

Family split up after OHC eviction

With tears streaming down her face, Danica Opacic pleads for someone to tell her why the Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) decided to evict her last week from an apartment she has occupied for over eight years.

Although the quiet, frail woman is described by her neighbours as keeping to herself and even a "loner", OHC authorities informed 7 News that Mrs. Opacic was evicted from 200 Wellesley Street because of "anti-social" behaviour.

Under OHC regulations, this label is applied to anyone who disturbs the peace and quiet of their neighbours, and anyone who violates this very broad clause is liable to immediate eviction.

The way Mrs. Opacic and a few of her close friends tell it, the only

"peace and quiet" the Yugoslavian immigrant has interrupted is that of the Ontario Housing Corporation. On a number of occasions in the past, Mrs. Opacic has complained to OHC about what she considers invasions of privacy or about problems in service, such as lack of hot water.

The major issue of contention seems to involve Mrs. Opacic's frequent complaints about the all-night parties which a former tenant used to host quite frequently. On several occasions, people attending these parties threw beer bottles at Mrs. Opacic's balcony during the early morning hours.

In addition, Mrs. Opacic had been deandng that building management do something about a plumbing problem that left her

without adequate hot water for two years. As a result, it seems, Mrs. Opacic was pegged as a "trouble maker".

On May 10 of this year, OHC decided to evict Mrs. Opacic and issued her a notice to vacate her apartment. When she refused to leave her home, she was taken to court on July 25 where a judge ruled in favour of OHC's action as landlord.

Mrs. Opacic, through a translator, told 7 News that although she attended the July 25 hearing, she was forced to appear alone, with representation, because a lawyer she had contacted in May did not attend. Mrs. Opacic was also handicapped because of her inability to speak or understand English.

Although OHC intended to evict Mrs. Opacic, they still

accepted her cheque for August's rent. Then, on August 18, her 14-year-old daughter, Zora, who was at home alone, was awakened by OHC staff and a representative from the Sheriff's office who ordered her to leave the apartment.

When Mrs. Opacic arrived at home later in the day, she found a new lock on the door and upon contacting building management was told she couldn't move any of her belongings until she removed all of them.

Although Mrs. Opacic is staying with a neighbour while her two daughters are living with some friends, she is unable to enter her old apartment to obtain money and necessary medication which was left behind in the eviction.

While Mrs. Opacic requires

some personal effects in the apartment, her greatest concern is a lack of accomodation. OHC will no longer consider her as atenant and the various government agencies can only offer temporary shelter.

Even the intervention on her behalf by two physicians, Doctor T.K. Pain and Dr. Gerhardt Fischer, has failed to secure housing from either OHC or other government agencies. In handwritten letters both doctors say serious medical problems amke it imperative that Mrs. opacic "be given some time before she moves anywhere else."

In the meantime, Mrs. Opacic, with her halting English and her difficulty in understanding Canadian laws, is left to try to cope as best she can.

Riverdale farm is coming to life

By JANET HOWARD

On Saturday, September 9th, the long-awaited Riverdale Farm will open to the public.

In collaboration with the City Parks Department, the Riverdale Farm Committee has planned an afternoon and evening of events in the park that should make the occasion a memorable one.

At four o'clock the official ceremony will take place, with City representatives and others who have helped in the planning of the farm over the years. From five o'clock to midnight the dead-end portion of Winchester Street will feature entertainment and a street dance, and in the new farm house there will be a pub night. Profits from the Farm Committee's events will go to Ward 7 News.

The Riverdale Farm Committee has over the past two years continued a history of local involvement dating back to 1971, when the Don Vale Association of Homeowners and Residents appointed a Riverdale Zoo Committee to examine the future of the land where the old zoo stood. That committee, after a series of meetings in the community and city hall, as well as a survey conducted over a wide area, came up with the concept of a mid-19th century farm.

In 1975 the Committee received an influx of new members, who were outraged at the

condition of the lower pond after the fence had been removed, and at the same time drawings of the proposed buildings' and layout becaome available. One of the barns is a genuine 19th century building, carefully taken down from its original site in the country and set on new foundations in Riverdale Park. The other barn, and the 1850's-style farm house, were designed by architect B. Napier Simpson, who was among the members of the Canadian Historic Sites Commission killed this June in a plane crash in Newfoundland. At the request of the Farm Committee I have asked the City to name the farm house after Mr. Simpson, whose work in the field of preserving and restoring old buildings has left an important mark on Toronto.

The farm house will contain a snack bar (serving no junk food), a display area for children's drawings and other material related to old fashioned farming and animals, and activites rooms upstairs. School groups will be given tours, in which they will learn about 19th century farm life and will come into close contact with the farm animals.

Parks staff are already settling the animals into the farm, and excitement is rising among the many people who have worked hard over the years to see this project developed.

