfront	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Harbour Commission	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Island Airport	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Front St. Extension	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cherry St. Incinerator	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Nuclear Weapons	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Gay Pride Day	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Beauty Contests	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Roller Rink	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

■ REFORM
 X OLD GUARD
 ■ NEW VOTES: May '90 - November '90

holding beauty contests on Nathan Phillips Square, in spite of the efforts of O'Donohue and the sexist old guard to continue them.

Front Street Extension

This is the latest vote on the on-going plans to build an extension from Front Street onto the Gardiner Expressway as a band-aid solution to traffic gridlock. This will actually bring more cars downtown. Furthermore, if the development goes ahead, one road block is removed from the development of the railway lands where a forest of high rises are about to pop out of

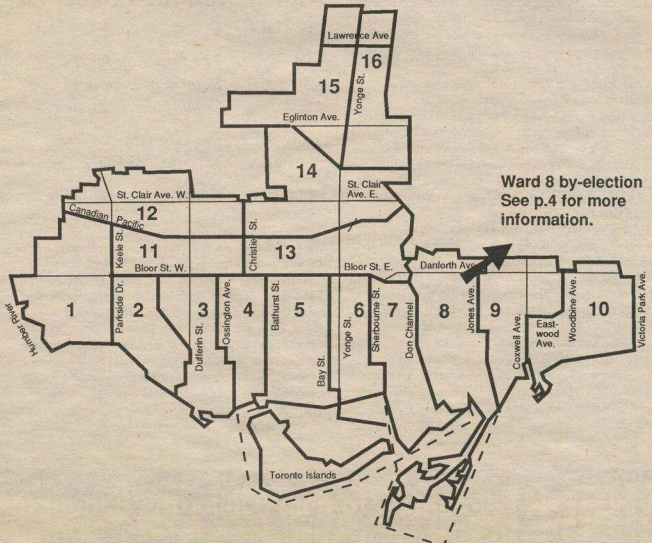
the ground. A reform vote to withdraw funding lost 8-7. Disero was absent.

Ward 8 By-election

Ward 8 Councillor Marilyn Churley vacated her seat this summer to run provincially (see report, p.1). Council voted on a motion to appoint, rather than democratically elect, a new councillor to serve the remaining one year. Several old guard members joined the reformers and the motion lost 11-4. Disero was absent.

Toronto City Council

- Ward 1: William Boytschuk 392-7907
- Ward 2: Chris Korwin-Kuczynski 392-7919
- Ward 3: Tony O'Donohue 392-7012
- Ward 4: Martin Silva 392-7910
- Ward 5: Liz Amer 392-7911
- Ward 6: Jack Layton 392-7903
- Ward 7: Barbara Hall 392-7916
- Ward 8: Vacant
- Ward 9: Tom Clifford 392-7904
- Ward 10: Tom Jakobek 392-7915
- Ward 11: Rob Maxwell 392-7908
- Ward 12: Betty Disero 392-7011
- Ward 13: Nadine Nowlan 392-7909
- Ward 14: Howard Levine 392-7912
- Ward 15: Kay Gardner 392-7017
- Ward 16: Michael Walker 392-7906
- Mayor: Art Eggleton 392-7001



467-1770

CALLING THE BADGER: Phone Reform Toronto and tell us what's on your mind. An answering machine is now set up to take your calls. If you have any questions, ask, and we'll try to find the answers. Don't forget you can also write a letter to the editor. See p.2 for the address.

Citizens fight Corporations over Railway Lands

The Group: *Railway Lands Action Coalition*

Address: 77 Essex St.,
Toronto, M6G 1T4

Phone: 531-6614, 482-0531

By Carolyn Cowan

A fight is going on downtown over the railway lands, 200 acres of valuable real estate. On one side: the big boys network with power, money and connections. On the other side: the Railway Lands Action Coalition (RLAC), with timing, flexibility and imagination.

The railway companies and their real estate divisions plan to use 80 percent of the land for commercial development and 20 percent for residential, including 37 towers. That's 14.4 million sq. ft. of non-residential space (meaning 50,000 more commuters), and 9 million sq. ft. of residential space parcelled into 5,000 units. 2,500 of the housing units will be affordable, leaving 2,500 non-affordable.

If City Hall is serious about wanting public input, it needs to develop a system that, first, is neutral and distances itself from the political structure where councillors chair committees and compose some or all of the membership; and, second, allows the public to provide input in its own style and scope of imagination.

