

**HOLIDAY BREAK**

After bringing out consecutive 12 and 16 page issues of the paper, the Seven News staff will be taken a much needed break. The office will be manned intermittently but unless it's urgent, people are advised not to call until after Christmas.



# NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
265 Gerrard St. East 920-8632  
Office at 80 Winchester St.

DECEMBER 13, 1975

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 13

**NEXT ISSUE**

Because of the Holidays, we skip an issue. Next issue will be out over the week end of January 10. Deadline for copy and ads will be January 5. And we've used everything in the last two issues, so keep writing for us ... !



**Tobogganing down the hills of Riverdale**



.... can be fun ..... OOPS! ....



.... HEY! Let's try that again ....

Photos by Audrey Kitson

## 30 Local Initiative Projects approved for Ward Seven

The Rosedale federal constituency will benefit from 114 jobs creating 3,375 weeks of work through approval of 30 Local Initiatives Program (LIP) projects. Federal funding totalling \$509,965 is earmarked for the projects.

Projects approved include **Dixon Hall Youth Employment** which will create four jobs with 120 weeks of work and funding of \$18,000. The project is aimed at young adults who have had no prior work experience or unsuccessful work experience. It will provide a flexible but supervised work experience in jobs that involve improvements to the Neighbourhood Social and Family Ser-

vice Centre.

**Project Anchor Person** will employ people who have spent time on skid row. These workers will help others deal with their daily problems, deal with social agencies including governments and medical agencies. They will also counsel others on skid row. Agencies co-operating in this program are Fred Victor Mission, St. Michael's Detox Centre and the Good Shepherd Refuge. Creating three jobs with 90 weeks of work, the project is funded for \$13,500.

Also funded in Rosedale is the **Metro Handicapped Housing Registry** which will create four jobs with 120 weeks of work and

funding of \$18,810. The project will research the housing needs of the disabled in Toronto and the availability of housing. It will establish a central office and will start a campaign to make the public aware of the need for housing for the handicapped.

These projects, which are now underway hired unemployed people through Canada Manpower Centres. The jobs will last until the projects are completed, or no later than next June 26.

LIP is a federal program designed to create jobs during peak times of seasonal unemployment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

## Canada World Youth work in area

by DAVE MOORE

Ward Seven has been infiltrated in the past few weeks by a motley assortment of youth under the collective cloak of Canada World Youth. CWY is a youth exchange program sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency. It includes 12 third world countries; Ivory Coast being the one that has been in the area in the past five weeks.

The Donvale Community Centre has been particularly hit by the influx. Brenda Allen, from B.C., Marcel Royer from Edmonton and Patty Nieman from Caledon have all helped with the drop-in and the hot lunches. Moïho Juliette and Sibailly Raymonde helped, respectively, with the blind program and the daycare centre, in spite of the fact that they only speak French, the national language of the Ivory Coast. During the month of October, the Centre played host to another group from El Salvador.

The rest of the group worked at places varying from Radio Canada to leather shops to Seven News.

The program, for all 12 exchange groups, began in September. A "formation" camp went on for three weeks, where participants could get to know each other both formally and informally. In the Ivoirien group, the 76 participants met in Lac Carré in the Laurentians. There the group was split into four, each with a group leader from each country. Since the Ivoiriens, civil servants, were sent over to learn something from Canada, the groups were divided along work lines, thus one in each of: audio/visual, social services, agriculture and recreation.

The month of October was spent in medium sized Quebec cities, each group in one of its own.

November saw the groups in Ontario: audio-visual and social services (the one that was involved with Don Vale) in Toronto, recreation in Hamilton, and agriculture in Guelph at the University.

Now it's Christmas break. The Ivoiriens are home waiting for the Canadians to join them on the 8th

of January. Probably by the time May 16 rolls around all will be glad the program will be finished.

Before it is, they would probably all like to express a large "thank you" to the people at Don Vale, and to Toronto in general, for a meaningful, if short relationship.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Dave

Moore, the author of this article, is himself an exchange student working with Seven News under the Canada World Youth program. During his five weeks with the paper, Dave has done about every job capable of being done. The staff of Seven News thank him and the program for his help — it was much appreciated. .... NGB)

## Riverdale to have a multicultural theatre

by ROBERT ROONEY

Riverdale will be the home of Toronto's first community theatre within the next year. That is if plans put forward by two east-enders are accepted.

Robert Rooney, of 191 Riverdale Ave., and Tom O'Hanley, of 54 Victor Ave., discussed the possibility earlier this year of doing something for their own community. The result — Synagon Theatre.

Synagon comes from the Greek word synagonisme and means 'compete together' and that is exactly what Messrs. Rooney and O'Hanley believe.

Said Mr. Rooney: "A community theatre has a responsibility to all the cultural groups within that community. Synagon will serve everybody and, we hope, bring people a little closer together."

Not that community spirit is lacking in Riverdale — as these two forthright young men discovered when they started expressing their views to people in the street.

"People we talked to," said Mr. Rooney, "showed great pride in their community and they want to be involved in its development."

So far the Synagon idea has developed into a professional theatre company with facilities for amateur groups and youth theatre. There will also be exhibitions of Riverdale arts and handicrafts.

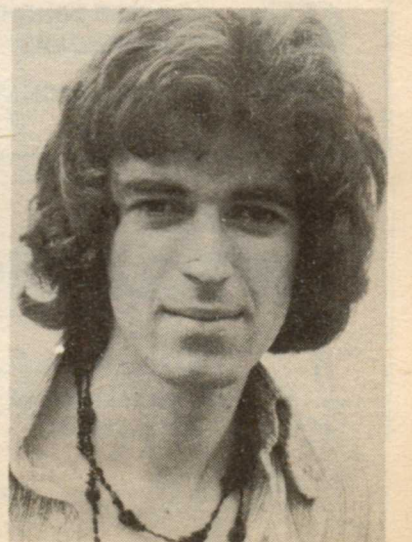
"It will be a place," said Mr.

Rooney, "where people of all ages can participate in the activities of theatrical production or simply a place to go for entertainment to the highest quality."

Negotiations are now in progress with the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme Steering Committee for use of space in the old Postal Station "G" on Queen St.

"We have applied for a grant from the Canada Council for the first stage of the project but we need local support," said Mr. Rooney. "We are eager to have everybody's view on the subject."

Synagon can be contacted at 466-4305.



ROBERT ROONEY

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**NEWS** is a community-owned newspaper published every other Saturday by Seven News, Inc., 265 Gerrard St. East. Editorial offices are located at 80 Winchester Street, phone 920-8632. SEVEN NEWS does not support any political party or individual and invites all members of the community to write for it. Any opinion expressed in SEVEN NEWS are those of the individual writer and do not represent the views of the staff or publishing organization. Where errors of facts are brought to our attention, we will print a suitable correction.

**PAID STAFF:** Managing Editor, Norman Browne; Business Manager, Ulli Diemer; Distribution Manager, Phil Jalsevac; Production Manager, David Ruppel; Volunteer Co-ordinator, Ulli Diemer; Advertising Manager, Jim Fulton.

**VOLUNTEER STAFF:** Paste-up: George Cunningham; Proof-reading: Karel Horsley; Billing: Jean Law; Filing and morgue clipping: Bryan Hannaford; General volunteer: Dave Moore.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Jack Cooper, Alan Dudick, Patricia Riley, Bill Lee, Marilyn Williams, Jordan Hill, John Cheng and Bev Coney.

## Seven News board seeks help

The new Seven News Board of Directors, at their last meeting, elected an executive and established the committees that will help in the smooth running of the corporation during the coming year.

Names as President of the corporation and Chairman of the Board is Jack Cooper, a Don Vale resident, an accountant and the lone hold-over from last year's Board of Directors.

Vice-President is Alan Dudick, Pat Riley is Treasurer and Secretary of the Board is Bev Coney.

A number of committees were also struck with members of the Board acting as organizers of the committees and doing liaison between the committees and the board. Each of the committees is open to membership from volunteers from the ward. Following is a list of the various committees and their Board contact person. If you are interested in helping out in the running of Seven News, contact the person in the area of your interest or concern.

**Editorial Policy Advisory Committee:** Alan Dudick, 466-0423. This is a committee of from three to five people that meets twice a month. It advises the Board on policy concerning editorial material in the paper, acts as a buffer between the editor and people who feel wronged by items printed in the paper and assists the editor in developing article ideas and people to write them.

**Fund Raising Committee:** Bill Lee, 924-7040. This is a working committee of from five to seven people each of whom may head up a sub-committee charged with raising funds in a particular manner or from a particular source. They will meet as the situation requires.

**Personel Committee:** Jordan Hill, 465-7985. Jordan needs a couple of people to assist him in this committee. They will be charged with establishing a Personel Policy for the paper, interviewing and advising on hiring and firing, and smoothing out inter-staff relationships and morale problems.

**Volunteer Committee:** John Cheng, 461-1168. As a community-owned newspaper, staffed by an army of volunteers, this committee is key. John needs help and advice on how to recruit volunteers, how best to utilize them and how to give them the recognition they deserve for their efforts.

**Advertising-Distribution:** Carol Finlay, 922-8710. Carol has taken on a dual role and needs some help. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve and/or expand the advertising and distribution of Seven News, give her a call.

And if you want to help out in a specific area and can't reach the person concerned, phone the Seven News office and leave your name and phone number. The Seven News number is 920-8632.

