

Photo by Cubby Costworth

Executive selections swing City right

By TOM CORBETT

The selection of five Old Guard aldermen to key city council posts last week clearly indicates that City Hall will continue to be dominated by pro-development interests for the next two years.

While many people thought the election of Mayor David Crombie in 1972 signalled the end of the developers' power over the political process, most were forced to the realization that this was only a pipedream.

The developers had to fight a little harder for their plans during the past few years but City Council's meeting on Wednesday guaranteed them strong support for future proposals.

Four aldermen who believe bigger is always better — John Bosley, Fred Beavis, David Smith and Art Eggleton — were overwhelm-

ingly elected to the powerful Executive Committee during the meeting.

The Executive acts as the council's cabinet, sets the priorities for City Hall and shapes the future growth of the city. With four strong pro-developer members joining Crombie on the executive, we can expect a further mushrooming of high-rises at the expense of low-rise neighbourhoods.

While reform aldermen John Sewell and Dan Heap attempted to gain a seat on the committee, Old Guard aldermen united to soundly defeat them.

Although they voted against the reformers, most professed to agree with Alderman David Smith when he said Sewell "has a commitment to the city second to none."

However, they felt Sewell would sabotage their development goals with talk about giving the

citizens of the city a better deal.

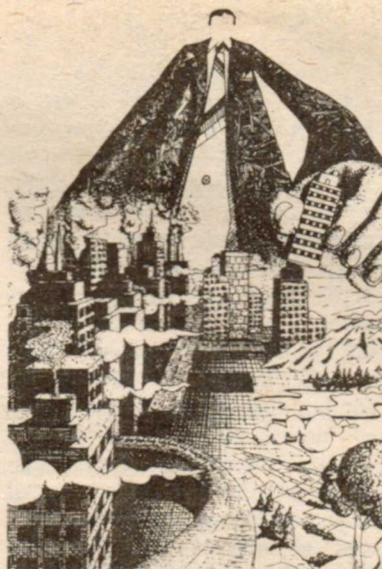
Sewell's fight to gain a seat on the executive began with his election on December 5 last year. An informal vote at a council caucus meeting on December 17 saw Sewell defeated by a one vote margin.

Following the meeting, a movement of church, labour and community groups, bombarded Old Guard aldermen with letters and petitions asking them to reconsider their stance when council formally gathered on January 5.

At this meeting, Old Guard aldermen led by George Ben, said council had to follow the rules set out at the December 17 meeting.

The fact that these "rules" applied to a non-legal meeting and concerned a matter of such importance as the make-up of the Executive Committee, was ignored.

Also overlooked during



Wednesday's meeting was an attempt by a group of Old Guard defenders of the rules to disregard another rule, stipulating that appointments to the Board of Health

were to be made that day.

The same individuals then went on at great length to say they were making their choice for the city executive as the people's elected representatives.

Mayor Crombie echoed their sentiments in his inaugural address when he spoke highly of "participatory democracy".

Although there was a large public movement to put Sewell on the executive to counter pro-development forces, the Old Guard choose to ignore citizen participation in this instance.

Because the public's wishes were disregarded by the Old Guard, Toronto now has an executive comprised of aldermen who do not represent all of the views present on council and certainly not the interests of the majority of city voters.

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Seven years as Ward 7 school trustee: Gord Cressy sums it up

7 News asked Gord Cressy to review his experiences as a Ward 7 trustee on the Toronto Board of Education for the last seven years. Mr. Cressy retired at the end of 1976.

By GORDON CRESSY
Former Chairman,
Toronto Board of Education

1969 was an important time in education. The expansion era of the 1960's was coming to an end. Many people sensed this but no one was sure what lay ahead.

Senior educators were proud of a school system that now seemed to be designed for

everyone. In 1967 the Hall-Dennis Report had arrived on the scene, telling us that each child had the right "to learn, to play, to laugh, to dream, to dissent, to reach upward, to be himself and to be regarded by the schools as the unique individual he is." What a beautiful creed. And on top of this, money was adequate if not plentiful. It was no wonder staff morale was high.

By 1970, however, the first creaks in the education machine were being heard and for the next seven years, events and forces inside and outside the education arena would cause conflicts in the school system and shake the public's confidence.

In my mind, it started with a small group of mothers in the southern end of our ward who started to raise some serious questions about the whole issue of equality of educational opportunity — questions that were very difficult to answer.

They wanted to know why their children did not do as well in school as children in other parts of the city. They wanted to know why vocational schools were all located south of Bloor Street and concentrated in Ward 7.

They wanted to know why so-called "opportunity classes" were sometimes used for disruptive children. And why basic

skills did not seem to be emphasized in the schools any more.

The questions they raised struck a responsive chord with many, myself included — and made the education bureaucracy particularly uncomfortable.

In fact, the Trefann Court Mothers ushered into the education scene the era of parent advocacy and of confrontation politics.

Soon, other groups arrived on the scene with their concerns about education. These groups ranged from the prestigious Economic Council of Canada indicating in

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Rob Snell, Tom Corbett, Miles Brickman, Teresa Clegg, Carolyn Barber, Lynn Bissell, Alan Gardner, John Lewis, Roop Sharma.

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Norman Browne's contribution praised by community worker

Dear Editor:

I looked forward to the late November and December issues of Seven News; primarily because I had heard from friends that Norman George Browne had parted from the major position with the newspaper. With the November 20th issue, thus, I read with some sad feelings and pretty deep, old memories of Norm's departure. I think that the article was fair and consistent with much that many of us knew of Norm. How hard to describe this iron, witty, often stubborn, always aggressive man.

From the outset — almost, at least, for there were some weeks of endless talking about how a Ward newspaper could come about and for whom, primarily, before Norm took up the cudgel — Browne gave incredible leadership. He was then working with the Toronto Christian Resource Centre where the staff laboured, even agonized some on whether Norm could be let go on a part-time basis to work with the newly-founded paper. This is going back to the early part of 1970, very soon after the elections of Sewell and Jaffary as aldermen for Ward Seven.

