

Operation Family Rights wins drug card victory

Operation Family Rights is "flogging a dead horse" stated the assistant to Rene Brunelle in an interview recently with SEVEN NEWS and added, "the matter is now before a committee of the cabinet."

Operation Family Rights, a welfare rights group, based at Eastminster United Church on the Danforth submitted a

brief to the Ontario Government early this year asking for improved drug coverage for people on Family Benefits.

Under the present system, a welfare recipient need only show a card to a druggist to receive free drugs. A person on Family Benefits, however, has to buy drugs with his own money and submit the bills at a later

date for reimbursement. This creates a hardship because the money used to buy drugs is taken from their food and rent allotment.

MET WITH MINISTER

In late June, a group of 20 people from OFR met with Rene Brunelle, provincial minister of community and social services as a follow-up to their brief.

On July 5th, Mr. Brunelle announced that he would recommend a better system of drug payment across the province for people on Family Benefits.

At this point, OFR either didn't realize or didn't believe that they had won a significant victory. A week later, on July 12th, the OFR group went to Toronto City Hall and

confronted John Anderson the Metro Welfare Commissioner on the issue. Mr. Anderson stated that, a) he had no jurisdiction in the matter, and b) the province, which had the jurisdiction had already indicated it was prepared to rectify the situation.

STILL NOT HAPPY

Still not content with this, the OFR group again met a week later with Mr.

Anderson and also with Paul Godfrey, Chairman of Metro Council Social Services and Housing Committee.

Both men were sympathetic to the plight of people on Family Benefits and stated they would recommend to the Province that a drug card plan be introduced to Family Benefit recipients on a selected, "by request" basis.

The next SEVEN NEWS editorial meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1st at 8 p.m. at 80 Winchester Street. Deadline for the next issue is Noon, Monday August 7th. Drop copy off at 265 Gerrard, 80 Winchester or 297 Carlton Streets.



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
265 GERRARD STREET EAST

Volume 3, Number 4

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July 28, 1972



WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS THIS PICTURE TAKEN? Some quiet country lane? Away from the heat and dust and pollution of Toronto? You're wrong. This picture was taken in Ward

Seven! WHERE IN THE WARD WAS THIS PICTURE TAKEN? Next issue we'll have more pictures along with a description of a little-known nature trail that runs through the Ward.

News roundup from across the Ward

ARRIVALS: Dick Nells and Bill Lombardo have taken over the duties of Bruce Geddes at the Parliament Street Library House. Bruce, who did wonders in giving the Library House an active role in the community, has been transferred to the Annette Branch where he takes over as chief librarian.....Susan Abella has been hired by the Toronto Community Union Project as a community worker for the South of Carlton area.....Mrs. Leslie Hahn, a social worker specializing in community organizing has been newly hired by Central Neighbourhood House. She's had previous experience working in Montreal and Chile.....Charles Stoodley, 33, has been hired as co-ordinator at the Don Vale Community Centre. He's previously worked as a community rehab worker in Toronto and London.

Mike Fay, who quit his job at Woodgreen Community Centre over an internal policy conflict is temporarily working for the Neighbourhood Renewal Project under a LIP grant. Ed Tamagno, who also quit Woodgreen over the same matter is reportedly still unemployed.....Dallard Runge, a Don Vale resident, has been nominated by the NDP to contest Ward Eight in the next municipal elections. He is now working full time at canvassing in that ward.....Fred Smith, a volunteer worker with Riverdale Community Organization was the prime activator for obtaining free overnight parking for the Riverdale area.

"Bombers" are the latest drug craze amongst the younger criminal element in the area. They're prescription drugs in pill form which produce artificial highs or lows. The use of Speed and Heroin has levelled off after a rapid increase in the early Spring.....The City of Toronto has bought the Railroad site at Wardell and Degraffi Streets for \$1 a square foot. There will be a public meeting to discuss the use and disposition of the site.....The Part Two Planning Study for the South of Carlton area has been completed. Anita Rusak is expected to be named planner for the area. Also watch for a site office to be set up..... Except for the Bleeker-Ontario block,

Meridian has apparently abandoned its plans to redevelop the whole south St. Jamestown area. But reports indicate that Meridian is buying heavily into property south of Carlton Street. Meridian has borrowed money from Great West Life Assurance Company on its West St. Jamestown property and it's probably that money financing their acquisitions south of Carlton.....Fred Wach, the St. Jamestown fencing master has been named coach of the Canadian Olympic Fencing team. Darleen Larson, president of the St. Jamestown Fencing club is rated a potential Olympic and Pan American fencer.....The George Brown College mobile trailer has been stationed in front of the Moss Park Apartments for the summer.....