Be sure to make the opening□

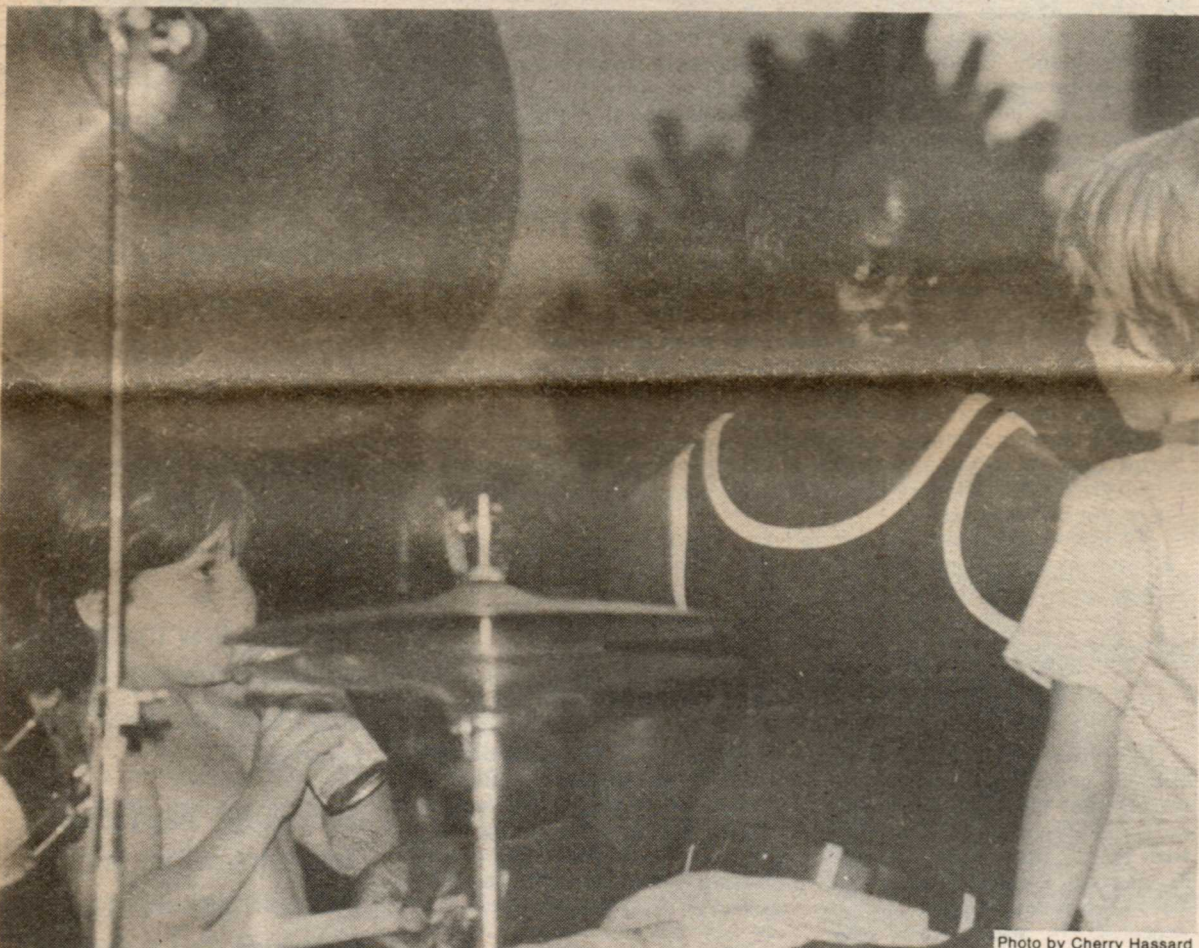


Photo by Cherry Hassard

The UMCA and the Metro Department of Parks and Recreation presented the Audley Williams group and the Caribbean Carnival Band in an outdoor concert at St. Jamestown. Shown above is percussionist Al Ison.

New insurance rules may help homeowners

People in inner-city areas have had trouble getting insurance for their homes in the last few years, because insurance companies are reluctant to insure in situations where they suspect they may have to pay.

In response to criticism of insurance company practices, a set of "Guiding Principles" has been adopted by the Metropolitan Toronto Insurance Agents Association and the Toronto Insurance Conference which cover practically all the insurance agencies in Toronto.

These "Guiding Principles" have no force in law, but they are a standard to which people seeking insurance can refer. You may want to clip the statement for future reference.

The following guiding principles have been adopted in respect to single family (or two-family) dwellings occupied by the owner in higher risk areas in Metropolitan Toronto including those which have been or may be designated by the City of Toronto Planning Board or the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Commission as "blighted areas" and therefore are being considered as the subject of rehabilitation or redevelopment:

1. Rejection of an application or cancellation or refusal to renew a policy because of the physical con-

dition of the property shall not occur without prior inspection of the premises.

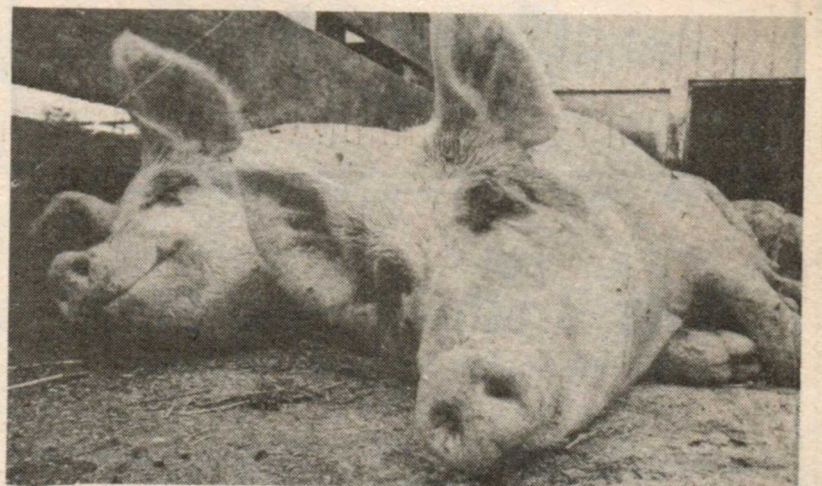
2. When an application for insurance (signed by the applicant) is received from the company's agent, the property will be inspected with the applicant or his representative present. If the property is not insurable because of physical hazards, the owner will be advised by the company, its agent or inspector of the specific improvements or repairs which are required to meet reasonable underwriting standards.

3. If the main building meets undrewriting standards, but outbuildings or other private structures on the premises do not, coverage on such structures may be excluded.

4. At the option of the insurer, a policy may be written for a one or three-year period and may or may not include

a) Some or all estended coverage perils
b) The optional loss settlement clause
c) A rebuilding clause in areas considered as being the subject of rehabilitation or redevelopment.

5 Every effort will be made through Toronto Metropolitan Insurance Agents' Association and the Toronto Insurance Conference to see that the interests of policyholders are respected if transfer or termination of an agency occurs."



7 News is moving

7 News is moving its office. On Tuesday, August 29, 7 News is leaving Eastdale Collegiate and relocating in All Saints Church (315 Dundas East, on the south-east corner of Sherbourne and Dundas).

The 7 News office will be at the eastern end of the church, with the entrance off Dundas St. E. (A sign will be up to remove any doubt.) As of now, we don't

know what our new phone number will be; however, just call the old number and the operator will give you the new one. The new number will be published in the next issue of the paper.

Please note that our mailing address will not change: our mailing address will continue to be what it has always been: Seven News, 265 Gerrard St. East, Toronto M5A 2G3.



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STAFF: Editor: Ulli Diemer. Subscriptions: Ralph Cunningham. Book-keeping: Dorothy Bushey, Howard Huggett. Photography: Cherry Hassard. Cartoons: Kay Cole, Tom McLaughlin. Writers: Audrey Bayduza, Eric Blair, Sharon Cameron, Tom Corbett, Ulli Diemer, Janet Howard, Howard Huggett, Roger Rolfe, Mary Rosen, George Rust-D'Eye, Bonnie Sartori, John Sewell.