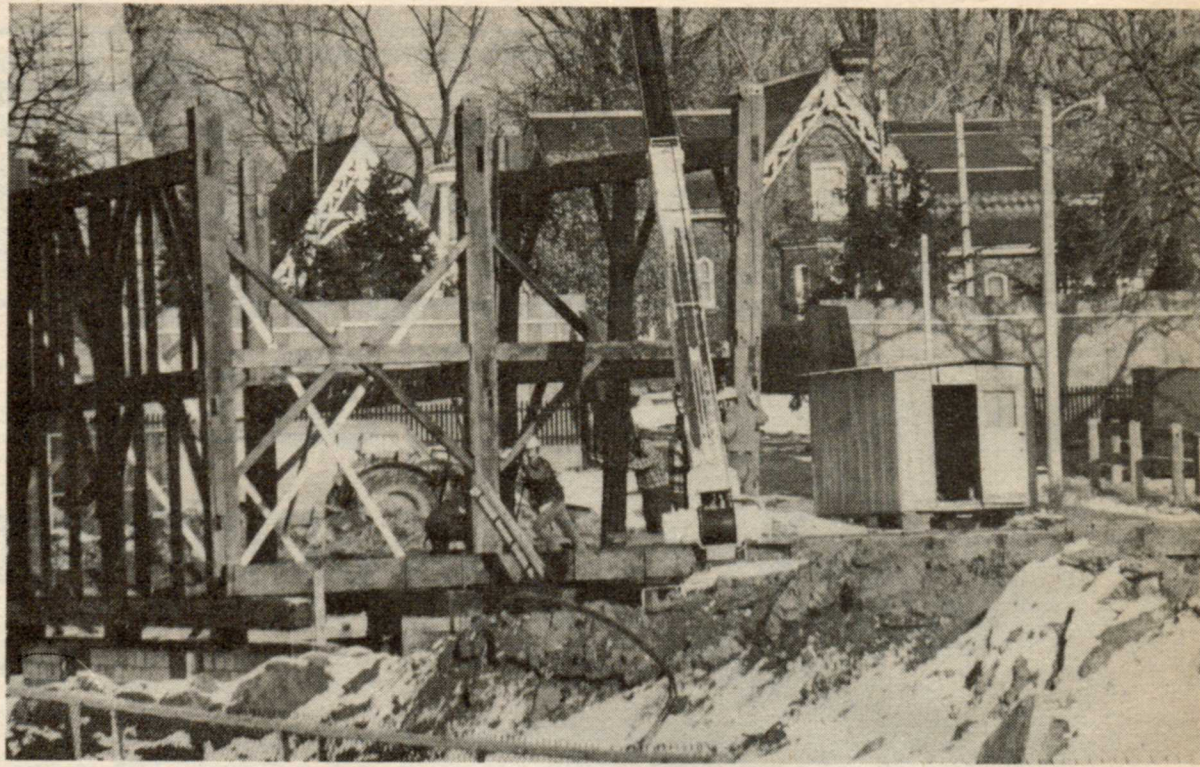


Photo by Audrey Kitson

A donated barn has been dis-assembled, trucked to its new site in Riverdale Park where it is being re-assembled like a jig-saw puzzle. Alderman

Janet Howard hopes she can persuade a group of Menonites to participate in an old-fashioned "barn-raising" to complete the building.

## LETTERS'



## Rent control should cover roomers

Dear Editor:

I live in a rooming house owned by Meridian in South St. James-town. I have lived in rooming houses for the better part of the past nineteen years.

There are two kinds of rooming house tenants. The City of Toronto's report, "Housing Low Income Single People", (September 1975), describes them as "short term users" and "long term users". I started in the first category and now I am in the latter category, which should really be called "long term losers" rather than "long term users."

"Short term users" are students and people who need a cheap place to stay, often a temporary second residence. "Long term losers" are exactly that, people who, for one reason or another, did not succeed in handling life's small daily problems. Marriage failures, business and academic failures. People who fail to earn more than a marginal income, people who fail the alcohol test, old people who failed to put a lot of money in the bank while they were raising a family, old people who failed to raise a family to support them in their old age, crippled war veterans, people crippled or damaged by industry, damaged people generally.

People in rooming houses don't open their doors. I have heard someone pound on the front door of my rooming house. I did not leave my room. I knew that everyone else in the house was home. No one else went to the door. The person at the door went away. When someone knocks on my door, I often pretend I am not home. People in roomng houses want privacy more than anything else. A rooming house provided anonymity.

Rooming house tenants are difficult to contact and impossible to organize. I believe that the provincial government is aware that rooming house tenants will not organize to defend themselves and that rooming house owners will out-vote rooming house tenants. A loser is a loser is a loser.

The housing situation in To-

ronto is bad. Well, at least it's bad for tenants. It is very very bad for low income families. But it is worst for rooming house tenants. I can introduce you to people, good people, old, sick, crippled, unemployed, living in conditions ... conditions that can only be described as criminal.

Rooming houses are disappearing. The houses on either side of me were boarded up this summer by Meridian. Eight of the twenty-three houses on our block are boarded up. Two of them were completely renovated before being boarded up. The developer is not in the rooming house business.

The effect of the City's rooming house bylaw is to cause owners to get out of the rooming house business. The third floors of many houses are boarded up because of the City's rooming house bylaw.

Rooming houses that accom-

modated a dozen people are being townhoused for small families or being converted to professional suites.

The pressure on rooming house tenants is far far greater than upon any other. A rooming house operator recently learned that his tenants would get a \$10 increase in their cheques. He put the rent up \$10. You would be appalled by the condition of the house. The tenants are scared to death because they know that no one else would rent them a room.

Rooming house tenants are the most vulnerable and the least able to defend themselves. We have the greatest need for protection and yet we are to be excluded from rent freeze protection. The government is concerned with the logic of votes, not-with need or justice.

Bob Olsen  
Wellesley St. E.

## Our cops are tops

Dear Editor:

We often hear of many charges and complaints laid against the local constabulary, and no doubt some of these complaints are justified, as we always find both the good and the bad in any segment, race or institution of society.

However, perhaps more credit could be given to those many policemen that truly do "serve and protect" and go about their often dangerous job with a real feeling of filling a vital public need, while maintaining a fairly good detachment from the many abuses they suffer when citizens try to look at all police as "gooks, pigs," and other derogatory forms of caricature.

I'm stating this because of my own personal experience that occurred last week when I ran out of gas on Dundas St. W., near Parliament. It was a simple thing in itself, yet indicative of something more significant.

Not knowing where the nearest service station was, I stopped a passing police cruiser for information. The next thing I knew I was

being invited into the cruiser for a ride to the station approximately one mile away. The officer, officially identified as 3971, phoned in that he was on a trip up Parliament "out of consideration" and we soon were at the gas pumps. I expressed my appreciation and mentioned that I could very easily take a streetcar back from our location.

That's when I really had my "mind blown" as they say, for the officer said there was no problem, that he would wait until I got my gas and drive me back to my car.

Being distribution manager for the paper, I decided to use the paper for personally and publicly thanking officer 3971, who also happened to ask me for a copy of Seven News when we got back to my car.

I also hope that this will serve as one small example to prevent people from feeling a lack of appreciation for those police, who are just human beings like anyone else, and are actually contributing a needed and helpful service to our community.

Philip Jalsevac

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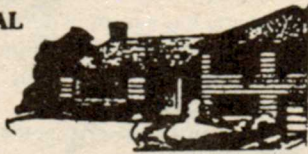
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Hopefully there will be lots more snow over the holiday period to allow people to better enjoy a walk through Riverdale Park.

Photo by Audrey Kitson

## NEWS ROUND-UP

# Regent Park North Old Boy's Association calls election meeting

A ten week course of **Yogi instruction** will begin Wed. January 14 in the Recreation room of the 240 Wellesley Building in St. James Town for residents of that complex. Fee is \$20 — contact **Jay Hooper** at 921-1604. ...

The Regent Park **Alcoholics Anonymous Family Group** will be holding an **open meeting** at Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak Street, on Wed. January 21 at 8 p.m. Discussion will be on "Alcoholism — the family disease" with three guest speakers. ...

New adult program worker at the St. James Town YMCA is **Desmond Parker**. He will be working up programs for adults in the standard rental units. ...

A two-year-old, female, Siamese cat and two kittens were lost in the **Amelia-Sackville** area of Don Vale on Nov. 8. Anyone with any information as to their whereabouts contact **Steven King**, 87 Amelia Street, phone 923-8958 after 4 p.m. ...

The Dixon Hall van is being made available to **transport senior citizens** to hospitals, doctor's appointments, shopping,

etc. If you live in the area bounded by Sherbourne, Broadview, Gerrard and the Lake and need some help getting around call **Josie Berlin** at 863-0499. ...

The Regent Park North Old Boys' Association will hold an **election meeting** at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18 at the Regent Park Recreation Centre, **415 Gerard St. East**. This is an important meeting as the Association may fold if more interest is not shown in it. ...

The Toronto Christian Resource Centre, 297 Carlton Street, will hold their annual **Open House-Christmas Party** on Thursday, Dec. 18 from 7:30 p.m. onwards. Everyone is invited. ...

The **Don Vale Community Centre**, which normally serves **Hot Lunches** each noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will not serve any during the weeks of Christmas and New Years. They will resume again on **January 12** at noon at 80 Winchester Street. ...

**Flo Murray**, the very active and popular librarian at the Parliament Library will be transferred to the new Northern District Library that recently opened near Eglinton and

Yonge. The Saturday "**2 p.m. Poetry and Rap**" sessions that she ran in the Parliament Library House will be handled by local poet **Norm Craven** in liaison with her successor. ...

**Gail King**, 16 Wellesley Avenue in Don Vale, will be having a pre-Christmas sale of **hand-crafted pottery** on Saturday and Sunday Dec. 13 and 14 from noon to 6 p.m. at her home. ...

A **turkey dinner** with all the trimmings will be offered by the Don Vale Community Centre on Tuesday evening, **December 30** at 6 p.m. at the Centre, 80 Winchester Street. Price is \$2 for adults and \$1 for senior citizens with tickets available in advance from the Centre. ...

The Committee for the Abolition of Training Schools has a number of **cars and drivers** available to take individual parents or whole families to visit their children who have not been granted a Christmas leave from **training school**. The cars will be available on Sat. Dec. 27 and Sunday the 28th. For information contact **Rick Carnegie** at 921-0007.

## DACHI petition gets 1,600 names

by TOM DENNIS

During the last month, Don Area Co-operative Homes, Inc. (DACHI) has been collecting signatures in Don Vale and surrounding area to convince the Provincial Ministry of Housing that badly needed financial support should be given to the DACHI housing project — especially for the low-income members of the co-operative.

To date, 1600 people have indicated their support of DACHI's second application to the Ministry for financial assistance.

At stake is the future of 33 low-income residents in the project — located on Carlton, Spruce and Dermott Place in Don Vale. If the province does not come through

with the needed financial support, the 33 men, women and children will be forced to leave their brand new units because they will not be able to pay the revised rent scale which comes into effect on January 1.

Many of these 33 people are long-time Don Vale residents who lived in the houses that were later bought and turned into a co-operative.

To date these people have been subsidized by other members of the co-op, but with the higher rents coming, this internal subsidization will no longer be possible.

According to a DACHI spokesman, the rents have been forced up by delays caused by the Don Vale Property Owners and by increased

construction costs.

