

What do the 1980's hold for pensioners?

By HOWARD HUGGETT

All of us, as we head into the 1980's, have reason to be concerned for our future. However pensioners are particularly likely to suffer a deterioration in their situation because they lack the resources and organization to defend themselves in a period of recession and retrenchment. In assessing their chances it is very useful to take a good

look at how our present pension programs are working with relation to their declared objective, and also to make some comparisons between results in Canada and what has been achieved in other countries. In doing this I propose to make considerable use of information contained in a booklet prepared and published by the Social Planning Council of Metro-

politan Toronto, entitled: "Pensioners, Passport to Poverty".

The Canada Pension Plan was introduced in 1966 in order to guarantee income security to retired Canadians and provide a pension of 25% of a person's income up to the average industrial wage. It has failed to do this because at the time the above-mentioned study was made the maximum pension

available was \$195 a month, \$2,333 per year, only 17% of the average industrial wage. The average CPP payment was far below this potential maximum, \$63 for women and \$87 for men.

In 1967 the Guaranteed Income Supplement program was set up, intended to assist people who could not qualify for the Canada Pension Plan. As more Canadians were

picked up by the CPP as it matured the need for the GIS was supposed to decrease. Well, it didn't. The number of people receiving the supplement has increased every year since it began, and today 55% of those over 65 have incomes so low that they have to be subsidized by the GIS.

So we have a Canada Pension

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7 NEWS

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
315 Dundas St. East (All Saints Church)
Toronto M5A 2A2 Phone: 363-9650

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 15 FEBRUARY 1, 1980

FREE TAKE ONE

Deadline for the next (February 15) issue of 7 News is Monday February 11. Bring or mail your news, pictures, or ads to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto M5A 2A2, or phone 363-9650.



A picture taken at about the turn of the century, showing an ivy-covered St. Peter's, with its iron ornaments, particularly on the bell tower, and its new iron fence, most of which still stands. Also in view are houses on Bleeker Street, from a day when it still had houses. Photo: Courtesy of Rev. John Wiseman

An old and beautiful church

By GEORGE RUST-D'EYE

St. Peter's Anglican Church, on Carlton Street at Bleeker, is among the oldest and most beautiful church buildings in this city. Its story goes back to the early 1860's, when the area was just beginning to develop.

In the late 1840's the congregation of St. James' Cathedral on King Street realized that further expansion of its churchyard cemetery was impossible. Consequently, new land was sought, at the north-east corner of the expanding City, where John G. Howard laid out the grounds of the new cemetery on the

east side of Parliament Street north of Wellesley. In 1858, building commenced on the beautiful chapel of St. James-the-Less, designed by Cumberland and Storm. This mortuary chapel opened in 1861.

In 1863, the Reverend Samuel Boddy, then and for 17 years thereafter the chaplain of the cemetery, entered on the conduct of services for the residents of the rapidly-expanding community. The parish at that time included all of the City east of Sherbourne and north of Carlton.

At a meeting held on March 28th, 1864 in the house of Mr. Frank

Richardson, at the northwest corner of Carleton (as it was then spelt) and Ontario Streets, the decision was made to acquire property for a new Church. The land selected was purchased from Mr. A. MacLean Howard, Clerk of the First Division Court, whose house still stands east of the present rectory on Carlton Street (now operated by the Second Mile Club). The property cost \$500. Later, additional land was acquired on Bleeker Street, for \$300.

Plans for the new Church, named "St. Peter's" by Rev. Boddy, who would be rector for the next 42 years, were quickly approved. The

Continued on page 7

New termite infestation spotted

Termite surveys were conducted in two local areas last summer, and 7 News has just received reports of the surveys. A covering letter with the reports cautions that "These surveys are not to be construed as a fully comprehensive indication of all termite infestations but rather reflects those areas of obvious infestation."

One of the areas surveyed was the Logan/Bain area (Withrow Park), on which a visual survey was done. The report states that "quite a few properties on the south side of Hogarth Ave. were found to have termites, as well as the backyards of a number of houses on Logan Ave." It adds that "it is very likely that most of the properties around this spot are infested." Trees along houses on the north side of Hogarth and an alley along the back of these properties, as well as the south side of Wolfrey Ave. were all checked and no signs of infestations were

seen. "Hence, the possible northern boundary of this infestation area seems to be the northern side of Hogarth Ave."

All the trees and wooden materials in Withrow Park were checked, and a number of trees along the southern edge of it were found to be infested. Other areas of the park did not show infestation.

The report suggests that the west side of Hampton Ave. could very likely be the western boundary of this infestation area, while Bain Ave. is probably the southern edge of the infestation area.

The other area surveyed was conducted along Broadview from Cosburn to Danforth.

Heavy infestation was found along the west side of Broadview starting from 958 down south to Pretoria. Only two houses on the east side of Broadview were found infested.

The survey area was then expan-

ded in an attempt to find the boundaries.

A few houses on Ellerbeck just behind the two infested houses on Broadview were checked and no infestation was discovered.

Trees along Chester Hill, Eastmount, and Cambridge were inspected and most of them are heavily infested.

The report says that "probably all houses along the east side of Cambridge from Chester Hill Road down to Pretoria are infested, but this information cannot be confirmed due to the lack of complete record (many homeowners were not home or did not approve the inspection.)"

Trees along both sides of Pretoria were checked, and one case of infestation was found.

A few houses on the west side of Cambridge were also checked and no signs of infestation were seen.

OHC evictions under the gun

By JANET HOWARD

Most Ontario Housing tenants are unaware that they can attend the committee meeting at which their request for a transfer to a different Ontario Housing unit is decided.

This was confirmed by Betty Niddrie, OHC's Director of Metro Operations, at a meeting of City Council's Neighbourhoods Committee on January 22nd. In response to a committee member's question, she said no tenant had ever attended because none had ever asked.

Numerous Ward 7 OHC tenants and others from across Metro appeared before the committee to describe their experiences with the management of OHC, particularly regarding transfers, and to learn from Niddrie what the policy actually is. City Council had already passed some motions extremely critical of OHC's handling of tenant families who have had to leave behind some of their children when they came to Toronto in search of jobs and housing. When the families wish to reunite, OHC had been in the habit of evicting them,

but recently some judges have thrown such cases out of court as not being in the public interest. (After all, some of the tenants say, if we could afford to move out we would).

The General Manager of Ontario Housing wrote a letter to City Council complaining of the harsh criticism directed against OHC transfer policies and send Mrs. Niddrie to reply. Welcoming the opportunity, several members of Mothers Against Discrimination informed other OHC tenants and the City Hall committee room was jammed.

Mrs. Niddrie admitted that the evictions were used as a solution to a shortage of large units and claimed that OHC has no control over the number of units it has available in any given city. However, she would not reply to a question as to why OHC just last year turned down 125 units in downtown Toronto — especially when the greatest demand, by her own admission, is for a central location — citing lack of need.

Now the question of tenant in-

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Animal research opposed

The war against the use of animals in research has escalated with the recent formation of the National Coalition for Replacement of Animals in Research (N.C.R.A.R.).

The Coalition, representing more than 25 animal welfare groups across Canada, held a meeting in Toronto in January attended by over 100 delegates from Southern Ontario, Montreal and Ottawa, when the groundwork was laid for its upcoming campaign to establish a Research Modernization Act and a National Research Centre.

"A National Research Centre should make sense to every Canadian citizen," said a Coalition spokesperson. "At present, we have federally funded research facilities duplicating, triplicating and generally multiplying experiments, in jealous attempts, it often appears, to be the first to win glory or a Nobel prize."

"The Canadian tax-payer should be concerned by this lavish largesse. The Canadian too poor to pay taxes should also be concerned — he or she could benefit from programmes funded by these wasted tax dollars. And of course the humanitarian will support the elimination of the old-fashioned and expensive techniques presently employed by most researchers using animals."

The National Research Centre demanded by the Coalition would be funded by not less than 50% of the federal monies presently being dispensed to researchers and would use modern, non-animal techniques, including computers; tissue cultures;

gas chromatology; clinical and epidemiological studies, etc.

