

Is the Don trying to tell us something?

By HOWARD HUGGETT

Throughout the year most people tend to ignore the Don River. They may watch the motor traffic rushing up and down the expressways in the valley or the odd train that goes puffing along the tracks, but the little river is so quiet that they are not aware of its presence. They should be.

What this stream is doing very quietly is silting up the channel at the mouth and storing up trouble for the Metro authorities. You

could say that the Don is paying us back for our neglect of this natural resource. As a result of the recent heavy rains the river could not get all that excess water through the silted channel, so it backed up and flooded the lower valley enough to interfere with motor traffic. Is the Don trying to tell us something?

There seem to be differences of opinion between various Metro officials, but one conservation authority believes that the recent flooding is partly due to the failure to

dredge the Keating Channel in recent years. This was last done in 1974, but has since been discontinued because of budgetary restraints. The filling up of the channel has reached the point where it was necessary to do some emergency dredging last fall in order to clear passage for ships, and we are told that the same problem will exist this spring.

The annual dredging that was discontinued after 1974 used to cost about \$100,000 each year, but the

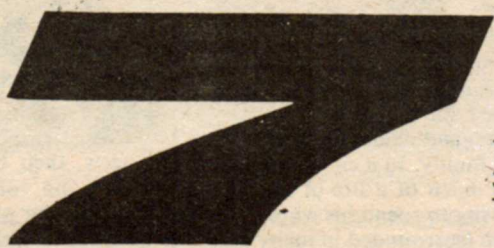
backlog would push this year's cost to about \$600,000. There is no information supplied in the report of how much was spent on the emergency dredging last fall, but it does not look as if much money has been saved by the cut-backs, if indeed any has been saved at all.

The good news is that a tentative agreement has been reached to resume dredging this year, with the costs to be shared between the federal government, the harbour commission and a provincial-municipal

partnership. The plan is to cut a new channel east of Cherry Street. Let's hope that the project goes through.

Of course the problems at the mouth of the Don are related to what has been done, and not done, to the land that is drained by the river. So much of the watershed has been paved over that the earth had a very reduced capacity to hold moisture and the result is that precipitation goes rushing down to the

Continued on page 2



7 NEWS

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FREE TAKE ONE

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

Tenant pressure gets results

By GLEN FARLEY

After an eighteen-month rent strike and constant friction with landlords, tenants at 40 Earl Street are finally getting results.

Organized with the assistance of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, all but a few of the tenants negotiated a special agreement in late January with the building's new owners. Sean Goetz-Gadon, community legal worker with the Federation, said that the cooperative effort of the tenants, public pressure and the "reasonable attitude" of the landlord contributed to the tenants' success.

In addition to having their rents frozen for a year, members of the tenants' association were granted a one-and-a-half month rent credit and have been guaranteed a March 31 deadline for all inside repairs to the premises.

Since the agreement was signed, Frank Moran, an owner of the building, has had doors repaired, locks replaced, installed a new laundry room, and initiated extensive electrical and plumbing repairs.

Mess from renovations, poor garbage disposal, lack of hot water, and a broken fire alarm system still persist. Moran responded by saying, "new hot water tanks are being installed and all complaints are being looked into. Within a month, when all the renovations are complete, the tenants won't recognize the place."

Ironically, this last statement points out a deeper concern among many tenants of older buildings in the North Jarvis area. As buildings such as 40 Earl are "upgraded", a catchphrase meaning renovated and re-leased at higher rents, the predominantly low-income tenants are forced out. This concerns Sean Goetz-Gadon and he cites the impending conversion of the four adjacent buildings to 40 Earl Street to condominiums as an example of this trend.

However, Moran claims that "the reason rents have been so low in our building is because of the poor condition the previous owner kept the place in. You just can't pay extremely low rent and expect high quality housing."

The previous owner, Sam Warner, was convicted in February of nineteen charges related to the conditions of the building and was fined \$25 for each conviction.

As for the 40 Earl Street Tenants' Association, member Derek Rainer sums up that "the association has built a sense of community within the building and we are now in a position to provide support to other tenant groups in the same situation."

Both Rainer and Goetz-Gadon have stated that the association will ensure that rental increases remain within legal limits and that every part of their agreement with the owners will be honoured in the future.



Harold Horrible (Dan Keeley), leader of the Pits, is up against the wall here but see what happens in "Damned if You Do" Photo by Cherry Hassard

"Damned if You Do" Takes It All Off

By DAVID REVILLE

Overheard on the Carlton car, East-bound:

Motorman: Do you think Ward 7 is revolting?

Motormouth: Yes, and not only that, I hear it's seceding.

Don't be alarmed. Ward 7 is seceding but only in Act 1, Scene 2 of *Damned If You Do* (or, *Who Says Ward 7 is Revolting?*), a new musical comedy currently in rehearsal in Ward 7.

It starts with community activists singing the blues. Why sing the blues when the expressway is stopped, the rents are controlled and the high-rises halted? The activists are out of issues; no issues, no activists, simple as that.

It could end right there, curtain falling on a heap of quietly rusting community workers but if it did, we wouldn't get to hear any more of John Piper's wonderful music or Brian Metcalfe's catchy lyrics. Fortunately for us, an issue emerges, just in time to save the day and the play, the Don Valley Speedway Proposal.

Who's behind this diabolical scheme? You guessed it, that Dynamic Duo, Gall Smallfry, the Metro Chairman and William, King of all the Yorks except New York.

And that's the main theme of the musical — the life and death struggle of Ward 7 to resist the combined might of Chairman Gall and King William. Epic stuff.

But there's more. We've got love, sweet love that blossoms from doubtful beginnings behind the Gerard St. beer store; We've got garbage, do we have garbage! a pungent symbol; we've got bureaucracy

grinding slow; we've got the private sector whispering in ears; we've got dialogue that makes you think — "you can't steal what nobody don't want" — and music that makes you cry — "simple folk, city folk, city loves."

So come, share the triumph of Harold Horrible and the Pits as they move from a cell in the Don Jail to the leadership of New Don-forth's Independence Movement! Join the Garbage Bag Ballet Troupe, under the careful hand of choreographer Elizabeth Beddard, as it proves, once and for all, the moral superiority of cleanliness. And marvel as the Toronto Maple Wreaths actually carry out an assignment for their chubby employer, Hal Mallard.

We'd need several pages to tell you all about it and all the people involved but, for the Moms and Dads and friends, here are a few of the people: Dan Keeley, Morty Fine, Lyn McCordic, Sandra Langille, David Reville, Terry Lee, Selma Savage, Ottley Jean, Bob Russell, Mike Smith, Al Denov, Mo Stash.

And we'd need more pages to tell you about a special cameo spot for some familiar political figures by the names of Campbell Cressy, Crombie, Martell and Rae.

So, for now, we'll just ask you to get your tickets to *Damned If You Do*, May 1, 2 and 3 at Castle Frank Auditorium. General admission is \$5.00, Seniors and Students \$2.50, proceeds to 7 News.

If you want to help, please call Joanne Campbell, 367-7910 or 964-2511.

Ticket phone number — 964-1126. Come on in, just for laughs.

Gay paper back on trial

By JOAN BRYDEN

The rejoicing by the three defendants over the acquittal of the *Body Politic* on a charge of sending immoral, indecent and scurrilous material through the mails was short-lived. The decision by the Crown to appeal the acquittal has left them bitter and cynical but determined to keep fighting right up to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Gerald Hannon, author of the article, "Men Loving Boys Loving Men", is "needless to say, upset" by the Crown's decision. "We thought it was all over and now we're back to square one." Ken Popert, a co-defendant in the case, says he is "angry more than anything else. I would have thought being acquitted once was enough."

Though no one at the *Body Politic* disputes the right of the Crown to appeal the case, they feel that it was, in the words of one worker at the paper, "the wrong choice", an attempt to "get the paper". Adds Hannon, "An appeal is a discretionary thing for the Crown. It shouldn't be done whimsically or very often."

General feeling at the *Body Politic* seems to be that the appeal is a political move prompted by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry in an attempt to court right-wing votes in the province. This notion is hotly denied by the Crown Attorney's Office which points out that the court system operates independently of politicians and that the decision to appeal the acquittal was based on the feeling that the judge in the case had erred on points of law.

While there are no legal constraints on the publishing of the paper while the appeal is being fought, the effects of the case are nonetheless felt by all those involved with the paper. Popert attests to invisible pressure on all concerned, "a low level tension in the background all the time." Hannon adds that the appeal "drains the energy" of those who produce the paper and admits to a certain amount of "self-censorship" in his own writing generated by the desire not to cause the paper any more trouble.

Apart from the mental strain on those at the paper, there is the financial strain as well. So far, the paper has relied almost solely on the gay community to see it through the \$40,000 trial. According to Hannon, the appeal will cost another \$3- to \$4,000; another \$10,000 if it goes as far as the Supreme Court. If at that stage the appeal is lost and the case is sent back to trial, the *Body Politic* is looking at a total cost approaching \$100,000. Because the paper does not qualify for legal

aid and cannot afford to foot the high legal costs, it must continue to rely on the gay community to see it through its court battles.

