



# NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
Mailing address: 265 Gerrard St. E.  
Office: 80 Winchester St. 920-8632

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 20 APRIL 9, 1977



Firefighters battle night time blaze in a factory at Shuter-River area. See Page 7 for aftermath.

Photo by Cubby Coatsworth

## MacPherson wins RPCIA elections

Regent Park residents elected a new president for the Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA) last week.

Elected in a two-man race was Sam MacPherson, who defeated Acting President Art Scullion.

Although all RPCIA executive positions were up for grabs, the only race was for president. All others were acclaimed, since there was only one person running for

each position.

The new executive includes: 1st Vice-President: Pat Travis, 2nd Vice-President: Katherine Whitman; Treasurer: Iris Jackman; Secretary: Myrna Marsden; Board representatives for North Regent: Marjory Rudder, Joan Sawyer, Mrs. Rice, and Mrs. Oben; Board representatives for South Regent: Irene Kitson, Bob Woodgate, Gordon MacPherson, Mary Bray, Lisa Csonka.

## Government extends rent control program

Ontario's rent control program will be extended until the end of 1978, according to the Speech from the Throne delivered last week. The program had originally been scheduled to expire July 31, 1977.

The program was introduced in 1975 after heavy pressure to do so from the New Democratic Party.

The Conservative Davis government announced last year that the program would end, and the minister responsible for administering it, Sidney Handleman, had said that if it was continued, he would not administer it.

In changing its mind, the government tied the program to a "package" on housing problems, which is to include a program to stimulate new construction of rental units. According to Handleman, the program should produce 4,000 to 10,000 new housing units in Metro Toronto over the next two years.

Both the NDP and the Liberals have said that they will support the continuance of the program, although the NDP will try to get the government to lower the allowable maximum from its present 8% level.



## Monster stalks Don Vale

Dr. Frankenstein's creature has been stalking the Don Vale Community Centre in recent weeks, but he'll be moving to St. Jamestown shortly. It's not the real monster, of course, but merely the creation of Theatre Next-Door, an amateur group based in the area. It was realistic enough, however, that the frantic screams of one of its "victims" caught a late-working 7 News staffer unaware and resulted in a frenzied call to the local constabulary.

The young woman was working late one evening on the second floor and someone had forgotten to inform her that the group was rehearsing on the third. The story did have a happy ending: apologies were exchanged, two somewhat confused officers were informed of what happened and both the newspaper business and the rehearsal continued as scheduled.

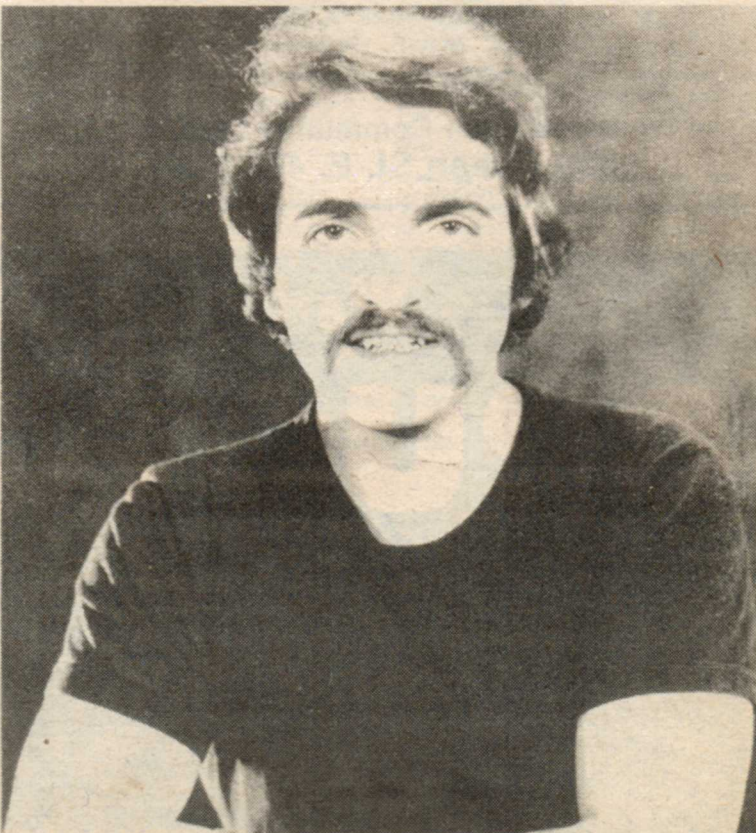
Theatre Next-Door, formerly known as the St. Jamestown Theatre Society, has been operating in Ward 7 for the past seven years. The group is strictly amateur and is dependant upon the support of the community for its survival. After presenting one production in the Don Vale Centre, the group is returning to St. Jamestown. That production, *The Adding Machine*, was well received and proved to be a success both artistically and financially.

The group is currently undergoing a revival of sorts. Membership had dwindled to a small but active core of people prior to the last show but a determined membership drive has almost doubled the number of active members, which now hovers at around forty. New members are welcome.

Theatre Next-Door is a member of the Association of Community Theatres and each year receives a training grant from Theatre Ontario, a provincially funded body. This year the grant is being used to hire a professional director, Walter Rubino, for the spring production. The production will be Tim Kelly's dramatization of the Mary Shelley classic — *Frankenstein*, the story of the consequences that ensue when man tries to play God. The cast includes Larry Williams, Nelson Dancy, Mary Gyles, Mike Than, Liz

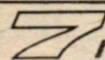
Gordon, Jaime Danford, Jayme Henshall and Marie Guerrieri.