"That our campaign is on solid ground," said the spokesperson, "is evidenced by the fact that scientists themselves are joining our battle. For example, in Britain, a group of scientists have endorsed the concept of alternatives to using animals in research and have published a book on the subject — 'Alternatives to Research.' In the U.S., we have the 'Scientists' Centre for Animal Welfare,' which is composed of natural and social scientists as well as physicians and others."

Pape crossing fouls up route

The Port of Toronto Liaison Committee and manufacturers of heavy equipment have appealed to the Metro Transportation Committee to re-open the only route left in the city by which over-sized pieces of equipment are able to reach the docks.

Some of the companies manufacturing this type of equipment have threatened to move out of Toronto because of the transportation problem.

The key to the route was the Pape Ave. railway crossing which has been closed. It was the only route which was also free of low bridges.

Attempts are now being made to work out a plan which would allow the crossing to be opened to oversized loads only, while leaving it closed to all other traffic.

7 NEWS is a community newspaper founded in 1970 and published every other Friday by Seven News Inc. Address: 315 Dundas St. East (All Saints Church). Toronto M5A 2A2. Phone: 363-9650. 7 News is distributed free in its circulation area; mailed subscriptions are \$7.50 per year. Opinions expressed are those of their authors and not necessarily those of 7 News.

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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, 315 Dundas St. East, 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.

Don Smith: Working class socialist

St. David NDP lost an important member of its executive over the holiday period. Don Smith, a resident of Oak Street, passed away. Don was not one of the most well known political figures in our area. He had never run for office or acted as a public spokesman for the party. In fact he had only lived in this community for a little more than a year.

The important thing about Don was that he was one of the few remaining old time working-class in the Socialist Party of Canada originally and when the CCF was formed in the early thirties he joined, he stayed a member until 1959 and helped with the foundation of the NDP.

Don represented the heart and soul of the NDP. He was one of those people who always turned up for membership meetings, who are always there to lick the stamps and stuff the envelopes. Don would have been really disappointed if he had known that he would be unable to canvass in this election campaign as he had done, last May in the October by-election. In fact only a few weeks before he died he had canvassed his apartment building to get signatures for the Medicare Petition.

In all those years of party work, on behalf of his class, he had never become cynical or lost his faith in his ideas. We will miss Don because he was an inspiration to those of us who sometimes do get a little weary of knocking on doors. His was a tough act to follow but I am sure that some day we will realise his dream of making this world a better place to live and raise our kids.

Harry Paine
President, St. David NDP
Thorncliffe Ave.

The candidates

The 7 News coverage area overlaps two federal ridings, Rosedale and Broadview-Greenwood. The following are the candidates who are running in the February 18 federal election in the two ridings. (Seven News will carry profiles of the candidates and their policies in the next issue of the paper.)

In Rosedale, the candidates are Anne Cools (Liberal); David Crombie (Progressive Conservative) (the incumbent); Dan Goldstick (Communist Party); James Hockley (New Democratic Party); Alan Miller (Marxist-Leninist); Ann Ladas (Independent); Harry J. Nelson (Libertarian); Frank Sommers (Independent); Geoff Yates (Rhino).

In Broadview-Greenwood, the candidates are Walter Belej (Libertarian); Vicki Butterfield (Rhino); Michael Clarke (Progressive Conservative); Philip Deane Gigantes (Liberal); Don Hayward (Nationalist Party of Canada); Ed McDonald (Communist Party); Mildrad Novich (Independent); Dorothy-Jean O'Donnell (Marxist-Leninist); Bob Rae (New Democratic Party) (the incumbent).

Re-cycle those hearing aids

On several occasions during the past five years I have appealed to your readers for discarded hearing aids. The response to my appeals has been richly rewarded as hearing aids poured in from cities and towns from coast to coast.

This program, known as the Canadian International Hearing Services is now in its fourth year.

The time has arrived for this program to be extended to other West Indian countries as the need to help their hearing impaired is equally great.

Once again I ask your readers to dig out any old or discarded hearing aids and mail them to: Canadian International Hearing Services, 54 Strathburn Blvd., Weston, Ont. M9M 2K7. All contributions will be acknowledged and receipts will be issued for all cash donations.

Thank you, once again, for 'hearing' our appeal made on behalf of hearing impaired children in the West Indies.

George Mason

If at first you don't convict...

"Not Guilty means Not Guilty" of your January 11th issue presents an interesting paradox. If the Crown is not to appeal an acquittal, does that also follow that one who is found guilty is not to appeal that decision? If so, I will concur with your appeal to the Crown to desist. However, in the past your paper has supported various appeals of people found guilty of a variety of crimes. Have you reversed your opinion there as well? Can we look forward to future issues of your paper pleading with felons not to appeal their convictions and thereby save the taxpayer vast amounts of tax dollars? I sincerely hope so.

Nola S. Crewe
Riverdale Ave.

Caffeine addicts hit hard

A one pound can of Maxwell House coffee (General Foods Limited) presently sells for an average price of \$2.99 in the New York State supermarkets. Today, I checked Dominion Stores in Toronto. The price for the same can is \$4.89. Even in the cheap bag container, that pound of coffee still costs \$4.39 here — 48% more than the pound can in the U.S. Now the differential is about to get worse.

Just two days ago General Foods, the largest roaster of Coffee in the U.S. and Canada, announced a 10% reduction in the wholesale price of coffee in the U.S. Today I called Mr. George Beatty, Public Relations Officer of General Foods of Canada (the Canadian subsidiary) to ask if a similar reduction in price had been made here. His answer was no.

The reason given for lowering coffee prices in the U.S. was a drop in the green bean price. The Food and Economics branch of the U.S. government reports the green bean price on the New York commodity market is \$1.86 per pound compared to the 1979 high of \$2.05 last October. Both the U.S. and Canadian branches of the coffee companies buy their beans from that market. Why then should Canadian consumers not receive the same price reduction from the same multinationals as their American cousins do when green bean prices drop?

An internal document of the Company was leaked to me last June. It showed that in May, when a frost hit the coffee crop in Brazil resulting in a green bean price hike, General Foods had a 13 week supply in stock in Canada. That internal document also stated that G.F. did not intend to buy further supplies until August. Yet, the company immediately started to introduce wholesale price hikes which amounted to 50¢ a pound mark up on the old stock.

However, when the bean price drops, as it has been for the last two months, there is not a cent reduction in their wholesale price. The green bean price percolates only one direction to the finished product — UP.

This terribly unfair situation exists because the Canadian coffee market is dominated by three U.S. owned multinationals, of which General Foods is the largest. There isn't sufficient competition to force prices down and our governments, far from intervening, stand up in support of the corporations. This subservience to the companies is practiced by both the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Consumer Affairs. Let me document it.

Although the Hon. Frank Drea had condemned the coffee companies for "rip-off" and "profiteering" prior to becoming the Provincial Minister, once he assumed that position he defended them in these words: "—If you really look at the prices — I am very much surprised today, honestly, that the price of coffee is as low as it is in Ontario."

On July 12th, 1979 I wrote to the Federal Minister, Mr. Allan Lawrence, asking intervention in G.F.'s unwarranted increases. He replied on November 8th saying there is no longer a program of price surveillance at the federal level. Then he offered this suggestion to the consumer: (quote) "Any complaints they may have about individual prices can be more effective if directed to the manager of the store from which the product was purchased" end of quote.

Mel Sward, NDP, M.P.P.

Partial text of a statement made to the Metro Toronto Labour Council, on January 17.

— Rae Murphy, in The Last Post

Group fights to keep OHC public

By KENN HALE

Thousands of families could be evicted from low income housing with no clear provision for alternative accommodation if proposals put forward by the staff of Metro Toronto's Department of Social Services are accepted by Metro and the Province. These proposals would see some Ontario Housing Corporation buildings renovated and changed so that up to 75% of their units would be rented at market rents, while some other buildings might be sold to private interests for use as they see fit. Claude Bennett, the Minister of Housing, while not indicating support for the proposals, has spoken of a declining demand for assisted housing and the "blending" of OHC buildings into the rental housing stock.