Other, non-financial support has come from the Civil Liberties Association which intervened at the appeal hearing, an action which Hannon describes as "a PR thing to let the judge know that the community is concerned". Though the judge decided to allow the appeal despite the C.L.A.'s intervention, Hannon is hopeful that the association's support will give the *Body Politic* case "a good profile and gain public support". The Free the Press Fund has also drawn up a petition opposing the appeal and has so far gathered 800 signatures.

In the coming months the *Body Politic* is likely to see all the support it can get. In the meantime, the defendants are preparing themselves for the fight ahead. Says Hannon, "The first trial was a draining and frightening experience but it makes me more vehement about freedom of the press. I hope we win to stop the appeal but I'm prepared to fight it all again if necessary."

Food for the mind

The Library on Wheels is a free service which is provided weekly at two locations in this area.

On Thursdays, you'll find the library in St. James Town at Wellesley and Ontario Sts. from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Fridays in South Rosedale at South Drive by Craigleith Gardens from 3 to 4 p.m.

The library van has books for everyone, from the smallest child looking for brightly coloured picture books to the adult looking for entertaining reading.

Because of its small size, the Library on Wheels is able to provide a personalized service not usually available in the larger libraries.

For more information on food for the mind, phone 484-8015 and ask for extension 271.

Dixon Hall page

Page eight of this issue consists of a special Dixon Hall page. For a three month trial period, Dixon Hall is publishing its monthly newsletter as a part of 7 News, paying a special community rate. Other community groups may be considering doing the same thing, so Dixon Hall and 7 News would be very happy to have your comments on whether you like the experiment.

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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, 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.

Unchain your dog!

Congratulations to your Howard Huggett on his article "The Dog." It is really time our community papers began to inform people on what the so-called "lesser" species need in the way of love, food, exercise and companionship.

I would like to mention briefly the real agony of the perpetually chained dog. He or she is kept to be a guard dog, and being on a short chain makes him aggressive and bad tempered. The more he asks to go for a walk, the more the owner thinks he is just snapping and being a good "guard."

May I mention that some of your readers may have seen a picture of me "chained" in a recent hunger-strike protest. My own chain was a short one, and I was secured by the neck to the leg of a desk, and my three companions for the protest were chained to me. I could not move, except to sit, by my companions could and every time they moved, it jerked my chain. This was painful — but after all, I was only there for the day. And I had chosen my own predicament, for humans

have freedom of choice. A dog does not, and has to do what he is made to do with no recourse to mercy or love.

I do appeal to all readers who may keep their dogs tethered. He or she will be just as good a "guard" if he is exercised on a regular basis (better, in fact) and made to feel he is part of the family. In a city a dog doesn't have much of a life in any case, and having to spend his whole life on a chain (surrounded in many cases by his own excrement) is really horrible. And, from a community

point of view, their barking which annoys, isn't the voice of a good guard dog, but the plea of an animal to be let off the chain and have a run.

Merlin Andrew

The Don overflows

Continued from page 1

river bed very quickly. Anyone who pays attention to this stream will notice how rapidly the water level recedes after a flood or even a heavy rain. Finding ways to limit this flooding is not easy, but it does seem that something could be done.

In the cocoon too long

I've been poor too long. I lost \$5.00 yesterday; B.P.(Before Poverty) it wouldn't have bothered me terribly, but this time I went into a depression I couldn't shake. I tried to rationalize — talk myself out of it. I mean, \$5.00 is only a few dollars — or is it? I realized something very important about myself and my life yesterday. Five dollars is no longer just a pretty piece of very expensive paper. Five dollar is three quarts of milk, a loaf of bread, and some meat. I realized that money, or the lack of it, has become the controller of my life. It has become the absolute power of everything I do. Can I afford to get to the doctor's if I am sick? Would I be sick so much if I ate properly? I can't afford to be sick, and I can't afford to eat properly!

I am on Family Benefits; I have two beautiful children. I do the best I can considering what I have to work with, but sometimes — many times — that doesn't seem enough. One of the biggest problems I face is whether I should be staying home with my children or whether I should be OUT THERE: the wild frontier, the foreign state — the work force. I mean, what right do I have to complain about poverty when I willingly accept welfare? If it's so bad, why am I not working and making my own money? Right?

I was the first person in my very middle-class, hard-working family to go on welfare. In fact, I was the first person in my upstanding, highly moral family not to get married because I was pregnant. I can still see it clearly: young, pregnant, and terrified like I'd never been before, shouting in their faces that I didn't care if they turned their backs on me — I'd make it — I'd always make it. Well, here it is six years after that point, and not only am I still on Mother's Allowance, I now have two children. I pay for it dearly. I pay for it every time I look out the window at the garbage on the streets and the drunks in the doorways. I pay for it when I realize if I keep this up my children will be playing on those streets. This could be the best they'll ever know. My God, sometimes I think my family was right — every day I pay dearly for the fact that I didn't marry a man I didn't love. Society may appear to be changing, but underneath all the media hype about liberation and the superficial social comments one hears, my life still represents a serious transgression against the accepted way of doing

I have tried many times to support myself, but Family Benefits has often been like a cocoon for me — sometimes it insulates me and takes me beyond many of the regular realities people working outside the home face. I cannot deny that with all the problems I have had to deal with being a single parent, there has been a certain degree of security, knowing that cheque will come every month.

I gave into pressure from my family and went to work when my son was six months old. It didn't last long. I came home early one day to find him screaming, (it was more than an hour past his feeding time) completely soaked, and laying amidst dirty diapers. The sitter was asleep in the living room with her boyfriend. I found out from a neighbour that this had been the daily procedure. I still shudder to think what damage that neglect may have caused, and I have moments of extreme guilt when I think it needn't have happened. I stayed home another year; when my son was one and a half I went back to university. I burned myself out. I had a full course load, a curious and active child, and a part-time job. I missed a year of my son's life and almost ended up in hospital from nervous exhaustion: I had lost twenty pounds in less than five months. After a semi-restful summer I decided to try school again. I was determined to get my degree no matter what the hardship, and rationalized that the immediate sacrifices would be worth financial independence. Ah, another year of pushing myself to the limit, late grants and loans, not eating so my son could, trying to keep up in class with no books, losing myself in all the things I had to do for others — constantly, constantly no money — and I was pregnant again.

I dropped out of school after Christmas and people around me "told me so". I mean, who really expects people on welfare to accomplish anything anyway? After all, I didn't have to get pregnant again, did I? One would think that considering my situation I would do anything I had to in order to prevent that from happening. Nobody can forgive someone committing the same "mistake" twice — especially when it's taking money out of the pockets of people who actually work!

During the past three years I have spent a great deal of time talking to

women on Welfare and Family Benefits, and trying to change many of the seemingly useless, yet extremely demeaning, rules and regulations they enforce. I've been paying a great deal of attention to the ways other women survive in this deliberately humiliating situation. There are many factors common to us all, but the one that stands out strongest, cries loudest into the darkness: we're all fighting for our lives. Every day takes the ultimate strength we can find to make it to the next day. We're pushing ourselves as far as we can go mentally and physically, and when we reach that point we're required to push more. We grab at the loose threads of our lives, hoping to weave them into something comprehensive, yet they remain dangling in the air before us — positive evidence that for all our trying we are no further ahead than we ever were.

I will be stepping out of my cocoon this summer. I've decided to take my chances — can it really be much worse "out there" than it is in this shell of government ownership called welfare? I'm nervous, and afraid I might fail and come running back to the security (however meagre) of that cheque every month, but I will be gaining a freedom I haven't seen for six years. The freedom of knowing I am accountable to no one for who my house guests are, or why I have \$10.00 more than I "should" in the bank. Freedom from surprise visits and intrusions; freedom from personal questions I shouldn't have to answer. I am not so naive as to think it won't be difficult; I'll have a whole new set of problems to deal with, but at the same time I feel as though I'm about to receive some wings of independence I forfeited six long years ago. There is also the knowledge that if I run into trouble I will have welfare to help me. I mean, when you're already on welfare who can you turn to if you lose your money?

Jill Charlene Leach

RENOVATIONS

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Russian roulette with five bullets

By HOWARD HUGGETT

One of the best features of meetings called by anti-nuclear organizations is the high caliber of the discussions that follow the remarks of the main speakers. The rally in the St. Lawrence on March 5th was no exception. Almost everyone who contributed to the questions and discussion had obviously devoted some time and thought to the problems and dangers of nuclear fission and armament. The hall was about three-quarters full and the audience listened intently.

Anyone who went to that meeting with the idea that people who actively oppose the development of nuclear power and its application to the arms race are obsessed with a single issue would have soon learned better. Several of the panelists made it quite plain that in their opinion the problems of nuclear power development could not be separated from those of energy shortages, racial oppression, third world poverty and war. Stephen Gelb dwelt on ways in which such nations as West Germany have collaborated with South Africa to develop nuclear arms that could be used to maintain white rule in that corner of the continent. Linda Grabosky of No-Candu spoke of the efforts of her organization to keep fissionable material out of the hands of the government of Argentina as long as it carries on a reign of terror against

its own people.