The 200 acres is public land, originally leased to the railway companies to use for the rail infrastructure. The lease was for \$13,760 a year or \$1,100 a month, the current cost of a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto.

RLAC wants to flip the land-use ratio to build 80 percent residential (mostly affordable) and 20 percent commercial; a community that is self-contained and self-sufficient; a model for big city living in the 21st century.

A community that works

We're looking for a community that gives back more than it takes from the larger Toronto communities. This may be in the form of building and recycling standards, excess energy production through co-generation and other non-polluting systems, water purification facilities and food production from rooftop gardens.

Since RLAC was formed in January 1990, it has worked inside City Hall convincing politicians that people care, are organized and prepared to take issue with plans for the railway lands. We lobbied councillors, met biweekly with the planning department, organized an impressive deputation before the Land Use Committee, staged public and media events — including a high-profile April walk around the rail lands — all to keep the issue in front of City Council and the public.

Now, City Council has voted to ask its Planning Advisory Committee to organize public participation and input to council.

City Hall doesn't have a specific public input process; public views are directed only to committees or councillors. As a public interest group trying to effect change, RLAC was entirely dependent on inside information and advice about the existence of committees, chairs and members, upcoming meetings, councillors, and City Hall's cumbersome bureaucratic process.

If City Hall is serious about wanting public input, it needs to develop a system that, first, is neutral and



In each issue of the Badger, Reform Toronto provides a forum for groups to discuss problems of concern to Torontonians. This issue features the Railway Lands Action Coalition, and the Coalition for the Reform of Police Community Relations. If your group is interested in submitting to the "Who Care's" column, please contact Reform Toronto, 633 Lakeshore Blvd. W., #309, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3B9

distances itself from the political structure where councillors chair committees and compose some or all of the membership; and, second, allows the public to provide input in its own style and scope of imagination.

Our biweekly meetings with the planning department were informal and unstructured. In retrospect, expectations about the process were unclear. Beyond education of the public, planners saw their role as passive. They would, to some extent, incorporate our suggestions into the revised official plan. We, on the other hand, expected an interactive approach whereby our input would be evident as the talks progressed. Through appeals to the quasi-judicial Ontario Municipal Board, the railway companies shortened the time frame for us to negotiate with the planners and for them to incorporate our vision into their plan.

What's to be done?

To win the battle for the public's right to the railway lands, we need to develop a strong and noisy public voice. We need creativity and all kinds of skills to organize and work on special events, newsletter, mailing and phoning, public and media outreach. And we need people with organizational skills. In short, we need a lot of people, each committed to doing a little work. If you can help, call 482-0531 or 531-6614 to volunteer.

Policing the Police: An Agenda for Police Reform

The Group: *The Coalition for the Reform of Police-Community Relations*

Address: 198 Grandravine Dr.,
Toronto, M3J 1B7

Phone: Ruth Morris, 630-7581

By Brent Patterson

The Coalition for the Reform of Police-Community Relations was formed in December 1989 by citizens concerned about the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force. The concerns stemmed from longstanding observations of police activities, in particular the police shootings of Sophia Cook and Marlon Neal.

Coalition members are committed to a demilitarized and non-racist police force, responsive to and representative of the community, at the same time fiscally responsible and strictly accountable to the police commission.

No small task!

Coalition members include teachers, social service agency and church workers, activists and lawyers.

And, we hope, you. If you are interested in reforming Metro Police, you can join the coalition by calling Ruth Morris at 630-7581.

The coalition has a set of principles covering a wide variety of policing issues.

Police violence:

We advocate an independent civilian review/investigative body with the power to investigate, to demand that charges be laid, and to recommend disciplinary actions in cases of police violence.

Demilitarization of the police

In the months ahead, the coalition will be pressing for mandatory reports whenever police officers unholster their weapons in the performance of their duties. The coalition also believes that police officers should fire their weapons only to save a life, not at fleeing suspects.

The coalition also seeks to change the military frame of mind of the police. Traditional authoritarianism is no longer acceptable in the home, workplace or in policing; a new policing ethic reflecting social values is required.

Race relations

The police chief and commission should be firm in the areas of racism, sexism and police violence. Simply put, racist conduct by a police officer should be a serious disciplinary offence.

As well, police-minority relations should be consistently monitored by both municipal police commissions and the Public Complaints Commission, with a view to eliminating racist attitudes and actions and to improving police-minority relations.