FAST ACTION: In the same batch of mail picked up last week was an invitation to demonstrate against the non-returnable 3 quart milk jug (from People for Ecological Action) and an announcement that the Ontario Government was banning the 3-quart non-returnable milk jug (from the Ministry of the Environment).

Ward Seven Alderman Karl Jaffary is off to a conference in Geneva Park August 9th to 12th. Topic is "How much government is enough?".....

Bill Weldon, a teacher and resident of Ward Seven has left for a year to teach on a volunteer basis in a mission in Cameroun, West Africa.....Howie (Baldy) Chard has returned as head bouncer at the Gerrard Hotel. Back in 1947, Baldy was named Canada's Great White Hope Heavyweight Champion and boxed extensively under the name, "The Cabbagetown Kid".....The Gerrard Hotel has applied for a liquor license and is undergoing extensive renovations in anticipation of getting it.....

Residents on Spruce Street have complained to the Police Fraud Squad over the loss of radios given to an organization called Frontier House for repair. Frontier House was working under a federal government LIP grant but the grant expired on the 31st of May and a lot of people still haven't had their radios returned.

Residents object to Dundas widening at Eaton Centre hearing

by NORMAN G. BROWNE

Ten residents from Ward Seven attended the recent public hearings on the proposed Eaton's Centre Development. Five of them presented briefs or asked questions. Both Ward Seven Aldermen were also present at the hearings.

Major briefs were read by Bruce Howe, on behalf of the newly formed Federation of Don Area Residents Associations (FODARA), and Father Belway, of St. Bartholomew's Church on behalf of a committee charged with stopping the widening of Dundas Street.

Mrs. Vern Burnett of Hurdale Avenue also spoke out against the Eaton Centre proposal, questioning its aesthetics, design and the possibility that it would endanger the quality of life in downtown Toronto.

And, in a subtle clash of personalities and intellect, Professor James Lorimer of Sackville Street attempted to obtain from Neil Wood, the manager of the project, some information on its financing and profit margin.

The FODARA brief, representing the thinking of associations in Don Vale, South of Carlton, Regent Park, South St. Jamestown, and Trefann was largely concerned with the impact that an increased flow of traffic would have on the Don District.

CHILDREN CROSS STREETS

"Certainly, discussions of widening streets are an indication of this trend," stated Mr. Howe in his brief. "But streets such as Dundas, Gerrard, Shuter, and Wellesley all bisect residential areas. Many people, including children, must cross these streets to reach schools, parks, stores and other facilities. The traffic and congestion and pollution problem exists now, and more cars on wider streets could only make it worse.

"We are specifically concerned about recent proposals to widen Dundas Street and a possible parking garage entrance to Eaton Centre at Shuter and Yonge Streets. A parking

garage at the head of Shuter Street could put tremendous pressure on Shuter Street and it too might eventually be proposed for widening."

The brief concluded by stating that people who work and shop downtown should not be encouraged to drive through residential areas to get there.

The brief suggested that a Downtown traffic plan be developed, that such a plan have a high degree of citizen participation, and that the money saved by not widening streets be used to reduce the cost of TTC fares downtown.

"In the interim," said Mr. Howe, "we suggest that changes which encourage more people to travel by car such as parking garages, wider streets and one-way streets should not continue to be made."

The second major brief from the Ward, read by Father Belway, dealt exclusively with the widening of Dundas Street. The Eaton Centre Proposal asks the City of Toronto to give up all the interior streets in the super block being developed in return for land on the boundaries of the block for the widening of Bay, Dundas, Yonge and Queen.