But it was left to Shelley Douglas of the Non-Violent Centre to sum it up most simply. The Non-Violent Centre is an organization made up of people from British Columbia and the state of Washington who are trying to stop the construction of the Trident submarine, a nuclear vessel being built at a naval base near Seattle. This monster, which will be as long as two football fields and four stories high, will have the capacity to fire off 408 separate nuclear missiles, each five times as powerful as the bomb dropped over Hiroshima. Shelley Douglas made the point that it wasn't only governments that were responsible for such projects as the Trident, that we were all involved because we are clinging to our present life style with its glorification of excessive consumer spending and deliberate waste, a life style that demands massive use of energy. Because we are indifferent to the poverty and suffering in the third world countries and refuse to share more of our wealth with them we feel obliged to arm to the teeth to defend our privileged position. Very well put, I thought.

As if to emphasize the dangers of nuclear fission, the Globe & Mail of the following morning contained a dispatch from Washington, D.C., as to the present situation at the crippled nuclear plant at Three Mile Island. It is almost one year since an

accident occurred at unit Two reactor on March 28, 1979. For a number of days there was acute danger of a "melt-down" and a major disaster until it was possible to get the unit cooled down. Since that time no one has been able to enter the building, which contains an estimated 600,000 gallons of radioactive water seven feet deep on the floor. There is also the problem of about two million cubic feet of gas contaminated with radioactive krypton.

The policy of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission forbids any release of either gas or water until an environmental impact statement has been prepared. This statement was supposed to be ready by the end of 1980, but NRC staff members report that it will not. So the officials at the Three Mile Island unit will be expected to wait. But the unit itself may not wait; one of the inspectors for NRC who studied the situation said that some of the pipes in the reactor could fall apart before the impact statement is ready. So the officials are faced with an agonizing decision—whether to release this dangerous material without knowing what will happen, or wait and take the chance that it will escape anyway in an uncontrolled-fashion. It sounds like playing Russian roulette, not with one bullet in the six chambers of the revolver, but with five. What a price we are being asked to pay for

the luxury of having all the power we will ever need, or think we will need, or think we will want, at our fingertips.

There is another factor to be considered here. One of the chief arguments that are offered on behalf of Nuclear installations is their low operating costs. The expense involved in building and equipping one is massive, but once it is in operation the running expenses are considerably lower than those of a coal-fired or oil-fired station. But what if it is not operating? Number

2 unit at Three Mile Island has not been running for one year, it is fairly certain that it will not operate in 1980, and it may never run again. It must be just about the most expensive power station ever built.

Of course, Canadian nuclear stations employ different techniques than U.S. ones, and they do appear to be safer. But they do experience leaks and shut-downs, and we should be asking ourselves this vital question: Would it not be cheaper and a whole lot safer to cut down on energy use?



Bankers meet on Parliament Street. Two of Parliament Street's bank managers, Peter Lee (L) of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Gerrard and Parliament; and Kingsley Yung, (R) of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Carlton and Parliament, shake hands. The occasion was organized by the Old Cab-

bagetown Business Improvement Association to recognize Peter Lee's contribution to the association. He is moving to Alberta, and his going away present was an \$11 growth certificate from the Bank of Commerce. Photo (at very short notice) by Sooter Studios.

Road Salt

Road salt is more destructive than we think, and we should seriously question its use.

Salt may be costing far more money than it saves by preventing accidents. Salt-related damage in Canada, based upon damage done to vehicles, highways, bridges and trees, is estimated at \$300 to \$350 million yearly.

Road salt may also be doing irreversible damage to water supplies.

The University of Toronto's Institute for Environmental Studies has made a number of findings on salt damage. These include:

- The level of sodium in private water supplies near major highways was found to be as high as 400 mg. per litre, presenting a health hazard for those on low-salt diets.

- If salt accumulates in the ground and in underground streams, the water will eventually become undrinkable.

In addition, wet salt speeds up the rust corrosion of cars, slamming most car owners with a \$200-a-year repair bill.

Though salt cannot as of yet be eliminated from road use, the amount can be controlled. For example, the town of Nepean, Ontario, saved about \$30,000 by selective salting, mixing salt and sand, and by doing more plowing.

These measures could easily be adapted to other cities and towns which are becoming aware of the dangers of salt.

Streethaven

Streethaven, a refuge for women at 87 Pembroke St., is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary in March.

Since 1965, Streethaven has been providing food, clothing, short term shelter and rehabilitation for women 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you need help, call Streethaven at 967-6061.

John gone

The ancient underground public washroom at Queen and Broadview is going to be closed.

The washroom is used fairly infrequently, apparently, and is plagued by leaking plumbing and poor electrical circuits. As a result, the city property committee has decided that the washroom should be closed.

However, the fixtures of the washroom are being handed over to the Toronto Historical Board so that future generations will have some idea of what it was like.

City Hall reports

By Cathy Kerr

City Council has:

- Approved a request from the owners of Dimple's Cafe to operate an open air boulevard cafe during the summer months at 821 Queen St. E.
- Approved the recommendation of the Department of Buildings and Development to re-affirm zoning and height regulations outlined in the city's official plan for the King-Parliament area which permits industrial and institutional development in that area. A request proposed by some land-holders in the area for a change to permit commercial development which would improve the profitability of their properties was refused. A height examination however was granted to Sackville Public School.
- Approved the Comprehensive Concept Plan for the Trans-Nation Incorporate and Howard Investment lands between Jarvis and Homewood Streets south of Wellesley. This is a residential development which gives the city the opportunity to achieve two residential projects. Changes to the developer's original plans include the inclusion of more grade-related family units, and the retention of existing house-form buildings on Jarvis Street.

The Committee on Public Works has:

- Recommended that Council proceed in changing the name of portions of Wilton Street and Berkley

Streets to Scadding Avenue.

- Approved a proposal closing and conveyancing of Ontario Street between King and Front Streets.
- Approved a proposal for permission to construct a loading dock at 5 Defries St.
- Approved a request for permission to maintain two existing but unauthorized planters within city street allowance fronting 65 Sherbourne St.

The Executive Committee has:

- Approved in principal proposals for pavement and street improvements in the St. Lawrence Historic District Phase 1 but referred the study to the budget review groups for their comments.
- Directed the clerk to notify those merchants in the proposed Business Improvement area on Queen St. East of a probable increase in their municipal taxes if the proposal is accepted and implemented.

A press release prepared by the Association of Gay Electors (A.G.E.) announced that the Gay Community in Ward Six will attempt to elect a gay representative to City Council. It will represent the first time that Toronto's lesbian and gay communities have nominated a candidate for elected office. A.G.E. President Tom Warner noted that "Gay persons have been elected to office in the United States, but this represents the first time in Canadian history that gays have seriously attempted to elect a candidate."

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Dundas School was site of literacy project

By JOANN HUTCHISON

Dundas Project

Last month the staff of an unpublicized, five-year literacy project submitted their final report to the Toronto Board of Education. While the "insights into effective inner city schooling" offered by the Dundas Project may read like truisms to many inner city teachers, a closer examination reveals several interesting points of departure, especially with respect to classroom organization and staff decision-making.

Mandate

The Dundas Project resulted from a recommendation made by the Work Group on Vocational Schools in 1973. The recommendation asked: "That the Director of Education select two persons . . . to evolve a new course and new methods of instruction in a pilot downtown elementary school, in an effort to learn whether high academic achievement can be effectively based on the culture and language of working-class neighbourhoods."

The Workgroup emphasized that they did not want just another 'remedial' program. Rather, they were proposing 'a quiet, on-going, detailed evaluation of programs'.

They wanted a project that would not be evaluated "for at least five years", so that students' progress could be traced over several years of the program.

There was nothing revolutionary about the intentions of the project. The 1973 mandate bluntly states:

"We emphasize that the fact that a high percentage of students from working-class neighbourhoods do not proceed to university should not be construed as a condemnation of the schools who serve such neighbourhoods."

"This pattern of a close relationship between higher-income levels and school success is general throughout North America, and massively-funded efforts to change the pattern have failed in such projects as Headstart. The Workgroup is well aware that many of the factors affecting school performance are not within the jurisdiction of the School Board . . ."

Despite this statement which seemed to strongly support the status quo and almost to despair of change, project and school staff managed to evolve a program that emphasized "academic achievement and an expectation that the students will do well."

That their students did indeed do well can be seen from the fact that most of the Dundas Project students who went on to Queen Alexandra Senior Public School and reached high school level entered Level 4 or Level 5 programs.

Dundas School

Out of four schools that applied to be pilot project schools, Dundas Junior School at Broadview and Dundas Streets was chosen by the Board. The school serves children from junior kindergarten through Grade 5. Most of the students then proceed to neighbouring Queen Alexandra Senior School for grades

6, 7 and 8.

The Dundas Project began in the fall of 1975 with two resource teachers, Joyce Boucher and Helen-Marie Reid, in charge of developing the project. Mrs. Boucher was later replaced by Margaret Evans. Mrs. Reid was with the project throughout its five-year duration.

Language Program

The project focussed on the language program offered at the school. Teachers were asked to make a commitment to:

- read good prose and poetry to students on a daily basis
- provide 15 minutes daily for the students' own silent reading
- encourage various kinds of student writing, e.g. letters and journal-writing

Classroom libraries were expanded with high interest materials at the students' own reading level.

Staff Decision-Making

During the course of the project, many members of the Dundas staff felt the need to share their ideas about classroom programming with their colleagues in some organized fashion.

As in most schools, staff meetings were held regularly at Dundas school. Such meetings served largely as a time for the principal to pass on information which the staff could then discuss. Major policy decisions were then made by the principal.