DACHI's first application to the province, in November 1974, was opposed by the Don Vale Property Owners Association and also by three other Don Vale residents: Gary Stamm, Valerie Brown and Doug Wilson, who attended a meeting with Housing Ministry officials and DACHI representatives in April of this year.

At the meeting, these opposition groups complained that there was no community support for DACHI's application for financial support for its low income members. The signature campaign was begun to counter this allegation.

DACHI spokesmen stressed that the application to the Housing Ministry has nothing whatever to do with its pending new development plans which are now awaiting approval by the Ontario Municipal Board. The financial assistance is only for those now occupying renovated units.

If DACHI does not receive the financial assistance, the Provincial Housing Ministry will have dealt a serious blow to DACHI's attempts to provide low and moderate cost housing to residents of the Don Area.

## STREET REPAIRS IN '76

The City Public Works Department has recently released its proposals for major improvements (not including normal maintenance) in Ward Seven for the year 1976. Residents and businessmen in the ward are asked to review the list to determine if items have been included unnecessarily, or if items have been left off the list which need immediate attention.

Please phone John Sewell (367-7910) or Janet Howard (367-7916) if you have any suggestions.

### ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Clarke Street, from Grant to Boulton; Empire Avenue, full length; Howie Avenue, full length; King Street, between the streetcar tracks, Ontario to Sackville.

### NEW SIDEWALKS

Don Jail Roadway, both sides; Eastern Avenue, north side from east of Sumach to east of St. Lawrence St.; south side, patches in the same vicinity.

Howard Street, north side, Sherbourne to Parliament; Ingham Avenue, west side, Bain to Sparkhall; King Street, south side, Parliament to Trinity; Sparkhall Avenue, both sides, Hampton to 150 feet east of Hampton.

### LANE PAVING

Lane south of Carlton Street, from Ontario to Berkeley; Lane south of Gerrard, running west off Seaton; Lane north of Gerrard, from Nasmith to Sumach; Lane south of King, east of Sackville; Lane north of Queen, running east off Sherbourne; Lane east of Rose Avenue, from Winchester to Prospect; Lane north of Shuter, running west from Seaton; Lane north of Wellesley, east off Sackville and then north.

### Thank You

I would like to thank Ozzie Smith, Barbara Soles, Jean McCarthy and all the people from Regent Park who were so kind and understanding to my family and myself over the loss of my husband Gordon.

Mrs. Harriet Gauthier

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Two houses at the corner of Dermott Place and Carlton Street in Don Vale. They are presently undergoing reconstruction as part of the DACHI project.

Photo by George Rust-D'Eye

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# ST. JAMESTOWN BOY VISITS AMSTERDAM

by DAVID JOHNSON

Stewart Houchen, a grade seven student at Winchester Public School, spent a week in Amsterdam recently as a goodwill ambassador from Toronto. The thirteen year old boy is the son of Pat Houchen of South St. Jamestown and was one of two boys selected from the Big Brothers program for the trip. The other boy was David Duncan of Scarborough.

The trip was co-sponsored by the Toronto-Amsterdam Twin City Association and Big Brothers of Metro Toronto. Big Brothers is a voluntary organization that provides companionship to fatherless boys between the ages of eight and fifteen.

Mayor Crombie saw the boys off and they were welcomed on their arrival by the mayor of Amsterdam. They presented him with a watercolor painting of the Big Brother Centre in Toronto. He gave them each a special edition album commemorating Amsterdam's seven hundredth birthday.

Stew's mother told how he was selected for the trip. "The social workers nominated the boys and a committee from Big Brothers narrowed it down to twelve. They were interviewed and the number was cut to five. Then the final two were chosen."

When asked if she was surprised when her son was selected, she said, "I wasn't expecting it, but

I'm not suprised." It is easy to see why. Stew is a hard working, outgoing boy with enough activities to put the rest of us to shame. At school his favorite subjects are sciences and allied arts. He works after school delivering for Hooper's Drugs and finds time to practice the cello which he plays for the school orchestra.

He enjoys sports too. In the Junior Olympics held in the community last September, he won a first, a second and a third in the track and field events and an amazing six firsts and five seconds in the swimming events. He also plays hockey, basketball and tennis.

When Stew was asked if he was surprised that he won, he answered, "I was shocked to be in the twelve and it was a big shock to win."

Stew's week in Amsterdam was so full, he hardly had time to catch his breath. He toured the city on a canal boat, saw the world's narrowest house — only as wide as its front door — and went to a soccer match. "They play soccer like we play hockey. There isn't just one big team, but all sorts of leagues," he said.

He also took part in one of the city's ancient Christmas festivals, the visit from Saint Nicholas. As he said, "They don't have a Santa Claus like we do. Their's is a real saint and they think he comes from Spain in a boat. He rides a horse and the kids leave presents for it by the chimney. You know, things for it to eat, like a piece of cheese."

Stew dressed for the festival in a colorful medieval costume as a "Black Peter," one of the Saint's helpers. These are fifty boys who wear striped jerkins and paint their faces black with charcoal. They are supposed to be the elves that slide down the chimneys to collect the presents left for the horse. But instead, they carry a basket of raisins and hand them out to children along the streets.

He also visited a wooden shoe factory where he watched them being made. "I was disappointed," he said. "They make them with a machine. One cuts it to its outside shape and another scoops out the insides." But he did



Stewart Houchen, a 13-year-old, grade seven student from St. James Town is seen above receiving a souvenir of his week-long trip to Amsterdam from the Mayor of that city.

bring home the pair he saw being made as a present for his mother.

For a boy who had never even seen the ocean, this was an amazing adventure. He says, "The streets were little and 'S' shaped. Volkswagens were like the biggest cars and there were millions of bikes, even in the rain. I saw three cars fall into the canals and a driver can hit five bikes a day before they give him a ticket. The bikes just weave in and out all over the place."

"They don't have any fences in the country. There are canals around the pastures to keep the cows from wandering away and people have to drive over little bridges to get to their houses. I slept in a bed that was like folded into the wall and hidden behind a curtain."

"For breakfast we had toast with butter and flakes of chocolate on it. I liked that. Their pizzas aren't very good. They're real thick and covered with tomatoes — no pepperoni or cheese."

What did his family think of him going to Amsterdam? His sister Kira missed him as soon as he got on the airplane, but his mother laughs and says, "I was glad to get him out of the house for seven days. No, it was terrific. He got to learn something about other parts of the world he never would have learned."

"He hasn't changed a bit either. Everybody at school wants to hear about it and he has been interviewed on the radio four times, will be interviewed for another program soon and will be talking at libraries around town. But he's still the same boy."

After all this publicity, Stew handles interviews like a professional. He can watch T.V. with one eye and still give interesting and detailed accounts. Yet he remains open and sincere. He is eager to talk, though he is a little

shy and embarrassed about all the fuss made over him.

He does admit to enjoying one aspect of his new fame. "All the girls at school come over to talk to me," he says with a grin. "They want to know how it was."

## DAVISVILLE (Toronto) CREDIT UNION

## DON AREA BRANCH

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Due to lack of support, the Davisville (Toronto) Credit Union regretfully announces the closing of the Don Area branch facilities following business on November 13/75.

After that date, business can be conducted through the Yonge Street office, either by telephone or in person.

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## Food Co-op Federation gets LIP grant

The newly-formed Toronto Federation of Food Cooperatives has received a LIP grant to hire three food co-op workers for project FEED. The staff workers are: Neil Rothenberg, program coordinator, Henrik Bechman, buyer and truck driver, and Dave Finney, program developer and driver's helper. The project is located at the Community Secretariat, 249 Gerrard St. E., the phone number is 923-9871.

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The purpose of FEED is to assist food co-ops in the Don Area by providing transportation for food, arranging bulk purchases among several co-ops, and providing information on buying and food co-op organization. The Federation has applied for a grant to buy a truck, to be driven by the FEED driver for the member co-ops.

The long-range goal of FEED is to help set up food co-ops and help existing co-ops become stable and self-sufficient. The FEED workers will assist any group in the area which would like to start a food co-op.

Food co-ops in the Don Area include: Central Neighbourhood House Food Club, Dixon Hall Food Club, Don Vale Food Club,

Woodgreen Food Co-operative, Karma II Food Co-operative, and the S. Jamestown Food Club.

The St. Jamestown Food Club is a pre-order food co-op selling produce and eggs. Membership is open to all residents of St. Jamestown, and there is no membership charge. Orders are taken on Wednesday between 4 and 7 p.m., and are picked up on Thursday between 1 and 4 p.m.

Orders are picked up in the recreation room of 325 Blecker St. Anyone interested in joining should call 964-8775.

Information on the other food co-ops can be found on page 8 of the last issue of 7-News (Nov. 29, 1975).

## 30 LIP projects approved

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Following is a list of other Rosedale LIP projects:

Project	No. of Jobs	Man Weeks Worked	Amount
Open Door Drop-in	5	125	\$19,425
All Saints Church	2	60	\$8,250
Seven News	4	120	\$18,000
Community Secretariat	2	60	\$9,000
Operation Springboard	5	150	\$22,500
Law in the Community	3	90	\$13,500
Gym Drop In	5	130	\$19,500
St. Jamestown Nursery	5	150	\$22,500
F.E.E.D.	3	90	\$13,500
Don Vale Community Centre	4	120	\$18,000
Community Employment	3	90	\$13,500
Rooming House Tenant Project	3	90	\$14,310
Cabbagetown Boxing & Youth Club	4	120	\$18,000
Duke of York School	6	180	\$27,810
Regent Park Combined Projects	7	210	\$31,500
Injured Workmen's Consultants	5	150	\$22,500
Good Neighbours	4	120	\$18,000
Three-Four Time	5	150	\$23,100
Tenant Hot Line	4	120	\$18,810
Contact School	2	60	\$9,000
Hassle Free Clinic	5	150	\$22,500
Theatre Second Floor	7	210	\$31,500
Lord Dufferin School	2	60	\$9,000
Staffing 4-U Centre	2	60	\$9,000
Spruce Court Community	2	60	\$9,000
Creative Job team	2	60	\$9,000
Is Five	2	60	\$8,950

# Alderman John Sewell reports on Metro Council

by JOHN SEWELL

Metro Council is invisible to most residents of the city. Every once in a while something erupts on the Metro scene — a botched up trout pond, a baseball stadium without any baseball team, a reference library with no books — and the public gets a peak at the characters and tenor of Metro Council. But then darkness closes over, and Metro again disappears from mind.