Production nights are May 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium at 240 Wellesley St. E. There will also be a matinee on Sunday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$2 and further information can be obtained by calling 481-3995 or 924-8084. For the superstitious among you, it should be noted that the May 13th performance falls on a Friday. When Frankenstein's creature walks that night, who knows what might happen!



Walter Rubino





**7 NEWS** is a community-owned newspaper published every other Saturday by Seven News, Inc. Mailing address is 265 Gerrard St. East. Editorial offices are located at 80 Winchester St., phone 920-8632.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Rob Snell, Tom Corbett, Miles Brickman, Teresa Cregg, Rajan Bakshi, Carolyn Barber, Lynn Bissell, Alan Gardner, Rop Sharma.

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## LETTERS

## Come to health centre get-together

How successful should a health centre be? It depends, on what you use for a yardstick.

South Riverdale Community Health Centre is a success! If you don't believe me look at the smiling faces of its clients.

If you go by body counts or the numbers game that too is impressive.

The Community Health Centre located at 126 Pape Avenue (in the "old police station") opened November 1st, 1976. Up to the end of March it had serviced 450 patients.

The rate of growth while not spectacular is impressive. The centre averages some 70 new clients every month.

To share with friends and neighbours in celebration the health centre is holding an Open House on Friday April 15th and Saturday

April 16th between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come and meet the people who make it tick. The staff are real community people. There'll be movies shown at 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Come along, this is your opportunity to relax with neighbours over coffee.

For the kids there'll be supervised activities and a poster contest, for which prizes will be awarded.

Adults can have their vision, weight, blood pressure, and physical fitness assessed.

Don't forget! Make it a must on your Calendar! The South Riverdale Community Health Centre at 126 Pape Avenue (steps from Queen Street) in the "old police station".

The dates again are Friday April 15th and Saturday April 16th.

"Sayonara".

John Nevarc

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## Y jobs are guaranteed

Dear Editor:

We would like to correct a misleading statement in your paper that is causing us anxiety here at Broadview Y.M.C.A. I refer to the article on our closure where you refer to the staff jobs as being terminated with the sale at the end of August. This is only a half-truth and therein the anxiety.

All jobs have been guaranteed with the Y.M.C.A. and staff are being shifted to other locations. The addition of this information would clarify your paper's statement and bring to the public's mind the whole truth re-our closure.

Yours truly,  
Ralph Gauthier  
Broadview Co-ordinator

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## Happy Birthday!

Dear Seven News:

Congratulations to Seven News on its seventh birthday in '77 and best wishes for many more! It is by far the best paper of its kind in Toronto!

Mrs. Evelyn Wilson  
Shuter St.

## Here is double the donation

Dear Seven News:

Just a note to say that I have appreciated your 7 News paper for many weeks. I see that you are now requesting \$7.00 for maintaining the paper in circulation, which I think is quite fair. However, I have enclosed double the amount, which I think will be appreciated. Thank you.

A. Falbriner  
Sherbourne St.

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See coupon on page 8

## LAW

## Taxes on retail stores going up under new government plan

By PETER HARRIS

Hundreds of homes and small businesses in Ward Seven may feel the crunch this summer when they receive the Province's notices showing the market value method of property tax assessment to begin in 1978. The new market value programme could represent a substantial increase in property and business taxes for those least able to afford it.

The Ontario Government has produced a formula whereby residential property would be taxed at 50% of the market value and all property used for the purpose of a business will be subject to an additional assessment of 50% of the market value for business taxes.

How could this result in higher taxes? Let's look at the current tax system. Property taxes are now based on the assessed value of the property and the mill rate as follows:

$$\text{Your assessment} \times \text{MILL RATE} = \text{YOUR TAXES}$$

1000

$$\text{Property Assessment} = \text{Present Market Value Reduced To Property Values in 1940}$$

$$\text{Mill Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Value of All Assessments in City}}{\text{Total Revenue To Be Raised By Taxation}}$$

The major change from the present system is that the true market value and not the 1940 value will be the amount that is recorded on the assessment roll. This would mean that a property now assessed at \$4,000.00 would be assessed at \$40,000.00 under the new system! Since residential property is to be taxed at 50 per cent of the market, in the above example, the home owner would be taxed on \$20,000.00 or five times the present assessment.

Since most residential properties will be going up in assessment by five times (to reach the 50 per cent of the market value level) the mill rates should be reduced to about one-fifth their present level. But here the game becomes slated in favour of the City. Clearly, there will be a strong temptation to increase tax revenues by failing to lower the mill rate proportional to the rise in taxable assessment, and blame the resulting rise in taxes on the Province.

One major concern to Ward Seven should be an estimated large shift of business taxes from distilleries, financial and wholesale institutions, and industrial plants to retail stores. All property used for the purpose of a business will be subject to an additional assessment of 50 per cent of the market value for business taxes. For financial and wholesale businesses, this represents a drop from the present business assessment percentage of 75 per cent, while the business assessment percentage of retail stores will jump from the present 30 per cent to 50 per cent under the new programme. The City Council brief to the Blair Commission calculates that the change in business taxes should result in a shift of approximately \$12,500,000 in tax responsibilities onto the shoulders of retail stores.