Many groups and individuals feel that such proposals are a direct attack on the living standards of the poorest group of tenants in Ontario and are part of the governments' cutback of social programs. To fight this attack and to ensure continued support for assisted housing for those who need it, the Social Housing Action Coalition (SHAC) has been formed.

Representatives of the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations, Metro Tenants Legal Services, Tenant Hotline, Federation of Ontario Housing Tenants, Co-operative Housing Groups, New Democratic Party, Reformetro, and progressive Toronto City Council members have met and have begun to plan a strategy to carry on this fight. All participants agreed that the main goal was to ensure the Provincial government's continued involvement in providing housing

for low-income families and persons; however, the group recognizes that there are presently problems with OHC. What is clear at this time is that the proposed changes would only make the situation for tenants of OHC buildings worse and because of this must be stopped.

SHAC is demanding that improvements be sought but that they be made only after sufficient study of these problems and consultations

with the tenants and other concerned groups.

Any interested persons or tenant associations that are interested in assisting in the efforts of SHAC should contact the Federation for information and meeting times. Phone 364-1486.

Reprinted from the *Tenants' Bulletin*, published by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, 165 Spadina Ave., No. 26, 364-1486.



When members of the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Association got together for their annual meeting they had a surprise ready for retiring director Jean Wright: a painting of her home at 7 Sword Street. The artist, Vello Hubel, spent Sunday mornings in December surreptitiously sketching the exterior of the building from a car parked on the opposite side of the street.

Jean is now dividing her time between marketing research studies and work on her M.A. thesis for Concordia University in Quebec (topic: Christopher Marlowe). Her successor on staff with the OCBIA is Jenny Wells (489-3777). Above: Jean Wright with her husband Paul and their new acquisition.

Photo by Cherry Hassard

It all tastes the same?

From "Annex", the Japanese Canadian Community News, January 1980:

"An Annex volunteer, who wishes to remain nameless, phoned up the CNE to enquire why things like bo-bo balls and egg rolls were sold at the Japanese booth in the Foods of the World Pavilion. 'Even the rice was Chinese', complained our volunteer.

"'Why all the fuss, I can't tell the difference between Japanese and Chinese food, and besides not even the Chinese food is authentic', answered the woman from the Concessions Dept. Her boss explained that the problem might have been due to the fact that there was not demand for Japanese food, as

everyone knows that Japanese restaurants in Toronto are folding every day! (5 new ones open this year). The sign had not been changed due to the fact that nobody had complained about it. He asked 'How long have you been coming to the Ex?' When hearing the caller was born and raised in Toronto he replied, 'then your first loyalty must be to Canada, and not Japan', as if that were the issue!

"To make a dumb story short, Art Eggleton, Ward 4 alderman and executive of the CNE Board of Directors will entertain any letter from the Annex on the subject. (It appears the onus is on us, we have to make our complaint official before they will stop selling Chinese food as Japanese food.)"

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Cherry St. bridge

Been wondering why the Cherry Street bridge is out of commission, and when it will re-open?

Well, the bridge has been out of working order, mainly stuck in the upright position, since November 2, when it was struck by the Yugoslav freighter, Split. It was hoped that repairs would be finished by the beginning of January, but a month later, the bridge is still not working.

Meanwhile, a temporary road has been constructed through Ontario Hydro's Hearn generating plant property on Unwin Ave. to divert the more than 200 trucks daily that normally use the bridge. (The existing bridge on Unwin cannot accom-

modate large trucks.)

The Cherry Street bridge was left in the raised position after the accident because of the extent of the damage and because there was a possibility of the bridge collapsing if it had been lowered.

Seniors

Residents of Fairhaven at Huntley and Isabella received an unexpected invitation from the Bayview Playhouse last month. Would some of the residents like to attend a preview performance of "Beyond the Fringe"? They would, and on the following evening thirteen Fairhaven residents were off to the theatre.

Regent Park building meetings

The Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA) and the Regent Park Services Unit are together sponsoring a series of building meetings in Regent Park. Here is a list of the meetings:

Date and Time

BUILDINGS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| February 4, 7.30pm | 347 Parliament; 14 Blevins |
| February 7, 7.30pm | 63 Belshaw; 463 Gerrard & houses |
| February 14, 7.30pm | 365 Parliament; 15 Belshaw |
| February 21, 7.30pm | 325 Gerrard & houses; 259 & 229 Sumach & houses |
| February 25, 7.30pm | 230 & 260 Sumach; 295 Gerrard & houses |
| March 3, 7.30pm | 251 Sackville; 274 Sackville; 260 Dundas |
| March 6, 7.30pm | 295 Sackville; 259 Sackville; 248 Sackville; 41 Oak |
| March 10, 7.30pm | 508 Dundas; 355 & 407 & 417 Gerrard |
| March 13, 7.30pm | 674 Dundas & houses east of Sackville Green |



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Correction

There was a mistake in the boxing story in the last issue ("A rousing finish to '79; Page 3). The results of two bouts were jumbled into one. The story should have said that "Fitz Bruney, age 12, 80 lbs., decisioned Junior Olympic champ James Hall of Buffalo. Rod Noble, 80 lbs., age 12, decisioned tough Tony Borden of Buffalo. This was Rod's second bout, and he showed unusual determination and courage."

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Education: Are K-8 schools an option?

By JOANN HUTCHISON

The Toronto East Community Council (T.E.C.C.) expressed annoyance with the Toronto Board of Education at its January meeting.

The Council did not like the way the Board has handled its presentation of its "Kindergarten to Grade 8 Option" to parents and teachers.

The Board's "K to 8 Option" involved the adding of grades 7 and 8 to already existing junior schools (grades K to 6) in the area. Parents and teachers questioned the effect such a change would have on the school system.

They also questioned whether the Board was presenting this "option" with all the needed information, and whether the Board was not wrongly shifting its responsibility for such a wide-reaching decision onto the local schools.

School System

Presently, the Toronto Board of Education has some junior schools (Kindergarten to Grade 6), some senior schools (grades 7 and 8 only), and some combined junior and senior schools draw on the other junior or "feeder" schools to supplement their senior school enrolment.

For example, Sprucecourt Junior School (K-6) is a "feeder" school for both Lord Dufferin School and Winchester School because Sprucecourt's grade 6 graduates tend to go to either of these two schools for grades 7 and 8.

Lord Dufferin and Winchester both have junior schools of their own as well, however, so they are K to 8 schools in the sense that their own grade 6 graduates feed directly into their senior school program.

Queen Alexandra Senior School, on the other hand, is strictly a self-contained senior school with only grade 6, 7, and 8 students.

Advantages

The main argument for senior schools is that they allow the stu-

dents to have more contact with specialist teachers through a rotary system. Thus in a senior school setting, your child is likely to study math with a teacher who has some university courses in math, music with a teacher whose background is in music, and so on.

Such specialized teaching means that the student will move from classroom to classroom throughout the day, and have contact with several teachers.

Problems

The main argument against senior school states that adolescents need stability in their lives and that travelling from one adult to another throughout the day is a highly disruptive process. There is less opportunity for teachers and students to get to know each other at a time when students may most need some adult to whom they can talk.

Option

The Board's "K-8 Option" was designed to give the individual schools throughout the city the opportunity to sit down as parents and staffs and discuss whether they would like their local school to go from a K-6 to a K-8 setting. The option of going to a local senior school (7-8) with a more specialized setting would still be available for those students who preferred it.

T.E.C.C.

T.E.C.C. members present felt the Board had presented this option "with the best intentions in the world" but that it had been mis-handled.

Different members criticized the lack of an area-wide or city-wide plan for these changes, and the lack of information available from the Board.

David Reville, a Withrow School parent, asked what was available in the way of additional teachers and supplied should a junior school decide on becoming a K-8 school. He suggested that if the allotment was about \$27.00 per student ("a

figure that sticks in my mind") this wouldn't be sufficient to set-up a science program with the appropriate equipment in a school that didn't have one previously.

He questioned why such figures hadn't been forthcoming from the Board before schools were asked to consider the option.