However, some teachers reasoned that since the quality of classroom programming is partially determined by the decisions made for the school as a whole, they

should be able to make a major contribution to policy decisions.

At the beginning of the second year of the project, more democratically run staff meetings were begun. Each teacher had the opportunity to prepare the agenda for and to chair the twice-monthly staff meetings. Various committees of teachers were also formed to make recommendations to staff on different policy matters.

Although initially uneasy, the principal at that time, George Baker, came to feel "that some of the best ideas have come from the staff."

Staff Changes

Because of the mobility of teaching staff that resulted from the laying off of teachers and "bumping" procedures, only 17 of the original 37 teachers remained at the conclusion of the project.

This change-over of staff had its negative effects. Not all of those staff "bumped" into the school were committed to the aims and methods of the project and "had only second-hand accounts of the genesis of the project and the shifts in classroom practice introduced at that time."

As a result, the final report recommends that in any contemplated future projects, only those staff committed to the expectations of the project should be assigned to the project school.

Effective Programming

The Dundas Project gained several insights into the improvement of inner city education. The project has concluded that:

• The key focus in improving academic achievement in the inner city is the quality of the language program

• All members of the school community (parents, administration, and staff) must be committed to the extra effort required.

• All staff members must be at the school because they choose to be there, and because they believe that students can improve academic achievement substantially.

• The staff's belief in improvement must be communicated to students as an emphasis on academic achievement and an expectation that the students will do well.

• The emphasis must be on the students' strengths.

• Classrooms may be organised in a variety of ways, but they must have in common a calm, orderly atmosphere.

• School staffs must become involved as partners with parents in the responsibility for better achievement by the students. This will involve regularly scheduled interviews, as well as group meetings.

Film

A film dealing with the project's main features is available to interested staffs and school communities.

Project staff plan to write curriculum development materials to accompany the film for teacher in-service sessions. This "film-prose" package will be available from the Curriculum and Program Division of the Toronto Board of Education, 155 College St. (598-4931).

Pilot project proposed to re-integrate special education

By JOANN HUTCHISON

About seventy-five people came to talk about the Special Education Workgroup at a recent meeting held at Dundas Public School.

The workgroup proposed changes in special programs for primary and junior schools because these programs contain a substantial number of children who are academically behind their peers but not mentally retarded.

The majority of speakers had questions for which they wanted answers. However, only a few took a stand either for or against the Workgroup's proposal.

Aims

The Workgroup plans to ask the Board of Education to establish eight pilot project schools city-wide next year. The emphasis will be on re-integrating into regular classrooms most of those students in self-contained special education classes who are academically behind their peers but who are not educably mentally retarded (EMR).

These students would be given academic withdrawal support daily in the school's learning centre. Smaller regular class sizes are also proposed to aid re-integration.

Children's Needs

John Bates, Inner City Coordinator, told the meeting that the results of several recent inner city projects have shown that kids need to learn to organize their time, the space in which they work, and the task on which they are working.

There are various kinds of streaming at work within our school system, Bates said, and self-contained special education classes are only one way of streaming kids.

T.E.C.C. Support

The Toronto East Community

Council (T.E.C.C.) strongly supported the recommendations of the workgroup, although it had several reservations. Among other things, T.E.C.C. felt that the pilot project should run for 3 years, rather than the two proposed, because the first year would likely be a transition period for both teachers and students.

T.E.C.C. also suggested that the "bumping" of teachers on a seniority basis should be allowed in project schools, but that a screening process should be instituted to ensure compatibility of the teachers (who were bumped into a school) with the project's goals.

Teachers' Aides

The question of providing teachers' aides for the regular classroom teachers in pilot project schools was brought up a few times. Several speakers felt that teachers would likely need such support if they were to undertake to teach a class that included 4 or more children who were seriously behind academically.

One board official suggested that this was unlikely in view of the current financial situation. However, Trustee Bob Spencer (Ward Six) suggested that if the schools were interested, "We can negotiate. . . We can't know the specifics of your situation. This is a general proposal."

How Schools Apply

The Workgroup's proposals will go before the Board in April. If they are accepted, the Director would be asked to provide an implementation plan and to advertise the project throughout the system. At this point, any interested teacher could put in an application.

The Workgroup emphasized that

it should be a staff and community decision because a staffing committee is one way of getting community input.

Team Teaching Model

The proposal calls for three teams of teachers in a project school — one team to take former special education students in their classes; one to take English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) students in their classes, and one to develop local curriculum in their classes.

This suggestion came under attack from several speakers, but the Workgroup indicated that this was a flexible arrangement that did not have to be adhered to.

In some schools, such as Frankland where 79% of the children have Greek as their first language, the team model breaks down. In such a case, there would have to be E.S.L. students in each class and an E.S.L. Learning Centre would be established.

Some parents and teachers were worried that the 3-team approach would simply lead to "streaming in another form". It was suggested that the curriculum-oriented class might come to be viewed as "the elitist class", and that all teachers should be prepared to teach all kids.

Reading Clinic Program

One parent was concerned that his child would no longer be eligible for the Regent Park Reading Clinic program if the child's school was to become a pilot project school.

However, he was assured that his child would receive the same help in his own school from the Learning Centre teacher.

The parent questioned where the teachers would be found to staff these Learning Centres. He suggested that "large expertise"

would be needed to deal with the "many disabilities".

Labelling of Kids

A "psycho-educational consultant" present at the meeting was concerned that children who remain in self-contained programs primary/junior (should their schools not opt for this plan) would be viewed as EMR. Recommendation 704 of the Ontario government now defines all children in Special Programs Primary, Junior, and Senior as "educable mentally retarded." This official labelling was an issue the Board needed to address and resolve, he urged.

Poor Timing

It was suggested that the proposal was badly timed. Teacher transfer forms have to be in by March 15th, yet no decision will be made on this proposal till April. Teachers questioned how they could opt into or out of the proposal at this rate.

A parent also expressed the concern that teachers needed at least a year to re-train in order to run an effective program that would accommodate a wide variety of academic levels. The parent suggested that teacher in-service should take place before children were re-integrated if the first year of the project was to be truly meaningful for teachers and children alike.

Funding

There was some concern over the half million dollars it would cost to fund the project. No clear answer was given, but the Workgroup insisted that current programs would not be cut to fund the proposal.

Literacy

One grade 3 teacher was worried that this might become "just another pilot project school." She asked the Board to focus seriously

on the literacy problem that could be found right now in any regular classroom.

She said 15 of the 25 children in her class had already spent an extra year in the primary division, but they were still behind academically. She doubted that most of these kids would be placed in special education. She said most would simply go through the regular system falling farther behind ending up in level on to three in high schools.

Trustee George Martell (Ward Seven) agreed that the Workgroup proposal just scratched the surface of the literacy problem and added that trustees were aware of the growing problem and intended to do something about it. The Workgroup proposal is just a beginning, he said.

Gas deposits arbitrary

Do you own the place where you live, or are you a tenant? What kind of neighbourhood is it in? And should either of these factors make any difference when the gas company decides whether to demand a security deposit before connecting your gas?

The Consumers' Gas Company's answer is "yes". During recent Ontario Energy Board hearings on the company's application for a rate increase, a company witness testified that not only these factors but your occupation, "residence stability" and other criteria are used to determine whether you'll be asked for such deposit.

According to David Morton, Director of Customer and General Accounting for Consumer's Gas, "If the customer owns the house where the gas is supplied, we feel we have a greater chance of the customer being a good paying customer than we would in a situation where it is just a tenant."

He added that other factors, such as the neighbourhood, are also considered. However, the company has no definite or written policy on asking for deposits. The actual amount of the deposit demanded is arbitrary as well, with gas customers in some areas paying double the deposit required of others.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday March 29

It's **euchre night** at the Simpson Avenue United Church, 115 Simpson Ave. (at Howland). Admission is \$2 and there will be refreshments and prizes. The fun begins at 7:30 p.m.

Good used clothing, kitchen utensils, etc. are available at a **rummage sale** taking place in the Woodgreen United Church, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Pilot Club of North America will be having a **rummage sale and flea market** at St. Luke's United Church (at Sherbourne and Carlton), today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Storytellers School of Toronto presents the second annual Toronto Festival of Storytelling today and tomorrow from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse at 106 Trinity St. (1 east of Parliament; half south of King) and places nearby. Tickets \$7.50 per day; \$2.50 for children. 924-8625.

There will be a "Damned if You Do" party at 8 p.m. at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach. "Damned if You Do" is the new Ward 7 musical. This party is open to anyone; you don't have to be a member of the cast.

Sunday March 30

Rev. Eric Nelson will be speaking at the St. Luke's Forum, 353 Sherbourne St. at 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

There will be **choir singing** at the Simpson Avenue United Church (Simpson at Howland) at 11:00 a.m.

Monday March 31

Photographer Michael Duquette will be having his works exhibited at "This Ain't the Rosedale Library", 115 Queen St. E., starting today.

There will be a full cast rehearsal for "Damned if You Do" at 7 p.m. at Castle Frank. Act I Scene 2 and Act II Scenes 3 and 4 will be rehearsed in detail. (Music and dancing as well as spoken parts). Also: Act II Scene 1 will be rehearsed separately.