Distribution: 7 News is distributed by over 200 individuals and groups, too many to list, but thanks go to them all. Thanks to the following who have recently become supporting members of 7 News: Bob Beardsley, Eastdale Collegiate; Peter and Anne Caton; Norman Lewis, Parliament St. (Part-time disc jockey). 7 News is pleased to announce that it has acquired the services of a new staff member, Margaret Watson. 7 News is moving on Monday August 28 and Tuesday August 29. The new office is in All Saints Church (315 Dundas St. East) on Dundas at Sherbourne. (The entrance to the 7 News office is at the easternmost end of the church off Dundas.) We don't know the new phone number yet: just call the old one and the operator will give you the information. Please note that our mailing address remains the same: 265 Gerrard St. East.



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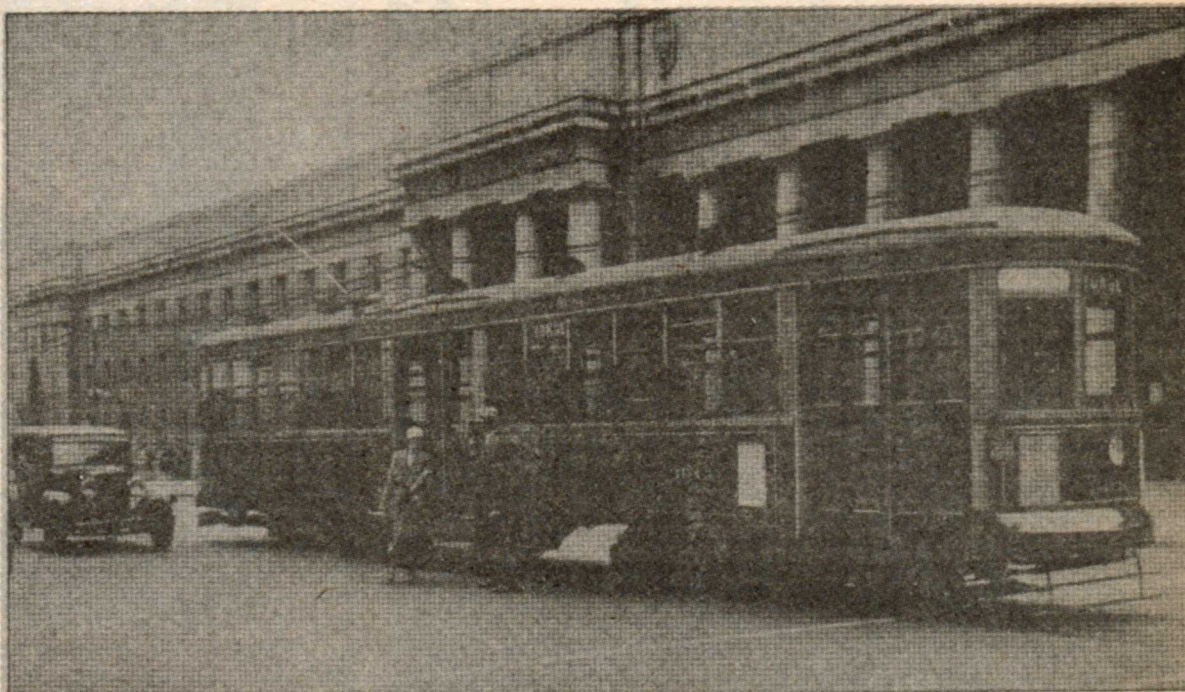
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Transit as it used to be. Some say things have gotten worse, not better.

More than one way to strike

By ULLI DIEMER

Well, another TTC strike is looming and I for one think the transit workers deserve a decent raise. Workers should not be made the scapegoats for skyrocketing transit costs or for inflation generally, when any objective examination shows that other factors are key in driving costs up. Most working people tend to agree, I think.

But in any strike in a public service, the public does tend to get very irritable, not because of the demands being made, but because of the inconvenience. (And a transit strike is far more inconvenient to the average person than, say, a postal strike or an air traffic strike.) It's unfortunate, but a reality of life, that people tend to blame workers rather than management for a strike, even though it may very well be management unreasonableness that is causing the strike.

The point, however, is that transit workers should take this predictable reaction into account, since public support or the lack of it can be key in whether their strike is successful.

So I would suggest that TTC employees would do well to look at the example set in similar transit strikes in Britain and continental Europe. There, transit unions have adopted novel, and very successful, tactics. Rather than simply walk away from their busses, drivers there have completely turned things around. They've stayed on and have kept driving; but they haven't let people pay their fares. The economic impact on management is exactly as severe as if vehicles weren't moving, because no money is coming in. But there is no impact on the public, and the result has been that there has usually been great public support where normally there would be public pressure to end the strike.

Transit workers might do well to take a leaf from the book of their European counterparts if they're really interested in winning their strike.

Transfer to nowhere

TTC users receiving one of the slips of paper shown should be warned that attempts to use them in place of official transit transfers will result in a walk to your destination. Unless of course, the TTC is shut down by a strike, as expected, in which case even regulation transfers are as equally useless for transit purposes.

Transit Tragedy No. 2 is the second installment in a six-part series which is the basis of a campaign by ReforMetro to

"Reform the TTC." ReforMetro, which is a loose collection of reform aldermanic and school trustee hopefuls contesting most seats in November's municipal election, see changes in the TTC as one of their priorities.

Although ReforMetro has not yet reached the halfway point in their TTC campaign, they have already encountered harassment from transit security guards for distributing the messages around subway stations.

REFORM THE



TRANSIT TRAGEDY No. 2

TTC Operating Deficit

prior to 1971	\$0
1971	\$2,879,000
1976	\$49,000,000

No wonder fares are so high (and will go higher yet)!

55¢ to a low income person is far different than 55¢ to a wealthy person.

Solution? No fares! Transit can be paid through general tax revenues and a special levy on large downtown business for the cheap delivery service TTC provides.

TTC is being ruined

Can't something be done about the way the TTC is undermining the kind of Toronto most of us want? Most residents of Toronto, I'm sure, don't want to turn Toronto into a Los Angeles, with expressways and parking lots everywhere. Cars have their place, but they also have to be kept in their place. They can't be allowed to take over a city. A city can't let itself be dominated by cars.

The reason that Toronto has so far escaped the fate of many American cities is because we have an excellent public transportation system that provides an alternative to the car.