Effects

Nancy Masters, a parent at Bowmore Road School and a teacher at Dundas Junior School, questioned what the effect of this option would be on the whole system in the face of declining enrolment.

She suggested that the possible effects needed to be thoroughly ex-



plored, and some ground rules laid down regarding implementation before discussions went much further.

She cited certain areas where no ground rules exist at present:

- Who makes the decision to go K-8? the grade 6 parents? or all parents?
- How is the decision to be made? by formal vote? by survey?
- How often does a school have this option? Could a school go K-8 this year and vote to return to a K-6 setting a couple of years later?
- If 3 out of 5 feeder schools to a particular senior school vote to go K-8, what happens to the senior school? Can it still offer a viable program? Will it undergo a review process because of resulting declining enrolment?

West of the Don

Ken Turner, acting area superintendent for Area 4 (which includes Ward 7 schools), attempted to answer the T.E.C.C. members' con-

cerns. He indicated that the schools west of the Don River (Winchester, Lord Dufferin, Regent Park, Park, Rose, Ave., and Duke of York) had already met in December, 1979, to discuss the K to 8 option.

Parents, teachers, and administrators at that meeting had decided to remain with the status quo for the present. Their decision was based in a large part on the knowledge that all three senior schools (Lord Dufferin, Park and Winchester) were already under review because of declining enrolment and could not afford to lose more students. It was also recognized that it would be difficult for the junior schools to duplicate existing senior school facilities (e.g. home economics and industrial arts rooms) in their schools at this time.

East of the Don

East of the Don River, Turner indicated, no schools were under review because of declining enrolment, and only Withrow, Frankland, and Jackman schools were interested in considering a K-8 option. All three schools were presently gathering information on the subject.

Turner suggested that in terms of supplied and equipment, there might possibly be some start-up funds available if a school decided to go K-8. He cautioned that the budget must service all schools in the city, however.

In terms of the possibilities of increased staff allocation, Turner said that the only difference in formula for generating staff is the additional number of students. Intermediate level enrolment (grades 7 & 8) generates only an extra "fraction" of a teacher.

Turner wasn't certain how often a school would have the option to change its mind, but stated that it was his understanding that "after September of 1980, schools will have the option every year until the Board changes its policy."

Objections

Merylle Houston, T.E.C.C. co-chairperson and a Frankland parent, indicated in strong terms that she saw a definite need for an area-wide perspective because of the obvious repercussions throughout the area of one school's

decision. Merylle expressed concern that there had been "no guidelines, information of help from the Board — the whole thing's such a mess. There were no instructions to schools on how to go about the process."

Turner replied that some reports were made available to schools in which the need for consultation between feeder schools and senior schools had been emphasized. He suggested that if any group wanted help with organizing the process, they should just ask and resource people would be made available.

Merylle Houston pointed out that there was another option, the grade 7 to 10 school, that hadn't even been mentioned. She said that it was her understanding that some Board administrators favored this option, and asked why it hadn't been explored as well.

Turner replied that he didn't believe a report on 7-10 schools had been requested by trustees, though provision has been made to discuss the issue in broad terms. Turner further pointed out that the school organization is not uniform within Metro, let alone within Ontario.

Nancy Masters asked, "Where do the options end? Are we to have a 7 to 10 here? a K to 8 there? and a 6 to 8 across the way? This could become totally optional and totally insane."

T.E.C.C. concluded that they should express their concerns to the Board and asked co-chairperson, Vince Goring, to draft a letter to this effect.

It was also suggested that before any decisions are made parents need to ask for more information on the present school divisions and the reasons for them, and to discuss and study the information available on 7-10 schools.

The next T.E.C.C. meeting will be held on Monday, February 25, at Withrow Public School at 7:30 p.m.

The main topic of discussion will be the proposed plan for area restructuring (from six to four administrative areas city-wide) and the effects this will have on individual schools and communication between schools. All interested parents and teachers are welcome to attend T.E.C.C. meetings and to express their concerns.

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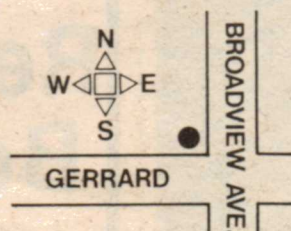
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday February 1

The Sounds of Heavy Mining can be heard at Scalawags Cafe as Zinc Oxide takes the stage, so bring your mining helmets and shovels, folks. Admission is \$1.50 and we are located at 519 Church St. one third of a block north of Wellesley.

Saturday February 2

A reunion tea will be held for former Franklanders at the school from 1 to 5 p.m. This will be your last chance to visit the old Frankland. The new school is nearing completion and demolition of the old building is expected to start in April.

Sunday February 3

Anne Cools, the Liberal candidate in Rosedale, is the speaker at the St. Luke's forum, 353 Sherbourne St., at 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

Wednesday February 6

Eastdale School-Community Council will hold a meeting in the school cafeteria, 701 Gerrard St. E., at 7:30 p.m. Student reports for the Christmas term were mailed out by January 25. This meeting is designed as a follow-up. There will be a short business meeting, but most of the evening will be devoted to teacher-parent interviews.

Thursday February 7

The 7 New committee to discuss funding and restructuring of the paper will meet tonight at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St., at 7:30. Anyone interested in helping out is invited to attend.

The Parliament Street Library, 269 Gerrard St. E., is showing the movie *The Beloved Vagabond* at 6:30 p.m. and tomorrow at 2 p.m.

The Christian Community Centre, 270 Gerrard St. E., will be having a big winter sale of used clothing today from 9:30 a.m. till noon, tomorrow again at the same time, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Rock bottom prices.

Saturday February 9

The Simpson Avenue United Church Women (115 Simpson Ave. at Howland Rd.) proudly present a Valentine Luncheon/Bake

Riverdale C.I. happenings

By ROSS MACKINTOSH

Congratulations should be extended to some Riverdale students for special achievements.

George Lykos, a grade 9 student, is already achieving status as a young professional actor, as well as doing spot commercials. George is appearing in the CBC TV production series "The Great Detective"; he will be seen in an episode on February 13, at 9 p.m.

Linda Wakabayashi, grade 10, represented Riverdale in the lively debates of the Young People's City Council, which met several times in November to take part in the City of Toronto's salute to "The International Year of the Child".

In May, Mara Bakic, a grade 13 student of history, economics, and politics, will travel to Ottawa for a week-long seminar on government. Her visit will be sponsored by the Toronto East Rotary Club.

David Sooley, a graduate of Riverdale, was placed on the Scarborough College, University of Toronto Honours List for year IV because of his outstanding academic performance in 1979. This information was forwarded to the principal, Milton Christmas, by the registrar of Scarborough in which the registrar complimented the Riverdale staff for their contribution to David's achievement.

On Monday January 21, three students from Riverdale participated in the annual East End Cedarvale Lions Club public speaking contest. Maria Tzamtzis and Nancy Chau respectively took first and second place in the girls' division. Maria spoke about "The Importance of the Family" while Nancy spoke about the idea of freedom. Tat Wong placed second in the boys' division, speaking about "Man's changing world".

Table, with sale of gifts, jewellery, valentines. From noon to 3 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Pathways College invites the public to meet the noted Canadian writer Lyn Harrington today at 1 p.m. at 591 Parliament St. She is a widely travelled person with many books to her credit, the most recent one *The Shaman's Evil Eye*, being a suspense story based on native legends. Everyone welcome, admission free. Phone 967-4668 for information.

Monday February 11

The final presentation of the "Winchester Park" plan is to take place tonight: the completed plans are to be presented for the community's approval. AT 7:30 p.m. in the Winchester School staff room.

Tuesday February 12

Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St., 925-4363, will be hosting an Open House tonight from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. We have invited a number of agencies and schools in the area to participate and share information about their services and programs. We hope neighbours in the community will join us.

Days of Thrills and Laughter is showing at the Parliament Street Library, 269 Gerrard St. E., at 6:30 p.m. today and 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Ongoing

The Pape Recreation Centre still has room for people in their swimming and physical programmes. Come to 953 Gerrard St. E. and sign up now or phone 461-3531 after 1 for further information. All programs are free to residents of the City of Toronto.