That's not the way it should be. Metro Council is probably a more influential body than City Council. The city deals with small stuff: downzonings and upzonings, traffic plans, ice rinks and the like; and as people have come to realize how important these matters are, City Council has been the centre of attention. But in comparison with the powers of Metro, those matters are small. Metro spends three times as much money as the city, borrows fifteen times as much as the city for capital projects, and is the body which has a direct relationship with Queens Park. When you add up the two, it is clear that Metro Council is a much more important forum than City Council in the long run.

The problem with Metro, however, is that it is out of control. At least with City Council one knows who the players are, how to get in touch with them, and what they are doing. On Metro Council there are 37 people — twelve from Toronto, the rest from Scarborough, East York, North York, York and Etobicoke, and those from the boroughs are generally unknown to residents of the city. Ever heard of Alex McGivern, John Allen, Ron Summers or Gordon Risk? They are people who have a vote on Metro Council, just like myself, Mike Goldrick, Dan Heap, Colin Vaughan, David Crombie and Dennis Flynn.

Because Metro politicians were just elected to local councils, and became members of Metro because they sit on local councils, those politicians tend to put most of their time into local political battles rather than into Metro politics. When they come to Metro meetings, they are usually dreaming of being back inside their own turf and they try to get meetings over quickly so they can do just that.

Accordingly, they come ill-prepared, and get huffy when some of us Toronto types who believe in political debate keep getting up and speaking on items of importance. In fact, on four or five occasions, they have moved that the whole agenda be adopted without debate, and such motions have only lost on very close votes.

## Paul Godfrey

Paul Godfrey is the one person who controls Metro Council. His actions are given the stamp of approval, as though Metro members are glad that someone is looking after their affairs, and their gratefulness goes so far as to not question what he does.

I have been on Metro Council since January 1, and have tried to change this attitude. Metro makes the big decisions — overall housing and planning policies, garbage disposal and water supply, public transit, major roadways, welfare, day care, etc. It is within the Metro context that City Council operates, and if the context is screwy, then the city is in a straight-jacket. I have tried to deal with a number of bigger issues which take a great deal of time to both define and resolve. The following is a summary of what I've been up to.

Metro continues to sprawl, with split-level houses on fifty foot lots. In Ward Seven most of us recognize that a three-storey house on a 16 foot lot is quite adequate for most housing needs; it is a good use of land, providing a good mix of all types of people, and gives a good sense of neighbourhood. In the new suburbs, it's not like that. Land is squandered. The new communities don't work properly: since you have to drive to the store (it's too far to walk), the house is not designed to permit you to rent out a flat, or a room, or divide the house into to apartments.

As well, the sprawl communities do not have a life of their own — they are dependent on Toronto for work, entertainment, bars, restaurants, etc. The major objection I have been making is that land is squandered and wasted, and we don't have enough land to be so cavalier. As well, it is in the interests of the development industry to waste land, since that is how they make money.

Did you know, for instance, that in 1973, the developers made profit of \$75,000 per acre for every acre that they purchased as farm land and sold off for housing? To keep up their profits they want to use as much land as possible. That's what sprawl is all about. That is why I have been talking about it as often as I can — whether it is in North Pickering, or Scarborough, or Mississauga.

## Housing

Every time Metro gives its stamp of approval to a new sprawl community, it approves more expensive housing. The average cost of new housing in the suburbs is \$65,000, and very few people in Metro have this type of money. I take the attitude that if Metro is going to approve plans for developer-built housing, it should ensure that ordinary people will be able to afford it. That means we should be ensuring that the sale price will be in the realm of \$40,000 per house. If Metro set up appropriate criteria, it could ensure that new housing would be within the means of ordinary people. I talk about this every time I can.

## Planning

Metro is now working out a new Official Plan, called Metroplan. An expensive citizen participation programme has been going on for the past year, and has given rise to almost no citizen input. In fact, I think the participation programme has been designed so it will fail, and this failure can be used against people. The planning that is happening is nonsense, and as far as I can see isn't even asking the right questions.

For instance, the planners won't come out against substantial increases in office space downtown; they won't support reasonable cost housing; they won't oppose even larger roads and expressways for cars; they won't oppose sprawl. They are planning for massive growth in and around Metro, even though all of the surveys of the past few years indicate that people are fed up with a "bigger is better" philosophy. I have been a constant critic of Metroplan, and hope to take very substantial (and hopefully impressive) action on this issue early in January.

## Transit

Metro Council controls the TTC, and ultimately says how it can spend its money. In 1970, the TTC operated with a surplus, but in 1975, the estimated deficit (even though the fares were raised) will be close to \$50 million. I have ar-



JOHN SEWELL

gued consistently that the TTC is losing money hard over fist because it is trying to become a commuter system, and is spending too much money carrying people from the suburbs downtown. Did you know, for instance, that the people in the City of Toronto subsidize every suburban rider to the tune of \$75 per year? When we had the two zone system, there was no such subsidy, but now we have to pay it.

And income analysis shows that with the exception of places like Rosedale and Forest Hill, incomes in the city are much below incomes

in the suburbs. Should the low income families be subsidizing the high income families to ride on TTC, or should it be the other way around? As well, TTC service is directly related to sprawl. Sprawl communities are lightly populated, and in any case distances are so great that it takes a great deal of time to get anywhere. If the suburbs were built like Ward Seven (but with fewer high rises), then TTC would pay for itself out of the fare box.

The best example I can give of what the TTC is up to, and what I am complaining about, is the proposed extensions to the Bloor subway. The TTC wants to extend the subway from Islington to Kipling and from St. Clair to Kennedy, at a cost of \$120 million. The extensions would attract an increased ridership of 14,000 people a day — which is nothing when you remember that the Dundas streetcar carries 20,000 people per hour. I have been arguing for the past few months that this extension is sim-

ply too costly — there are better ways to spend \$120 million — and it looks like the TTC might be giving in. It might be my first substantial victory at Metro.

## Garbage

Metro has to dispose of the garbage that the city picks up from our homes twice a week. We produce about 40,000 tons of garbage a week in Metro, and we haven't got any good places to put it now that country people are complaining that they don't like it dumped in their ravines. I have been pushing for ways to reduce the amount of garbage we are producing — that is much cheaper than trying to recycle it. I have started a debate about getting legislation which would let Metro control disposable containers (like non-returnable pop bottles, and cans) but it has been stalled for a few months while the container industry tries to sort it out on a "voluntary" basis. Garbage is a big problem, and the debate will obviously take a long time to win. But we have to start somewhere.

## Year End City Hall Report

by JANET HOWARD

*"There is a very odd thing about property rights as they pertain to land: somehow they are supposed to transcend all other rights.*

*Everyone knows you should not pollute the air. That is a very bad thing and all levels of government have laws against it. Everyone knows you should not pollute the water. That is a very bad thing too and we have many laws against that.*

*"But if you want to pollute land; over-build it, misuse it, shut off your neighbour's sunlight, over-strain the transit capacity or build some mindless monument to corporate arrogance, you can expect full support of your property rights from arcane government agencies and footling editorial writers.*

*"As Adam Smith, the father of modern capitalism, told us about 200 years ago the ownership of property brings not only rights but responsibilities and I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that as long as this Mayor and this Council are in office, those responsibilities to society will be met as the rights of property are realized."*

That is what Mayor Crombie told the inaugural meeting of the 1975-76 City Council. He went on to pose the question of who should plan for the growth of this City, and told us who it should **not** be: "The two dozen land owners who insist that 12 times coverage is graven in stone and have yet to make a single corporate or industry-wide gesture that the future of the City or its people have any importance other than in the balance sheets of their corporations — their legal sycophants ... aging retainers of a bygone era who mourn the passing of the Child Labour Laws, the Factory Acts and Progressive Income Tax."

The people who should decide, he finally got around to saying, are the people who elected us.

Listening to all that, I had my doubts. If it were true that City Council stood for these principles, under the leadership of a Mayor who believed in them, the newly formed Reform Caucus would have found itself in happy harmony with the rest of Council.

As I look back over the past year, I'm hard pressed to find many instances when City Council took the side of the majority of people who elected us over the smaller, richer groups of people that Mayor Crombie said would not be in charge in decisions. When Council did vote in favour of the majority, it was generally after a long, hard fight.

## Permit Parking Issue

Oddly enough the issue that took more of most aldermen's time than any other was not the future of downtown, not any battle with a giant developer, not rent control — but permit parking.

Nothing Council has proposed to do this year generated anything like the quantity of correspondence, phone calls, meetings and tangled series of bylaws for recall and for passage as permit parking.



JANET HOWARD

There is a very good reason why: where, when and how cars park is part of the way a neighbourhood ticks. People can generate strong feelings about a matter that so noticeably affects the streets they live on, and many who lack the confidence to comment on such awesome items as the public works department capital budget will object vehemently when City Hall starts fooling around with their own streets.

Initially permit parking was to be a simple matter. It was so simple, in fact, that it was totally inappropriate for the complexities of the many and varied neighbourhoods throughout the city. People were furious at being told they could choose permit parking or tickets. In the richer, newer areas of Toronto, people were angry that the modest charge of \$24 a year amounts to less than the property tax chargeable on a garage and driveway. In the older areas, developed before anyone needed garages, people were angry because they already pay taxes for the upkeep of the streets and do not feel they should have to pay what amounts to rent on them as well.

It was a battle to get City Council to hold off imposing its original simple-minded scheme until better systems could be worked out. The fight to leave matters up to the aldermen of each ward on the advice of ward residents went down in flames. The argument that won was the Mayor's. He said it is unjust to the people with the driveways if the people without driveways are allowed to park on the street free. (One resident of Empire Avenue had a good reply for that: "If I had the price of a house in Forest Hill I could probably afford to pay the taxes on it. I didn't really choose not to have a driveway.")

## City Housing

Dundas-Sherbourne opened this year its handsome old houses, divided into rooms and apartments. That was the project that drew a hundred people out at six o'clock in the morning to keep a developer's bulldozers from destroying the whole block while the Mayor was sent to Queen's Park to persuade the Provincial Government to help up buy it. The City's re-entry into housing after many years of leaving it to OHC has produced some good accommodation at reasonable rents in established neighbourhoods, while the St. Lawrence project, near St. Lawrence Market, is taking shape on the drawing board as a new neighbourhood altogether, planned as an extension of the city rather than a St. Jamestown.