But it seems as if the TTC is doing its best to change all that. Fares have shot up so high that the TTC is often a much worse alternative than a car, especially for trips within the city other than rush hour. For example, I live very

close to the subway and to both streetcar and bus routes. I have a car, but my main reason for having it is that I like to go out in the country on weekends. I don't really want to use the car for driving around in the city. But with the TTC fares being what they are now, it makes much more financial sense for me to use my car for trips within the city, despite parking problems, because it is so much cheaper. A trip by car may cost me 10¢ or 20¢ in gas, and another 10¢ for a parking meter. A return trip by TTC costs me 86¢. If I am going with my wife, taking the TTC would cost us \$1.72, while a trip by car would cost 30¢. We are being practically forced to use our car in the city, although we would prefer not to. I'm sure many other people are in the same boat, and it adds up to a lot more people buying cars, and using them more

often.

TTC fares are much too high. They should be half of what they are now, or less. Why doesn't the government use our tax money to subsidize public transit, rather than use it to subsidize corporate profits? (I am thinking, for example, of the \$68 million dollars that was just given to the Ford Motor Company, one of the richest companies in the world, to build more cars. Why not use that money to lower fares and improve service?)

It seems as if everything is being done backwards nowadays. They're cutting back on services for the poor and the ordinary citizen, and using the money saved to help the rich get richer. The things we need, we don't get, the things we don't need, we get. It's nuts!

Peter Parker
Ontario St.

LETTERS

If you have comments or opinions about what is happening in the community or about what you read in 7 News, write us a letter, to 7 News, 265 Gerrard St. E., Toronto. All letters must be signed, but if you ask us to, we will publish your letter with a pen-name and keep your real name confidential.

7 News should take own articles seriously

Ulli Diemer wrote an excellent commentary on poverty in the last issue (12 August). He argued that the reason poor people are poor is not because they need social workers but because they need money. He suggested that instead of spending millions and millions of dollars on social workers and social work agencies the money should be given directly to poor people who would then stop being poor.

Ulli's idea is excellent, the only trouble is that he doesn't seem to take himself seriously. Ulli's article is on page three. On page one is a sob story about a social work type of project to teach arts and crafts to mothers in Regent Park. The

project organizer (Edith Beck) needs \$600.00 more to get the program started and is quoted as being upset that the government will not give her this money. Now remember Ulli, we can't have it both ways. If every arts and crafts program that gets written up in 7 News gets a grant there will be nothing left for the poor people.

If Ulli does take himself seriously then he should stop giving prime space to stories about poor social workers who get their grants cut off and give space to stories about poor people who got their hydro cut off. He should also stop permitting out-of-area social worker Doug Barr and his assistant Sheila Holmes to write a regular column defending wasteful spending. Surely Ulli knows that every time Barr and Holmes raise taxes to build more unnecessary buildings or to hire some bureaucrats they are using money that could instead go to poor people.

7 News is a part of the media and is responsible for shaping opinion; if you keep crying for more and more social workers you will get them. Personally I like Ulli's idea and hope he puts it on page one next time, so the poor people can get more money instead of more social workers.

Bob Katz



Nonsense!

In response to your "Modest Proposal for Ending Poverty" in the August 12, 1978 Seven News, I can only express my disappointment and sorrow at your limited understanding and insight into the causes of social problems. Respect for and acceptance of all persons as fellow human beings, whether they be social workers or "poor people" is really where the educational experience you refer to begins. An extra \$4,000 per year as you propose would truly be dealing "with symptoms not with causes."

Mary Lou Bigenwald
Social Worker

Energy idea

An idea that needs testing came across my desk the other day. The idea is that there is a need for a service to spread information about environmentally healthy technology which can meet existing and future needs in specific businesses and homes. I'd like to meet with a group of people sometime between the middle and the end of September who are interested in planning the testing of the idea outlined above. If you are interested please call Malcolm Robertson at 978-2684 between 9 and 5.

Malcolm Robertson

Beware of storytellers

Bill sells stories for \$28, or whatever you give him.

Even his name is a story. Bill is a professional rip-off artist who is currently hiding out in a cheap hotel room somewhere in downtown Toronto.

His rip-off technique is simple. He gains your confidence, then he gains your cash. You give him your dollars, with few questions asked.

Bill looks about 45 years old, has white hair when it's not dyed another colour, and has a long scar on his box-shaped stomach.

He carries two sets of clothes, in a small leather case. He needs to travel light, when he disappears with your money, into the night.

He might be wearing a digital watch, and a square-shaped ring with a stain which nothing will remove.

Perhaps he will tell you he owns a farm in Stratford. He could say he's retired from being a pilot in the air force. Other stories Bill tells:

He helped put the top on the CN tower.

He was befriended by the President of a large New York City Bank.

He is a helicopter pilot who put dust on the suits of government officials.

He does work for CBC television and has the inside stories on CBC celebrities such as Bruno Gerssi. He knows good ingles apartment complex, which has hotel-like services for a low monthly rent.

He can get you a small car, in good condition, for \$50.

He plays golf but has trouble putting.

He drinks little alcohol, and knows a bar owner who lets him drink coffee until 4 a.m.

He spends a lot of time with a widow, who's children call him Uncle Bill.

Bill also has some fancy credentials and a lot of opinions. He carries a red and gold metal social insurance card with two maple leaf

flags on it. The plain old white plastic social insurance card, with the owner's signature on the front, is not good enough for Bill.