Public accountability

The coalition believes community input into the priority-setting and decision-making of the Metro Toronto Police Force is a necessity. One way to achieve greater accountability would be to create a broad-based advisory committee from various community groups, which could advise the Police Commission.

The coalition also seeks a new and accountable police commission capable of independent research and evaluation. Independent resources to monitor the police should include separate offices, budget and staff.

Fiscal responsibility

The coalition will continue to advocate direct public consultation in preparing spending objectives and priorities. With a budget topping \$500 million in 1990, the force needs to be effectively accountable to the Board of Commissioners and public for its successes and failures in meeting objectives set for it in the budget.

The coalition also seeks a communications strategy to educate and enhance police understanding of employment equity principles and policy.

And to complete our wish list, we believe the police should deal with white-collar crime, with violators of the environment, health and safety legislation and employment law — not simply street crime.

In the coming year, the seven-member Police Commission will require two new members to replace June Rowlands and Stanley Makuch. With two reformers — Susan Eng and Roy Williams — already on the board, two more progressive members could shift the balance of power significantly in our favour and make the police commission a principal forum for debate on policing. We hope the newly elected NDP government at Queen's Park — responsible for the appointments — will select reformers.

In its first months, the coalition has developed the principles noted above, supported the Bread Not Circuses coalition campaign against the Olympic Games, written letters to newspaper editors, and developed strategies.

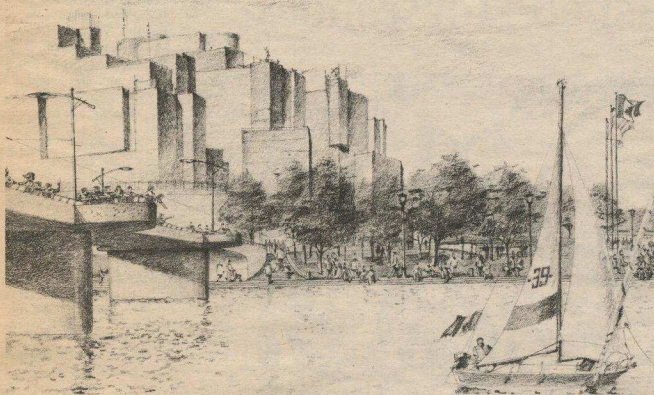
Our new priorities will be to expand our membership, broaden the base of our community supporters, get our message out to the public, and to push for progressive NDP government policies on policing.

Again, no small task. But with your help, progressive reform is possible.

To find out about our next meeting, 630-7581

HELP! Volunteer to help deliver the Badger in your area...call 366-0249

Son of Harbourfront?



Artist's rendering of proposed high-density mixed development south of the Gardiner, between Parliament and Cherry streets. The buildings at the left are reminiscent of the much criticized Harbourfront.

By Paul Carney

Toronto's commitment to industry in the downtown will be tested by a development proposal at the foot of Cherry and Parliament streets.

A consortium called St. Lawrence Park Ltd. has applied to the City for rights to build a large mixed-use project on lands zoned for industrial use. Twenty-five acres at the eastern end of East Bayfront will be redeveloped if the scheme passes, raising fears that plans for an extension of the Harbourfront "wall" may be in the works.

The site is occupied by Victory Soya and Canada Malt; a portion was once the Canon foundry. With the

At seven times coverage, the proposal would resemble the Harbour Square condominium/hotel towers at the foot of Bay Street.

Gardiner Expressway to the north and the polluted Keating Channel to the south, housing, offices and "green industry" may seem a strange use to place in the middle.

Even odder are the developer's drawings for the project. The architects have sketched a utopian paradise of sailboats on the Keating Channel, people strolling on lakefront promenades, consumers purchasing food from vendors on tree-lined streets, and kids fishing. Only in the background can you actually see the faint outline of buildings — the grey slabs of concrete that would surely dominate.

Text accompanying the proposal is packed with trendy prose about "public access to the waterfront," "mixed income housing," and "ecologically sound industry." It's as though David Crombie, currently studying the

waterfront area, had written the proposal. (Crombie is on record as supporting housing initiatives in the affected area.)

The St. Lawrence Park plan raises serious questions. In 1988, Council passed the Central Waterfront Plan, which zones the site as "restricted industrial." But so far no one has fully articulated what sort of industry is envisioned as we move from a heavy industry base to something different. Talk of "green industries" — industry meant to address the ecology crisis — remains talk.