Although we lost several rounds of some important battles, 1975 has not been a bad year politically for the people of Ward 7. The Reform Caucus has made it difficult for Council to vote against ordinary people without being very obvious in what they are doing. The more clearly people can see what their politicians are doing, the better chance they have of influencing what those politicians do. And some City policies have changed for the better, like doubling to 50% or more the number of apartments available to people of medium or lower income in many of the City projects — half the housing for half the people, as the saying now goes. Small things, like getting rush house parking restrictions on Parliament Street lifted, or planning a little park for Allen Avenue, are possibly the most satisfying results one can see in the short term, but even one year on City Council has convinced me that it is worth hammering away at those people the Mayor said should not plan the future of this city.

# Experimental programs part of 1975 school highlights

by DOUG BARR  
and GORD CRESSY

As far as education is concerned, it would be fair to say that in 1975 we were very much alive and have had an extremely busy year — not only in Ward Seven but also at the Board of Education. Here is a random look at some of the highlights.

## IN THE WARD

1975 was the year in which: the RPCIA created the Jody Phillips Awards for deserving boys and girls in the public schools serving Regent Park.

**Sackville School** survived once again under the strong leadership of Jim Kline and Esther Wheatley. It opened its doors in a most neighbourly way to the French Elementary School and also got itself a playground.

**Regent Park** teachers beat the trustees at volleyball (what we won't do to boost the morale of our staff!). **Queen Alexandra** turned a schoolyard tragedy into a creative community experience by having the kids design a new playground.

**Lord Dufferin** completed its second successful summer school program and is beginning preparations for its Centennial. **Winchester school** settled down after yet another change of principal, moved in after the fire, celebrated its 100th anniversary and started up a parent's group.

**Withrow school** got its playground changed, its parent's group revitalized, and became the proud possessor of the World's Largest Mural. **Jackman School** finally began its bilingual-bicultural, Greco-Canadian course. **Frankland School** did the same

and went on to not only become involved in choosing its own principal but also plan for its new school.

**Sprucecourt** got the Special Education Class it requested and a small playground as well. **Rose Avenue School** started a parent's group and put on the smashing theatrical success — Pinocchio.

And at **Eastdale**, their **Community Council went on from strength to strength and the school legitimately became a Collegiate Institute.**

## AT THE BOARD

1975 began on an upbeat with Ward Seven's own Gord Cressy being elected School Board Chairman. Much of the Board's time was spent on two issues, neither of which was a top personal priority of ours — sharing a school space with the Separate School Board and negotiations with both our elementary and secondary teachers.

The Board also adopted the report of the Workshop on Multicultural Programs and with it finally recognized the fact that over 51% of the youngster in the Toronto school system come from homes where English is not the first language.

The report took over one year of work by trustees and staff members. It represents some of the most progressive thinking in North America regarding the means by which a large urban school system can deal sensitively and with integrity with the cultural heritage of New Canadian children.

1975 saw **Karl Jaffary**, formerly our alderman and now a consultant, table his report on the Decentralization of the Toronto

School System. As always, Karl has not minced words nor held back on innovative suggestions. The Board will be debating the Report in 1976.

1975 was an important year for inner-city education and several significant initiatives have taken place. Funds to schools designated in Toronto as "inner-city" have been allocated by a new and fairer formula based on degree of need.

Nine of the Ward's 12 elementary schools qualify for this extra help (teachers and supplies). Of the 15 schools receiving the greatest help, six are in Ward Seven (Dundas, Lord Dufferin, Sprucecourt, Park, Regent Park and Sackville).

Teachers who have taught five or more consecutive years in inner-city schools have been given priority in transfers. The summer school program to upgrade basic skills was held in many more schools and with considerable success.

A five year experiment was launched at **Dundas Public School** to come up with a curricula based upon the language and culture of working class children.

The Board approved a grant to Dr. John Frei of the Faculty of Social Work to design a major project to attack inner-city learning problems with a many-pronged approach.

Nutritious lunches were subsidized in two Toronto schools to see if we could get the kids off the "coke, chips and gravy" bandwagon. Eligibility levels for free carfare and supplies were raised and the Board voted to update its Every Student Survey to get an accurate picture of who is making it in the Toronto system.

In 1975 the Board also officially adopted a policy to encourage groups to rent vacant school space during weekdays, gave elementary school teachers 12 professional activity days and reaffirmed its policy to keep the strap out of Toronto schools.

The Board sanctioned homework where necessary, started a new program to help students leaving school early, and learned of the magnitude of its drop-out problem and began actions to remedy it.

The year 1976 looks like more of the same. Given a one-year set-

tlement with our secondary school teachers, we will be in negotiations again. Certainly we will be sharing space with the Separate School Board.

The debate on decentralization will become official and the battle for equality in the allocation of educational resources to children in need will continue.

**In the final analysis, it's the last item that is the most crucial. We believe that the health and success of the Toronto school system will be judged not by whether we have added more to the abundance of those who have much, but whether we have provided enough for those who have too little.**

Happy holidays!

## SURVIVAL!

### THE ROLE OF THE NURSE-PRACTITIONER

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting with this issue, SEVEN NEWS plans to carry a regular "health" column. The word health is in quotation marks because the column will range very wide and deal with many topics not normally considered to be under "health." The columns and the items in it will be written by volunteers in and out of the area who have a concern and interest in medical and health problems in Ward Seven.)

Co-ordination and sponsorship of the column will be done by the Don District Community Health Centre. Anyone with suggestions for columns, or who wish to contribute items to it, should contact Maggie Brockhouse at 364-1361.)

Sometimes people who use Health facilities in general are puzzled by the people who see and treat them. We plan in future issues of Seven News to get these people to tell you themselves what they do.

Some of you have already been in contact with a Nurse-Practitioner, others have yet to make that contact. Questions will probably arise: Who is she? and what does she do? Is she a Practical Nurse? a go-between for Doctor and Patient? someone between a Doctor and a Nurse? a Para-Medic? or, a Super-Nurse?

The Nurse-Practitioner is a Registered Nurse, functioning in an expanded role, and is a member of a team of health professionals. In this expanded role the nurse is allowed to exercise more independent judgement than has been previously permitted. This is accomplished with interviews, counseling and physical examinations of patients.

The Nurse-Practitioner's functions include dealing with acute common illnesses for example, bronchitis, and general care in long-term illnesses, and follow-up visits. Such visits are made in the clinic or in the home or a regular basis, and frequently hospital visits are made for patient support. The Nurse-Practitioner operates regular clinics, such as Well Baby clinics, Pre and Post-Natal clinics, Family Planning clinics and Geriatric clinics. The Nurse-Practitioner co-ordinates the health care of individuals and families through referred to appropriate health professionals and / or agencies as needed.

The Doctor is responsible for everything the Nurse-Practitioner does with respect to the patient, therefore she consults with the Doctor regularly. The Nurse-Practitioner can suggest medications but actual prescriptions are approved and signed by the Doctor. Every patient is told that they will be seen by the Doctor or the Nurse-Practitioner. If they insist on being seen by the Doctor their preference is respected.

The role of the Nurse-Practitioner varies depending on the working situation and the confidence and trust of her patients and colleagues. Before a nurse can become a Nurse-Practitioner she must carry out a program combining formal education with clinical experience which develops her skills in physical assessment, case management and decision making. She is then entitled to receive a Certificate of Attendance and the designation of Nurse-Practitioner.

The Primary Objective of a Nurse-Practitioner is to help promote and maintain a Healthy Community through prevention, education and the treatment of disease.

Betty Paul  
Nurse-Practitioner

Another reminder that the local Board of Health is coming out into the community at a meeting hosted by the Don District Community Health Centre on December 15 at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street. The community participation aspect of the meeting is at 7:30 p.m.

Any group interested in making suggestions about how the Public Health Department could be more effective should phone 364-1361 and ask to be placed on the agenda as a speaker.

Senior citizen groups, child care groups, environmental groups and those interested in the quality of health services available in Ward Seven should make sure to attend this meeting and express your concerns.

**CORRECTION:** In the last issue of SEVEN NEWS, Maggie Brockhouse was referred to as "executive director" of the Don District Community Health Centre. In fact, she is the Co-ordinator.



## CITY OF TORONTO 1976 ELDERLY PENSIONERS TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

(HOME-OWNERS IN THE CITY OF TORONTO ONLY)

To provide financial assistance to elderly home-owners, City Council has authorized the City Treasurer to allow certain owners of residential property a credit of \$100.00 against the 1976 taxes imposed on such real property, subject to the following qualifications:

TO QUALIFY, THE OWNER OR SPOUSE OF THE OWNER MUST:

- Be 65 years of age or more by March 31, 1976, which is the last day for filing applications;
- Be in receipt of the monthly GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT provided under the Old Age Security Act (Canada);
- Occupy the property on which the municipal taxes are imposed and;
- Have been continuously assessed as the owner of residential real property in the City of Toronto for not less than 5 years immediately preceding March 31, 1976.

If you qualify for this assistance and have not received an application form TELEPHONE THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 367-7036, and an application form will be mailed to you.

Application must be made each year for this assistance. This credit, where allowed, will be an outright grant made by the City and will not entail repayment of any kind.

For further information or assistance, telephone 367-7036.

ROY V. HENDERSON  
City Clerk.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE  
NOT LATER THAN MARCH 31, 1976

## John Innes Community Centre has interesting history

by BRYAN PRETTIE

The John Innes Recreation Centre is that yellow brick building one sees beside Moss Park Arena on the north-west corner of Sherbourne and Queen Streets.

The 1.2 acre plot of land on which the Centre is situated has had an interesting history. It was formerly part of the estate of the late Honourable G. W. Allan (after whom Allan Gardens was named.) In 1881 a school was built on the south side of Shuter Street and occupied part of the area covered by the existing Centre. Decades later this school became known as the Moss Park building and acted as the community's Recreation Centre for 35 years. A curling and skating rink was located on the same property.

Some time between 1881 and 1904 the land was bought by the James Nasmith Company. In 1904 the Company filled an application

with the City to permit the erection and operation of a bread factory on the premises. This aroused considerable opposition and objections on the part of the immediate neighbours, residents and owners of land in the vicinity.

The permit was refused and City Council, acting for the first time under powers contained in a recent Act of the Legislature passed a bylaw to prohibit the erection of stores and factories on this section of Sherbourne Street. The City shortly thereafter purchased and dedicated the land for park and playground purposes.

As mentioned, the old school was being used for the Recreation Centre but it was simply not meeting the needs of the community. It lacked modern facilities such as a swimming pool, a large gymnasium and needed general rehabilitation.