Wednesday April 2

Anyone interested in becoming involved in **volunteer work** is invited to attend a special **Volunteer Night** at Neighbourhood Information Post on Wednesday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

The many different types of work available for volunteers at the information centre will be outlined. The evening will also offer volunteers a chance to meet each other and the N.I.P. staff.

Opportunities for volunteer work with other organizations can also be obtained from N.I.P.

Work at N.I.P. includes supervising the current free income tax clinics, gathering and filing information, typing, answering phones, publicity, fund-raising, "joe" jobs, pamphlet distribution, production of the newsletter and much more. One special need is for a good organizer who would be willing to act as co-ordinator of the volunteers. This work could be handled chiefly at home by telephone if desired.

If you would like further information, telephone Neighbourhood Information Post at 265 Gerrard East. The office is located in Library House, next door to the Parliament Street Library. Telephone 924-2544 or 924-2543.

There will be a rehearsal for "Damned if You Do" at 7 p.m. at Winchester School, 15 Prospect St. (Act I, Scenes 1 and 4 (no chorus)).

Thursday April 3

Father Goose will be the featured film at the Parliament St. Library, 269 Gerrard St. E. tonight at 6:00 and tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

The Ontario Checker Championship will be held at the 519 Church Street Community Centre at 9:00 pm.

Sunday, April 6

Rev. Gordon Winch will be the featured speaker at the St. Luke's Forum, 353 Sherbourne St., at 2:30 pm. All welcome.

The Choir of the Simpson Avenue United Church (115 Simpson Avenue) will be singing **cantatas** by Bach and others at 11:00 am.

Monday, April 7

Handel's Messiah (parts II and III) can be heard at the Simpson Avenue United Church, at 8:00 pm. Admission is \$3.

Wednesday, April 9

"High Technology Health Care Under Fire — **Childbirth in the 80's**" is the topic of tonight's **forum** at the St. Lawrence Centre Town Hall. Admission is free, and all are invited to come and contribute to the discussion.

Thursday, April 10

The **Gold Rush** will be screened at the Parliament St. Library, 269 Gerrard St. E. at 6:30 pm tonight, and tomorrow at 2 pm.

Friday, April 11

The St. Jamestown Cancer Drive will be holding a **rummage sale** from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm in the auditorium at 240 Wellesley St. E.

Saturday, April 12

The St. Jamestown Cancer Drive is holding a **flea market** in the 240 Wellesley St. E. auditorium, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Ongoing

Rock Against Racism, a group that uses music to bring together people of different races, holds meetings **every Sunday at 1:30 pm**, at the 519 Church St. Community Centre (just north of Wellesley).

Learn a **new craft** in just three sessions or less. For three Saturdays in April the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse will be running a series of **craft classes**. Classes will be offered in quilting, crochet, quill art, native Canadian beadwork, and much more. To register, phone 863-0010.

Action Volunteers, a non-profit group that cares for animals, has a sale **every Saturday** from 12 to 4 pm at 338 Jarvis St. Offered for sale are china, glass, brass, and clothing at very low prices.

Casa Loma will be having a **spring fling** on Friday, April 18. The music will be provided by the Art Hallam Orchestra and dress will be "1930's-1940's retro". Tickets are on sale now for \$25 per person; \$50 per couple.

Harbourfront

Saturday, Mar. 29: Bring your children to a **puppet-making workshop**, and then join the Kaleidoscope theatre workshop from 1 to 5 pm at York Quay Centre. Admission is free.

Sunday, Mar. 30: An antique fabric festival is being held at 222 Queen's Quay W. from 10 am to 5 pm. The festival will feature a show and sale of quilts, oriental rugs, lace and antique clothing. Admission is 50¢.

Celebrate Easter with Toronto's Ukrainian community at 222 Queen's Quay W. from 11 am to 7 pm. The program will include dancing and music, demonstrations of Easter egg painting and a craft exhibition. Admission is 50¢ for adults, children and seniors free.

Ikebana workshop: Learn the ancient Japanese art of **flower arrangement** today from 2 to 4 pm at York Quay Centre.

Monday, Mar. 31: A month-long series of films featuring Simone Signoret and Yves Montand ends tonight with the award-winning film **Z**. Screening time is 7:30 pm at **York Quay Centre**. Admission is free.

Tuesday, April 1: David Wilcox with the Original Sloth Band plays at **8:00 pm**. Admission is free. York Quay Centre.

Wednesday, April 2: Open Poetry Night invites poets, playwrights and authors to present their work. 8 pm, York Quay Centre.

Mariposa Mainland presents a **storytelling evening** with Dan Yashinsky, Reed Needles, and others in York Quay Centre, 8:30 pm.

Thursday, April 3: The Equity Showcase presents **Little Brother, Little Sister** tonight through Sunday at 8:30 pm in York Quay Centre. Free.

Friday, April 4: Square Dancing, with music provided by **Scottish Accent**, will be happening tonight at York Quay Centre, 7:30 pm.

Thursday, April 10: Montreal's contemporary dance troupe **Pointeplenu** performs tonight through Sunday at York Quay Centre, 8:00 pm. For reservations, phone 869-8412.

Saturday, April 12: Learn about **student exchange programs** to Latin America and Europe during the summer today at 9:00 pm at York Quay Centre.

Community Calendar is a free community service. If you have an upcoming event which you would like listed in the April 11 issue (all events between April 11 and April 26 should

go in this issue), fill out the coupon below and mail or bring it to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto M5A 2A2.

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DATE OF EVENT

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

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Good Friday 1 — 3 pm Meditations on the Crucifixion
2 pm Bach's St. Luke Passion
Sung by the Choir and soloists

Holy Saturday 7 pm The Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 9 and 10:30 am Choral Eucharist

Rector The Rev. V.I. Goring
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SX-70 imagery startling

By MIKE SIGGINS

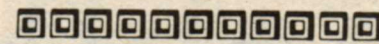
What's 4-1/2" x 3-1/2" and can capture startling imagery every 1.5 seconds? The pictures that you and your SX-70 camera make. If you were a famous artist or photographer, you could have had one of yours in the "SX-70 Art" exhibit which showed recently at A Moment In Time Gallery. It was a fitting way for them to open a new decade.

This new medium of snapshots with its simple foolproof operation has revolutionized photography. The freedom it permits the photographer must be what accounts for the astounding range of subject matter. The variety of vision that these pictures have are what struck me the most. They now can be seen in the book SX-70 Art, Lustrum Press.

Two pieces of crumpled tissue paper in mid-air about to collide, with only a plain brick wall as background works very well in its simplicity. Some others were manipulated after they were taken. The results were very interesting because of their painterly quality. They showed a depth and colour resembling tiny oil paintings, the kind yet to be painted! The fluidness and texture of one partially worked photograph gave the impression of 3D vision. The candid nature of these photos shows the artist's excitement with this quick and easy camera. There seems to be a more direct link with the eye than with standard film.

Some people would argue as to whether or not these photographs

can actually be called art when all it took was for someone to point the camera and press a button. What I learned about colour from one visit to that show was enough to make me a believer. I was made aware of this as I stepped out of the gallery. I noticed for the first time the tacky and unusual green paint of the restaurant across the street. Certain colours and scenes like these were exposed in this exhibit, and made me appreciate them.



No rights

The Workmen's Compensation Board's medical reports are supposedly confidential among the board, doctor, and the injured worker.

However, the WCB applies a double standard in dealing with "confidential" medical records. Certain government agencies and departments are allowed access.

The WCB refuses to send medical reports to an MPP's office even though the request is accompanied by the written permission of the injured worker.

On the other hand, if the request for medical reports comes from the Canada Pension Plan offices, also accompanied by the worker's written permission, the information is granted.

This information is then used to deny the injured worker Canada Pension benefits.



List tells who delivers groceries

A Grocery Delivery Directory for the South Riverdale area is now available. The directory lists stores that will delivery groceries in the above area. Phone or personal shopping is available. This booklet is particularly useful to the elderly, the handicapped, mothers of young children, and others who may be unable to leave the house to go shopping or to carry heavy groceries home. Directories are available for 15¢ from Support Services at Woodgreen Community Centre, 461-1168. The boundaries of the area covered by the directory are the Don River on the west, Danforth on the north, the lake on the south, and Coxwell on the east.

Is your fridge a dangerous weapon?

By ANNE WOODS

Can you remember, as a child, lying bare buff in a warm and open field with the sun pouring down on you? The only sounds were the stark cry of the loon from the forest and the gurgling of a nearby brook. You closed your eyes, threw your head back and laughed with delight, all your senses basking in the pleasure of feeling much like a little flower, swaying gracefully back and forth in the gentle breeze. It felt so good to be alive and tingling in every inch of your body that all at once you started rolling around on the ground, tumbling, somersaulting and then keeling over with laughter, bursting at the seams with good humour and health.

Health is like currency. Having none, our lives are miserable. Having plenty, we may not be happy but at least we are free. When we are healthy every day is richer, offering the prospect of pleasant interlude. Did you ever lie in the quiet dark, mentally tracking the course of health running, like the bloodstream, through your body? Crinkle your toes, pull in your stomach, stretch your hands, relax all over. A body without pain is manna from heaven.

Diet, physical fitness, mental state and environment are the major determinants in whether or not you will be as healthy at 50 as you were at 5. People who eat well, exercise regularly, look forward to each day and breathe clean air have a fat chance for contented longevity. Do you?