Norm wanted the editorial-organizer post for the paper; it was floundering and in real danger of becoming top-heavy with intellectuals and special-interested leaders. With considerable weekly newspaper experience and with solid roots in the rank and file of the inner-city poor, unemployed and "creative loner" community, Norm did a good job right from the beginning. From the beginning, too, he exhibited the same qualities, traits, or quirks that he apparently left on — again, those mysterious (defying analysis) combinations of rich humour coming out in marvellous, social satires and a steadfast commitment to get the paper done. To the end he probably continued to do at least one route; especially favourite Parliament Street.

I first met Norm in Allen Gardens where he used to play and/or watch the checker games on the grounds. I watched him move from free-lance writing (eg., for the Toronto Star, "I'm poor by choice, it's more fun that way") to involvement with the Just Society Movement, including the setting

up of one of Canada's first Welfare Rights Offices in the basement of Woodgreen United Church in the summer of '69, to joining the CRC staff to work on lobbying for his chosen people, the roomers of inner-city Toronto. I dare say that without Browne's early, uncompromising commitment to the second-class treatment of roomers, this would not have become the issue it has — then or now. His 1970-71 briefs on roomers that went before virtually all major political and administrative bodies in Toronto and Ontario was a watershed. Thankfully, the CRC had the foresight to take on this mysterious figure (yet, already a promise for so much) at a time when both needed each. CRC needing the grass-roots fire and anger of a Browne and Browne needing a small-scale flexible support vehicle to do some organizing and lobbying.

To the end but not his end, I see Browne as a superb advocate for the dispossessed and the inarticulate. While he frequently quarrelled with articles that some of us submitted for Seven News, he seldom vetoed them — often, we'd revise them, simplify them and see them come out sharper. He rightly resisted any move to have 7 News become an in-house, single style organ.

Browne must be ready for other, greener pastures. His fabric is made out of solid stuff — mysterious, mind you and probably to his end, chiefly for the smaller-scale, advocacy tasks that will always be called for. While he was/is private to the extreme about himself, some of us tasted or were brushed by much of his inner warmth. Probably the Lees know this more than any other family. Norm illustrates, for me, that affirmative conviction of novelist-theologian Chaim Potok: "I would rather try to discover some light in the patches of darkness than to extend the darkness to wherever there is now light."

Salute to NGB.

Barry K. Morris

(Barry Morris was affiliated with the Christian Resource Centre as a street worker. He is now working with the St. Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry in Winnipeg.)

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LETTERS

Old Cabbagetown ad criticised

Seven News,
To the Editor,
Ulli Diemer:

I was shocked to see the advertisement in the last issue of Seven News, December 18, 1976 which read: "Thank you, Chief of Police Harold Adamson for appointing Inspector William Dickson to 51 Division to make Old Cabbagetown a better place for residents and shopkeepers by helping to eliminate unsavory characters on the street."

Who are the "residents" of Cabbagetown? Who are the "unsavory characters"? Who is it that is thanking the police? What do they mean by "eliminate"?

I am sure that this anonymous hate message would not have been published by your predecessor, Norm Browne, a long time Cabbagetown resident.

It appears to me that the anonymous persons who paid for this ad are speculators and real estate agents who see great profit in driving the poor and the helpless out of Cabbagetown.

Over the past few years the poor have slowly been driven from Cabbagetown, the traditional home of Toronto's poor, by speculators and developers. Now, Chief Adamson is being thanked for helping to "eliminate" Cabbagetowners from Cabbagetown.

Who are these "unsavory characters"?

An open letter to Chief Harold Adamson, Inspector William Dickson (51 Div.) and 7 News:

I'm writing re the ad in the last issue of 7 News (18/12/76, p. 3) in which "Old Cabbagetown" gives "thanks" to Chief Adamson and Inspector Dickson of the Toronto police for "helping to eliminate unsavory characters on the street." (my emphasis). Significantly, this ad is not signed or identified by any individual(s) or group(s). The ad should never have been published simply because it's unworthy of publication.

1. Just what individual(s) or group(s) approached Chief Adamson and Inspector Dickson to complain about and ask their help to "eliminate unsavory characters..."? I strongly suspect it was the president of the Old Cabbagetown group, Bart Davis.

2. When and why was this police "help" given?

3. Who are these "unsavory characters"?

4. What action(s), if any, did the police take re this request for help?

5. The "Old Cabbagetown" group didn't have the guts to clearly identify themselves as sponsoring groups or individuals. Why not? Maybe they have something to hide. At any rate, they obviously don't represent the majority of residents in Ward 7.

And I deeply resent the holier-than-thou attitude expressed in the ad — it's full of hidden and not-so-hidden prejudices against the "winos", "drunks", "bums" and other "skid-row" or working-class people whom Mr. Superclean Old Cabbagetowner apparently dislikes.

In the same issue of Seven News, I see that Ward Seven Business Men's Association welcomes Ulli Diemer as a new member.

How long will it be before these same anonymous people are thanking Ulli Diemer for helping to "eliminate" people from our community?

Robert L. Olsen

Staff note: The advertisement in question was placed by the Old Cabbagetown Business Association which is comprised of the merchants and business-people on and adjacent to Parliament Street between Gerrard and Winchester. They have taken the name "Old Cabbagetown" for their association. In view of the controversial nature of this particular ad,

the sponsoring organization should probably have been more clearly identified. The Ward 7 Business Association, of which 7 News is a member, is a different group, spanning all of Ward 7.

The fact that 7 News published a paid advertisement does not necessarily mean that we agree with what it says.

Our readers should also note that the contents of the paper is no longer determined by the editor alone. All staff, paid and volunteer (anyone who does something for the paper) have a say in what goes into the paper and all are welcome to come to our regular staff meetings and contribute their thoughts and ideas.