Without some dramatic changes in this new assessment system, there will be an actual shift in the weight of taxation to older residential properties and retail stores and many homes and businesses in Ward Seven may find their taxes permanently raised to such a degree that they could lose their investments.

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# Will your property taxes rise?

By JOHN SEWELL

During the last municipal election, I talked about the problems market value reassessment might cause. There appeared to be two problems that seemed very worrisome: for homeowners property taxes would increase substantially, particularly for those who now receive partial exemptions from property taxes; for apartment buildings property taxes would decrease, but tenants would not receive any benefits. Landlords would simply have greater profits.

Three weeks ago, the Blair Commission report was made public. The report reviewed the whole idea of market value reassessment. It proposed a number of significant changes to this new system of property taxes, changes which go a long way to meeting the most glaring problems with market value reassessment.

Here's a brief summary of the key recommendations of the Blair report.

1) If market value reassessment had been in effect in 1976, property taxes payable by a homeowner would have been 1% of market value. Thus, if your home had a value of \$50,000, then your taxes would have been \$500. A house valued at \$75,000 would have property taxes of \$750.

2) The Blair report notes that presently some people with high incomes receive partial property tax exemption because of a 1930's bylaw, whereas some people with low incomes have to pay full taxes. It means that the property tax is extremely inequitable.

To deal with this problem, the report suggests a way of trying to relate the cost of property taxes to income. This would be done by changing the present Property Tax Credit — the scheme that allows you to deduct part of your rent or property taxes from your income tax. What is proposed is

that the Property Tax Credit system, and the various schemes for helping senior citizens, be lumped together so that people with low incomes pay less tax.

city hall  
report



For instance, the report suggests that households with an income of \$6,500 per year or less would pay much less than they now pay: while the property taxes might increase, the property tax credit would increase even more, so that the net cost would be less. That's good.

For households with incomes of \$13,500 or more, no claim would be allowed for a property tax credit: if taxes rise under market value reassessment, then you simply have to pay them.

Unfortunately, the proposals as drafted indicate that for households with incomes from \$6,500 to \$13,500, the net burden of property tax will increase. This, I think, is a major weakness of the Blair recommendations. It's not difficult to figure out how to change it — we should simply increase the scope of the Property Tax Credit system, so that up to a household income of \$13,500, the cost of property taxes bears some relationship to ability to pay. This is a change we will have to work for.

3) The Blair report recommends that tenants be allowed to claim from the landlord any decrease in taxes that results from market value reassessment. This would mean that tenants in apartment buildings would actually be able to receive the benefits of lower property taxes on apartment buildings.

This proposal is certainly a step in the right direction. There are some problems still to be resolved — for instance the rebate should be paid by the landlord without the tenant having to request it — but it is an improvement over the earlier proposals.

4) In regard to businesses, if market value reassessment were in place in 1976, property taxes would have been equivalent to 2% of the market value of the property. Business taxes would have been equal to 1% of market value — for a total of 3%.

The report concludes that businesses like corner stores would probably end up paying a total tax similar to that in 1976, although definite figures are not available.

The Blair Commission makes a number of other recommendations. But all in all, I think it's a reasonable start in trying to make sense out of an antiquated property tax system which charges some people too much, and others too little. But further changes will have to be made so that property taxes are related to ability to pay.

It seems that the market value reassessment system in any form won't be implemented quickly. Everyone seems to feel that the Conservatives at Queen's Park consider it a hot potato, and will wait until after the next provincial election before doing anything. That gives us a chance to try and make necessary changes.

Copies of the Blair report are available at the Provincial Bookstore, Bay and Gloucester, and a summary of the report is available free of charge. As well, Janet Howard and I will probably be calling a meeting in the near future where we can discuss the report in great detail with Ward 7 residents.

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## Handicapped adults learn to cope

By FRANCES WATMAN

The East Toronto Training Centre and Sheltered Workshop, located in the Broadview Y building at Gerrard and Broadview, is the home of a unique Life Skills Program for developmentally handicapped adults.

Twenty-five adults with specific learning problems — who were once labelled as mentally retarded — and who often have accompanying psychological and motor disabilities, attend the full day program.

One advantage of this program is its flexibility. Clients may attend on a part-time or full-time basis three or five days a week under the

direction of the four full-time and one part-time staff members.

This one-of-a-kind program, aimed at developing the academic and social skills of developmentally handicapped adults who are able to, and who wish to, remain in the community rather than in an institution, began five years ago under L.I.P. funding. The program received permanent funding from the province a year and a half ago, and is now funded through the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Clients live either at home with their families or on their own, a situation which avoids the enormous expense which institutionalization incurs. Government help is available through the GAINS program which pays the adults \$250 per month as living expenses.

What cannot be measured in dollars is the sense of personal accomplishment and usefulness that a program which allows such adults to live successfully in their own community with family and peers gives the handicapped person.

Not all adults are eligible for the Life Skills Program, explains Kay Hughes, Program Director. One usual criterion for admission is the handicapped person's ability to travel to the Training Centre on his own. To an outsider, this criterion may sound unusual. But to a person with a significant degree of mental retardation, learning to travel on public transportation, recognize bus stops and familiar landmarks is an accomplishment. An advantage to the Centre's present location is the fact that clients may travel by surface route rather than the subway, which is too confusing for the average client whose ability to recognize words and to read directional signs is limited.

One of the program's goals is to develop skills which will allow the clients to enter employment training centres or sheltered work-

shops. Because the necessary skills are both social and academic, the Training Centre stresses both.