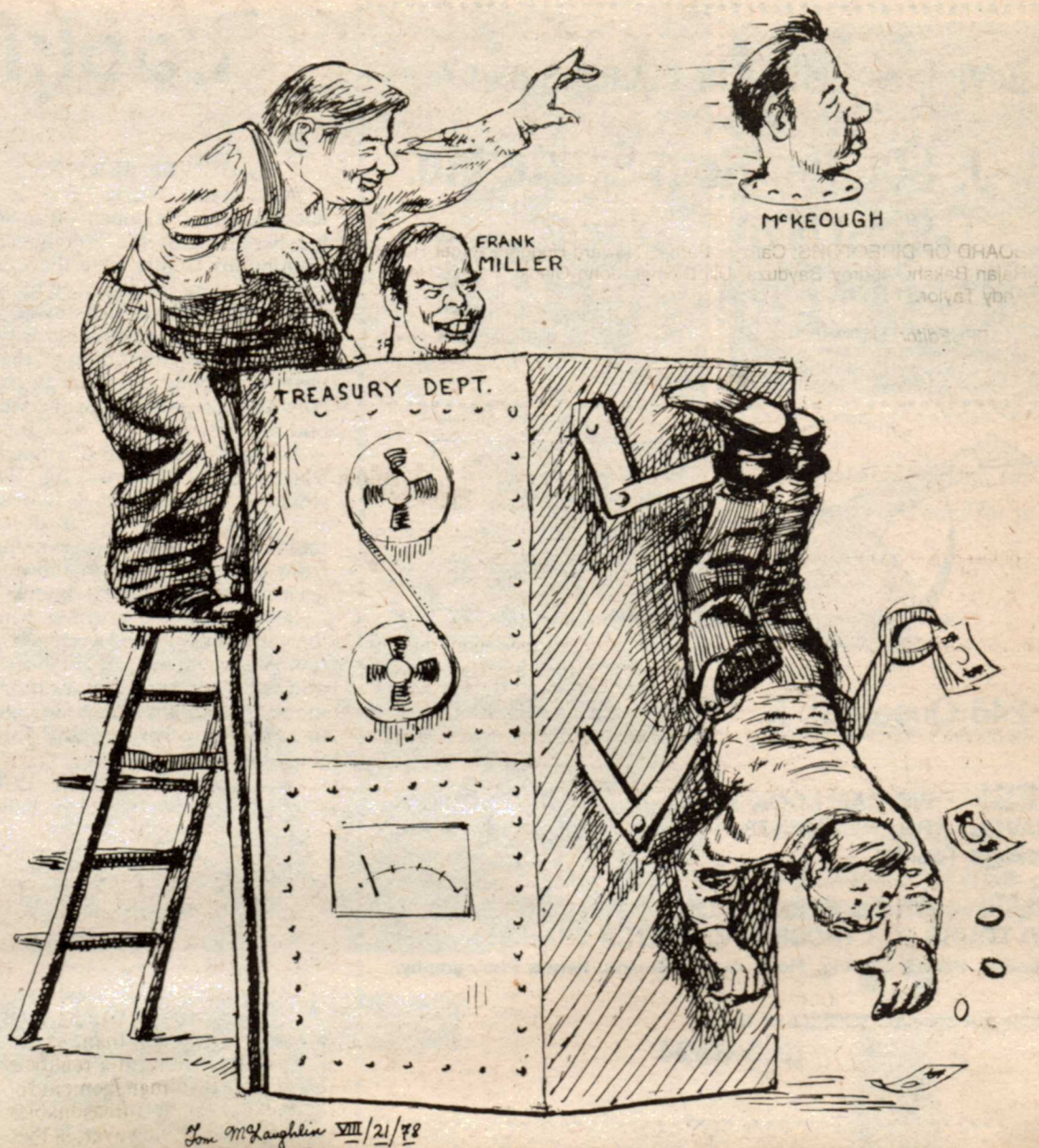
Crooked politicians, people who abuse expense accounts, and suspicious-looking characters around the hotel make Bill mad.

The Star provides Bill with much of his story material. He gets the newspaper every day. He reads cowboy paperbacks too.

Bill enjoys crosswords and other word puzzles. Scavble is his game.

If the television lounge in the hotel is not exposed to a street window, Bill will spend a lot of time in front of the TV set. He likes watching a show called Tattle Tales, which is another source of his story material.

When Bill leaves the hotel with your money, in the middle of the night, he leaves you more than his stories to dream about. If you get up early, you will find his urine in an unflushed toilet bowl at the end of the hall.



Here's a different credit union

Bread and Roses Credit Union Ltd. is a financial co-operative of people who are members of Metro Toronto based organizations working co-operatively for social change.

Incorporated February 7, 1978 Bread and Roses has close to 70 members with assets of about \$70,000. Its growth continues.

On withdrawal day (June 16, 1978) when people were encouraged to demonstrate their opposition to Canadian banks' investment policies in South Africa, Bread and Roses members transferred more than \$40,000 from bank accounts to their credit union.

Bread and Roses has a vigorous lending policy which it wants to be widely known throughout Toronto's community of activists for social change. Funds are lent to collectives of members to start up or expand labour-intensive

ecologically sound non-sexist non-racist and socially useful production and service projects. Lending rates are good (the interest on a recent loan to a collective of members was %) and the conditions of loans are negotiated between the applicants and the members of the credit committee. For more information please telephone the treasurer Peter Davies (531-6100 or 463-0618) or one of the other directors (Don Brown (924-9192) Eunice Leeson (598-2757) Brad

Lennon (463-2038) or Judy Stamp (967-7312) or the chairman of the credit committee (Bob Van Alstyne 759-4711).

Bread and Roses Credit Union is a member of the Ontario Credit Union League Ltd. and of the Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corporation which insures deposits up to a total of \$20,000 per member.

Bread and Roses
Credit Union Ltd.



Susie Domacina climbs the fence to pet the horses at the Riverdale Farm. Soon it will be easier to say hello to the animals. Opening festivities are scheduled for September 9.

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Looking for teen jobs

By OLIVER BERTIN

A Canada Works grant, a telephone and cramped office in the basement of the Woodgreen Community Centre were the sole tools that were used to keep up to 40 teenagers busy this summer.

These three components were the essential ingredients that enabled Woodgreen to run its Hire-a-teen program for the second year in a row.

Under the direction of student teacher Larry Maenpaa, 24, the teenagers were dispatched all over the Riverdale area to do a multitude of odd jobs, running from painting fences to mowing lawns to cleaning out basements.

And, while the program kept the teens busy, it also enabled a few to earn more than \$500 each during the last two months, money that would have been hard to raise any other way this job-starved summer.

Woodgreen based their 1978 program on a successful formula

first used last year. A federal Canada Works grant enabled them to hire Maenpaa as full-time coordinator from mid-June to early September. The community centre's youth department supplied the telephone and the office space in the basement.

At the beginning of the summer, Maenpaa circulated notices around the Riverdale area announcing the program, contacting newspapers and ran a flyer blitz door-to-door. Soon he had a list of about 40 teenagers willing to work and a constant stream of telephone calls from local residents and businessmen who needed some temporary help.

Then he just sat back and lines up the right teenager with the appropriate job.

Maenpaa's job was made easy because the teenagers were of a wide-variety of ages, from 12 to 18, of both sexes and from all areas in the Riverdale community. Some were totally unskilled while

others had worked before as carpenters, painters or semi-skilled workers.