Into this public policy vacuum, St. Lawrence Park proposes a mixture of film production, graphics and printing industries. But they are also requesting rights to build residential and commercial units at high densities. At seven times coverage, the proposal would resemble the Harbour Square condominium/hotel towers at the foot of Bay Street.

Current council policy forbids such density and such use. In late December, the City moved to protect industrial land by requiring any proposal to change industrial land to go through a detailed area-wide review known as a part II study. St. Lawrence Park, amongst other things, has triggered such a study, which is currently underway in the city planning department.

In the meantime, there has been little action by Council on the St. Lawrence Park proposal. A severance to build a Bell switching Centre on the site was granted on Oct. 2. Negotiations are ongoing with the developer to fine-tune the project.

The low-key maneuvering is similar to what happened before the worst excesses of Harbourfront emerged, apparently from nowhere. Will St. Lawrence Park be the "son of Harbourfront"?

REFORM TORONTO PRINCIPLES

In December, 1988, Reform Toronto adopted a series of principles to govern its operation. The principles emphasize Reform Toronto's independence and commitment to reform goals. If these principles appeal to you, join us by completing the membership form on page 3.

1. Members must subscribe to broad reform principles. Issue #2 of the Badger is a reasonable guide. Only members are allowed to vote at meetings. To vote at the Annual General Meeting, one must be a member at least 60 days prior to that meeting.
2. Basic direction is determined by regular meetings (normally monthly) of the Committee of the Whole, to which all members are welcome. These directions are then passed on to the Co-ordinating Committee, which refines them and carries them out. The Co-ordinating Committee is free to take action between meetings of the Committee of the Whole, to which it reports.
3. Reform Toronto is independent of any group,

caucus, party, or politician. Members acting on other than a Reform Toronto agenda are not welcome.

4. The Co-ordinating Committee has a primary responsibility to protect the integrity and independence of Reform Toronto, and is deemed to have a standing order to fulfil this primary responsibility.
5. Reform Toronto is committed to ensuring that credible, community-based reform candidates contest all City and Metro seats in the City of Toronto. To this end, it will encourage active community involvement and will not allow its endorsement of candidates to be pre-empted by other groups, parties, caucuses or politicians. Membership in Reform Toronto does not constitute an endorsement of anyone's candidacy.
6. *The Badger*, the voice of Reform Toronto, will be an independent and fierce advocate of reform, and will closely scrutinize all Toronto politicians.

MAYOR WATCH



Eggs and his corporate buddies struck out on the World's Fair and Olympics bids. While the "Mayor of all of the corporations and none of the people" was jet-setting to Tokyo, the electorate buried the development industry - tainted Liberals. Where does this leave poor Art? No Olympic development groups to figurehead and no appointments from the new crew at Queen's Park. And Brian just finished packing the Senate with Eggleton clones. What's a poor accounting clerk cum Chief Magistrate to do? If he runs for mayor, he knows he faces the same fate as Peterson and Mulroney. • Watch for our invisible Mayor to appear as campaign chairperson for Tom Jacobek's Mayoralty run. Tom is running on a platform of suing anyone who does not vote for him. The idea is to transfer all of Art's corporate donors to Tom. In exchange, Jacobek, if he wins, is expected to name Art to a \$100,000 job as Commissioner of Bureaucratic Outreach and Revitalization (BOAR). • Speaking of being bored easily, the hot newcomer in the mayoralty race is Marilyn Churley. The rookie Ward 8 Councillor gave up her City Council seat after only 20 months, you'll recall, to run successfully for Queen's Park. Eleven other women members were made cabinet ministers but not Marilyn. Miffed, she is reported ready to resign as an MPP to run for mayor, using that position as a stepping stone for a federal seat two years from now. • As proof that politics makes strange bedfellows, the word is that arch chauvinist Tony O'Donohue will support Churley's bid. If Churley steps down to run federally, shortly after defeating Eggs, Tony will call on his developer friends to bankroll his by-election campaign to fill the mayoralty vacancy. All of this, apparently, is being masterminded by Olympic deep thinker Paul Henderson. After the big Olympics loss, blamed on communists and Americans, in any O'Donohue regime Henderson would be a sure bet as Commissioner of Ethnic Purity and Loyalty-Oath Administration. The entire municipal civil service would be obliged to provide Henderson with family trees and lists of organizations to which they belong. O'Donohue and Henderson could argue that they were running as environmentalists. Their slogan would be: "Making Toronto Green by Getting the Reds Out." • Meanwhile, deep below Gotham City, the true pretender to the mayoralty, Jack Layton, has been licking his not-for-profit wounds while pondering his return to the limelight. One option being considered is a one-person Royal Commission, appointed by Bob Rae, to act as a kind of governor or proconsul for the Greater Toronto Area. Layton's problem is that the feminist-leaning cabinet will insist that the Governor of Greater Toronto be a Governess. Watch for School Trustee and Layton spouse Olivia Chow to emerge as a likely candidate.