Through the efforts of concerned citizens and politicians, one

of whom was Controller John Innes, it was decided and approved by City Council to demolish the existing structure and build a new one at the cost of \$450,000.00

At the time a committee of prominent citizens was appointed to look into the financing of the project and to enlist the cooperation and support of community organizations and citizens. The money for the capital expenditure was raised through taxation.

The new building would contain a 75' x 25' indoor swimming pool, a large gymnasium capable of permitting three simultaneous badminton games, small games rooms, craft rooms, a library and a television room.

After tenders were received, the contract was awarded to the George Hardy Construction Company and the first sod was turned in the fall of 1950. Due to a shortage of steel, construction was delayed until the late summer of 1951. It was at this time that John Innes died.

John Innes was best known to the people of Toronto as an Alderman and Controller. Before becoming a Controller in 1947 he had been an Alderman in Ward 9 for eight years. As an Alderman he spent a great deal of his time listening to the complaints and concerns of the taxpayer.

As well, he would see that something was done for them. Even as a Controller, he continued to devote much of his time to the little things that made him so popular as an



Alderman John Innes at the old City Hall during his term of office. He was instrumental in getting the community centre built that is named after him.

Photo: City of Toronto Archives

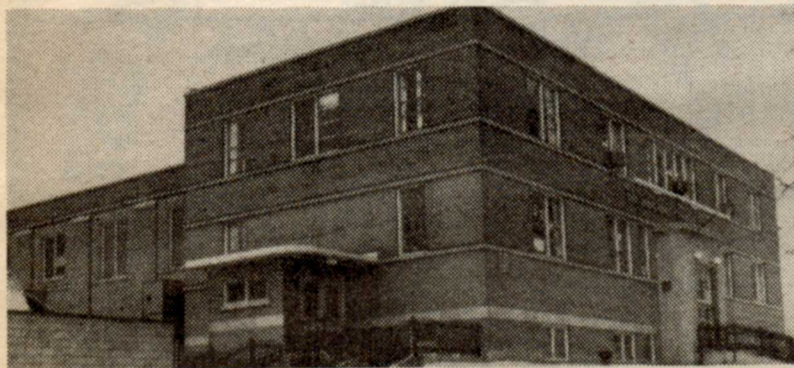


Photo by Audrey Kitson

The John Innes Community Centre at the corner of Sherbourne and Queen. It is seeking more use by the community.

## Lord Dufferin School is 100 years old

Ward Seven has its share of old schools. The past five years has seen a number of anniversaries celebrated as schools in the area pushed near to, or passed the 100 year mark in age.

Now it's the turn of Lord Dufferin school on Berkeley Street in the South of Carlton area to celebrate its 100th birthday. A Centennial Committee has been set up by the school and they plan to use the whole of 1976 to mark the celebration with various events.

As a start, the Centennial Committee is seeking to contact all former staff and students of the school. Those former staff or students are asked to contact the Committee at the school, 303 Berkeley Street. They will be put on a mailing list and kept up-to-date on all events planned for the centennial year.

In the beginning, it was simply Dufferin Public School and was originally a "large and handsome school" of 12 rooms built to relieve Park and George Street Schools.

It was erected on 246 feet of property purchased on May 6, 1875 from the estate of George Beatty for \$8,610. The cost of the building was approximately \$20,000 and it opened January 8, 1877.

Shortly after its opening it was visited by the Governor-General, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, who so graciously allowed it to receive his name.

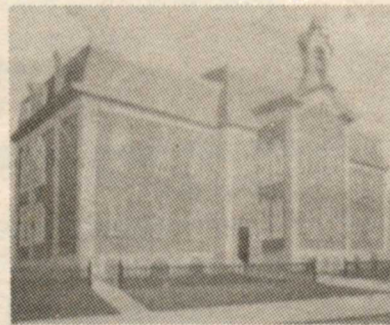
Since that time, the school has undergone several changes. Additional property was purchased in 1890, including that of the late Richard G. Stapells, and a new school was built in three units to replace the old building which was condemned as a firetrap.

The first of these units, comprising seven rooms, was built in 1921 at a cost of \$125,000, and the second unit, of eight rooms, was built

to the south in 1925 at a cost of \$63,000. The corner stone was laid by Edward J. Freyseng, Dean of the Dufferin Old Boys' Association.

In the same year, the old school was torn down and two years later, the third and final unit of eight more rooms was added at a cost of \$57,000.

More playground was needed to accommodate the increased school population, so in 1930 some additional property was purchased and a generous gift of 19,058 square feet of adjacent land was donated by an anonymous Dufferin School Old Boy.



Dufferin Public School in 1876.



60 Bathurst pick-up and delivery

**bare chair**

dip stripping

chairs . . . . . from 5.00  
mantels . . . . . from 20.00  
doors . . . . . from 15.00  
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**YOU NAME IT WE STRIP IT**

368-3360

Another major change, at a cost of \$683,000, took place in 1951 with the addition of four more classrooms, a Home Economics room, auditorium and gymnasium at the north end, four classrooms and a kindergarten to the south, and a swimming pool along the east side of the north section.

The first sod for this addition was turned by A. J. Skeans, Chairman of the Board of Education, during a ceremony on December 13, 1949. Just prior to this, on November 17, the name of the school was changed to Lord Dufferin Public School.

The latest acquisition of properties, from 334 to 340 Parliament Street, was approved by the Toronto Board of Education on Sept. 30, 1971. The cost of this land, again for playground purposes, was \$138,300.

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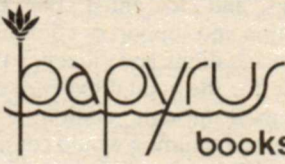
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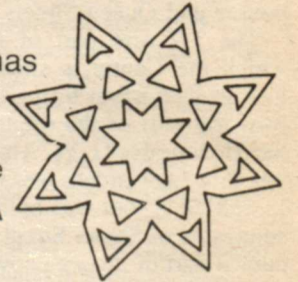
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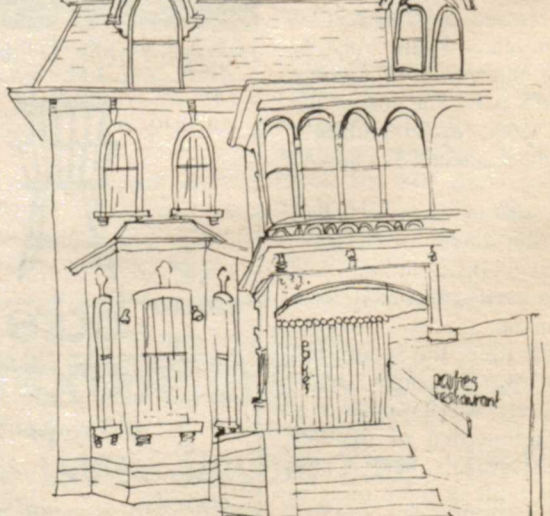
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# Cabbagetown cop is a cool poet



**POET COP** by Hans Jewinski  
Reviewed by TED PLANTOS

Ever wonder what goes on inside the head of a cop? The answer to this and other questions regarding what some consider a sub-human species can be arrived at without going through the trouble of bashing one over the head to find out. Simple! Read **Poet Cop**, a collection of poems, subtitled **Some Call Him Pig**, by Hans Jewinski.

Hans Jewinski is a policeman who, according to the back cover of this book, works in a "bad neighbourhood" . . . Cabbagetown. Most of the poems here communicate his experiences as a cop, with some touching on related off-duty activities, as in **I Met Her On The Golden Gate Bridge**: I'm solo/ clear and tired/ i'm not in the mood for heroics i've never had much use for/ beautiful girls/ on lonely bridges when i get close/ i tell her toronto/ isn't san francisco/ and the don river/ is only three feet deep.

Jewinski, as a poet, does not adhere to the aesthetics of pretty speech. Many of his poems, relating situations he encounters as a policeman, have a graphic clarity and a sound to the ear of genuine language. If language is what people speak and not what some think people should speak, Jewinski's approach to the poem is all the more vital; especially at a time when the clipped phrase and the vague image enjoy some prominence in poetry.

After **Wally's Death** serves as

an example of his approach: the room stark/ as an empty bottle/ in an alley way the room seems/ too small to have/ supported life a bed a hot-plate/ a shelf filled with/ tobacco tins and wine bottles/ a razor a band radio/ a stack of newspapers the last cigarette/ on the mattress/ :a choking death a stack of newspapers/ and the mattress/ neatly folded once/ lie on the sidewalk/ and will be picked/ up on monday.

The brutality Jewinski deals with in the line of duty is especially stark in some of these poems, not just from the images of death and personal destruction he describes, but from his perspective as a human being inside a uniform:

**Mouth To Mouth** — well/you/ really/know/who/you/are/after/ you've/cut/him/down/and/you're/ mouth/to/mouth/with/a/corpse/ trying/to/make/him/come/to /life/with/your/breath.

Another example is from **Smoking On Duty**: before i open the room i guard myself/ by lighting a cigar no next of kin, only 20's photographs/ of family and friends, war buddies/ only veteran cards and hospital no's death as it comes to these men?/ alone/ found by stench or unpaid rent.

In the poem **Death At 112 Mercer Street**, Jewinski draws a figurative relationship between the corpse of an old man found in a room and Einstein; i write a little/ monograph on the ashes/ found in his pockets/ compared with the ashes at Auschwitz/ and Hiroshima and com-/ pare the results with/ the solitude of being. I

think Jewinski is concerned, and rightfully so, with the emotional range of his poems.

Most often it does not exceed the limits of the poem, and his matter-of-fact observations on the incident being related is what usually carries the poem. I find it difficult to accept that anyone, other than a raging necrophiliac, would want this old man's "baggy trousers and worn suit," unless, believing in fact that these articles of clothing belong to Einstein, they wish to place them in a museum.

Either way, I'm left unmoved by this straining for emotional effect, especially in a poem that is otherwise quite complex and beautiful. Passages in this same poem, like the one I am about to quote, succeed at drawing the emotion into balance with the contrasting situation of two policemen filling out a report on the dead man: and i look at all the clocks/ and count all the dice/ the special tools in this room/ :the numbers and the alphabet/ 'light and time :so very much/

time.