Some of the jobs were simple enough for the 12 and 13-year olds to do without any supervision. Others required a team of 17 or 18-year-olds with more than average patience or willpower.

The teenagers were paid directly by the householder at the completion of the task. What they earned was their business, but Woodgreen set a mandatory minimum wage of \$2.15 an hour for those under 18 and \$2.65 an hour for the 18-year-olds. If they did a good job, many of the teens were paid bonuses or given extra work.

One lucky boy so impressed his temporary boss that he was hired for an extra week as crew on a sailing boat.

"I sometimes envy those kids," Maenpaa said. "They get the best jobs."



Photo by Cherry Hassard

George Hamilton lets fly with a dart. Bullseye! . . . It all heppened at Simpson Ave. United Church



Photo by Cherry Hassard

According to Mr. Hamilton, "baseball" and "301" are the most common dart variations in competition games.



Photo by Cherry Hassard



Photo by Cherry Hassard

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday August 26

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St., is planning the **street fair** to end all street fairs. There'll be arts and crafts, continuous bingo, a flea market, a beer garden on the street til midnight, a barbeque dinner, games for the kids, and a street dance featuring the Mighty Majestics. The fair starts at 4 p.m. and activities run until midnight. More information is available by phoning Dixon Hall at 863-0499.

Meanwhile, back at the 519 Church Street Community Centre, there will be a fun-filled **summer carnival** featuring entertainment with for all ages: Twink, the aerial clown, a bake sale, a flea market, games, refreshments, and dancing at 8 p.m. Proceeds go to support the community centre.

Central Neighbourhood House is having a **euchre tournament** today for adults. Doors open at 6 p.m., play starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$1.00. There will be cash prizes, and instruction for beginners. At CNH, 349 Ontario St.

Sunday August 27

The **St. Luke's Forum** today features Rev. David McKane, of Hope United Church, speaking in Allan Gardens at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday August 30

Today and every Wednesday the **Senior Citizens' Going Places Club** at Woodgreen Community Centre (835 Queen St. E.) sets out to explore Toronto, visiting such places as Ontario Place, the Science Centre, and the Museum. Call Carol or Gillian at 461-1168.

It's **Wednesday Night at the Movies** at Harbourfront tonight at 7:30. Tonight's

features are Great Moments in Canadian Sports, and the World of Wizards, a movie on magic and magicians.

Friday September 1

It's **Fred's Free Films** again at the 519 Church St. Community Centre, tonight at 8 p.m. Today's features are Topper and Mountain of Dreams.

Today, and every Friday, Woodgreen Community Centre has a **drop-in for people 55 years of age and over**. Activities include conversation, music, singing, cards, and entertainment.

Sunday September 3

St. Luke's Forum today features Dr.

David Common, a psychiatrist from London, England. In Allan Gardens (Carlton and Sherbourne) at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 6

The Regent Park **Busy Bee Club** for Senior Citizens is having its general meeting at 2 p.m. in the downstairs lounge of 41 Oak St. Membership in the club costs \$1.00 a year and is open to anyone living in Regent Park, north or south. For more information call Mrs. Hazel McAuley, at 364-2937.

Friday, September 8

Oliver the Eighth and The River are the movies showing at **Fred's Free Films**. At the 519 Church St. Community Centre at 8 p.m.

Saturday September 9

Today is the grand opening (at long last) of the new **Riverdale Farm**. The farm is on the site of the former Riverdale Zoo and is a faithful reconstruction of a mid-1800's

Ontario farm, complete with farmhouse, barn, and animals. The opening will feature

opening ceremonies at 4 p.m., followed by a tour of the farm, a mixed bazaar of home cooked foods at reasonable prices, local entertainment, and street dancing. The farm is located at the end of Winchester St. (east of Sumach, 3 blocks east of Parliament St.) If you're coming from east of the Don River, you can walk through Riverdale Park and cross the footbridge.

General

Woodgreen Community Centre is looking for men 55 years and over interested in joining a **men's club** or volunteering to help organize a men's club. Contact Carol or Gillian at 461-1168.

Woodgreen also has **day care services** available. All day care is available for children 2 to 5 years, with subsidies through Metro Child Care. School age day care is available for children 6 to 9 years. Contact Susan MacDonald for more information at 461-1168.

Kids Calendar

The **Riverdale Library** (Gerrard & Broadview) has various activities for kids during the week: games and stories on Monday, crafts on Tuesday, crafts and stories on Thursday, movies on Friday, and potato peeling on Saturday the 26th. The program runs to the end of August.

The **Danforth Library** (Pape just south of Danforth) also has programs to the end of the month: an informal pre-school drop-in from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., an adventure show on Tuesday, music and drama on Wednesday, and films on Thursday.

NEWS BRIEFS

Barr Quitting

Doug Barr, a Ward 7 school trustee since 1972, is not running for re-election this fall. Barr, who also served one year as school board chairman, is leaving the Board to devote himself to his new job as executive director of the Metro Children's Aid Society. The other trustee for Ward 7 is Sheila Holmes.

No Spending Limit

A city council decision last week will see supporters of John Sewell's campaign for mayor dig a little deeper into their pockets. Although a council committee was instructed some time ago to draft legislation limiting the expenditures of candidates for municipal office, old-guard members of the committee and on council voted last week to block any such move for the present time. As a result,

Sewell will probably be hard pressed to raise the \$50,000 he has budgeted for his campaign while his rival for mayor, David Smith, will have little trouble raising three times as much, thanks to his wealthy backers.

Civil Liberties

Those of you who are a bit peeved that members of the RCMP seem to be able to break the law without suffering the consequences, can now — as the well-worn cliché states — "put your money where your mouth is". The Canadian Civil Liberties Association has started a petition demanding that police who break the law should be prosecuted instead of having the wrongdoings referred to the McDonald inquiry which is investigating the actions of our "law enforcement" officers. The Catch? It will cost you a buck to get your name on the petition. Contact the

association at 229 Yonge Street. Their phone number is 363-0321.

Continuing Education

Metropolitan Toronto Library Board has again published a fall edition of the Continuing Education Directory. The Directory lists over 7,800 formal and informal courses and activities available in the Metro Toronto area, covering every conceivable area from languages to computers, art to cottage construction, mathematics to games. The Directory can be purchased at the Metro Toronto Library, 789 Yonge St.

Seniors' Grant

The Withrow Senior Citizens Club has received a New Horizons grant of \$1,533 to provide items such as card games, craft programs etc.