This is the first in a series of articles on quality of life through lifestyle. Although the focus of the series will be on nutrition and related subjects like food additives and processing, I will also be discussing topics like fitness and pollutants which have a direct bearing on health. Dr. D.F. Chebotarev of the Russian Institute of Gerontology, for instance, maintains that brain and muscle age least when most used and Dr. Helen Caldicott, a

well-known anti-nuclear activist, warns us that radiation can plant its kiss of death without our even knowing it.

Today will start off with a simple quiz based on information in *Nutriscore* by Ruth Fremes and Dr. Zak Sabry. *Nutriscore* is a first rate layman's guide to understanding the basics of food, its digestion and functions. Give yourself 10 points for every right answer and total your score. 0-40 points — You have got a way to go yet. 50-80 points — You are well underway. 90-100 points — Maybe you could help me write this column? Here goes.

1. If given two cups of food identical in aroma and flavour but one which contains more nutritious food than the other, who will instinctively choose the better product?

1 Vegetarians 2) Rats 3) Eccentrics
2. The word on a magazine cover guaranteed to sell the most copies is:
1) Sex 2) Health 3) Diet
3. Which of the following foods have calories?

1) Fats and carbohydrates 2) proteins 3) All three

4. With a population of 22 million, Canada has how many adults who are grossly obese?

1) 1 1/2 million 2) 750 thousand 3) 1 million

5. Cholesterol is a fat
1) manufactured by the body
2) that we get only when we eat animal protein 3) that is bad for us even in small amounts.

6. Water is the main component of the body. How much of body weight is water?

1) 2/3 2) 1/2 3) 1/4

7. On a daily average North Americans eat how many meals away from home?

1) 1 out of 3 2) 2 out of 3 3) 3 out of 3

8. In Canada, medical and dental disease related to malnutrition cost in the range of how much per year?

1) 500 million dollars 2) 1 billion dollars 3) 1 1/2 billion dollars

9. What is the ratio of fat to protein in a juicy T-Bone steak?

1) 70% fat/30% protein 2) 50% fat/50% protein 3) 30% fat/70% protein

10. You should beware of Vitamins A, D, E and K because they:

1) scare easily 2) are hard to find in their natural state 3) are fat soluble.

ANSWERS:

1. No. 2. Rats! They have been known to go on hunger strikes when a healthy diet is replaced by a less adequate one.

2. No. 3. One in every three teen-

agers and adults is estimated to be on a diet.

3. No. 3. A balanced diet is made up of 30% calories from fat, 60% from carbohydrates and 10% from protein.

4. No. 1. 1 1/2 million. What more can be said?

5. No. 1. Our bodies make cholesterol in small amounts which float in the bloodstream. It is when we eat too many fats called saturates which are heavy in hydrogen content that we build up too much cholesterol and run the risk of a stroke or heart attack.

6. No. 1. We can do without food for several days. Without water we cannot last long.

7. No. 2. The figure is distressing since many of these meals consist of fast and convenience foods that are high in calories, low in nutrition.

8. No. 3. Malnutrition. Here in Canada, you say!

9. No. 2. Yes, all you steak lovers — 50% fat. Dieters craving protein might try fillet of sole instead. It has 80% protein and 20% fat.

10. No. 3. The body stores fat soluble vitamins. When the stockpiles are too large, they can be toxic.

Help for Park School proposed

By KARIN JOVEVEER

There is an elementary school in this area where 60 per cent of grade eight graduates go on to 2-year or 3-year vocational programs, rather than completing high school, and where many children are consistently working below grade level. The frustration generated by this situation at Park School prompted thirty-eight teachers there to apply last year for transfers.

By transferring, the teachers hoped to draw attention to a bad situation. Shortly thereafter, the Park Community Educational Council (PCEC) was formed, comprising administrative staff, teachers and other school personnel, concerned parents and representatives from the Toronto Board of Education, including John Bates, coordinator of the Inner City programs. The teachers had previously submitted a list of concerns to the Inner City department of the Board of Education.

Using feedback from PCEC and information obtained from a variety of special projects, such as SCORE (School and Community Organization to Revitalize Education), Bates created a preliminary plan of action — the **Park School Report**. This report suggests a number of ideas to help remedy some of the problems currently besetting

Park School. These proposals have been passed and are ready to be implemented (some are already underway).

The report advocates reaching the young (grades kindergarten to three) school children. One suggestion for reaching them is a preschool outreach program which would bring together parents of pre-school children to share experiences and concerns of childrearing, and participate with their youngsters in activities of a school preparatory nature. Another proposal is to have these parents continue to meet once their kids are in school to discuss how their children are (or are not) progressing.

For children in the primary division (kindergarten to grade three), the emphasis would be on ensuring parents that their children will perform at grade level when he or she finishes the primary division. This proposal tackles the problem of children who cannot read properly or do basic math floundering badly in senior grades.

The report also calls for the availability of extra resources to teachers in regular classrooms who have pupils with developmental difficulties. These extra resources include a preventative screening procedure and assistance to teachers in developing observation techniques and correc-

tive programs.

There is a question of funding for resource specialists and materials, which will require resolution.

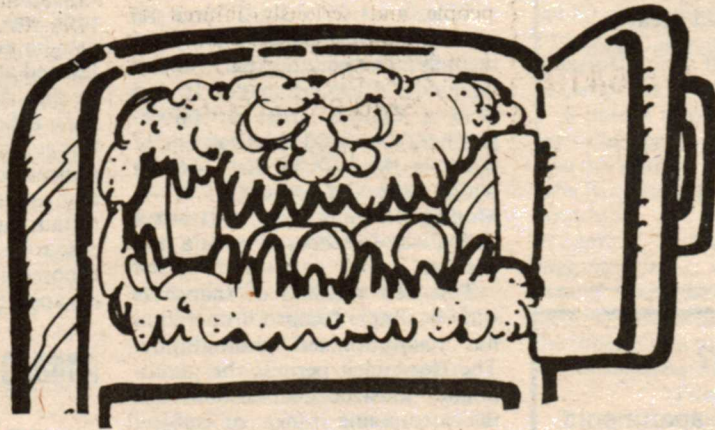
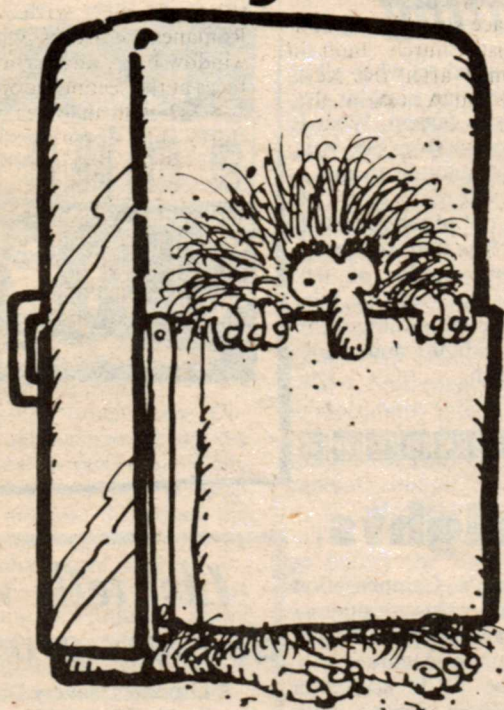
For students in the junior/senior division (grades four to eight), the report suggests that the rotary system, whereby students rotate to different classes and teachers, might be less than ideal. It recommends pairing teachers in teams that would work with children in specific interest areas, and for teachers to provide intensive workshops or short "how-to" courses for students weak in certain academic areas. It is hoped that a curriculum resource person would be available to staff to develop study units using local community resources.

This report requires commitment from all staff at the school before it can be implemented. As well, details have to be ironed out regarding how specialists can be incorporated into the program.

One crucial issue the report overlooked is *smaller* classes so that children can receive more academic attention. Of course this means providing more teachers, and that does not seem to be considered a priority these days, to say the least. This is one area PCEC should contest in the future.

How many of the thirty-eight teachers who have applied for transfers at the end of the year will change their minds and stay? Will this proposed plan of action help? It is important to follow what happens at this inner city school, as it echoes the problems currently being experienced by many other inner city schools.

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Queen Street East goes back through the years



1. Queen Street East, looking west from Saulters, in 1906;



2. Queen St. East, the same view, taken in 1980;



3. Orient Hall, also known as the Poulton Block (1885), at the NW corner of Queen and Boulton.

By GEORGE RUST-D'EYE
The five-block part of Queen Street East from the Don River to the railway tracks is of interest because of its history, and because of some of the buildings and street names which remain from its early periods.

The earliest plan of the Town of York, made in 1793, the year of its founding, shows what is now Queen Street East as an easterly extension of Lot Street, the northern boundary of the Town. As transportation links were extended from York, which was the capital of the Province of Upper Canada, this street, because of its eventual destination, became known as the Kingston Road.

In 1796, all of the land between the Don River and what is now Broadview Avenue was granted to

John Scadding, who had come to York with Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe. When Simcoe returned to England that year, Scadding accompanied him, leaving George Playter in charge of the property, installing him in the log house which Scadding had built beside the Don River, just south of the Kingston Road. This is said to be the cabin which was moved to the Exhibition Grounds by the York Pioneers in 1878. It can be seen today, just west of the Bandshell.