Frederico Garcia Lorca's play *The House of Bernarda Alba*, is playing at the Alumnae Theatre, 70 Berkeley St., until February 16. The play is a powerful tragedy about the plight of Spanish women, portraying the sexual repression common among women in the villages of inland Spain. Shortly after completing this work in 1936, the 38-year-old Lorca disappeared. Phone 364-4170 to reserve your tickets.

The Maureen Meriden show is on at Bobbins, at Parliament just above Winchester, until February 9.

The Family Service Association is adding a new workshop for women, "Time to be Me", to its winter/spring series of Education for Living programs.

"Time to be Me", starting Tuesday, February 12th will help women explore their personal values and goals.

Another new course is "Parents and Teenagers" to help those with children over 10 years of age understand adolescent development and behaviour. Parents will learn, too, how to communicate effectively with their teenage children.

Again this season, F.S.A. will offer courses on Preparation for Marriage, Marriage Enrichment, Parenting, Divorce Separation and Single Again, Single Parenthood, Creative Living, Meeting at the Middle and workshops in Life Planning, Assertiveness Training and Retirement. The programs are offered at F.S.A. offices in downtown Toronto, North York and Scarborough.

Anyone interested in any of these programs may get further information by calling Family Service Association of Metro Toronto 922-3126.

Dixon Hall's Home Help for Seniors is available to any senior living in the area bounded by Gerrard to the lake, Sherbourne to River St. Services provided include light housekeeping and laundry \$1 per hour. Transportation to medical appointments and weekly van shopping. Call 863-0499.

The Parliament Street Library has movies for kids every Wednesday at 4 p.m. It also has activities for kids every Saturday at 2 p.m. Every Monday and Wednesday, it has a homework programme, with a quiet place for kids to work plus help with problems. And every Tuesday, from 6 to 8 p.m., it has yoga classes at \$3 a class.

The Pape/Danforth Library, 701 Pape, has activities for kids every Saturday at 2:30. Call 465-1221 for details. Also, on Thursdays at 10 a.m., there is a pre-school story hour for two to four-year-olds.

The Regent Park Adult Recreation Centre wishes to announce that we have started to have euchre games on Friday nights at 603 Whiteside Place. Hours are from 7:30 to 11 pm. All persons who are interested in playing are more than welcome. Also we have cribbage, and anyone interested in playing can come in to play and pick a night they would like a cribbage game on. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 1 to 4 pm and nights Monday through Thursday 7 to 10 pm and Friday 7 till 11 pm. We also have an arts and crafts day for the ladies. The Centre is open to people in Regent Park and surrounding areas.

The Parliament Street Library has free exhibit space available to display the work of local artists. Please contact Linda Thomson at the library, 924-7122, for details.

Community Calendar is a free community service. If you have an upcoming event which you would like listed in the next (February 15) issue of 7 News (any event from February 15

to February 29 should go in this issue), send your announcement to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto M5A 2A2.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

DATE OF EVENT

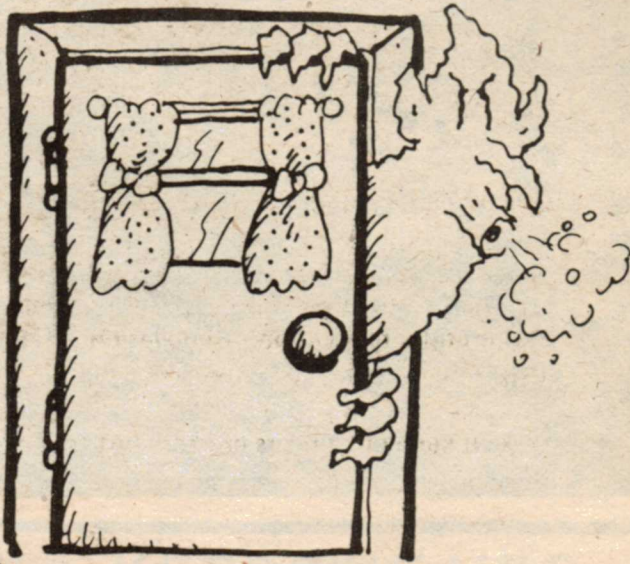
DETAILS OF EVENT (include time, place, & what the event is, in 2-3 sentences)

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A filter clogged with dust forces your furnace to work much harder. Furnace filters should be cleaned or replaced at least once a month during the heating season. It's a good idea to have the whole furnace checked over too, before the cold sets in.



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Pensioners in the '80's

Continued from page 1

Plan which was supposed to provide a certain standard of living but didn't. There is a Guaranteed Income Supplement that was intended to rescue people from poverty and failed to do so. The Social Planning Council estimates that in 1979 the poverty line for one person was \$4,383, whereas anyone receiving the Old Age Security pension, along with G.I.S. and Ontario GAINS got only \$4,189 as of April, 1979. Correspondingly, two people in the same situation received only \$8,139, just below the poverty line of \$8,215 for two persons, as calculated by Council.

Another way to prove that government programs are not accomplishing their declared objectives is to take a look at some federal figures as provided by Statistics Canada. They have been keeping track of income figures for a long time, and in 1951 they found that the 20% of families who received the lowest incomes actually got only 6.1% of the national total. The 20% next on the ladder received much more, 12.9%, while the top 20% raked in 41.1% of the total take. In 1951 there was, of course, no CPP, no GIS, and the OAS was a miserable \$40 per month. In 1974, after years of Canada Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement, GAINS, etc., with the OAS up around \$110, the share of

the bottom 20% had dropped to 4%, the next 20% were down to 10.8%, whereas the top 20% were up, naturally, to 42.4%. These figures are based on all incomes before taxations and include all social security payments. When you recall the huge sums governments pay out under the various social benefit programs you naturally ask the logical question: Why are the people at the bottom of the pile getting poorer?

Isn't it a reasonable answer that the explanation for the failure of these government plans to eliminate poverty is that they are not intended to? Are they rather not designed to maintain the poor in their poverty?

It doesn't have to be that way. Other countries, some of them not as wealthy as Canada, have done much better. In France the level of public pension benefits is 52% of average per capita income, in Germany it is 65%. Canada only manages to provide 29%. The reason is, of course, that other countries commit greater percentages of their national income towards pension programs. France allocated 6.8%, Germany gives 9.09% AND Austria makes it 9.5%. Canada does no better than about 3%. It has been estimated that if we contributed 7.5% of our national income we could afford to provide pension benefits equal to half our average national wage, that is \$6,500 for one person and \$13,000 for a couple.

Considering that Canada hasn't managed to lift great numbers of pensioners out of poverty during the prosperous years of the past, the outlook for them in the present period of recession and cut-backs looks rather grim. It will require a lot of hard work and political pressure from pensioners' organizations and other concerned bodies to improve the picture.

OHC evictions

Continued from page 1

involvement in matters which deeply affect the household has widened to include people whose children have grown up and moved out, while the parents are still earning too little money to afford private rents.

The City of Toronto in its agreement with Ontario Housing for the payment of rent subsidies to our low-income tenants insisted on the right to allow parents of grown children to remain in our housing programme with their rents geared to their income. We have now urged OHC to stop the practice of evicting them.

Another way OHC has been exercising control over its tenants directly affects the way the City runs its own programme. OHC, because it administers the Provincial and Federal money that goes into the rent-geared-to-income (rent supplement) programme, has in recent years been trying to force the City to adopt some of the worst of their own management policies. Therefore, if a tenant who cannot get a fair deal from OHC and is eligible for a rent-supplement unit in City Housing wishes to move, OHC forbids it by considering movement between the two programmes the same thing as moving within Ontario Housing. Turning down a transfer to another OHC unit then means keeping the tenant from occupying an adequate unit in City housing.

The Neighbourhoods Committee has asked that our agreement with the Federal and Provincial governments be changed to take out the loophole that allows OHC to do this.

The reason behind much of this behaviour on the part of the provincial government and its housing authority, OHC, is that Queen's Park wants to cut its

housing budget. By claiming that demand is lower for rent-geared-to-income housing, and "proving" it by shorter waiting lists and empty units, the Province stands to save a great deal of money — at the expense of the very people who can least afford it, those who can no longer pay private market rents unless they give up eating altogether.