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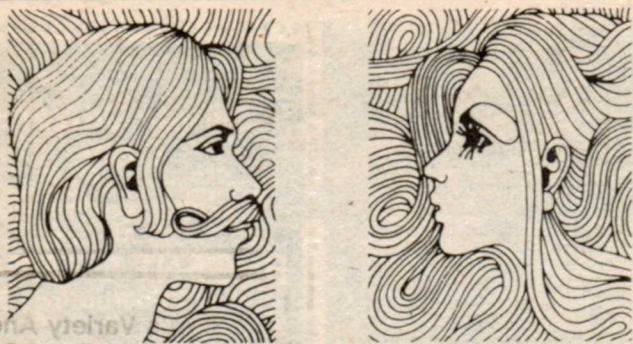
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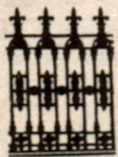


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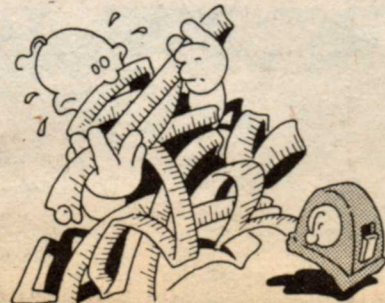


This book explains how things *don't* work

By SARAH ROTHCHILD

One of the magic phrases in our society is "standard of living". We never stop hearing that we have "one of the highest standards of living in the world." (How convinced the million-odd unemployed, or the several million below the poverty line in this country are, I don't know.)

But now a couple of professional designers have taken a whole new look at this "standard of living", in a book called "How Things Don't Work". In it, they



examine some of the possessions which are supposed to add up to our high standard of living. Their message is that a lot of the appliances, tools, and devices of which we're so proud very often are badly designed, prone to break down, and don't satisfactorily do the job they are supposed to do. In short, they *don't* really work.

In a sense, a lot of what the authors, Victor Papanek and James Hennessey, have to say, isn't really news. We all know that most cars are good for the wreckers after just a few years of normal use, that TV sets, toasters, stoves, vacuum cleaners, radios, and what not, break down quickly and often aren't worth repairing. We all have highly designed technological junk sitting in our basements, stuff we have no use for, but which we can't bring ourselves to throw out because it cost too much or because we don't want to admit to ourselves that we were stupid to buy it in the first place.

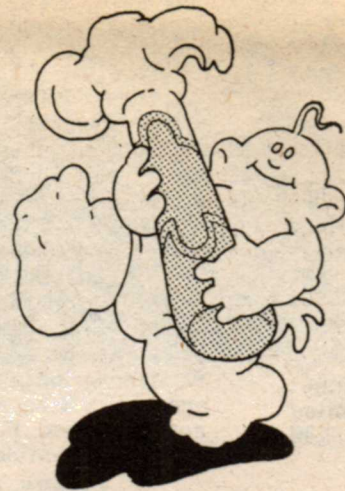
But what is different about Papanek and Hennessey is that they *don't* take this state of affairs for granted. They ask why it's so, and they propose alternatives. They are not willing to accept the way of doing things most of us have been trained to accept. A strong point of the book is that they go into a lot of detail which a review can't do justice to, fascinating information, some of it hilarious, some of it quite useful, about things like toilet bowls, do-it-yourself TV sets, and bottle openers.

But they don't just stop at the details of design. They question the whole set-up that produces inefficient and foolish contraptions so that someone can make a profit, and they make very practical, but radical, suggestions about how to do things differently.

For example, they talk about an idea that spelled common sense to our grandparents, but which suggests "communism" to many of us today: sharing rather than owning things. Why, they ask, should every house have a power lawn-mower, when it only gets

used once every couple of weeks for half an hour? Wouldn't it make more sense for 7 or 8 neighbours to chip in and buy one together, and all get the use of it when they need it? Doing this would also make it possible to buy a better model which would be less likely to break down than the usual kind. (Incidentally, there is a group in Ward 7, the Riverdale Tool and Toy Co-op, which is dedicated to this very idea. They can be reached at 463-5914.)

Another avenue which Papanek and Hennessey suggest is that of people building things for themselves from plans or kits. Many items, right up to such complicated things as colour TV sets and pianos, can be bought in kit form for a fraction of the manufactured price. Most of these kits can be put together by technical morons (which most of us are nowadays). Putting things together from a kit also gives the advantage of giving the person doing it a much better understanding of the product, whereas usually we don't know anything

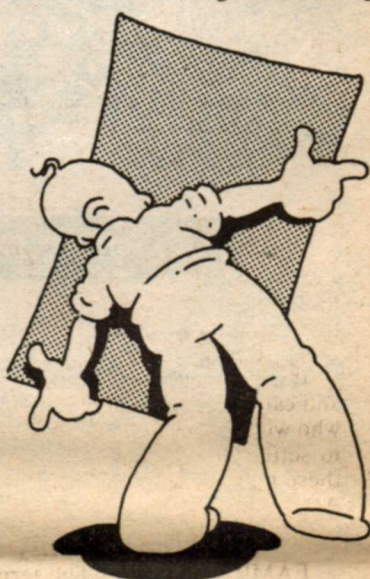


about how the machines in our possession work.

From there, they move on to consider whether many of us really need all the products that we buy, and offer us a checklist to decide whether the purchase is necessary, or whether there is a cheaper and more efficient way to meet the need we are trying to fill. For those of us who find a purchase necessary, they develop a list of questions designed to help in deciding what to buy, eg. "Do you have a need for all the features?", "Does each feature work, or is it just a gimmick?", "Is the product too dependent on a 'system' that may soon be

obsolete?" A separate chapter deals with the whys and hows of buying second-hand.

One of the most amusing — but outrageous — parts of the book is the discussion of the role of merchandising in foisting



unnecessary, over-packaged, and soon-to-be-obsolete commodities on us. (The pertinent chapters in the book are headed: "No Roast Tonight — the Lights on My Carving Knife Need Realignment" and "Is Your Hi-fi out of Fashion? Is Your Mink Coat Obsolete?") Here in particular the book goes far beyond any "consumer" guide. As the authors put it, "It is *not* the intent of this book to merely evaluate existing products. Nader's Raiders and many consumer publications and organizations perform that function. We question whether the product should exist at all, or at least in its present form.