Parliament St. loses customer

Dear Editors:

I am writing in response to the ad placed in the December 18, 1976 issue of Ward 7 News. It is the ad thanking Chief of Police Harold Adamson for helping to make Cabbagetown "a better place . . . by helping to eliminate unsavory characters on the street."

You have done us a favour by publishing this ad. For years, I

have happily shopped along Parliament Street, enjoying the experience. To now have these "shopkeepers" declare some of the residents I pass on my way "unsavory" disgusts me.

It is their attitude, conveyed through this ad, which has made me decide not patronize their stores again.

Buffi Amey

If "Old Cabbagetown" people and Ward 7 businessmen are really serious about doing something constructive and responsible re the problems presented by these "unsavory characters", I strongly re-

commend they give some of their superclean profits to local community groups which are trying to provide decent and humane housing, health care and legal help for these people. Community action groups like the Rooming House Tenant Project, Neighbourhood Legal Services, All Saints Church, Fred Victor Mission and the Tenant Hot-Line are some which come immediately to mind. "Old Cabbagetown" people can get their phone numbers by phoning 7 News or the Neighbourhood Information Post.

Some "Old Cabbagetowners" and other people with vested interests in the ward are all too quick to blame or accuse people whose behaviour they disapprove of (for various reasons). They would do well to do something constructive for these "unsavory characters" in the community. Going to the police for help — instead of the community — only generates a lot of hard feelings and resentment; besides, it's a punitive approach which only alienates people, like police harassment of some "skid-row" people and other powerless victims of our society.

I'm for crisis prevention, not crisis creation which some "Old Cabbagetown" businessmen are apparently encouraging or supporting.

P.S. Maybe as the "final solution" we should send all our undesirable "unsavory characters" to community-controlled concentration camps. However, some "Old Cabbagetown" people may be among the prisoner-victims.

Don Weitz
Community Health Worker



NEWS ITEM:
Bart Davis, the President of the Old Cabbagetown Businessmen, wants to "eliminate unsavory characters" on Parliament Street.

Resident says thank you to Ward Seven News

Dear Editors:

Thank you for making the Ward 7 newspaper possible. I really enjoy reading it and you inform me of what is going on in my community.

I have lived here for almost 2 years and I have seen mostly the nicer people of Cabbagetown. People are friendly and help you if you are in need. It is still nice to know that there are some people in

this world that care for their fellowman. I thank the people of Cabbagetown for being my friend and showing me that the world is not a bad place to live in.

Luci Macumber

TTC FACES PROBLEMS

By JOHN SEWELL

One of the few things in Metro that binds us all together is the TTC. If the TTC goes under, chances are that Metro will fragment to an even greater extent than it has at the present time. And the possibility of the TTC disappearing as a local transit service is not all that remote: that has been the fate of transit systems in many American cities.

The TTC has functioned well since it was established in the early 1920's. Now it is facing serious threats because the politicians are no longer considering it as a public transit system but rather as a tool of land-use planning.

An example of this is the decision that will be coming up late in January to give final approval to the Light Rapid Transit line running from the easterly extension of the subway at Kennedy and Eglinton to the Scarborough Town Centre.

This connection, which consists of a super-modern streetcar placed on its own right-of-way rather than in the middle of the road will cost some \$75 million to build over the three-and-a-half miles.

The rationale for the LRT line is not so much that it will provide good transit for people at a reasonable cost but that it will help to encourage the building of office space in the Scarborough Town Centre.

I have some considerable doubt whether the LRT line will result in office space being built in the Town Centre but even if my doubts are wrong one should consider the cost involved.

According to the TTC's own figures, the operating deficit of the LRT line will be approximately \$2 million per year in 1976 dollars (in 1980 dollars when the LRT line will be operating the deficit will be more like \$3 million). If we work out this deficit on a passenger basis then a subsidy of \$3.30 will be required for each rider that gets on the LRT line. Adding costs required to pay back Metro's share of the cost of building the LRT line and the cost of paying the interest on the loan, the total subsidy for each rider in 1976 dollars is \$6.60.

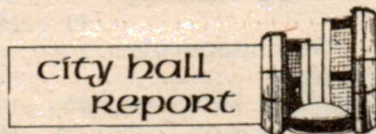
That's very expensive. The cost of a taxi ride from the Scarborough Town Centre to the subway extension is only \$2.75, including tip. Thus in approving the LRT line, Metro Council is really approving a transit system which is 250 percent more expensive than taking a taxi. One wonders why they don't decide to choose the cheaper method of getting people around.

The problem with the LRT line is that someone has to come up with the \$6.60 required for every rider. There are two ways of doing this: one is by raising money through increased taxes; the other is by raising TTC fares. Politicians, who mostly drive cars and can rarely be seen on a subway or streetcar, do not much like raising taxes but raising fares is a much easier matter for them and the example of the last two years indicates just how quickly fares can be increased.

Raising fares makes transit riding much more expensive for people who use transit regularly. As well, it drives people away from using public transit. In 1976 for instance the TTC had some 10 million fewer riders than in 1975. This seems to indicate that raising fares is self-defeating: it forces people away from the transit system, rather than onto it.

Thus the real effect of the decision to proceed with the Scarborough LRT line will be felt by TTC riders themselves. In all likelihood their fares will be raised in order to pay for the deficit of the Scarborough LRT line.

Metro Council will be making its decision on the LRT at the end of January. It is a major issue and it is the one that people should be looking at very closely. Although it is not being built in Ward Seven, it will closely affect residents of Ward Seven. People should be indicating their interest in the matter by writing to the Metro Council, c/o Metro Clerk, City Hall. We must do everything we can do to provoke a large debate on an issue that affects us all.



Board meets at Park School

According to Doug Barr, the new Chairman of the Toronto Board of Education, relations between teachers and the public are still hurting as a result of last year's teachers' strike.

At the Board's inaugural meeting on January 5, Barr stated that "more than anything else the image of splendid isolation and haughtiness the teachers projected during the strike, damned them in the public's eyes."