Evictions for things like moving in ones own children, or for ones children moving out, help make the waiting list look shorter as new people occupy the units of tenants who have been pushed out. Other tenants unable to endure conditions that could be improved by a transfer within OHC will also move, risking desperate economic problems. And tightening up on whose applications will even be accepted (financial need is far from the only criterion) means that the waiting list does not show hundreds, possibly thousands, of names of people living in dreadful conditions and paying half or more of their total income for shelter.

It is important that Ontario Housing tenants continue to fight back. Now that the management meetings where transfers are either approved or rejected are open to the tenant involved, OHC officials must get used to face to face discussions with the people whose vital interests they are deciding.

The Mother's Against Discrimination in Ontario Housing (MAD) group whose representatives have been speaking up so well can use more people. If you are an Ontario Housing tenant who is not being given the chance to explain or appeal your particular problem, call Neighbourhood Legal Services at 961-2625.

More next issue about whether or not the need for affordable housing is decreasing.

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Dave Blackmore: jazz flautist

By ANNE WOODS

He wasn't a star born under the stars but he is a warm-hearted adventurer whose optimism is contagious. David Blackmore is a flautist talented enough to reach the heights of fame.

"I wasn't born an optimist," says David. "But at one point in my teens I knew I had to change my attitude towards life or go under."

Go under David almost did. First as a ten-year-old when he made Toronto headlines by surviving an unintended one night stint in his rubber raft, drifting with the winds and currents in the pitch blackness of Lake Ontario. The biggest air search and rescue efforts to date were delighted to find Young David alive, waving feebly in frozen pants to his rescuing ship. Captain Hodge, on delivering him to his parents, praised the young boy's courage in staying with the lonely raft and resisting the impulse to swim ashore. He also applauded David's intelligence in keeping himself as dry as possible and staying patiently seated to avoid capsizing while gesturing the heroine ship that found him a few hours before he would have died of exposure.

In his teen years, he once again fought waters that threatened to pull him under.

"I grew up in a poor, tough Toronto neighbourhood. In order to survive, I had to adapt to peer pressures. It was when I ended up in

the Toronto Boys Home as a juvenile delinquent that I knew I had gone in over my head."

Inspired by his involvement with the Regent Park Teen Centre, a drop-in established and operated by local teens, David took a hard look at his life. His future, holding out promises of minor crime, unemployment and low paying jobs, looked grim and David began to consider alternatives.

Given his love of the music of flautist Hubert Laws, and his determined nature, music evolved as his passport to a fuller life. He was further encouraged by Bill Mulhall, his Lakeview Secondary High School teacher who, impressed with David's dogged persistence and practise, gave him private flute lessons after school.

Music fever took hold. David Blackmore continued his studies, spending 3 years of lessons and workshops with jazz flautist, Don Englert and eventually enrolling at the York University Fine Arts Department where, at the age of 22, he continues to be a serious student of music.

"Music is a life long study," said David. "I would like to become a professional musician, a jazz flautist. Jazz gives you the freedom to express yourself freely and the challenge of being an on-the-spot composer."

The music world is a tough one to break into but even there David

flashes a trump card. He is one of those rare musicians with an instinct for business. He has a knack for figures and enjoys driving a hard bargain.

"There is a need for good managers in the music business, for people who have compassion for their musicians and a feeling for their music. It's important, for instance, to book a band where it will be appreciated. Some managers wouldn't think twice about booking a jazz band in a country and western club if that is what it takes to get their commission."

As if five hours of daily flute practise, full time studies and weekend child care work at his old haunt, The Toronto Boys Home, aren't enough to book his life solid, David is revving up for his first professional gig. He and three other musicians will act as back-up int he Maureen Meriden Show. Maureen, classically trained and singing since the age of five, promises an evening of melodic, dynamic emotion as she slips from Billy Holiday heart-rending blues to uniquely arranged Artie Shaw, Lauro Nyro and Beatle favorites. The Maureen Meriden show opened at Bobbin's on Parliament Street on January 29 and continues through until February 9th.

Quotations to Remember

"I think this calls for a drink" has long been one of our national slogans.

—James Thurber

W. Frank Robinson

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St. Peter's: An old and beautiful church

Continued from page 1
cornerstone was laid in the summer of 1865, and Bishop John Strachan opened the Church for service on June 10th, 1866.

Architects for the building were the firm of Thomas Gundry and Henry Langley. Their partnership lasted from 1862 to 1869, and also produced designs for the Boys' Home, George Street (1863), the lower part of the tower of St. James' Cathedral (1863), the rebuilding of the Church of St. Stephen's-in-the-Fields, College and Bellevue (1866). Henry Langley later went on to design the Necropolis Buildings (1872), the spire and other parts of St. James' Cathedral (1874), and Old St. Andrew's Church, Carlton and Jarvis Streets (1878).

Mementos of Yesteryear



St. Peter's, designed in the High Victorian Gothic style, is a picturesque building which would look perfectly in place in an old English churchyard. Victorian Toronto writers, C. Pelham Mulvaney, in 1884, and C. Blackett Robinson, in 1885, described it as "one of the prettiest churches in the City". John Ross Robertson, writing in 1904, remarked that "It partakes of the cleanliness and neatness of that section of the City in which it is located".

The building is of red and "white" brick. In 1867, it was said of it: "In the building but little ornamentation was possible, with the limited amount at the disposal of the building committee. Recourse was therefore had to the contrasts produced by the colours of the bricks." This polychromatic brickwork, and the massing and scale of the building, permit it to look perfectly at home in the Victorian neighbourhood around it. Many of the homes remaining in the area today from the 1880's have similar contrasting bricks.

The cost of building the Church, built to seat 400, was \$3700. Transepts were added in 1872. In 1880, further alterations were made, to bring seating capacity to 600. A

west porch was built, and the small porch which originally opened to Carlton Street, was closed off to become a baptistry.

A picture of St. Peter's taken in 1866 shows the Church looking very much the same as we see it today, minus the west porch and transepts. The five triangular "dormerlets" are to be seen in the roof on the south side. A wooden fence surrounds the Church on Carlton and on Blecker. A number of recently-planted trees on both streets stand protected by wooden slats. A small boy stands beside one of them.

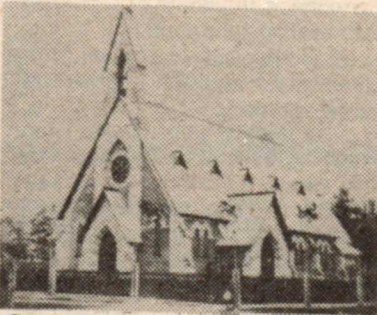
By the 1890's, the clock tower, dormerlets and gables had become surmounted by ornamental ironwork. (Recently the present rector, Rev. John Wiseman, showed the writer these pieces, which now reside in the Church basement, explaining that they had been taken down for safety reasons.) The wooden fence had been replaced by an attractive lower iron one, most of which stands today.

John Ross Robertson described the interior of the Church in 1904 — the chancel decorated with the work of Joseph Toppling, the ceiling in dark blue with gilt stars, and wainscotted with carved wood. Banners and mottoes abounded on the walls. The organ pipes were delicately painted in light and pretty colours.

Lighting in the Church, originally provided by two immense gasoliers, was converted to electricity in 1897, through the generosity of Mr. (later Sir) Henry Pellatt, founder of the Toronto Electric Company. In 1906 he also gave to the Church its delicate brass pulpit. (Readers may be familiar with Sir Henry Pellatt's home, Casa Loma.)

The Church became known for its Sunday Schools. By 1866 there were two of them, with 40 officers and teachers and 432 scholars. It was also famous for its charitable works, for instance those by its Women's Association and Dorcas

Society, particularly help sent to destitute settlers in the Algoma area of Northern Ontario.