Jewinski is at his best in poems that draw their emotional content from the irony, tragedy, or absurdity of the situations he observes. **High Rise Farmers** offers an example of his considerable talent for humour: helen/ keeps her mother's red bandana/ with the tools and the fertilizer/ in their locker by the elevator robert/ affects a pair of coveralls/ dirt-stained at the knee/ and frayed at the cuff together/ they harvest indian corn on the roof/ tomatoes and pumpkins on the/ balcony/ and grass in the hallway closet.

The format of the book is designed, in paperback, to attract a broader section of the reading public than is generally attempted for poetry; poetry being, for the most part, a non-commercial enterprise for most publishers. It is understandable that such a venture would focus its appeal on the curious image of a cop who write poetry, but commercial appeal is one thing and poor taste is another.

The cover photograph of the author in his uniform accepting a flower from a little girl might inspire 'goshes' and 'gees' in some, but it is obviously too rehearsed, quite a little too much icing on the commercial cake. The use of photographs in a book of this nature is a good idea, but whoever co-ordinated them should have spent some time reading the poems.

For example, in the poem **Tracks**, there is a photograph of flowers, which is nice; but what do tulips have to do with a poem about a pimp? A simple photograph of Parliament St. would convey the incident described in **Newfoundland Schooner** far better than an ordinary shot of Yonge St. traffic.

Behind all these trappings is a fine, and entertaining collection of poems by an important new poet. It is hoped that recognition will come to him for his ability as a poet, and not just for what is curious about a cop who writes poems.



The production company of Theatre Omnis. Their first play, *The Red Balloon*, is being performed at the Don Vale Community Centre over the holidays.

## New Theatre group in Donvale

THEATRE OMNIS, a new company based in Don Vale, will have as its first play, **The Red Balloon**. This is a special children's Christmas show about a little boy who has a red balloon for a friend, and is set to music with dance, mime and drama.

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The Red Balloon runs at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street, from December 13 to 30. Show time is 3 p.m. daily except Mondays and admission is \$1 for children and \$1.50 for adults. Phone 961-6618 for reservations.

Theatre Omnis is the co-creation of Diane Strickland and Joel Grisell who met last year while both were performing in the children's show Peter and the Wolf.

There are nine permanent company members, all trained in drama, dance, music and mime. Music is handled by Peter Mann,

design by Michiko Yano and Lorn Rubin is company manager.

Many of the company members have taught classes and that was one of the criteria used in selecting them. Theatre Omnis hopes to be not only a first rate production company but a good teaching school as well.

Diane and her husband David Drum have lived in Don Vale for the past four years. They own two adjoining houses on Winchester Street and two years ago founded The Centre which offers members a sauna and classes in yoga, tai-chi and dance.

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# DRAMA in the WARD

## WAITING FOR GODOT

by JOE SIMMONS

Waiting for Godot is at the Theatre Second Floor, 86 Parliament St. Hard to define; it's an existential drama, with bitter implications and frightening intimations.

The play deals with the futility of human existence, and the boredom of waiting for some undefined fulfillment of the human spirit. That is Waiting for Godot.

The play's gestalt is set up by two characters, Vladimir and Estragon, who appear on a leaf-strewn set, justifying their position in that time and space by convincing themselves to wait for Godot. This excuse for their presence provides the opening impetus in the search for the 'meaning of life' that is both obscure and yet real at the same time.

### Two misbegotten characters

Estragon and Vladimir set a boring precedent for Pozo and Lucky, two misbegotten characters who provide a violent juxtaposition to the mediocrity represented by Estragon and Vladimir.

This is indeed the play's bright spot. Pozo and Lucky as portrayed by Robert Nasmith and Patrick Brymer are the fuel which ignites Estragon's and Vladimir's kindling, flaming their boredom into the supreme fire of doubt which is the thread stringing the play together. Without those two, the play would nestle complacently into the apathy with which it begins. They present a human drama that is both exciting and repulsive.

The characters of Estragon and Vladimir portrayed by Bembo Davies & Brian Condie lack this excitement. Granted the author has not designed them to be exciting. But there is something about their boredom that is too boring. Instead of appearing as two misplaced bums they are more like two college students out of work for the summer. Despite that they do provide a willing enough background for Lucky and Pozo to flaunt their frenzied existence upon the stage.

The character of the boy as portrayed by Balla Keefe adds a Dionysian touch sorely needed in such an intellectual type play. This touch, by director Paul Brettis, is of the kind that might distinguish the mediocre from the bold. It will be interesting to observe whether future performances at the Theatre Second Floor live up to the brief promise of this one .... For information concerning times etc. phone 364-4024.



Brian Condie and Bembo Davies in a scene from *Waiting for Godot*.

### ELSEWHERE . . .

The **Open Circle Theatre** is presenting 'The Blood Knot' a South African play about, you guessed it, racial discrimination with the original cast from that place. It's playing at the Tarragon. For reservations phone 531-1827.

Now playing at the **Toronto Free Theatre** is the 'Mystery of the Pig Killer's Daughter'. For reservations phone 368-2856.

The **Factory Lab Theatre** is presenting Ramona and the White Slaves. It previews Jan. 6, 7, and 8. For more information phone 864-9971.

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## Christmas celebrations at local churches

by DAVE MOORE

ST. PAUL'S will have the St. George School Choir put on a Festival of Carols at 8 p.m. on the 17th. At 11 a.m. on the 21st its own choir will have a service of carols. The 25th is the day of the dinner, mentioned elsewhere in the issue.

At 7:30 the 21st ST. LUKE'S CHOIR will put on a special Christmas medley, after which will follow a social hour. On Christmas Eve at 10 a coffee hour will be held for those without family. After that communion will be served.

Starting at 4:30 on the 21st, EASTMINISTER UNITED is Carolling by Candlelight. Everyone is invited to come. Communion service will be taken on Christmas Eve at 11, and a special Christmas will be presented on the 28th, at eleven in the morning.

ST. ANDREWS, on the 20th at 3 p.m., will present a special

children's service and a play for them in Latvian.

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC, ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ANGLICAN and THE REGENT PARK UNITED CHURCHES will hold a combined service at 41 Oak Street in the main floor lounge. It will take place on the 18th at 7 p.m. It will include carol singing, lessons from the scripture, children's gymnastics and a puppet show. Refreshments will follow.

On the 14th, White Gift Sunday will be celebrated at REGENT PARK UNITED. Food and gifts of money are appreciated and will be used for Christmas Cheer for the needy. On the 21st, a Candlelight Service will be held.

JARVIS STREET BAPTIST will hold a carol service on the 21st at 7 p.m.

LITTLE TRINITY ANGLICAN will have carol service on the 14th at 7:30, and a Christmas Fam-

ily service at 11 in the morn of the 21st. At 7:30 the same night, a communion service and carols will take place. On Christmas Eve at 11 Communion will be taken, and the following day will see a service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a short communion at 11:30.

At 7 p.m. ST. BARNABUS' CHURCH will have a Carol Service, on the 21st. Christmas Service will be held on the Eve, at 11:15.

THE TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH will present a special show for the kids on Christmas Eve at 7. The next day at 11 a.m. will see a Christmas Service.

WOODGREEN UNITED will have a Carol Service at 7 on the 14th, a Pageant on the 21st at 7 p.m., and a Christmas Communion at 11 on the Eve.

THE CHURCH OF THE MILLENNIUM is hosting a Psychic Fair on the 14th and the 15th.

## Distributor of the Week

by PHIL JALSEVAC

Twenty-eight year old Gail King got a knock on her door several months ago from Seven News former distribution manager Mark Inglis, inquiring whether or not she would be disposed towards handling distribution of the paper on Wellesley Ave. Gail said that she enjoys reading the paper and "so do a lot of the neighbours," so she volunteered, her attitude being "Why not? It's not a difficult thing."

She and her husband Henry moved to Cabbagetown about a year ago from New York, and she sometimes gets her two children, Pamela and Michael, to help her on the route.

The family had been living in a suburban section of New York and specifically wanted to move closer into a city situation. A group there called "The Brownstone Revival Committee" made inquiries into various neighbourhoods in Toronto where old houses in the city core had been renovated and the City of Toronto Planning Board relayed some information regarding the residential developments going on in Cabbagetown.

Gail said "we just like the area and the old house and enjoy the wide mixture of people." She also feels the city atmosphere has become a "great place for the children to grow up as they wouldn't have learnt as much about independence," in their previous domicile.

She noted the difference in attitude by the local governments in Toronto and some American cities, which seem more hard-pressed to maintain a downtown residential growth and renovation plan. Henry cited one example that occurred several years ago in Philadelphia where the city went so far as to sell old run-down houses in the city core for a token price of \$1, on the condition that the new owner do a complete renovation.

Apart from some things like this though, she felt at home in Toronto, not finding any great differences, in her own experience, between life in the States and Canada.

Gail's main interest outside her family life is pottery at which she has studied and worked at for about three years. Last year she bought her own wheel, kiln and other materials and started manufacturing an impressive array of pottery goods in her own home. A short while ago she held a pottery sale at her

residence on 16 Wellesley Ave. and was very pleased with the response. Local residents bought many lovely items ranging from vases and hanging pots to mirror frames and candlesticks. The response was so good that she intends on holding another sale December 14 and 15.

Getting philosophical for a moment, we talked about a somewhat hackneyed but still topical subject — the so-called women's lib movement. She stated that she is not an activist but believes that everyone, not just women, should be liberated. She felt this meant that couples should not be strictly bound by traditional and conventional roles, unless the people felt comfortable with this, of course, and that there should always be room for flexibility within a relationship.