Mornings are spent in learning basic academic skills such as mathematics, printing and reading. While some clients attain up to a grade six reading level, others master basic word recognition. The world is an unmanageable place for an adult who cannot read and understand directional words which the rest of us take for granted such as: IN, OUT, DANGER, STOP, LADIES, and GENTS.

Afternoons at the Centre are spent in simulated workshops and in doing craft work such as rug making, leather work and wood-working. Regular exercise sessions and a weekly swim class develop motor skills and "It's a marvelous social thing," according to Mrs. Hughes. Outings to the restaurant or to shop give the group practice at learning public behaviour, dealing with large groups of people, travelling on public transport and making purchases.

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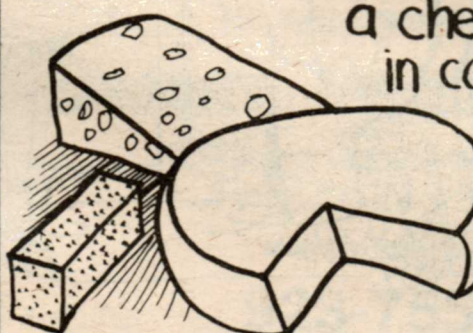
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## Nothing to cheer about in '77 budget

By FRANCES WATMAN

The 1977 Federal Budget tabled in the Commons last week by Finance Minister Donald Macdonald has been described as a stand-pat, do-nothing budget with only small concessions in the way of tax breaks to the average wage earner.

While the budget does make numerous intricate changes to encourage business and stimulate investment and expansion in the private sector, these changes will have no immediate or significant effect on the average wage earner.

What the budget does is: provide an additional tax credit of up to \$50 for each dependent child under 18 years of age; and increase the employment expense allowance ceiling to \$250 from \$150. And that's just about all it does.

Pre-budget speculation was weighted in favour of Macdonald fresh from his meetings with business and labour over the issue of a possible early end to wage and price controls, bringing in an election budget that included termination of these controls as well as

appreciable tax cuts for fixed and low-income families. With unemployment at a post-Depression high of 7.9 per cent and a projected million-plus without jobs by the end of 1977, dynamic measures to ease unemployment were seen as a priority.

Macdonald's new budget is an unhappy surprise. The Finance Minister stated his priorities as maintaining "the underlying trend to lower inflation" and encouraging "a steady and non-inflationary growth in the economy, in order to provide jobs and reduce unemployment." To this end the Government will invest \$100 million in job creation over last year's \$358 million resulting in the creation of 150,000 new jobs this year. However, since 250,000 additional people are expected to enter the work force this year, this will result in a rise in the unemployment statistics with the seasonally adjusted rate hovering above eight per cent. Because the current unemployment rate for young people is 14 per cent, and it is this group which will make up

the largest portion of the bodies entering the labour market for the first time, the social implications are ominous.

The budget's approach to Ottawa's 18-month old anti-inflation policy disappointed some.

In order to maintain "the underlying trend to lower inflation", Macdonald has opted for retaining wage and price controls. While this seems to fly in the face of negotiations with labour and business groups whose opposition to controls is long-standing and currently determined, economic suicide resulting from non-phased termination of controls is a possibility the Government has not chosen to risk. With business investment necessary for job creation and money to spend declining last year, and productivity inching downward, a quantum leap in costs is seen as the only possible result of non-phased control termination.

The probability that this budget will pull us out of the current recession is tempered by hindsight: last year's budget, critics believe, helped pull us farther in.

## Eastdale School holds open house

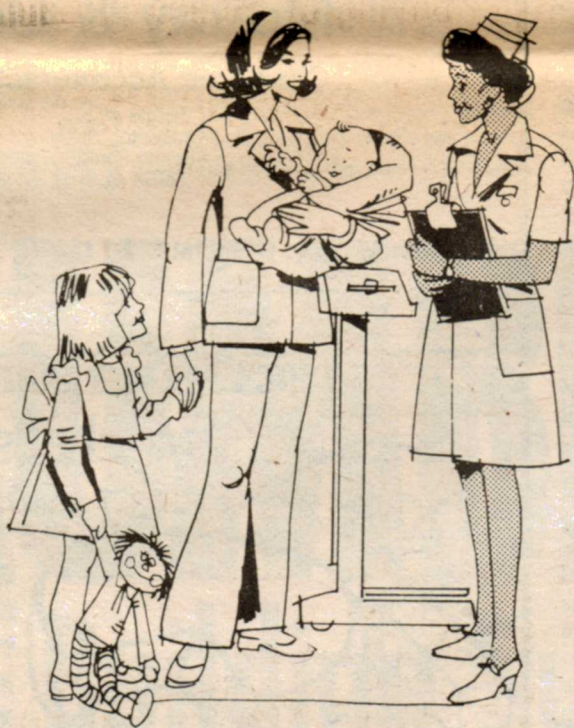
On Wednesday, April 20, Eastdale Collegiate Institute will delay its school day by six hours so that the general public can visit the school while it is in session.

Instead of taking attendance at 9:00 a.m., the first period of the

day will begin at 3:00 p.m. The lunch, (or if you prefer, the supper hour), will begin at 5:40 p.m. instead of 11:40 a.m.

Mrs. Kay Love, the President of the Eastdale School Community Council says that the idea started

with some parents who wished they could visit the school, but who were always working during regular school hours. And, since the entire province is celebrating Education Week, April 20 seemed like a good day to try this idea out.