His speech, entitled Bridge Over Troubled Waters, made it clear that the main issues to be addressed included racism, continuing education, low cost daycare and the quality of education in the inner city.

The meeting was held at Park Public School, next door to Regent Park, "as a symbolic expression to show that the Board is really concerned about inner city education."

The school was the scene of an emotional meeting in 1972 between trustees and a group of parents attempting to present a brief citing inner city education as inferior.

Fence mending methods will be put to the test as trustees will try to

involve the public.

A citizens' advisory committee on finance is being considered and Barr said the teachers can restore public confidence by taking a "rational and reasonable stance to coming negotiations" and that "teachers must inform the public on educational and salary positions."

All expenditures will be scrutinized "so the public get their money's worth" said Barr of the 1977 budget, totalling \$175 million.

Areas to receive more attention are continuing education, the drop out situation and youth unemployment.

Barr, a social worker, spoke of reintroducing homework because "it gets parents involved and shows them what the children are doing ... it also teaches the child to work independently."

Barr said that rather than taking a "back to the basics" approach he prefers to call it "forward with the fundamentals." The new board proposes to meet problems head on or as Barr put it, "the buck stops here."



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Executive selections swing city right

Continued from pg 1

All four aldermen are against rent controls while favouring no controls on large scale development projects. Beavis and Bosley are strong critics of the City Non-Profit Housing Company along with most other plans which benefit ordinary Toronto citizens.

Given Bosley's real estate connections and both his and Beavis's pro-development stance, this view is understandable.

Last Wednesday's meeting also saw Sewell lose his bid to gain a seat on the Metro Executive Committee. Instead, Bosley, Beavis and Smith got the nod from the Old Guard faction.

In the Metro area, Beavis and Bosley will work with Chairman, Paul Godfrey, as he seeks to demolish Toronto Island homes at a time when the city faces a housing shortage. While both these aldermen talk about more island park land, they refuse to support efforts to establish more park land in other areas of the city where the only green space is in balcony flower boxes.

Bosley and Beavis also favour expressways over rapid transit and along with Smith see TTC hikes as a trifling matter.

But, of course, Metro Chairman, Paul Godfrey is quite happy with the aldermen the city is sending to the Metro Executive Committee. He knows Beavis and Bosley will give him no trouble in is-

sues which may benefit the boroughs at the expense of Toronto's residents.

He also knows Crombie and Smith realize it is stupid to antagonize your friends at Metro. Smith is interested in Godfrey's job, when the chairman moves to greener pastures and Smith will not want to displease the politicians who will select the chairman.

And then there's the mayor. Godfrey is looking forward to rewarding Crombie for his efforts in keeping John Sewell off the Metro Executive. The chairman has given his blessing to the mayor's quest for a seat on the powerful Metro Planning Committee.

Bitter opponents

Godfrey and Sewell are bitter opponents who have clashed on more than one occasion because of the great differences between them on most issues.

Sewell's goals, an end to expressways and rising TTC fares, are not shared by Chairman, Godfrey and Old Guard aldermen comprising the majority of Metro representatives.

Another attempt by Sewell to infiltrate the seats of power, as chairman of the Toronto Building and Development Committee, was defeated by an 8 to 3 vote.

This committee is a city body whose power is second only to the Executive Committee. It recom-

mends and approved development projects and will be headed instead by one of council's strongest Old Guard voices, George Ben.

Alderman Ben may be remembered from the Building and Development Committee meeting last June 21 which debated the merits of the South St. Jamestown project. At this time, he told the gathering, "let's get on with this (development). He said the developer of the project agreed with the plans so "lets trust them." He scoffed Sewell's proposal to cut the density of the complex in half.

George Ben also looks upon expressways as "the veins and arteries of this town." He says bluntly, "I favour expressways."

What will John Sewell do now besides taking his seat on the Board of Directors for the Toronto Humane Society, which council elected him to?

He has decided to devote his energy to establishing a grass roots political organization, although one wonders why he took so long to return to the strategy he so strongly advocated when he first ran for office in 1969.

At that time he argued that an alderman's main value was the help he could give at the City Hall level to citizen's organizations which were seen as the basic vehicles for bringing about change.

Hopefully, Sewell and his supporters have not waited too long to re-discover this strategy.

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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 1977 taxes imposed on such real property subject to the following qualifications.

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

- A. Be 65 years of age or more by March 31, 1977, which is the last day for filing applications:
- B. Be in receipt of the monthly GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT provided under the Old Age Security Act (Canada):
- C. Occupy the property on which the municipal taxes are imposed and:
- D. 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, 1977.

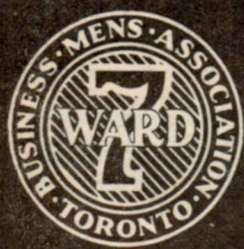
If you qualify for this assistance and have not received an application form TELEPHONE THE CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT AT 367-7036, and an application form will be mailed to you.

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.

APPLICATION MUST BE MADE NOT LATER THAN
MARCH 31, 1977



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NEWS ROUND-UP

Swimming classes start soon

Monday, January 17

A program of swimming instruction for adults in St. Jamestown starts today in the indoor pool of the Ottawa Building, 650 Parliament St. Classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday for five weeks. There are classes for adults who wish to learn how to swim and intermediate lessons for those who already know how.

Tuesday, January 18

There will be Bingo at Dixon Hall at 7:00 tonight. Admission is 50c.

Making a will will be the subject of a course today and tomorrow at the Parliament St. Library free.

The Danforth Library is showing the film *England and Wales* tonight at 7:30.

Wednesday, January 19

Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St., is hosting its January Jamboree, a community openhouse, today from 7 to 10 p.m. It is being organized by a number of local agencies. There will be booths, baked goods, entertainment, dancing, music, etc. Admission is free, babysitting is provided, and everyone is welcome.

Today and every Wednesday, there will be a hot lunch at Dixon Hall from noon to 1:00 p.m. Cost is 80c.