SECRET PLAN

Father Belway's brief suggests that there is a secret plan for the widening of Dundas Street and that both the city and Metro are picking up land in bits and pieces over a long period of time to eventually widen Dundas Street in accordance with that secret plan.

As evidence of this, he cited the fact that 100 feet has been reserved at Broadview and Dundas, land has been reserved at Sherbourne and Dundas and also in front of the Art Gallery.

"A widening of Dundas between Parliament and River," said Father Belway, "would bisect the community of Regent Park. This would not only destroy the community but definitely increase the possibility of accidents."

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**LETTERS****"We don't want to pick on Rosedale, but ..."**

Dear Sir:

I would like to respond to the "name withheld" letter that appeared in a recent edition of Seven News that attempted to defend the good name of the Rosedale area.

First let me assure this person that I do not wish to continue picking on Rosedale. After all it has suffered enough. What I am incensed about is the way City Bureaucrats seem to allow one area of the City to have privileges that other areas can't enjoy.

The recent garbage strike illustrated this fact. Our area is short of Park space, and yet every one of our Parks and Parkettes were filled with garbage during the strike. We looked across the river and noted that there were some 14 Parks and or Parkettes in Rosedale and only two of them contained any garbage. When we made our tour (the day after the garbage strike was settled) and spoke to a gentleman who lived near the corner of Dale Ave. and Nanton, we learned that they had been taking their garbage to Allen

Gardens. His house is two-tenths of a mile from Creighleigh Park and exactly one mile from Chorley Park where garbage had been dumped. His instructions were to take garbage to Allen Gardens, exactly one mile and four-tenths from his house for it was the "closest place."

Another thing we have observed is that Commissioner Atyeo's men are instructed to pick up garbage from the back of homes in Rosedale. We must leave our garbage at the front of our homes no farther than three feet from the sidewalk. This is not discriminatory, according to Mr. Atyeo, because Rosedale has a raccoon problem. No kidding! We haven't done a count, but we'd make a wager that we have ten dogs to every one of their raccoons.

But this is not discriminatory, and I don't want to pick on Rosedale again. . . . and again. . . . and again. It is just one of those little facts of life (that we want to change).

Ralph Thornton, President
Don Mount Rehab Committee.**Police lose credibility***(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a copy of a letter sent to Jackie Hobbs and Ernie Baker, the "Community Police" stationed at 51st Division. Its author has asked that we print it in SEVEN NEWS.)*

Dear Friends:

I was involved recently in the battle of 45 Bleecker Street. (I even got busted in it for assault. I only wish I'd had the bravery to commit the assault complained of, but that's another story.) I am writing about your role in the battle.

Ex-addicts offer help

A unique experiment in drug counselling and drug education has now developed an out-reach program of interest to residents of Ward Seven.

The project is called "The Circle" and is staffed by prisoners in Collins Bay Penitentiary who are ex-drug addicts. The group has been going for the last year in which time they have worked and counselled with each other, other prisoners and the local community.

According to Mike Guthro, Secretary of The Circle, the membership "is made up from most levels of society, and our information comes chiefly from experience, the school of hard knocks; we've lived drugs and our knowledge is second to none."

Members of The Circle are willing to write to or talk to any individuals or groups in Ward Seven about drugs or drug problems. Further information can be obtained by writing The Circle, P.O. Box 190, Kingston, Ontario.

Because of your title, "Community Police", people may have been encouraged to look upon you as friends, as people interested in the welfare of the community, even as people to call on to help out in case of trouble. That image has now been dissolved.

It has been made clear that of the two words in your title, the important one is "Police".

During the battle, the two of you spent your time scouting for the rest of the Police and attempting to justify their actions. Or what else do you call going around the house checking to see who is chained so as to inform

the rest of the squad where they are, or standing outside saying they were just "doing their job."

Presumably that is what the role of "Community Police" always is: to scout out people for 51st division to arrest, and to then attempt to justify police actions. Given that your actions have made your jobs clear, it is unlikely that you will have any more credibility than any other plainclothes policeman.

Hoping to have been of some assistance to you after all the assistance you were to all of us.