In 1817, John Scadding returned to York and proceeded to subdivide his property. That part below Kingston Road was sold in 1819 to William Smith, Jr., who, in 1820, established a tannery beside the Don. Eventually, in the 1880's, part of this land was expropriated by the City for the purpose of

straightening and improving the Don River.

The boundaries of the part of Queen Street in question are railway tracks. In 1856, the Grand Trunk Railway extended its tracks into what had become the City of Toronto. These tracks, also later used by the Toronto and Nipissing Railway, cut across Queen Street just east of DeGrassi, from where they turned south-west to cross the Don.

In 1890, the tracks of the Toronto Belt Line Railway were laid out through the Don Valley. The Belt line, a street railway service which circled the City, was ready for traffic in 1891, but did not prove popular. It closed after a few months. Meanwhile, in 1889, negotiations were concluded to allow, the Canadian Pacific Railway to run its tracks down the Don Valley, parallel to those of the Belt Line, which were later taken over by the Grand Trunk.

In 1889, a small station was built beside the tracks on the west side of the Don. It was the second to be known as the Don Station, the first having been built in the 1850's, further south, to serve the G.T.R., approximately where Eastern Avenue crosses the Don. The second Don Station remained in its place until 1969, when it was moved to Todmorden Mills Park, where it can be seen to-day.

Both the G.T.R. and C.P.R. tracks originally crossed Queen Street at grade. However, on November 17th, 1904, a collision between a steam locomotive and a streetcar at the level crossing at Queen and DeGrassi, which killed 3 people and seriously injured 17

others, led to the elevation of the G.T.R. tracks over Queen, and of Queen Street over the tracks west of the Don.

Improvements to the Kingston Road were paid for by tolls, originally at a Toll House just east of the Don. It was replaced by a new building in 1856. A later Toll House stood until the 1880's in the intersection of Kingston Road and Don Mills Road, (later Queen and Broadview, respectively). Broadview Avenue south of Queen was known as the Scadding Road.

The area was known as Don Mount. That part of it south of Queen was included in the City at the time of its incorporation, in 1834. Fifty years later, the area north of Queen, known as Riverside became part of the City, as St. Matthew's Ward.

Brown's Toronto General Directory of 1856 shows seventeen residents on Queen Street between the Don and G.T.R. tracks. Listings include the toll taker, a stoneware manufacturer, a farmer, a potter, a shoemaker, and a blacksmith. There were two taverns, — the Rising Sun and the G.T.R. Tavern, a foundry, and a Wesleyan Chapel.

By 1874, many of the cross-streets had been given the names by which they are known to this day:

- Munro: after George Munro, Mayor of Toronto, 1841;

- Lewis: Catherine Lewis, wife of John Saulters, a local farmer, who also gave his own name to a street;

- Boulton: probably after W.H. Boulton, Mayor 1845-6, 7, 8, or a Mr. Justice Boulton;

- Strange: Maxwell Strange, an auctioneer who lived in this area in the 1830's;

- DeGrassi: Alfio DeGrassi, merchant, insurance agent and prominent Mason in the 1870's.

Davies was known as Mill Road, and Baseball Place was part of Smith Street. Queen Street was named after Queen Victoria.

Residents in 1874 included a town crier, a cabinetmaker, a soap maker, a silversmith, and a number of carpenters. The Royal Standard Hotel stood at the north-east corner of Grant and Queen.

The Toronto Directory of 1881 shows about 70 residents living on this part of Queen Street. The Lewis Street Baptist Church had been built at the NW corner of Queen and Grant, and the Riverside office of the Montreal Telegraph Company stood at the corner of Queen and Saulters. Between Strange and Woodgreen Place stood the Woodgreen Methodist Church, built in 1875, and named after the Revs. Drs. E. Wood and A. Green, lifelong friends of Rev. John Carroll, the founder of the church. Egerton Ryerson preached in the church on its opening day.

By the 1890's, the area was fully developed, and Queen had become the main street to a bustling Victorian community. Several of the

buildings from the early period survive. Among them are a number listed on the Toronto Historical Board Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance. These are:

- The Broadview House Hotel, (1890), NW Queen and Broadview;
- Canadian Bank of Commerce, (1905, NE Queen and Grant;

- 758-766 Queen, (1904), a commercial row characterized by its large windows;

- the former Postal Station G, (1912-13), SW Queen and Saulters, designed by E.J. Lennox, architect of the Old City Hall;

- Poulton Block, formerly Orient Hall Masonic Lodge, (1885), NW Boulton and Queen;

Other old and interesting features of this area are:

- no. 685 Queen St. East, a handsome large brick house of the 1890's;

- Baseball Place, — a short street of 6 small houses erected in the late 1890's. This road once led to the Toronto Baseball Grounds, from 1886 to 1897 the home of Toronto's professional baseball team; the clubhouse was on the north side of Queen.

- the underground lavatories at SE Broadview and Queen, (1910). Among the very few of such facilities ever built in this City, they are well-appointed, with handsome fixtures and woodwork. The City intends to remove them soon, but the fixtures will be given over to the Toronto Historical Board.

Some of the other interesting buildings remaining from before the turn of the century are:



758-766 QUEEN Street East. Also listed by the Toronto Historical Board.

- 639-55 Queen Street East; two units are missing from this block, but the remainder feature the intricate brickwork and terra cotta decorations, including faces, typical of many Toronto buildings of the 1890's;

- 680-686: another attractive 1890's row, featuring maple leaves in decorations, and Romanesque design;

- 736-742: of the same period as those above, with alternating Romanesque arches and projecting window bays, and terra cotta lions' faces at the second floor level;

- 782-790: an older Victorian 2-storey block with polychromatic brickwork, — late 1870's or early 1880's;

- 800: possibly the oldest building on this part of Queen Street, in 1890 it was a grocery store; the buildings to the east of it date to the late 1870's.

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FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE Low rent. 572 Parliament St. 3rd Floor. South Wellesley E. around Bloor. Busy Business area. See to appreciate. Occupancy May 1980. Call: 922-5970

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS to Margie Watson, (7 News Business Manager), on the birth of her son, Anton Alexander, on March 22. As befits 7 News' newest supporting member, Anton weighed in at 7 lbs., 7 oz. Baby and parents are doing well.



DAY CARE/BABYSITTING

BABYSITTER wanted. Young girl to babysit after school and weekends in Logan/Gerrard area. Must be willing to sleep over occasionally. Non-smoker only. Please phone Mrs. Gilbert 461-6120.

A MONTESSORI DAY CARE CENTRE for children 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 yrs will open in this area September 1980; \$50/week subsidies available, hot healthy lunches, hours 8 to 5. If you are interested, we also welcome your help to organize it. Call 461-6427 or 469-0470.

HELP WANTED

PAPER INSERTERS, VARIOUS PERMANENT HOURS. Apply 655 Queen St. East.

MISCELLANEOUS

David's Tea Room — Prophecy in a tea-cup — Predictions from palmistry — signs in the crystal — the mysteries of the Tarot cards. 241 Queen St. E. 368-9610.

ARTICLES WANTED

WANTED: Good used portable massage table. Call Rob Cusson, leave message 626-5465.

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:

dixon hall neighbourhood centre

Activities, services, & advocacy for all ages in the interest of local community development...

58 Sumach
863-0498

Notes From the Director

This is the first issue of Dixon Hall providing its monthly newsletter through 7 news. We are extremely pleased that we have been able to work out this arrangement. Hopefully, in this way, we can continue to keep our old friends up-to-date on our activities, and make many new friends as well, since 7

News has a readership in Ward 7 that exceeds our present constituency. Those of you who are new to Dixon Hall will be warmly welcomed at any of the programmes mentioned below.

Dixon Hall's history in Ward 7 goes back some fifty years. From

the days of the Depression with soup, milk and clothes handouts, we have moved into the '80's with a dynamic, hardworking staff group and some very exciting programmes. Our emphasis is on self help activities and residents run projects. Drop in and check us out. I think you will find us approachable.

Of Interest to Seniors



Mondays

Crafts — quilting, sewing, knitting. Come out and bring new ideas
Noon-1:00 p.m.: Luncheons, \$1.00. Volunteers are needed to help prepare lunch.
1:30 p.m. April
7 Easter Monday. Centre closed.
14 Folk Dancing with Al Gladstone
21 Bingo and Birthday Party
28 "The National Dream" parts 3 and 4, based on Pierre Berton's book.

Tuesdays

1:00-3:00 p.m. Cards, euchre, bridge and cribbage
1:00-3:30 p.m. Men's Club
Wednesdays
1:00-4:00 p.m. Income Tax. By appointment only.

Trips Meeting:

Thursday, May 1, 10:00 p.m.
Trips
May 28-29. Kingston/Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg. Cost: \$75.00 Twin \$85.00 Single
Includes:

- accommodation
- tour of Fort Henry
- tour of Upper Canada Village
- 2 lunches
- 1 dinner
- 1 breakfast and coffee stop

Call Linda (863-0499) for more information. Full payment must be made at time of booking.

Tuesday April 15 7:00 p.m.

Dixon Hall's Annual Meeting. All Busy Bee members are encouraged to attend and meet the community. Light Housekeeping and Laun-

dry — \$1.50 per hour. Starting May 1, 1980, \$2.00 per hour.