Tonight, and every Thursday at 7:00 p.m., there will be Euchre at Dixon Hall. Admission is \$1.00, 50c for seniors.

Friday, January 21

The St. Jamestown YMCA is featuring a special program at 2:00 p.m. in the 200 Recreation Room on "Toronto of Old". There will be a speaker and slide show.

Tuesday, January 25

The film *Harem Women* will be shown at the Danforth Library, 701 Pape, tonight at 7:30.

The Metropolitan Toronto Police are presenting residents with an evening of films and display on "Crime Proofing" tonight at 7:30 in the recreation room of 260 Wellesley St. E.



Ann Marie Stewart enjoys winter in Regent Park schoolyard
Photo by Cubby Coatsworth

Thursday, January 27

The film *Animal Farm*, George Orwell's political fable, is being shown at the Gerrard Library, 1432 Gerrard St. E. tonight at 7:00.

Saturday, January 29

The Don District Inter-agency Group will be meeting at the Christian Resource Centre at 10 a.m. Call 924-2543 for more information.

General

The Toronto Christian Resource Centre at 20 Spruce St. (922-7391) urgently requires donations of blankets, linen, dishes, furniture, paint, hot plates, stoves, fridges, etc. for use by persons less fortunate than yourselves. Please look through your basement and give them a call if you have anything to donate.

The Neighbourhood Information Post is now taking appointments for its income tax clinics at 265 Gerrard St. E. and in St. Jamestown. Call 924-2543 for an appointment or for information.

A number of new courses are beginning at the St. Jamestown YMCA. They include squash, yoga, badminton, euchre, bridge, fencing, skiing and fitness classes. Call the Y at 964-8775.

NEWS BRIEFS

Family Allowances

The 1977 rates for Family Allowances are being increased following reinstatement of the cost of living adjustment provision. The federal government monthly allowance paid for children under 18 rose to 23.89 from 22.08 on January 1st. Family allowances were frozen last year by the government.

Income Supplement for Seniors

The Department of Health and Welfare has started mailing Guaranteed Income Supplement applications to retired people who have been receiving the supplement over the past year. The G.A.S. requires annual re-application by recipients because of possible change in income. Recipients whose income has dropped may receive a higher rate while those whose income has increased may be reduced or cut off. It is important that applications be returned. According to Wilf Wright, the Regional Director of the program, "failure to file application for Guaranteed Income Supplement will result in payments being discontinued."

Grant for CRC

The Toronto Christian Resource Centre has been awarded a \$27,666 grant for a Rooming House Tenant Demonstration Project from the Department of Health and Welfare. It is supposed to demonstrate a method of providing basic social needs, housing and health services to low-income single roomers.

Grant for Young Peoples Theatre

The Young Peoples Theatre will get a Wintario grant of 22,023 for a production of "The Cabbagetown Kids" which toured Montreal in the summer.

Grant for Hindu Organization

The Canada Hindu Organization is to receive a grant of \$439 to help defray costs of the Hindu "Phagwah" Spring Festival from Wintario.

Teen Drop-in Winners

Woodgreen Community Centre has announced the winners of its teen drop-in Christmas Tournament. They are: Spades, Jane Lance and Allan Owen; Chess, Tom Humphreys; Mastermind, Michelle Anderson; Ping Pong, Roy Brunette; Boccie Ball, Tim & Steve Charby.

Make a newspaper happy: give to 7 News

Christmas is over but the season for giving isn't. We hope.

Seven News is looking for donations. There are a number of things we would like.

One thing is copies of the daily papers — Star, Globe, Sun. We can't afford subscriptions but we like to see them in the office because they often carry news on Ward Seven or other matters of interest to Seven News. So, if you get one of these papers every day and you live close to the 7 News office at 80 Winchester, give us a call and let us have them when you are finished with them.

Also, if you get magazines like Maclean's, City Magazine, Popular Photography, Financial Post, Last Post, etc. and you throw them out after you read them — donate them to 7 News instead. They often carry articles on issues of interest to 7 News which we put into our files.

We would also be more than happy to accept books on city issues that you don't need any more, especially books about the Ward 7 area. (For example, the books by James Lorimer, John Sewell, Graham Fraser, Jane Jacobs and Don Keating, many of which deal with recent events centered in various parts of Ward 7.)

And finally, if you have a spare filing cabinet or typewriter, we'd be more than happy to take them off your hands too.

So, extend the season of cheer and giving. Donate to 7 News.

Remember, Christmas comes but once a year but 7 News comes through your mail slot every second week.

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Broadview YMCA offers you a full range of activities. Enjoy handball, batball, basketball, indoor/outdoor tracks, two gymnasiums (one utilized as a winter tennis area), weight training, fitness classes, fitness testing and swimming facilities. Professionally trained staff always on duty to serve you. Ask about our money-saving Morning-Hours-Only membership.

Broadview Y is located at 275 Broadview Avenue, between Gerrard and Dundas, just 5 minutes from the downtown core and the Don Valley Parkway. Open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For full information telephone 461-8123.

Broadview Y



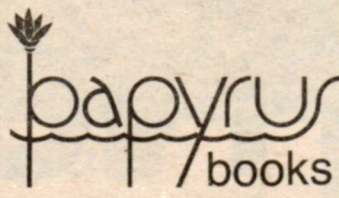
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Broadview Y closure imminent

By WENDY KING

The 65-year-old Broadview "Y" is going to close. It may be shut down anytime within a 6-month to 2-year period, says Jake Smythe, Regional Director for the YMCA East City branch.

A recent decision by the Metro Toronto YMCA Board of Governors that the place "has to go" is explained in an official letter being mailed to the Broadview Y membership. The Board is officially looking into "the disposal of the building".

When it closes, over 700 men, teenagers and children — will have to find another place to go. Alpha School will have to re-locate and the East Toronto Training Centre and Sheltered Workshop for retarded adults will need to find another home. Ten YMCA staff members may have to take jobs elsewhere.