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Immunization protects against polio, diphtheria, measles, rubella (German measles), whooping cough, mumps and tetanus. Although often considered to be "childhood diseases," they are anything but minor — measles, for instance, can lead to encephalitis (brain disease), a cause of retardation.

Here in Ontario, the Ministry of Health provides the vaccines and your Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) pays a fee to the physician for administering them.

But the responsibility for immunization — for making sure your children are protected — is still up to you. Have your children immunized by your family physician. Or, for school age children, use school immunization programs provided by Health Units.

Immunization is quick and convenient — vaccines against several diseases are often combined. And the only way to control these diseases is to immunize as many people as possible.

Your Ontario Government is doing its share — by providing vaccines and paying for immunization through OHIP.

Do your share — make sure your children are immunized. Consult your family physician, public health nurse or local medical officer of health.

A free booklet, "Immunization is your responsibility," is available with a chart showing what diseases your children should be immunized against, and at what ages. For your copy, write to:

Health Resource Centre  
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Hepburn Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S2

Dennis Timbrell,  
Minister of  
Health



William Davis,  
Premier

Province of Ontario



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Monday April 11

A five-week **learn-to-swim program for adults** in St. Jamestown begins today in the indoor pool of the Ottawa building, 650 Parliament St. These classes are for the person who has never learned to swim and would like to feel more comfortable in and around water. Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Instruction is given on water safety and basic swimming techniques. The cost for this 10-hour program is \$15. Registration is now being taken at the YMCA office, 260 Wellesley St. E., 964-8775.

## Tuesday April 12

There are **Kung-Fu** classes at the Riverdale Library (Broadview & Gerrard) every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call 466-0776 for more information.

**Jimmy Simpson Recreation Centre** Advisory Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in the development and progress of Jimmie Simpson is invited to attend this evening's meeting.

The final program in the "Pulse" series, "Putting Pulse to Bed" is being screened on Channel 10 on Rogers, Metro, Maclean-Hunter and Keeble cable systems from 7:30 to 9:00 tonight. The program will feature highlights of the "Pulse" series on community issues.

## Thursday April 14

The Parliament Street Library, (Gerrard & Parliament), is having a special open house with the theme "Get Involved with your Public Library". There will be a local history display, special displays and demonstrations, and refreshments. At 8:15 there will be a brief meeting of the Friends of the Parliament Library to elect an executive to participate in planning renovations for the library.

Poet Tom Marshall, the author of several books, including "The White City", will **read from his work** at 7:30 p.m. at the Parliament St. Library House, 265 Gerrard St. E.

The Gerrard Library, 1432 Gerrard St. E., is showing the **movie** classic Citizen Kane at 7:00 p.m.

## Friday April 15

The movie version of Charles Dickens' **Oliver Twist** is being shown at Parliament St. Library House at 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday April 16

The United Church women of Eastminster United Church (Danforth & Jackman) are holding their **spring tea and sale** today from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., featuring delicatessen, baked goods, books and records, "The Junkerie", Silent Auction, handicrafts, plants, quilts, a snack bar, and a family clothing centre. Admission free.

## Monday April 18

London Bobby entertains at Dixon Hall's **British Pub** today from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are 50¢. Call 863-0499.

## Tuesday April 19

Folk singer **Wiz Bryant** performs for the whole family, from pre-schooler to grandmother, at the Parliament Street Library House, 265 Gerrard St. E., at 7:30 p.m.

St. Jamestown residents are invited to an evening of **National Film Board** films to be shown in the recreation room of the Winnipeg Building from 7:30 to 9:00. (This is a B.Y.O.P.C. event — that's "Bring your own popcorn".)

The Danforth Library, 701 Pape Avenue, is showing the movie "The Grey Panthers" at 7:30. Admission free, coffee served.

## Wednesday April 20

The St. Jamestown **Cancer Drive** is sponsoring a bazaar at 6:00 p.m. tonight. For more information call Frances Drummond or Mary Wilcox at 925-5522.

## Thursday April 21

The Parliament St. Library House, 265 Gerrard St. E., is holding its annual celebration of **Shakespeare's birthday** today at 7:30 p.m. Alex Jeffories acts as master of ceremonies and performs. Audience participation is invited with songs, sonnets or parodies being the order of the day.

The St. Jamestown **Cancer Drive** is holding an **auction** tonight at 8:00 p.m. Call 925-5522 for more information.

## Friday April 22

The St. Jamestown **Cancer Drive** is holding a **bingo** tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 925-5522.

## General

Registrations for the **Regent Park Fitness Centre** (470 Dundas St.) are now being accepted. The centre opens April 11, and will be open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., offering fitness screening, sauna, showers, sun room, gym, exercise classes for women, and jogging club. The cost is \$30 or less for three months, on a graded scale according to income. Phone 864-9364.

The 41 **Bingo** Club meets every Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and every Friday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at 41 Oak St. Admission is 35¢ for 2 cards, (extra cards are 3 for 25¢). Refreshments are free. For more information call John Sanlon at 368-7503.

**Sackville School** will be celebrating its 90th birthday (and the closing of the English part of the school) in June. Anyone interested in helping to organize this event, please phone 368-0476.

The Dixon Hall **Busy Bees** have a **hot lunch** every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at 58 Sumach St.