Philip Zylberg
70 Beverley St.**Woodgreen peewees lead in softball**

After a long and slow baseball season during the summer of 1971, coach, Chuck England, has finally put together the combination for a winning team during the 1972 season.

The team Chuck coaches is one from Woodgreen Community Centre and sponsored by Albert Jewellers.

The team has a record of 8 wins, 0 ties and 0 losses. This record is due to the development of the boys to work as a team.

Special mention should be given to the following players: the great pitching trio of: Fred Collinson, Guy Fox and Stephen Bastien, Singh Sakinda on first base, Allan Lozier on second base and Ashley Coventry at the catcher's position.

Finally, all the boys are to be congratulated for doing a fine job thus far and may good luck be with them for the balance of the season.

The coach and members of the team, at this particular time, would like to urge the parents of

these boys to come out and see their sons in action as well as add support to the team.

The next game for the Pee Wee boys will be on Wednesday, August 2 at McCleary Park beginning at 6:30 P.M.

PEE WEE DIVISION

	P	W	L	T	Pts
Woodgreen	8	8	0	0	24
Dixon Hall	8	5	3	0	17
Don Vale	8	4	4	0	16
B. Y.M.C.A.	7	2	5	0	10
C.N.H.	7	0	7	0	6

BANTAM DIVISION

B. Y.M.C.A.	9	8	1	0	25
Don Vale	9	5	4	0	19
Dixon Hall	9	3	5	1	16
Woodgreen	9	1	7	1	11

MEN'S DIVISION

S. Regent	9	8	1	0	16
Don Vale	9	6	3	0	12
Woodgreen	10	6	4	0	12
Dixon Hall	9	5	4	0	10
How. Forw.	9	4	5	0	8
Riverdale	10	2	8	0	4
Brunt's	10	2	8	0	4

GIRLS' DIVISION

St. C. House	4	4	0	0	12
Dixon Hall	4	3	1	0	10
O'Con. Dev.	3	1	2	0	5
B. YMCA	5	0	5	0	5

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LETTERS

Tenant story facts incorrect

Dear Editor:

In your newspaper of June the 23rd, 1972, was an article written by Elizabeth Tyrwhitt with reference to Mrs. Nicols who occupies Apt. 108 at the Spruce Court Apartments.

We are the property managers of this apartment complex, and have been for more than 9 years.

This is the only fact that has been reported correctly. With all due respect to your staff reporter, the Public Health Department does not require a warrant, and the complaint against Mrs. Nicols was not made by an electrician employed by us.

Furthermore, the article states in its final paragraph that the sewer still hasn't been repaired. It was repaired on June the 13th, 1972, by George Townsend Drain Company who found it necessary to dig down 8 feet where they found in the elbow of the drain a number of rags blocking the sewer which were subsequently cleared.

I can also inform you that prior to Alderman Sewell departing for his vacation, he and I

discussed this matter in some detail. In addition, if you have an hour or two at your disposal, I will be happy to show you a file clearly indicating a long history of problems we have had with this tenant.

Last, but not least, we who are part of an enlightened society are interested in the freedom of the press, and the personal interpretation of a reporter in matters concerning general interpretation must be protected, but facts are facts, and a good journalist investigates the facts before incorporating them in any article written for publication.

I sincerely suggest that your staff reporter bear this cardinal rule in mind since you as editor are well aware of some of the repercussions of improper reporting.

We have no desire to pursue this matter beyond going on record that your staff reporter looked at one side of the coin only, and then not too carefully to say the least.

A.N. Abraham

Comprehensive Management Services

People bothered by men in park . . .

Dear Sir:

I was interested in Mrs. Sankey's complaint regarding solicitation of women in the area (this time, by men; usually when we hear about this sort of thing, the story is reversed).

My work enables me to take a short time off on a nice day to go to a park. I like to go to Allen Gardens because it is close, it is larger than the closest Rosedale Park, and it is also more interesting. However, when I am alone, as I nearly always am, on several occasions older men have circled round my bench, or approached me with comments. They are probably quite harmless and do not bother me to any degree, but the incident rather mars the pleasantness of the afternoon, and gets to be a nuisance. It is difficult to relax and people-watch or bird-watch, when expecting an overture of this kind.