Finally, the authors go on to discuss the larger issues of public planning and social responsibility. The insanity of our approach to designing and planning reaches far beyond household items to architecture and city design; they maintain, producing a world geared not to our needs, but to the needs of those who profit from foolish consumption. The conclusion points clearly to the need to ask some very hard questions about why things are the way they are, and how they could be different.

How Things Don't Work
Victor Papanek & James Hennessey
Pantheon Books, \$5.75



Regent strike in limbo

The continuing strike of Regent Park unit representatives against the Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) is continuing in what can best be described as a state of suspended animation.

Unit representatives, who perform certain functions in the housing development, such as supervising laundry rooms and delivering flyers, went on strike last month for an increase in their part-time pay from OHC. Although the current contract had expired, and although the unit reps' pay had lagged far behind increases in the cost of living, OHV refused to even discuss a new contract until it "studied" the

overall arrangement it has with the Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA).

The unit reps. strike action, however, fizzled out with no appreciable results in the course of the last month, and the reps have now voted to return to work for the time being without an increase. OHC has been informed of their wishes, but so far has failed to reply in any way. It's only response has been to tell the RPCIA that a letter is "in the mail", but a week later the letter has not been received, and OHC refuses to reveal what its letter says.

New family law

By VALERIE LAVERGNE

Several laws have been passed recently by the Ontario Government which are included in its Family Law Reform "package." These are: The Family Law Reform Act; The Children's Law Reform Act; The Marriage Act; and the Succession Law Reform Act. These last 3 acts will be discussed briefly in future articles.

This article will take about the Family Law Reform Act, specifically the part of the act on "family assets". Future articles will talk about other parts of the act: support obligations and custody of children, the family home, and agreements or contracts made between a husband and wife.

The Family Law Reform Act was passed on March 31, 1978. It views marriage as an equal partnership where both spouses contribute to the welfare of the family. It gives both husband and wife rights and responsibilities during the marriage, and afterwards if the marriage breaks down.

If a marriage breaks down and the spouses want to live separately and can agree on support payments, on division of property, and on who will have custody of the children, it is not necessary to go to court to settle these matters. If an agreement cannot be reached, though, these matters can be decided in court under the Family Law Reform Act.

The Family Law Reform Act

FAMILY ASSETS: The term "family assets" refers to property owned by one or both spouses and ordinarily used by one or both spouses or their children while the spouses are living together. Included are items used for shelter, transportation, and household, educational, recreational, social or aesthetic purposes. Examples of family assets are the home, car, T.V. furniture, and so on.

During the marriage, any property obtained by a spouse with her/his earnings, as gifts or as an inheritance is the property of that spouse. He/she can sell it or dispose of it with or without the other spouse's consent. The only exception is the family home; both spouses have to agree to sell or mortgage the home, even if the home is registered in the name of only one of the spouses. (If one spouse wants to sell and the other doesn't, an application could be made to the court to make an order to sell the house.)

When the spouses separate, they themselves can decide how to divide the family assets. If they cannot agree on how the division is to be made, they can apply to court for a settlement, either to the County Court, located in Toronto at 361 University Avenue, or the Supreme Court of Ontario at 145 Queen Street West.

Child care, household management and financial provision are now recognized as the joint responsibilities of both husband and wife. Both spouses are considered to contribute mutually to carrying out these responsibilities. Therefore, when a couple splits up, each spouse is entitled to an equal share of the family assets. This means that when a couple separates, the T.V. that was bought by one spouse, for example, is now part of the family assets to be divided between the spouses. The family home (that may have been in the name of only one spouse) is another example of a family asset.

The court can divide the family assets unequally if it thinks that an equal division would not be fair to one of the spouses. The court could consider various factors when making its decision:

- how long the couple has lived together
- how long the couple has been separated
- when the property was obtained
- whether the property was obtained by one spouse as an inheritance or as a gift.
- any other circumstances regarding the attainment, disposition or use of property which would make its equal division unfair.

If one spouse has squandered the family assets, or if a 50-50 split of family assets would be unfair, the court could order that other property which is not family assets must be shared.

Business assets are separate from family assets. However, a spouse who has contributed work or money to a business owned by the other spouse can claim payment or an interest in the business either during the marriage or after it breaks down.

If you need assistance with a family law problem, contact Riverdale Socio-Legal Services, 835 Queen Street East, 461-8102.

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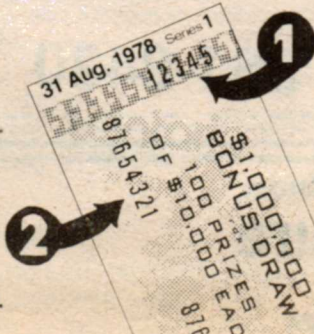
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Nature and the city meet off Leslie St.

By SHEILA BLINOFF

Join those in Ward Seven who have discovered the Leslie Street Spit.

This 3½ mile ribbon of land stretching into the lake is an ideal spot for hiking, jogging, cycling, bird watching, picnicking, fishing, kite flying, etc. There are even skinny dippers in one of the sheltered lagoons.

The spit was originally built as an outer harbour wall. Meanwhile incredible natural processes are

quickly taking over. Forests and marshes are being created naturally. Over 200 species of birds, some rare, have been sighted there.

The spit is open to the public at weekends 9-5 p.m. Private motorized vehicles are not allowed there. However there is a free bus which runs every half hour picking up and discharging passengers where they wish.

The spit begins at the foot of Leslie Street, about a 10 minute walk south of Queen.



Injured workers still waiting

...have been waiting for an increase in their Workers' Compensation pensions and benefits, will have to be patient for several more months. Although the Ontario government granted injured workers a much needed increase two months ago, the necessary "paperwork" to process the increases has bogged down the issuing of higher payments. On the other side of the coin, the Union of Injured Workers (UIW), has started a defense fund for

eight UIW members who were arrested during a May 29 demonstration at the office of the Minister of Labour. The demonstration was staged by injured workers to protest the callous treatment they have received from the Conservative government.

People wishing to help alleviate the heavy costs which the eight will incur during their fall trial, should contact the UIW at 931 College Street or phone 536-7224 or 536-8943.

Seven News is looking for volunteers to distribute the paper on streets and in apartment buildings that presently do not have delivery. It would take about 10 to 30 minutes once every two weeks to deliver from 25 to 100 papers. The paper would be delivered to your door in a bundle every second Friday for you to deliver over the weekend. If you are interested, or know someone who is, call 7 News at 465-3810.

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