**Harbourfront**, at 235 Queen's Quay, has a number of free activities on a regular basis.

The Centre of Movement is presenting its spring program from May 3 to June 24. For adults, there are classes in dance on Saturday mornings. Call 691-6978 for more information.

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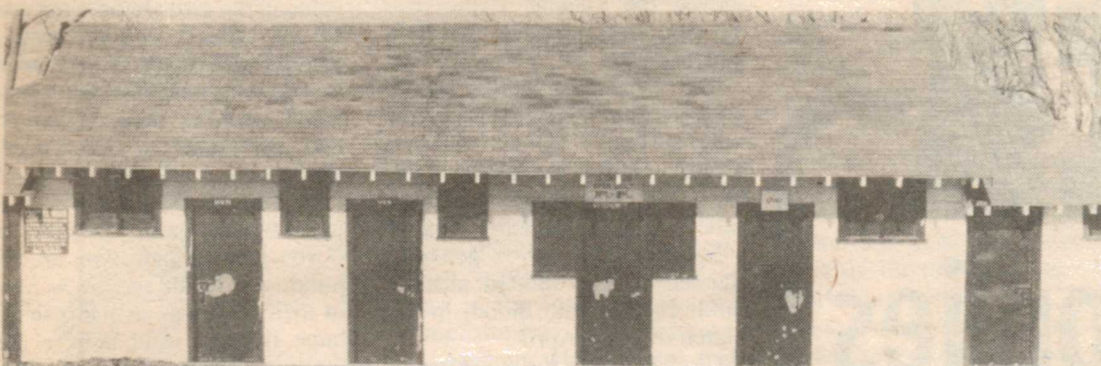


Photo by Cubby Coatsworth

It won't be long now before these changing rooms on Cherry Beach will be greeting their first visitors of the year.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Give and Take

There was a tiny bit of cheer for Ontario pensioners this January, when federal OAS-GIS pensions were upped by \$3.32 a month. This new-found wealth didn't last too long for nursing home patients, however. In February, the Ontario Ministry of Health had already upped extended-care patient charges by \$4.00 a month. For the old folks, it was a net loss.

## Tenants Win on Rents

The tenants' association at 40 Gerrard St. E. has won its battle to lower proposed rent increases in their apartment buildings. The landlord had appealed an earlier Rent Review Board ruling, and was asking for a 17.8% increase. The Board decided instead that he would only get an 8.7% increase on the one-year

leases, and a 13% increase on the two-year leases. Tenants first got together to fight the rents last summer, when the landlord told them rents were going up 26%.

## Macdonald to Quit?

Speculation was rampant last week that Liberal Finance Minister and Rosedale MP Donald Macdonald would retire from politics before the next federal election. Macdonald has previously expressed a desire to return to law practice in Toronto. However, after delivering the budget last week, he would only say that he would make his decision sometime in 1977. Macdonald has held the federal seat of Rosedale for the Liberals since 1962.



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# DRAMA

## Murder and mayhem mix in Funny Frantic Farces

By SHERILYN MARSHALL

For an entertaining evening of murder and mayhem, then the play's the thing for you at the Firehall Theatre, 70 Berkeley Street with two defective detective comedies by Tom Stoppard to make you laugh. The opening farce is *The Real Inspector Hound* — no dogs allowed — please — and then it's *After Magritte*.

Will the real Inspector Hound please stand up and bark? The comic opening of this play features two would-be critics who sit dissecting a mutual friend whom they despise but tolerate. Then it's wham-bang — murder is discovered in the drawing room.

Inspector Hound enters the scene — preceded by the wail of a hound. He stumbles and bumbles his way through the case confusing all. Enter Simon, a rather attractive young man. Is he the missing link? Simon is paranoid and nervous not knowing what is going to happen to him next, as he examines the body. Bang — it's all over for him and Inspector Hound has another body on his hands.

The play becomes more confusing and humorous with bodies

lying about. Birdboot, the critic, becomes a fourth in a weird game of bridge. Then — bang — it's all over for him, too. We now have three bodies and no murderer has been found. The twist ending leaves you wondering: who done it?

Then it's *After Magritte* with marital hanky panky and crimes that aren't crimes at all. The police, led by another bungling inspector in the genre of Inspector Clouseau enter the residence that they are investigating and Foot hot-foots it into the fray.

Foot builds up a case against two professional stage personalities, Harris and Thelma (who has her legs insured but only against theft) and then gets nowhere when he tries to get something on them. They have an alibi and give a description of a mysterious blind man carrying a seeing-eye tortoise.

Good old Foot continues to put his feet into the case but finally builds up to making an arrest. Who done it?

For an evening of laughs, crime detection and whatever, see *The Real Inspector Hound* and *After Magritte* until April 16.



The real Inspector Hound interrogates Cynthia. Bodies abound but who done it?

## Spring sprung, grass riz, wonder where birdies is

Some days, when you go outside, an icy wind sneaks up on you and quickly tears away your warm illusions about winter being over. This, you think, shivering, is supposed to be spring?

Other days, the sun seems determined to coax the winter chills out of your bones once and for all. But you know by this time that it's dangerous to give in to that warm relaxed feeling, because if you do,

you're bound to be punished — the very next day, by the cruel inevitability of life, will certainly be gray, frigid, and miserable. Better, then, to stick with those winter clothes, hunch up your shoulders, and decide firmly that winter is with us yet.