By Whitney Smith

Close-up of comedian in a Lakeshore supper club. The place is packed. Laughter, applause.

"Have you ever heard the one about the lake? A bunch of frontier types sail across the ocean and down the river to this lake as big as the sea, where the water is fresh and the fish jump into the boats. The frontier types think this is the greatest place, so they build a town along the shore of the beautiful lake. Lots of decent people from the old country come to make it very civilized.

"Soon it's a hoppin' place. People start making good money in the new town, while they're having a good time swimming off the docks, eating the delicious fish that jump into the boats, drinking the cool, fresh water from the lake as big as a sea.

"Some people start making money right beside the lake, which is very handy to dump all sorts of stuff into. Soon the handy lake is full of things that prevent the fish from jumping into the boats and the people from drinking the water.

"Finally, even swimming in the lake seems like a bad idea so no one does, including the children who ... get this ... ready? ... can't understand why you'd have a lake you can't swim in!"

Wide shot of supper club audience. Shots of audience members rolling on the floor from uncontrollable laughter.

Drinks fall on the floor, breaking into many pieces, cutting nicely-dressed guests as they roll on the floor in hysteria. A riot breaks out and several of the guests are killed, many injured. The headline on the front page of the morning paper reads, "Lake Joke Slays Audience; Comedian Escapes to Rochester."

It's a repugnant thought, isn't it? Living beside a poisonous body of water. What's worse is reading a recent study commissioned by Environment Canada that emphasizes the extreme concentration of serious diseases in the Great Lakes basin, especially around the Niagara River. I wonder why? A little dioxin goes a long way.

Not to dwell too long on the bad stuff, let's consider some solutions for our area, or at least one way of looking at how to turn around the untarnishable.

1. Organize regionally. The Great Lakes basin has about 45 million people and about 40 or 50 "hot spots" where the water is really bad (like Toronto). To organize around the Great Lakes (two countries, two provinces, eight states and hundreds of cities and towns) is like trying to organize Europe. Good luck!

Life and Death in the Tarnished Horseshoe



The only effort worth it is on the local, regional scale. Hot spot by hot spot. Until each hot spot, each polluted "lake region," has its own clean-up plan, organizing on a larger scale is a waste of time.

2. Determine regional boundaries. Each lake region should be determined by its rivers. The rivers that flow into Georgian Bay and the rivers that flow into Lake Ontario should be part of different regions, or earth-related "bioregions." Though various factors must be considered in mapping a bioregion — cultural, economic, geophysical and climatic — the main organizing principle is the watershed.

3. Lobby politicians. They must be given the political will to clean up. How can you do this? Three things to start: a) Join an organization, community group or Remedial Action Plan (call the Environment Ministry)

that is working to clean up the lakes in your area. 2) Make sure your politicians represent your local concerns. If they dishonour them, organize the electorate to get them out. 3) Agree to pay more taxes toward the clean-up.

Let's take the Golden Horseshoe as an example. This is a densely populated, highly industrialized region stretching from the Rouge River at Pickering on the east to the Niagara River on the south. Each municipality — Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, etc. — can organize itself around each of its rivers and sewer systems. In most cases, Remedial Action Plans are already underway.

On the provincial level, we need a galvanizing force to bring all these smaller units together.

Calling Bob Rae, calling Bob Rae. Please report to one of the most polluted bodies of water in the world — the Tarnished Horseshoe Region!

4: Provincial action. Many areas in the province need attention, but concentrated effort on the Tarnished Horseshoe — one of the unhealthiest places to live in the planet — is well overdue. Toxic contamination of lake water is the province's most severe environmental problem.

If the new NDP government is going to gain the voters' confidence for the next election, it will have to do something about the environmental issues in the Golden Horseshoe, where most Ontarians live. Surely Rae understands that our collective self-esteem is inextricably linked to our water and its shores.