"I'm finding pottery helps me," she said, "because I'm making money and doing something creative." Gail also stated that she would probably like to start teach-



Photo by Steven Evans

GAIL KING

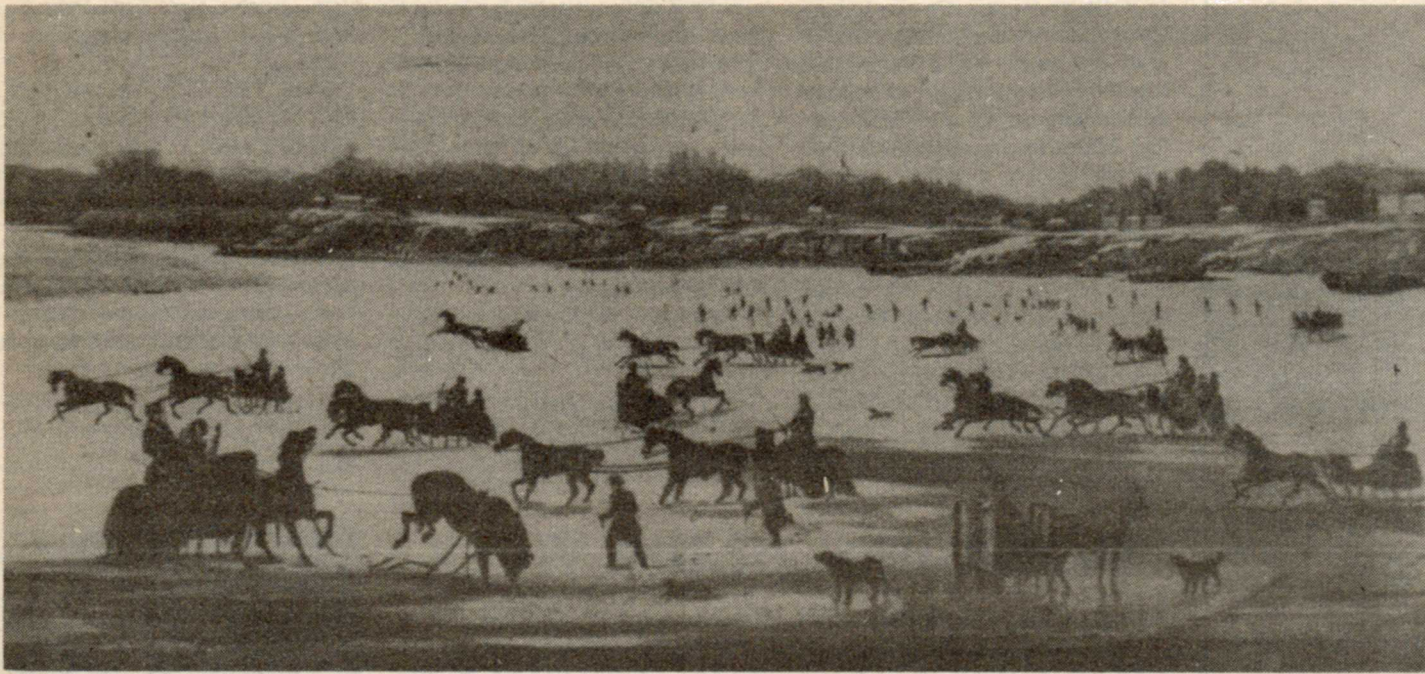
ing children her craft sometime in the future.

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# CHRISTMAS-TIME



*Sleigh Scene, Toronto Bay, Canada West: a lithograph based on a painting by J. T. Downman, published in 1853. In the days before the Island Ferries, the water in Toronto Harbour*

*would freeze quite solidly to allow dogs, horses and people to cavort. Christmas was often celebrated by going out sleighing.*

Photos by George Rust-D'Eye

by **GEORGE RUST-D'EYE**

Some things never change. From the earliest days in Upper Canada, people celebrated Christmas in the English tradition. They decorated their houses and visited one another; they exchanged gifts and they sang. They celebrated the season and the occasion with a special dinner; they drank a lot; and many went to church.

In the early 1800's, residents of the Town of York hung wintergreen and cranberry branches on their doors and around the house. Later, imported holly and mistletoe became available. Those who could afford it would return from the market laden down with a large turkey, duck or goose, and perhaps some spiced beef. Vegetables were often scarce, but Christmas dinner would include cheese, nuts and mincemeat, and sometimes imported fruits and biscuits. In the week before Christmas plum puddings in white linen hung from hooks in the kitchen. For almost every member of society, Christmas called for a special meal.

In the Town of York, Christmas was celebrated with drink as well as with food. Most adults drank, at least until the temperance movement in the 1830's. Persons of low income and soldiers of the garrison drank beer. Wealthier citizens partook of rum, gin, brandy or wine. Everyone else drank whisky.

From the earliest times, the Christmas season was for recreation. Much of the settlers work could not be carried on during the winter, so other activities had to be found to help pass the time during the long winter months. People tended to be participants, not spectators. In early days the men would go outside for log-sawing, target-shooting and wrestling contests.

In later times, everyone skated, went for sleigh-rides ("carolling"), or just played in the snow. There was horse-racing and fox-chasing, hunting and ice-fishing. In Victorian times, snowshoeing, tobogganning, ice-racing, ice-sailing, hockey and curling were also popular. "Running the toll-gates" was also an apparently well-recognized Christmas sport.

In the winter months Victorian Torontonians got around by sleigh. Some of the ear-



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*"Christmas in the Backwoods", from the cover of the 1855 edition of "The Canadian Settler's Guide" by Catherine Parr Traill, printed at the Old Countryman Office, Toronto, Canada West.*

# IN OLD TORONTO

## Mementos of Yesteryear

lier ones were ox-drawn, but generally horses were used. At Christmas, almost everyone went out to visit friends and relatives. The sound of jingling bells filled the air. Colourful cloth, buffalo or bearskin covers were thrown over the sleighs and drawn snugly around their occupants. The thick ice in the Toronto Bay was crowded with phaetons, democrats, Portland jumpers and Albany cutters. Ice-boats were prevalent. Meanwhile, shoppers' sleighs filled King Street.

### Ice harvesting and Yule log cutting

Two outdoors chores that were done at Christmas were "ice-harvesting" and the cutting of the Yule log. Ice-harvesting was the cutting of blocks of ice to be stored in straw in a dark cool place for refrigerating foods during the summer months. The Yule log was a felled tree from which the brush was burnt off. The huge log would be dragged back to the house by horses to be cut up and used during the Christmas season. With luck it might last for twelve days.

For those who stayed indoors, there was sewing and cooking to do, and decorations to be hung in preparation for Christmas. On Christmas Day, families would get together after church. Gifts, often hand-made in the early days, were given to relatives and close friends, (the Scottish immigrants exchanged gifts on New Year's Day). After Christmas dinner, guests would gather in the parlour to play guessing games or blind man's buff. They amused each other with ghost stories and puzzles, and sang Christmas carols. They might also have gone out to the pantomime, to a play, or to listen to music.

Christmas was also a time for charity. Although the benevolence of wealthy Victorians did not result in a redistribution of wealth, their well-intentioned efforts did serve to brighten up at least one day of the year for the poor and unfortunate. Parishioners contributed heavily to the "poor boxes" placed in the church. The aged and the sick were visited and treated to Christmas dinner. In the Don Jail, the Y.M.C.A. provided treats, and prisoners were allowed coffee with breakfast.

### Dinner and dancing at the "Lunatic Asylum"

In 1884, patients at the "Lunatic Asylum" were given a party, with Christmas dinner and beer. Afterwards there was dancing. In 1989 it was noted that "in connection with the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, the charity is confined exclusively to the deserving and respectable poor, and the greatest pains are taken to examine into the genuineness of each individual case."

The reign of Queen Victoria brought a change in the way Canadians celebrated Christmas. In 1840 the Queen married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Her devotion to him and her strong personal influence on the English people led to the popularization of some features of the German celebration of Christmas which Albert brought with him from his homeland. From this source came many of the qualities so closely associate with the Christmas of the present: Santa Claus, the decorated tree, the more extensive exchange of gifts, the widespread and less discriminate use of Christmas cards, the family reunion, and the emphasis on children.

For example, the Christmas tree comes directly from Albert. His tree at Windsor Castle in 1840 led to the first Canadian Christmas tree being decorated in Halifax in 1846. Likewise the early hanging of evergreens and

berries led to elaborate paper-chains, wreaths and ornaments in Victorian times. Early trees were decorated with such things as candies, pine-cones, fruits, cards, and sometimes lighted candles! Torontonians cut their own Christmas trees in the woods which grew on the edge of the city.

Singing Christmas carols door-to-door is quite an old English custom which tended to die out here early in the last century, probably because of the severity of Canadian weather. But with Victorian times came a revival. "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" was newly set to music in 1850 and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" was written in 1855.

The giving of Christmas presents grew during Victorian times. At the beginning of that period, children had stockings from Santa Claus, although the contents of poorer children's stockings were little more than a fruit or a candy, with perhaps a lump of coal for luck. Richer children were luckier and didn't need the piece of coal so much. Presents were traditionally given out by the father or "paterfamilias". During Victorian times, Christmas gifts, or "boxes", became more impressive and expensive, and less likely to be hand-made. Children were receiving intricate mechanical toys and elaborate doll houses, although one Canadian newspaper in a humorous vein warned people "not to expend your money on expensive toys for small and destructive children."

Children, however, seemed to become what Christmas was all about. Victorians were fascinated by their cuteness. While in earlier days children were expected to keep the woodbox full, the lamps filled with coal-oil, and the paths shovelled, now Christmas was their time; they were to be amused by games and made happy with gifts.

### Christmas cards — an offshoot of Valentines.

The first Christmas cards, an offshoot of the older valentines, were sent in England in the 1840's, coming into popular use in Canada in the 1860's and 1870's. They typically depicted winter scenes and sports. Many were reproductions of art prints by such artists as Kreighoff or Bartlett. The Christ child rarely appeared, nor did Santa Claus. By the 180's Christmas cards were in widespread use in Canada.

At Christmas-time Victorians sometimes had themselves photographed against a backdrop of Niagara Falls or the Rocky mountains.

Santa Claus, a descendant of the European Saint Nicholas, first appeared in his present form in 1865. In 1869 the first Canadian pictures of him began to be published, often in connection with advertising for shops. "The Night Before Christmas", written in 1823, described Saint Nicholas arriving in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. At various times Victorian Santa Claus arrived in Canada on snowshoes, on the back of a whale, and riding a turkey! Despite his unwanted association with shops and Coca-Cola, Santa Claus is still considered to embody the spirit of Christmas. Perhaps he does.

Merry Christmas to all!

**Freddie's  
Fish and Chips  
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will be close for winter  
vacation from Mon. Dec. 22  
and reopen Mon. Jan 5/76.**

Wishing all our  
Customers a  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year



"Caught": an 1890 lithograph printed originally on "The Canadian Queen", a magazine of art, fashion and literature. It depicts Santa Claus and two children surprising each other on Christmas Eve.



In my research for this article, I found the following books helpful and most entertaining on the subject of Canadian Christmas: "Canadian Christmas Book," by Caroline Carver, a recent publication extensively illustrated, recalls in detail the Victorian past; "Christmas in Canada," by Mary Barber and Flora McPherson, (1959), portrays Christmas from Jacques Cartier to the Santa Claus Parade; "Toronto in 1810," by Eric W. Housom, describes in detail every aspect of pioneer life in this area.



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