Adult members who drive to the Y already can switch to the College Street Central YMCA or join other health and fitness clubs. But it won't be as easy for local kids to find programs, staff and facilities to replace those at Broadview.

The building houses a 60' x 20' heated pool with solarium roof and 1-metre diving board, a 90' x 50' gymnasium, a smaller gym, a judo-wrestling area, a 200-person auditorium, 2 handball-batball courts, a 410 yard outdoor running track around a 110 feet x 55 feet field, a 28 lap-to-the-mile indoor track and health club facilities including a sauna.

In addition to going without regular swimming and indoor sports programs (basketball, weight lifting, floor hockey), young people in the Riverdale area stand to lose the Wild Roots summer adventure program and the May to September inner-city soccer league that usually gets 250 boys together three nights a week. Note that the 1977 summer programs may not be affected. Check with Ralph Gauthier at 461-8123.)

While news of the closing may come as a surprise to YMCA members, it's nothing new with Metro Toronto YMCA officials. They've been kicking the problem around for ten years.

The situation is this: — the Broadview Y property occupies 6 1/2 acres of prime land worth about \$2 1/2 million. Built in 1910-12 as a fitness and fellowship centre for fathers and sons, the building is considered by many YMCA staff to be a lost cause.

Operating at a deficit

For the past five years, the Broadview Y has been operating at an average annual deficit of about \$78,000 per year. The biggest factor in this deficit, says Bill Norman, Metro YMCA's Vice-President of Operations, is that the building is "under utilized". In other words, the number of annual-fee-paying members (men only) has not kept pace with rising costs.

In 1973, the Broadview Y had about 1,000 adult male members. Today, there are only about 600. Last spring, the volunteer Regional Advisory Board at Broadview decided to bring membership fees more in line with actual costs. They increased from \$70 to \$135 the yearly fee for senior male memberships and from \$140 to \$210 the fee for health club members. While no direct connection was shown, it's safe to say this fee increase had a lot to do with the subsequent loss of 300 members.

The fee hike came "as a jolt" to one long-time Broadview Y member. "It would seem more prudent", he says, "to have spread the increase over a two-year period. Two of my co-workers are not renewing their membership because of the increase". He suggests "the Y would financially benefit by issuing memberships on a 3, 6 and 9 month basis. I'm certain that many memberships are lost because they can't buy a membership on this basis."

Ralph Gauthier, physical director at Broadview, confirms that no YMCA memberships are sold for periods shorter than 1 year because the YMCA generally feels that short-term memberships add to financial instability. Gauthier says that the local Advisory Board had "no choice" but to raise the annual fees.

In contrast to last year's arbitrary rate increase (no one can remember how the figures were arrived at), two new membership choices are now being promoted at Broadview. A "Membership Game" persuades Y regulars to get a friend to join in return for lower fee payments. Another choice for men who work odd hours is the \$95 Health Club package. (the regular health club rate is \$210 per year).

Regional director, Smythe says "there has not been an aggressive membership drive". He feels there's been a gradual decline in the number of new members joining, and admits "we've just coasted along for five years."

Operations vice-president Norman concedes that "the potential of the Broadview facility is greater than what's being done." While he thinks the community is bound to lose facilities like the Y if they don't make use of them, he admits on the other hand, that it "wouldn't be that difficult" to include women's facilities.

Women are not invited to join the Broadview

YMCA, due to inadequate change-room and other facilities (hair-dryers, day care space) felt by the Y staff to be essential. There's the rub. Renovating the building to accommodate women would have to be extensive enough to attract women willing and able to pay the annual \$135 or \$210 fee. According to Peter Turner, past-chairman of Broadview's advisory board, the risk in making \$100,000 worth of renovations to the building in the hope that women would join was just too great, so the idea was dropped. In contrast, the Central YMCA at 40 College St. has progressed to "equal time" for women in its regular program facilities).

Physical director Gauthier complains that "there's no community involvement" at Broadview. He cites the lack of interest from Chinese and Greek residents of the neighbourhood. The Y has distributed pamphlets in these languages but has had little response in general from the ethnic population. The West End YMCA, in contrast, has been able to involve Portuguese and West Indian residents in their programs.

Planning process "a bust"

A 3-year Future Planning Process carried out by the Metro Toronto YMCA studied the Broadview problem among others. As a participant in that process, Peter Turner recalls his efforts to consult the local community as "a bust".

Surprisingly, the planning report concluded that the Broadview Y was "ideally located" to draw members from all over the city because it's close to downtown and main transportation routes. It also concluded that most members want one centre with a full range of facilities even if it means they travel some distance to reach it. For Broadview Y, the important planning conclusion was that it could be financially healthy only with a new fully-equipped facility that would allow space for female members.

Renovating the building is something no one seems to want to consider; at least there isn't any financial estimate available to support the position that renovations could or could not be more economical in the long run than tearing the place down.

Operations vice-president Norman cautions against encouraging people to save the building because "they would just be frustrated". However, he says that "any kind of arrangement is possible" in selling the property. Asked if the land might be sold for housing and the building saved, Norman indicated that the need for access to any development on the land directly behind the building would help determine if it would be demolished. He conceded that alternate access routes could be arranged by removing a couple of houses. Asked about the possibility that the YMCA would sell to a high-rise builder, Norman says "We don't plan to be party to any re-zoning".

Whatever happens to the site in future, the sad case of the Broadview Y shows what can happen to an organization dependent largely upon philanthropy and "male fellowship" to pull it through. As a low priority item in the Metro Toronto YMCA's future scheme, the Broadview Y is a victim of its own history as well as of the imperatives of the Metro Y budget.

Chairman of the Metro YMCA Board of Governors, Norman Aspin, talks about having to "adapt to new realities". He says, in the Annual Meeting report, "We have acknowledged our presence in a competitive market-place environment... the YMCA will succeed to the extent that it responds to consumer needs while maintaining a high level of operating efficiency."