Still, whether we're ready to believe it or not, spring is upon us, and if we go out and look for it, we'll come across signs that estab-

lish that fact much more firmly and decisively than the passing moods of the weather.

One of the surest signs is always the emergence of the first cocky flowers, and the buds of shrubs, and trees of the new season. You'll find them in the ravines and on the hills around the Don River in the centre of Ward 7, in some of the empty fields in the south and off the lake, and (for those of us who occasionally cross the borders of Ward 7 to the outside world) in High Park, Morningside Park on Morningside Avenue in Scarborough, and in what's left of the Nordheimer Ravine now they've shoved the Spadina Expressway (pardon, Arterial Road) down the middle of it.

The usual first arrival, which really deserves a nicer name considering that it is our first real herald of spring, is the skunk cabbage, which starts producing its yellow pollen by early March.

Second place is generally claimed by the spotted alder, a shrub coming into bloom in late March or early April.

Close behind is the silver maple,

which is common both as a planted tree in the city and wild along open wooded slopes. It is likely to come out first where its branches are warmed by reflected heat from south-facing building walls.

Another early spring flower is coltsfoot, which looks something like a dandelion and grows on open, damp, clayey banks, sometimes in great masses.

### 'more sheltered areas produce early arrivals'

If you stay out of the ravines and parks and fields, you may still spot some early arrivals on empty lots off city streets in some parts of Ward 7. Often, spots that receive more sunlight or reflected heat, or which are more sheltered, will produce some early arrivals, such as chickweed, ragwort, and dandelion. They've been stuck with the label 'weed' for the most part, but if you look at them with an open mind, you'll find they're as pretty in their own way as the officially tame flowers. And they're most welcome as harbingers of spring!

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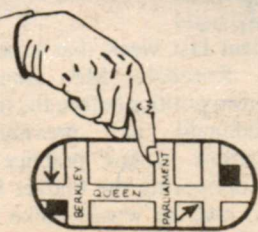
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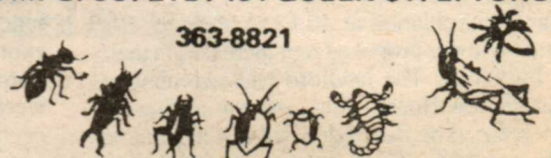
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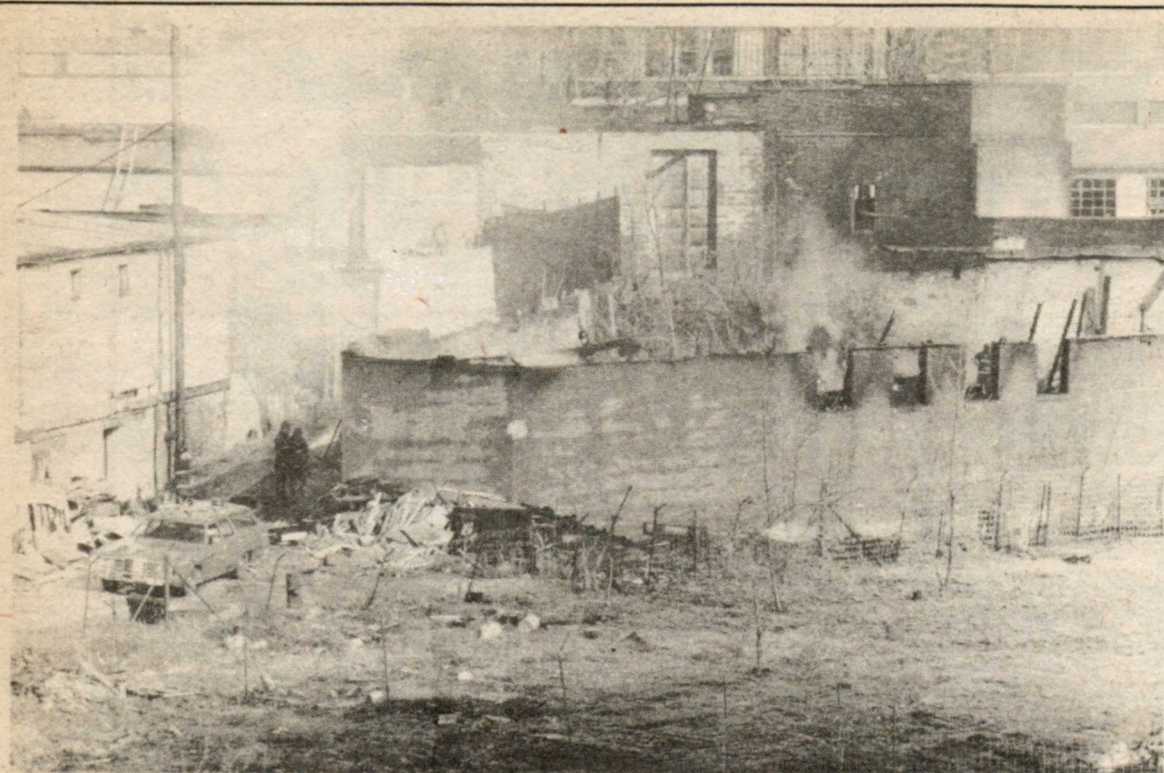
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Only a shell remains following the spectacular night time blaze pictured on page 1. Photo by Cubby Coatsworth

## We need your contribution

### 7 dollars for 7 News.

That's what we asked you for in the last issue. In the two weeks since our request appeared in the paper, we have been very pleased to see the number of people all across Ward 7 who have sent us their contributions to become supporting members of the paper. This is the kind of support we need to make the paper financially self-supporting.