Van Shopping — \$1.00 return per person on Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Call 863-0499 to reserve your seat.

Banking — Call Linda.

Income tax at 155 Sherbourne, Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. — noon until March 28. 220 Oak Street, Fridays 9:00 a.m. — noon till March 30.

Did You Know

That Ann Wilson on our Staff would like you to send her your

Food City cash register slips for C.N.I.B. It helps to get instruments to aid the blind. Send them to Ann at Dixon Hall.

That we are having a Spring Festival on June 28 and if you want to have a booth and sell things call Janice at 863-0499.

That Woodgreen Community Centre on Queen Street East is planning the opening of the new Woodgreen Community Centre on April 17, 1980. That night Wintario will hold its draw at Woodgreen.

Kids' Programs

Monday

Music lessons, Dixon Hall, \$1.00 per lesson.
Young Teen Girls' Club, Dixon Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Teen Girls' Volley ball, St. Paul's School Gym, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Music lessons, Dixon Hall, \$1.00 per lesson.
After-4 Programme, Regent Park United Church, 7-14 years, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Teen Girls' Volleyball, St. Paul's School Gym, 12-17 yrs., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Little Rascals' Club, Dixon Hall, 6-9 yrs., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tutoring, Park School Basement, Park School Students, Grades 3-8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Black Heritage Programme, Regent Park United Church, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Music lessons, Dixon Hall, \$1.00

per lesson.

After-4 Programme, Regent Park United Church, 7-14 yrs., 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Young Teen Girls' Club, Dixon Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Young Teen Boys' Basketball, Lord Dufferin School Gym, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Black Heritage Crafts Programme, Regent Park United Church, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday

Music lessons, Dixon Hall, \$1.00 per lesson.
Tutoring, Park School Basement, Park School Students Grades 3-8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Young Teen Boys' Basketball, Lord Dufferin School Gym, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Friday

Music lessons, Dixon Hall, \$1.00 per lesson.
After-4 Programme, Regent Park United Church, 7-14 yrs., 3:30-5:30

Adult Activities and Services

Pub Night

Dixon Hall will be having a pub night on the third Friday of each month from 8:30-12:30 p.m. If you enjoy music, dancing, playing billiards, backgammon, etc., or just want to sit and chat with friends, make a point of dropping in. Admission is free and food will be on sale. No minors, please.

Exercise Class

An afternoon exercise class is being run here at Dixon each Thursday at 1:00 p.m. The class is being taught by Andrea Sparling, an experienced dance, movement and exercise instructor. If you are interested in exercising to get in shape, to relieve tension and stress, or just to have fun, come out and give it a try. Fee is \$1.00 per class. For more information, call Janice or Felies.

There is also a possibility of a Saturday afternoon disco-exercise class. Anyone interested should leave their name and phone number with Janice.

Ceramics

Ceramics class for adults is being held each Wednesday night from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Learn to make beautiful mugs, bowls, etc. from start to finish. The instructor is Raquel Banyai, who is in a ceramics course

at the Ontario College of Art and also has her own studio. Cost for this class is \$30.00 for 6 weeks — all materials included. For more information call Janice or Ross.

Wen-do

Dixon Hall will be offering a 'wen-do' class for women starting the last week in April. The class will be held each Monday evening from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wen-Do is a system of self-defense designed for women. It offers various methods of dealing with physical and sexual assaults. The instructor is Marilyn Walsh. Cost is \$30.00 for 7 weeks. For information call Janice.

Dog Training

Dog training classes are held each Sunday from 8:00-10:00 p.m. There are two classes of one hour each. Cost is \$50.00 for 8 weeks. Call Irene Lee for more information. The course being offered is basic obedience training, using an experienced dog trainer.

Bingo

Bingo for adults is held each Sunday afternoon at 12:30 and Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Admission is 50¢ and there are cash prizes. Everyone welcome.

Family Night

Every second Thursday is Family Fun Night at Dixon. This programme features food 'n' fun for all ages, and especially for families to come together and enjoy an evening of planned activities. Sometimes we start with a pot luck supper — other times we just serve light refreshments later in the evening. The activities range from table games and bingo to crafts, to dances and parties to films. Admission is 50¢ per person (a little more for special events). Children must be accompanied by their own parent or relative. The dates for April are the 10th and 24th. For details call Richard or June.

Income Tax

The Income Tax clinic continues every Tuesday evening from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Volunteer accountants are available to help complete income tax returns. Appointments are necessary. Call Felies at 863-0499 to make an appointment.

Legal Aid

Lawyers are available for advice on any legal question. They are available from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. No appointment is necessary.



Music School News

Applications are now being taken for Dixon Hall's Summer Music Camp. This camp is open to all of Dixon's Music School students and is being held July 21-August 1. Cost is \$10.00 per person. For more information call Cindy Woods.

A Look in the Mirror

Several months ago we embarked on a research project to try to get a picture of our community: who we are; what our problems are; and what we as a community want. Since this was designed as an "action" type project rather than a traditional survey it involves the people of our community in several ways.

The first task was to gather several groups of people together to list areas of interest and concern, and specific questions within those areas that they felt were essential to an understanding of our community and its needs. As you can imagine, those were long lists, so much time was spent by the groups in culling them down to workable lists of the most significant topics. Then hard data and facts were gathered about each.

Now we're entering the stage of reporting the findings so that you will have more information on hand to help you decide what issues are important to you and how you feel our community should develop.

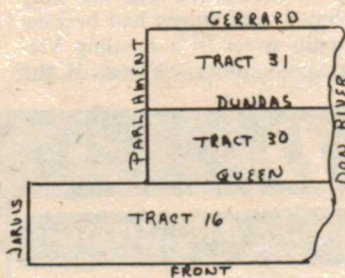
WHO ARE WE?

The most logical place to start is with the findings of the "population" group. This group focused on the makeup of our area's residents in terms of age, sex, marital status and housing style. (Employment, racial and education data will be included in other issues as specific areas of concern.)

This is by no means a complete up-to-the-minute picture, but rather a general one based upon the latest census data (1976) but with trends already clear; so while the ac-

tual percentages may have changed somewhat, the overall picture is pretty close.

The geographical area they concentrated on is:



Did you know that although the population in tract 31 increased during the period between 1971 and 1976, the overall population in our area decreased by 7.9%? This decrease is in keeping with a citywide trend. While the population of the Metro area increased by 7.7%, that of Toronto decreased by 11.1%.

In our community, the increase in the North Regent Park area is offset by the decrease in the rest of the community, due largely to the shift in life style from large families and houses containing several dwelling units to childless or small families occupying single homes.

As gasoline prices go up, this trend will increase, reflecting the necessity for those who are employed in downtown Toronto to live closer to their places of work.

WELL BALANCED "SEXUALLY" ...

Our population is pretty well balanced in terms of sex, with females outnumbering males by only a few hundred. ...

However, in the age department it's interesting to find that more females are in the over 25 category, and more males are in the under 25 category. The largest age group for females is the 25-34 year old group, and for males is the 10-14 group. The largest combined age group is also the 10-14 group, and overall our population is more on the younger side of 30 than the older.

WHERE DO WE LIVE?

The vast majority of us live in rented apartments, and although the trend towards converting houses formerly housing several families into owner-occupied single family dwellings is a clear one, the huge concentrations of public housing units and the remaining tenant occupied houses and flats greatly overbalance it.

AND WITH WHOM?

One of the more unique population characteristics of our area is in the realm of marital status. While (in the age range over 15 years) the number of married people and single people, including widowed and divorced, is almost equal, our area contains one of metro's highest concentrations of single parent families, especially those with very young children. It is also significant to note that the majority of these are mother-led, with the parent

having little or no education or job training.

The other very significant statistic bears out the life style trends indicated earlier! The number of one-person households increased nearly 170%. This supports the two major trends: apartment dwelling as the dominant housing style; and fewer children for the future.

TRENDS BECOME ESTABLISHED

Now while the actual numbers and percentages are constantly changing in any area, population trends usually remain over many years until some natural or artificial intervention affects them, i.e., economic pressures forcing more wives into the workforce; increasing independence of women motivating more women to raise their children alone; the energy crisis forcing more professionals to move closer to work, etc.

The population trends we've talked about in our area create some clear problems for all of us to think about — because whether or not they affect each of us directly, they do affect us all as a community.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

Here are just a few problems to ponder:
Apartment living as the dominant housing style indicates a need for:
• good tenant organizations
• good landlord-tenant communications
• available open spaces for outdoor recreation

The great number of mother-led,

young children families implies a need for:

- education and job training programs geared specifically to their situation
- day care to enable them to upgrade and develop skills
- support services to help them cope with the loneliness, fear and stress of their situation.

The trend away from large families raises serious questions about:

- school enrollment and the argument about smaller classes as opposed to cost savings
- the balance between children's services and those geared to other population groups.

The influx of young professional people into the area will affect:

- the style of commercial, social and recreational services in the area
- the cost and availability of housing for all income groups
- the potential for local skills to be made available to the community
- the need for greater communication among groups to cope with conflicting interest tensions.

These are just a few concerns to start you thinking about our community. In future issues we will discuss others that emerged in our research.

KEEP THIS ...

Keep these articles, because after we've reported all the information to you, we'll be trying to get some discussions and reactions from you about issues and directions for our community.