Threatened by depreciation of its facilities and by massive government expenditure on social services in the 1970's, the YMCA has made a definite policy change towards Vic Tanny — type fitness clubs and away from the provision of community recreation facilities for all kinds of people.

The Metro Toronto YMCA now sees its market, or average member, as a businessman who wants to pay at least \$135 per year for a sports and fitness club. The organization will gradually change over to family centres, building shiny new fully-equipped facilities in the supposedly more profitable suburbs of North York, Scarborough or Mississauga. Whether suburban people will actually use the Y more than Riverdale people, for example, is a question that tends to unhinge a conversation with YMCA officers.

The problem wouldn't be so offensive if the YMCA would stop talking about "serving the community" and admit it's turning into a competitive physical fitness business. Even among YMCA staff there's a peculiar kind of confusion about the nature of the organization. Who really is the "consumer" that chairman Aspin talks about responding to? Certainly it isn't lower-income people who live in city neighbourhoods like ours.

If you want to make your opinions about the demise of the Broadview Y known, write to Jake Smythe at the Y, 275 Broadview, or phone 461-8123.

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Volunteers invited to 7 News staff meetings

If you are a Seven News volunteer, you now have the opportunity to become even more involved in the paper. Volunteers who are interested in having more to do with the affairs and running of 7 News are now being given the chance to do so by attending and taking part in the regular bi-weekly staff meetings.

Recent meetings of the staff and Board of Directors decided to encourage volunteers to take a more active part in the affairs of the paper if they have the time and inclination to do so. Volunteers, after all, are the backbone of 7

News the people who make it all possible. So all volunteers — writers, proofreaders, distributors, photographers, etc. — are now being given an open invitation to come along and take part although not everyone will want to, of course, or have the time.

The organization of the staff has also been changed. The position of managing editor has been replaced by a co-operative staff structure in which all staff, paid and volunteer, have a say in what goes into the paper and in how the paper is managed.

What is going into the paper and other business is discussed at the regular staff meetings which take place every second Monday (the Monday after the paper comes out) at 10:00 a.m. at the 7 News office, 80 Winchester St., second floor. The next meeting is on Monday, January 17.

The Board of Directors has also set up a couple of committees to provide more community input into the paper. These are the editorial committee and the fund raising committee. If you are interested in being on either of these, call 920-8632.

Gord Cressy sums up past 7 years

Continued from pg 1

the early 1970's that too much money was being spent on education to a vast array of special interest groups requesting that alternative schools be established and that changes be made in existing schools.

The financial crunch had begun — and just as parent groups were starting to make serious demands of the school system.

Many groups were asking the school system to deliver on its promises, to treat children as unique individuals and to ensure that they developed to their fullest potential. In other words, they wanted the schools to be held accountable.

The trustees of the Toronto Board of Education took seriously their mandate of being responsive to the electorate. Together, the trustees, citizens and school personnel have changed the school system, perhaps forever.

New schools have emerged in our ward: Eastdale Collegiate Institute replacing Eastdale Vocational School; Gabrielle Roy, the Toronto Board's French school filling the vacant space at Sackville Public School; Laneway School previously an independent school, using a classroom at Duke of York; Contract School also at Duke of York but soon to be moved to rented space in the old Shoprite Store on Gerrard St. near Parliament and A.L.P.H.A. on the top floor of the Boardview YMCA.

In addition, new and different programs are emerging to reflect our changing population and to meet the special needs of inner city children.

In effect, then, the confrontation period although painful for many was essential. I believe that parents have a greater influence in the school system today than they have had in the last decade — and that is as it should be. Yet for some parents these changes are too little, too late. And their concerns are as valid today as they were in 1969. Simply stated the school board did not help their children achieve in school.

While all these changes were occurring, there was a tendency to take for granted the teachers that

work on the front line every day. Eventually they, like the parents, rose up angry and we found ourselves in the midst of the first ever strike by secondary school teachers in Metro from Nov. 12, 1975 to Jan. 19, 1976.

Although the strike, on the surface, was about money, at a deeper level it was about job satisfaction.

Far too often teachers were not being consulted about changes in education. Change takes time to implement at the classroom level; and before one change was given the chance to take effect, another one would be brought in.

I believe that there is now a chance as there was not before that the various players in the education arena are ready to work together. For in the end the problems of the school system underlie and also mirror, the problems of present facing Canadian society.

The last seven years have proved conclusively that people (be they parents, teachers, students, other citizens and taxpayers, trustees or administrators) want to be part of the action if they're given the chance — and if they feel that there's a chance they can influence the action.

The schools and the home are, after all, the fundamental training

ground, where our young people learn whether they are going to be participants or merely spectators. And in some ways that goes for some of us adults as well, as you can see if you watch the growth of community schools in this area.

This brings me back, then, to the experience of the last seven years. Begin a trustee has been an emotionally rewarding — and sometimes draining — experience. It was exciting to be part of the action at the trustee level and this has led me to wish to pursue a political career.

When I started as a trustee, Marshal and I were living and working in a group home on Bopwen Street with eight teenage boys who were struggling with the school system. Now we have two daughters, Jennifer, 6, and Jillian, 3. Jennifer attends Gabrielle Roy in Grade 1 and Jillian is in the Don Vale Nursery School which is now located at Winchester School. To have been part of the creation of these settings, even if only in a small way, is something that I will always cherish.

I'd like to thank you all for supporting me these last seven years. I've made many friends, learned a great deal. I hope I've made a contribution.