St. Peter's Church, Carlton Street. A photograph taken in 1866 shows how little the church building has changed since the year in which it opened. Photo: Toronto in the Camera, 1867

Although pews were generally rented, this system was not always rigidly adhered to, especially at the evening service, for which a system was developed whereby all pews were made free. Strangers to the Parish were always welcome.

St. Peter's witnessed a rapid expansion of the City, as streets around it filled with houses in the 1870's, 80's and 90's. The congregation grew rapidly and the Church prospered.

In more recent times, the Church was not so fortunate. The once affluent parish changed dramatically to almost the complete opposite. Early in the 1950's, on the very day that Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, one block to the west, was celebrating its opening services, St. Peter's bell fell from its tower, rolled down the roof and landed in the courtyard, where it remains to this day. Acts of vandalism and arson culminated, on May 3rd, 1973, in a series of fires which destroyed the chancel, organ and the beautiful windows over the Communion table, and caused smoke damage to most of the rest of the building. Meanwhile, most of the houses to the north, on Blecker and Ontario

Streets, had been destroyed by developers.

In spite of its misfortunes, God's workers at St. Peter's did not give up. The Reverend James Harvey and members of the congregation commenced a Restoration Appeal, which raised \$43,000, enough to allow the building to be cleaned inside and out, and for much of the badly needed restoration work to be done. A superb baroque style Casabanti style organ was installed at the west end, enhanced by the sparkling rose window by Russell Goodman, a memorial to organist Ball. Drawings of the magnificent east windows were found, enabling them to

be reproduced. The chancel was beautifully restored.

The bell from St. Enoch's Church (more recently the Don Vale Community Centre, and now the home of the Toronto Dance Theatre), was obtained and installed in the bell tower.

On Sunday, December 16th, 1979, a large congregation attended a service at which The Honourable Pauline McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, unveiled and dedicated a Toronto Historical Board plaque to St. Peter's Church, whose survival through adversity encourages the hopes of many for its future.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Responsibility for co-ordinating the design, paste-up, and production of 7 News.

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Responsibility for bookkeeping and for general supervision of the accounts and business affairs of 7 News.

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YOUTH will babysit in your home anytime. \$3.00 an hour. Call Stephen 466-3711.

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CALLING ALL SHARKS. Our swim team needs you. Phone Vivien at 461-3531.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: 7 News is in the process of seeking funding for a business manager and a production manager. These positions, to open up in the next 4 to 8 weeks, may be either full or part time, depending on the funding source and might possibly be of particular interest to recent graduates or students in these areas. If you are interested, call 363-9650.

HAVE ANY SPARE TIME? Then why not consider becoming a volunteer distributor for 7 News on your street or in your apartment building? It takes 10 to 30 minutes once every two weeks to deliver however many papers you have time for. The bundle gets delivered to your door. Call 363-9650.

INSTRUCTION

ARE YOU GOING DOWN for the third time? Learn to swim at Pape Recreation Centre. For information call 461-3531. No charge.

7 News Classified Ads cost \$2.50 for 25 words or less, and 10 cents for each additional word. All Classified ads MUST be paid in advance. (The ONLY exceptions are ads advertising jobs available and lost and found ads — these are free.) Fill in the coupon below and mail or bring it with your payment to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. East, Toronto M5A 2A2.

My ad should read as follows:

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Tuesday, 6.30 a.m. It's still dark. The wind is blowing hard but not continuously. There are ten men in line. An even division between the "old" (over 35) and the "young" (over 16).

Art, my friend, who's twenty-four, has had to come to this office twice before. The first time was last Friday, at 9 a.m., when he was told that the office opened at 8 a.m. He then returned on Monday at eight, but was told there was no way he could get a number, which are given out when the doors open at 7.45, which enable you to be seen by a counsellor.

I am told that this office gives out and sees 60 numbers (people) a day. They turn away about 30 people a day. "We're understaffed", explains the counter-clerk, "some are ill or on vacation". The best time to come is two hours earlier, Art is told.

This explanation of understaffing due to employees who are ill or on vacation, is the same explanation given to me by the administrator, Mrs. Lorrie Ming-Sun, when I speak to her later on Tuesday. There is no mention of provincial cutbacks in social services, or an increase in unemployed people falling back onto welfare.

Art feels like giving up on getting welfare. He sees it as a right but keeps referring to the "chronics". He thinks he has some connections through which he can arrange a loan, until he gets another job. I convince him to try again, and I'm with him for support and also to write this article because he's told me how badly treated people are here. I remember how I felt when I was laid off and had to come here in July, until I received my UIC cheque. It was good to have a friend with me then.

Art transforms and polishes silver jewellery. At a time when there are line-ups for raising the prices on these metals, what is he doing in a welfare line?

Well, the place where he contracted his labours has no more orders. Whatever work is received is completed by the owner himself. Art had not worked there for 20 weeks so he doesn't qualify for UIC. He hasn't received his last paycheque for a month now. That's the nature of the business, he's told.

"Fifteen minutes to go", the man in front of us on the line announced to us. His name's Bill. The wind was blowing harder now and started to spit flurries of snow between its teeth. It's dark around us. All you can see are the singular faceless forms of people coming towards the line.

This east side of the street, excepting the few houses, looks like one long wall of brick and glass. Subdued yellow paint. Cold, business-like. This is Metropolitan Toronto. Department of Social Services. Station G.

Fifteen minutes seems like a long time. But nobody talks about it because it might make us more anxious and frozen. People in the line are talking to each other quietly. But there is this air of suppressed hostility, I guess that's the best phrase I can think of, and fear. Like tensing up for an injection. You try and forget it.

Single employable men have been categorised as separate from families and unemployable people. Because some social scientists have deemed these "single-employables" as more mobile, transient and constantly searching for more suitable housing and jobs, these men, from across the entire city, from Roncesvalles Avenue to Victoria Park Avenue, have to come to 339 George Street (near Gerrard).

Despite the feelings of clients and social workers that service can be provided best within the setting of the community service centre, these men have to come here, past the offices in their own communities, which now only serve single women, families, and "unemployables".

Bill offers me a handful of valiums. I refuse. Art swallows three before I step on his foot. Bill's last job was working in a steel-yard. He'd worked there for three years. Was laid off. Received UIC for three weeks. Was cut off. Went on a drinking binge for a week and stuffed himself "silly" with pills. He says he barely made it here but he does have an offer of a job today. He doesn't even have money to get there. He's 55. He fought in the war (I don't ask which one). He wears no coat, just a wind-breaker. But the cold doesn't bother him. He says.

The lights in back of the building come on. A pair of hands from inside opens a window, to let in some air. More people join the line.

The lights in the foyer come on. Suddenly there's no more line as people mill around the glass doors. "Watch out", says Bill.

The doors open towards us and people rush through the opening doors. I'm shoved against the glass and fear I'll be going through it. Bill looks back, grabs my hand and pulls me through. We all go running up the stairs. At the top, another line has formed and the counter clerk is rapidly giving out numbered cards, along with a pink slip of paper.

Art is No. 26. Bill is No. 37. The heat is on full blast now, which we're thankful for at the beginning. All the chairs are taken. There is one small table to write on, which is sat on. Some people are standing, writing with their forms against the walls.

A friend tells me this is the best office of the entire lot. Here's where you can get a cheque to find a place to live. This is also the only good thing he can tell me about the place.

While Bill and Art are filling out their forms, I start conversation with the guy standing next to me, Cory. He looks about 18 and also looks pissed off. He fills out the numbered card and hands it in. He's No. 19. The clerk adds his name to the register of appointments.

Cory's been here before. Since last Wednesday. He was here last Thursday, when it rained on them in the outside line. Got soaked. Then had to sit for four hours like that. Friday, he was supposed to receive his cheque but was told when he arrived that the counsellor was sick. Cory too has been laid off. He'd found out that the company had just wanted temporary help anyway. No, there was no union there. He's living at his brother's place until he gets a job. No, he didn't qualify for UIC though he'd paid premiums.

"We can join the army," David, standing beside Cory, joins the conversation. "There'd be no layoffs there".

"You don't get laid off, you get laid out", Bill reminds us he survived the war. He swallows a few valiums. "Isn't that bad for you", I ask about the pills. Feeling foolish as immediately as the words are out of my mouth. "I think he knows that", David smiles.