(Despite the fact that Rae has given Ruth Greer Minister of the Environment, the responsibility for the Greater Toronto Area, there is still a need for at least a junior minister to deal with the myriad of problems in the Golden Horseshoe area — an area with a population of over 6 million.)

If our new premier can rebuild that esteem, and the heritage of our waterfront from Pickering to Niagara-on-the-Lake, he may be around for a while.

Imagine. In the NDP Ontario of the future, no one will have heard the one about the lakes. It will all be history. Something that got bad and was fixed.

Someone's going to have to do it. Will it be you, Bob? Final shot. Applause.

Hysterical joyous laughter at the waterfront. Many are swimming, no one dies of dioxin poisoning or broken supper club glasses. Children guzzle water without harm. Fish jump in and out of boats.

All is well in our truly Golden Horseshoe.

Provincial Bureaucracy Kills Social Housing

By Paul Carney

In the midst of a housing crisis, inflexible provincial deadlines may cost the City of Toronto some essential social housing units.

So far in 1990, the province has allocated 3,600 social housing units for Toronto that require planning approval. City bureaucrats estimate that 468 units, or 18 percent, will be lost to Toronto because of insufficient time. It is a classic case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. Provincial funding deadlines are being set with little eye to the city planning process.

Currently, social housing developers approach the housing ministry for money. Ministry staff decide on the number of units to be allocated at the site without consulting city planners. The developers then approach City Hall expecting approval, within the Ministry timeframe, to build the number of allocated units.

Unfortunately, many social housing developments in Toronto involve difficult sites requiring community input and lengthy planning studies. The approval process often exceeds the provincial deadline. And when that happens, the housing units are lost to the city and the number of homeless people increases.

City efforts to communicate the problem of the time squeeze have fallen on virtually deaf provincial ears. Over the past five years, Toronto has lost between 30 and 60 percent of its allocated housing units. And according to a recent report, in 1990 the volume of housing applications is such that the city "does not have the staff to handle the present number of social housing applications for one year

that are equal to the five year volume."

To alleviate the housing logjam, the city has established a policy of "fast-tracking" housing developments. In April a committee of department heads on social housing was established. And the bureaucrats have created a "kit" to help social housing providers navigate through the bureaucratic channels.

These measures are laudable. But the province must understand that Toronto's social housing requires flexible approval periods. No one should be denied access to affordable housing because of government deadlines. The arrival of a new government at Queen's Park is a ripe time to raise these pressing concerns.

Are city politicians doing enough? It's hard to say. Ask any politician if he or she supports housing and the answer is yes. But what happens is something different.

Kids Beat City Hall

By Paul Carney

More than a year after the closing of the Terrace roller skating rink, Toronto kids finally have a new place to skate downtown.

The City will build a rink at Jarvis and George streets in two stages as part of a social housing development. The cost will be an estimated \$7 million, with \$5 million from public funds.

For supporters of Youth for More Recreation Centres, the announcement came as sweet justice after a long wait. When the Terrace was lost to condominiums in the spring of 1989, politicians told roller skaters to be patient while a city committee explored sites for a new rink.

The kids waited until July 1990. Then they came in the

dozens to skate around City Hall and to remind politicians preoccupied with hosting the Olympic Games that their needs were just as pressing.

Their voices were finally heard during a Council debate in which Jack Layton moved approval of City funding for the site, calling it "an historic opportunity for us to help kids" The new rink will be nestled within a U-shaped social housing project. At no land cost, and no displacement of other land uses, kids could have a place to go other than malls, said Layton.

Rach Commissioner, Herb Pirk, stated that the rink would park an underserved market: new immigrants and citizens on fixed-incomes. He also said that Wintario was interested in funding the rink.

The only snag in the debate arose when it was pointed out that money to build the rink would have to come from outside the normal budget cycle. Mayor Eggleton, for instance, though ready to pump millions of dollars of public money into the Olympic Games, questioned the \$5 million price tag. Others asked why this issue should receive special attention over their ward needs.

Council finally votes

Sensing a possible defeat, rink supporters agreed to Nadine Nowlan's suggestion of using interim funding for the time being, with the remaining funds coming from the normal process in 1991. So the outer shell of the rink would be built now, and the rest of the building finished in 1991.

All councillors except Tom Jakobec and Chris Korwyn-Kuczynski voted in favour of the funding scheme.

Kids celebrated their victory at a roller skating party at the Jimmy Simpson Recreation Centre on Sept. 30, 1990.