But of course we need many more supporting members, many more contributions of \$7, or whatever you can afford, if we are going to reach our goal.

We hope that you will send us your "\$7 for 7 News" if you haven't already done so.

Your contribution is necessary, because 7 News is a community paper, not a money-making paper. This means that it can only exist with the help of many, many people in the Ward 7 area. And we always have gotten this help: for

example, our proofreading, our billing, our photography, our subscription mailing, our clipping, are all done by volunteers who give their time to the paper. Most of the articles you read in the paper are written by volunteers. The paper that arrives on your doorstep is delivered by a volunteer on your street. The stores, community centres, libraries, clubs, picnics, drop-ins, etc., that keep copies of the paper for you to pick up do it as a service — they don't get any money for it. And of course the paper is free to everyone in the Ward 7 area.

Altogether, hundreds of people work on the paper every year because they like it and support it.

If you like the paper and would like to support it, then you can do so by becoming a supporting member of 7 News. Your contribution of \$7 for 7 News (or whatever you can afford) would be very much appreciated.

## Conflict over crossing

Residents and the City Works Committee expressed conflicting ideas last week about what to do about the Pape Avenue railway crossing at which five people have been killed in the last seven years.

City Council's works committee is urging Metro to postpone the construction of a pedestrian underpass and close that part of the street to traffic.

But residents of nearby resi-

dential streets have expressed fears that the proposed six-month trial street closing would cause too much traffic to switch to side streets, creating a hazard especially at schools in the area.

Residents also spoke against the underpass that Metro approved in early March, expressing fears that the underpass would be dark and unsafe to walk through at night.

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### KIDS STUFF

## We painted a mural on the gym wall

*The students at Dundas Public School, with the help of artist Fred Franzen, have just completed work on a large mural on the gym wall of their school. The following comments were written by the kids about this very special artistic adventure, and first published in their newspaper Hot-Line.*

By GORDON

Junior Kindergarten

I'm painting on the wall. I'm near the bottom. I like to paint. The paint is all different colours. I used red.

By EDDY CADDICK

Grade 3

When I started to paint, it felt smooth and when the Chinese man did the top of the gym wall he did it orange and the orange was very bright. Then we got to paint for one minute. Me and Paul had to climb down and go to the bathroom and wash the brushes.

By PAUL GOVIN

Grade 3

We went to the "Jim" to paint and we went up a big ladder and it went up to a big high thing called a scaffold. It helped a lot for high places. A lot of people didn't want to paint. My friends and I had a lot of fun and when we had to stop painting, a Chinese man played a little game of basketball with me and my friends.

### The Large Mural

By PEONY MAR

Grade 5

Finally it comes the time in life to make a mural together! A mural that shows friendship and excitement, helping each other. We would decide something that we all want; of course it would be difficult, but we know better that we really shouldn't fuss. We will figure how wide, we will figure how tall, we will figure the colours that belong to us all. We will make it so big, so beautifully coloured. The world will come see it. We will charge them nothing at all because it's a free world, we're friends. With the help of joy, happiness and will power, we will surely get the mural done.

**The Bud of Colour**  
By BRENT KITAGAWA  
Wall Helper, Age 15

As the first brush strokes on the brilliance of colour that vast cream-coloured wall comes alive.

More brushes meet the wall spreading an array of colour. The room brightens and fills with excitement.

Colour after colour stroke after stroke that barren wall forms into a beautiful work of art. Just as a bud blossoms blossoms into a beautiful flower.

As the last brush is layed down I step back and behold that creation I had a part of.

By SHAILESH

Grade 3

When I went on the scaffold, I was very scared. It was shaking. Then I got off and got two paints. It is hard to get up.

By ELIZABETH DILWORTH

Grade 5

FORTUNATELY the gym wall was all done. UNFORTUNATELY Fred put his hand on the wall and made it dirty.

FORTUNATELY Fred said that we could paint over it. UNFORTUNATELY we all did not want to paint over it.

FORTUNATELY Fred said that we could make a funny shape and put it over his hand. UNFORTUNATELY we all did not know the kind of shape to make.

FORTUNATELY Mrs. Steele said, "I know, we could make a nice white hat." UNFORTUNATELY we did not know how to make a nice white hat.

FORTUNATELY I said, "Why don't we just leave Fred's hand on the wall!" Everybody said, "O.K. OKAY!" UNFORTUNATELY this is the end.

## Kids' Calendar

### Danforth Library

Come on over for an afternoon of Easter Stories and clay-dough Easter Egg making on Saturday April 9 starting at 2 p.m.

Saturday April 16, same time, it's Rhymes and Riddles. Stick around for the jelly bean contest winners, too.

### Parliament Street Library

An afternoon of Easter crafts starts at 2 p.m. Saturday April 9.

Wednesdays at 4 p.m. nature lovers are invited to a program of Nature Stories.

Same time on Thursdays, movie lovers can come to a screening of their favourites.

### Gerrard Library

Teens! Monday April 18 at 4 p.m. It's Gardening for the Teen Group. Bring your green thumbs, please.

Arts and crafts are planned for the same time Saturday April 16.



Love that food! Two youngsters enjoy the eats at last month's Multi-cultural Festival.

Photo by Cubby Coatsworth

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(CLOSED SATURDAY)