David, who is 34 years old, was fired from a chic Yorkville restaurant-disco. He said he waited until he was down to his last token before he came here. He doesn't like it here. He's not like the rest of them, he says, pointing at no one in particular.

Which reminds me of a story a friend told me, who worked at the George Street office where we are now, two years ago. He says that when he gets that "not like" comment from "clients" he would reply, "That's funny, that's what the person who was here before you said".

David laughs at my story, and continues. He's afraid he's not going to get any money. Points to one of the counsellors, bespectacled and very colonial looking. "He's supposed to be a mean one".

That's who he gets. David who

was second in the lineup outside and No. 9 on the register, gets called in at 10.30. 3 1/2 hours after arriving at the doors of this office. He's called in by name.

(I'm told they've stopped calling people by number, a "radical" policy change.)

Five minutes later, David is out, shaking quietly but cursing loud. He's got two bus tickets in his hand. He was told that there is no welfare for those who are fired, or quit.

David doesn't think he will go to the Employment Standards Branch of the Ministry of Labour and complain about his last employer. If you do go to this 400 University Avenue office, 3rd floor, and file a grievance and return with this documented, to the welfare office, it is possible to get welfare. But there too they treat you like a criminal. Despite the rhetoric of "innocent until proven guilty", the employer's actions are usually assumed to be correct. David figures, almost instinctually, that it would just cause more hassle for him. Besides he still hasn't received his last paycheque from them. He repeats, he's thinking of joining the army.



I tell Gordon Cressy, Ward 7's senior alderman and Chairman of Metro's Social Service committee about this later that day. He replies, "People should be made aware of the basic rules before they go there". He says that he didn't know that the lineups and turn-aways were happening. He decides to call "Tomlinson".

Ray Tomlinson is Metro's Commissioner of Social Services. A veritable czar of this big business. Social services is the second highest budget allotment with 1979 projected figures of \$160 million. The police, of course, rank in Metro's priorities as the highest with \$190 million. Tomlinson is a willing hatchet-wielder in the service of provincial cutbacks aimed at social services. (Meanwhile there's more police around to protect us every year, though not from unemployment.)

Cressy gets back to me. Tomlinson tells him that this happens every year, from January to March. The winter months are the hardest. Yes, they're hiring new staff, and will allow overtime to make sure that everybody who arrives at the office will be looked after. When will this happen, I ask. Cressy replies that Tomlinson says, "soon".

Then I call the administrator of George Street, Mrs. Ming-Sun. We end up arguing about numbers outside the office, the numbers turned away. I ask her if she's been informed about the changes mentioned by Tomlinson via Cressy. "We're due to get more staff", she says. "When?", I ask. She gets mad at me. "Look, things don't happen overnight". "How about next week?" I ask. "Probably", she says. Then she decides to cut the talk, she's not supposed to speak to the press. Tomlinson's her boss, Tomlinson's the one who sends her the staff. Ask him.

Tomlinson is also the one who, along with Metro Chairman Godfrey, announced to the Metro taxpayer, through the gleeful headlines of the daily newspapers, that less people were being seen at Metro's welfare offices in December and January. "We can't explain it", is how they shrugged it off.

What people like Godfrey and Tomlinson will also not explain is why multi-billion dollar multi-nationals like Imperial Oil have not

paid taxes to Metro on land they own at Jane/Finch. Land that is zoned for farming (Imperial Oil lets sheep graze on the grass) is tax-deductible.

They'd rather focus on the piddling and grudging sums of money given out to people in dire need who for some curious reason are always under the auditor's scrutiny of the newspapers, under criticism by right-wing politicians who consider people on welfare, "bums", and squeezed by those who ride electorally high on the emotional rhetoric that those on welfare can elicit.

As we go deeper into our economists' recession, those people who join the ever-swelling reserves of the unemployed find that UIC benefits, which they always pay premiums for, are unavailable to them. Because it is at these people that the restraint and curtailment are most directly aimed. They are also the most angry.

The centralisation of social services last spring into one computer system has not wrought any better services for those who need it. Politicians and bureaucrats alike don't care for people assembling in one place together and angry. In the four "community service centres" in the rest of the city, people are seen at home. The "field worker out in the community" concept keeps people out of the waiting rooms and assessments are done at home. George Street is an exception.

We are hoping to make *Day in the Life* a regular feature of 7 News. *Day in the Life* is to be a section of the paper in which people talk about how they feel about their jobs, where they live, where they shop or go to have fun, and where people who have lived in this community for a long time can share their memories with the rest of us. If you would like to talk to a 7 News writer about your experiences, or if you would like to send in your own story, call us at 363-9650.

Guide to getting welfare

How to prepare for welfare at 339 George Street, District "G."

Go well prepared. Pack a picnic lunch if you have the bread. Take some friends with you. Try not to show you're afraid. Welfare is a right. The state and the media would have you believe it's a privilege.

For those who maintain that it is indeed a privilege, I say, pardon my existence. When you've been excommunicated from 9-5 worship (or 3-11 or 12-8) and there's no UIC forthcoming, Welfare's supposed to be the final (resort) sacrament administered; an auxiliary cushion which the state provides after you've been thrown off the towers of labour and before you hit the concrete outside. Until you get your next job.

Go well prepared. The money is yours, but bureaucrats hold onto it fiercely. Don't forget your Social Insurance Number card; something ascertaining an address (a laundry ticket could sometimes help) and any other ID. Just don't volunteer too much information. Ask "I don't understand" questions until you are pretty clear what they're getting at.

Don't forget your pink card from Manpower, which you get when you register your state of unemployment. If you have a separation slip from your last employer bring it along. (Check to make sure what the employer has marked on it, e.g., Shortage of Work.)

Be prepared to provide them with a list of your job-searches to indicate the "reasonable effort" they're looking for. A verbal run-down of your effort is acceptable. These

in that this is no "community service" approach.

Then again with all those single employable males around, they could turn it into an army induction centre.

Bill has already fought in one war. And he's not going anywhere near another one. He's content to fight these "bureaucrats".

Cory finally got his cheque.

Art will get a home visit in two days from his welfare worker. He eventually got an interview in the office at 12 o'clock. "They see about 6 an hour". At his interview, they take the pink form that he's filled out while he was waiting, and ask you the same questions for another form. The counsellor then sends him back to Manpower, to get another pink card. He gets to see her again at 2 p.m. He eventually finishes at 3 p.m., exactly 8 1/2 hours after we first arrived there.

Outside the snow has stopped. The wind has picked up again. The sun has disappeared behind the filter of a thick haze. And we're hungry. Next time we'll pack a picnic lunch.

Note: The names of all persons mentioned in the above article (except officials) have been changed, as have certain minor biographical details. The author is presently receiving government assistance and is therefore remaining anonymous to avert any possibility of official retaliation.

questions determine your worth.

Once you've gone through the process of being counselled and "form"ed, if you feel you've been hard-done-by, the welfare worker is supposed to provide you with a Form 6. Ask for it.

A form 6 is one means of getting what's yours. The next line of defense is to call your alderman (Ward 7: Cressy or Howard). Almost as good is to invoke Riverdale Socio-legal Services (RSLs: 461-8102, 932A Queen Street East at Logan) or Neighbourhood Legal Services (NLS 961-2625, 306 Sherbourne at Gerrard).

The reason this line of defense usually works is that welfare, rather than being treated as a right, is held as a sop, a goodie. That welfare is "politically sensitive" usually does mean that calling your alderman gets a measure of action. Knowing "sensitive", "community-minded", "respectable" people in your area also helps.

The people who see you are, in one sense, the foot-soldiers of the Social Services army. One of their primary objectives is to catch you at lying. They're only following orders. Their attitude is smiles and/or venom in accordance with the pressures exerted by those above them.

Outside of "political" pressure, short of unemployed people unionising themselves, foot-soldiers sometimes stand in awe of the "informed client". "Informed" could mean well-dressed or well-read. On the other hand, there is very little information provided to the people who need it, so their time is often wasted in false hope.

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