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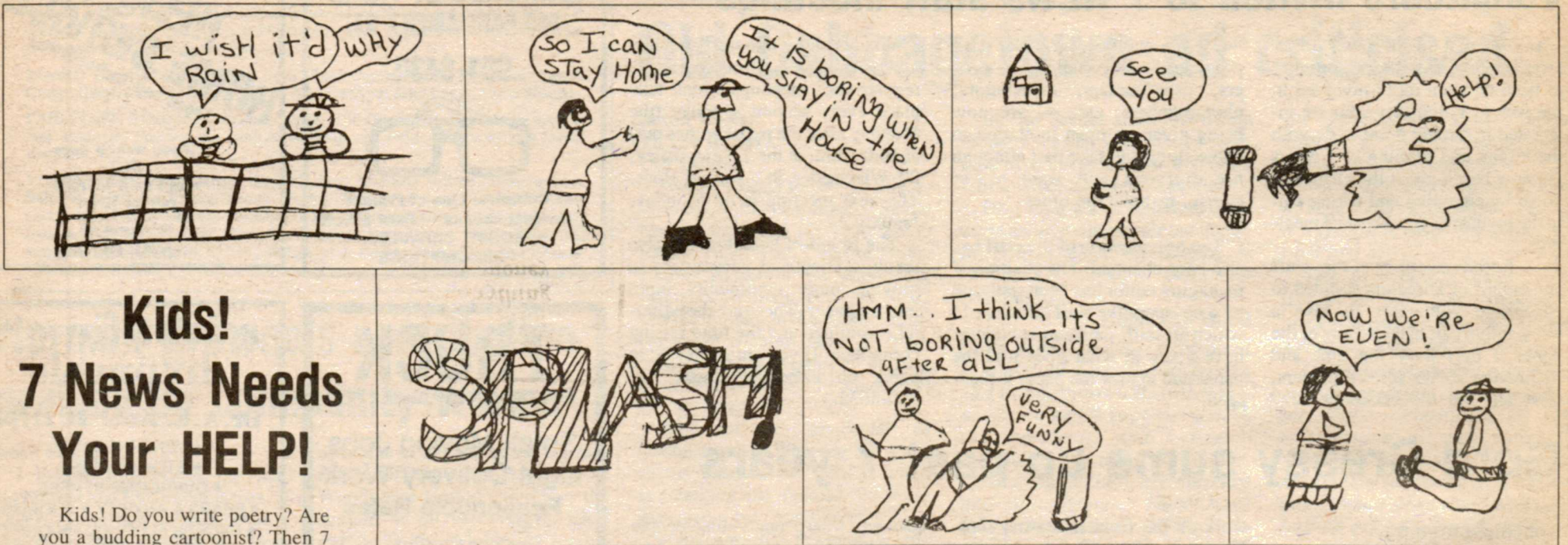
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KIDS STUFF



Kids! 7 News Needs Your HELP!

Kids! Do you write poetry? Are you a budding cartoonist? Then 7 News needs you!

7 News is starting up a section of the newspaper just for kids and we need you to help us write it and to give us ideas in planning what kids of stuff to put in.

Send your work and your suggestions to us at 7 News Kids Page, 265 Gerrard St. East (and be sure to put your name on it so we know who you are!) If you want to phone us, our number is 920-8632.

It's your page, so let's hear from you!

SPLASH!



Things to do for kids at the libraries

At the **Danforth Library**, 701 Pape Avenue, on Saturday, January 15 at 2 p.m., come and watch films about animals. The next Saturday, same time, a puppet show called "The Gunniwolf" will be put on followed by a craft session on how to make your own sock puppets. Come at 2:30 p.m. to make an "animule" on Saturday, January 29. And remember: every Saturday from noon till 2 p.m. drop in for Toys and Games.

At the **Riverdale Library**, 370 Broadview Avenue at Gerrard, a puppet show about Little Red Riding Hood will be presented in Chinese on Saturday, January 22 at 2 p.m.

Come to the **Parliament Street Library**, 406 Parliament Street, Saturday, January 29 at 2 p.m. for a puppet show called Jack in the Beanstalk. If magic is your thing, be sure to drop in for the library's January after-school program at 4

p.m. Mondays to Thursdays for magical experiments, fortune telling, magic stories, crafts and films.

WISHES FOR 1977

I wish the prices of food would go down and stop people from killing. And I wish everybody would be good to poor people. And I wish I had a guitar.

Clifford Galbraith St. Ann's School

SPORTS

Regent Park Men's Hockey League Standings

Team	P	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Seals	3	3	0	0	22	4	6
Leafs	3	2	1	0	11	11	4
Canadiens	2	1	1	0	9	7	2
Flyers	2	0	2	0	4	13	0
Chicago	2	0	2	0	3	14	0

Regent Park Men's Hockey League Leading Scores

Name	Team	G	A	P	Pen.
G. Kelly	Seals	6	1	7	2
M. Wassilyn	Canadiens	5	1	6	2
J. Ryckman	Seals	4	2	6	0
T. Dunphy	Seals	2	4	6	2
M. Bryson	Seals	3	2	5	2
D. Nolan	Seals	3	2	5	0
J. Chong	Leafs	2	3	5	28
J. Mayben	Leafs	4	0	4	0
B. Collins	Seals	0	4	4	0

Scores to Christmas Break

Dec. 6/76	Seals 6 — Canadiens 0
	Leafs 4 — Flyers 2
Dec. 13/76	Seals 7 — Leafs 2
	Canadiens 9 — Chicago 1
Dec. 20/76	Leafs 5 — Chicago 2
	Seals 9 — Flyers 2

Club sponsors boxing tournament

The Cabbagetown Boxing and Yough Club is organizing the Ontario Golden Gloves Tournament

The tournament is happening on Sunday, January 30 FROM 11 a.m. on at the St. Lawrence Market and will feature a series of bouts that will match Ontario's finest amateur novice and open class boxers. The tournament will determine two ten-man teams that will represent Ontario in Syracuse, New York in the open class com-

petitions. The winners at that event will go to the National Golden Gloves of America Tournament to be held in Hawaii.

The Cabbagetown Club will be sending a strong complement to the tournament

Tickets for the event can be obtained by calling Cabbagetown Boxing Club at 961-2912 or writing to Peter Wylie, 58 Coleridge ave., Toronto. Tickets are \$10for adults, \$5 for kids under 16.



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