When I used to live in Don Mills I often walked through Edwards Gardens down to

Serena Gundy Park, and frequently met a mounted policeman coming through there, but I have yet to see a policeman walk through Allen Gardens.

Now I am certainly not suggesting that lonely old men be deprived of the beauty of Allen Gardens on a warm and

lovely day, nor that they be made to feel the least bit unwelcome; only that occasionally a policeman might stroll through in an unobtrusive way, to suggest that women also have a right to enjoy one of the few beauty spots in the downtown area.

NAME WITHHELD
St. Jamestown

. . . and winos and beggars

Dear Sir:

I wish to make a complaint about these winos and panhandlers that hang around the corner of Winchester and Parliament and as far as Aberdeen.

A citizen isn't safe to go to the store without being harassed for money, so that they can buy their wine.

It doesn't make any difference to them if you are old or young, even my wife has to walk out of her way to buy what she wants from Becker's.

There were things I wanted to buy from Sam Rotenberg's store. He ran for alderman of this ward. But the bums discourage me.

I can't see why Becker's, Sam's and the other stores nearby haven't done something about it.

The police kept them off for quite a while. But now they are back stronger than ever and twice as nasty if you don't come across with some money.

Mr. Habola,
Carlton & Parliament.

Clean up Oak Park

Dear Sirs:

I would very much like to know what is happening in the little park (so to speak) beside Oak Street United Church.

This park at one time was for the senior citizens of 41 Oak Street, and I might add that it looked very good at that specific time. However, it now looks like the tail end of a hurricane hit there, and the rack and pounding that now goes on in there is just unreal.

I think that this park should be cleaned up and left for the senior citizens as they have little enough as it is. The young children also have a section at the back of 41 Oak Street. To be able to go out of your apartment and relax in the evening breeze after supper, or at any given time of the day, I am sure would be greatly appreciated by many tenants in this area.

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News in Brief

LUNCH-AT-THE-BOTTOM, all you can eat for 75 cents, is still being served every Wednesday noon at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street. It's the "in" place to eat on Wednesdays.

A STREET DANCE will be held tonight, Friday, July 28th on Allen Avenue. For more information phone 465-9021.

AART is a group of 10 artists working on a LIP grant in the Don Vale area. They offer free, private lessons in painting, sculpture or filmmaking in their studios. For more information, call Faye Macmillan at 922-3531.

THE TORONTO FREE THEATRE features "The End" by John Palmer starting August 4 Show time is 8:30 and the location is 24 Berkeley Street. Admission is free. Phone 368-2856 for reservations.

A MOSS PARK COMMUNITY FESTIVAL will be held August 18 and 19 on the Moss Park Apartment grounds. Featured will be square dancing, Bingo, booths, people's markets, rock bands, etc. For information, phone 368-6470.

THE OPEN DOOR CENTRE, a drop-in for women, is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at All-Saints Church at the corner of Sherbourne and Dundas Streets.

A THEATRE WORKSHOP FOR KIDS is being offered by the Community Theatre Project at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

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Imagine, if you will, that it is September and the kids are back in school. The teacher has asked her class to write and read out an essay on "what I did during my summer holidays."

One boy will report on "I went to Camp," another will state that "I went to the Cottage." And then a 12-year-old girl will get up in front of the class and read off a composition titled...

I went to the battle of Bleecker Street

by ELAINE BARRIE
Age 12

When I came to 45 Bleecker Street I saw a lady being kicked and pushed by the police. A lady with a handkerchief around her head asked me if I would help her bring some belongings out of the house. I went with her on to the porch and a policeman slapped me and picked me up by the hair and pushed me off the porch. I saw two boys bleeding.

There were lots of signs, some with bad words on them and when a girl held one up to a TV camera a lady said, "we don't want to make this any worse,

now put it away." She said that because the sign had bad words on it. I saw a policeman push over an old lady.

A lot of kids were calling the police names. One kid said, "How would you like it if you were married and had kids and we wrecked your house and beat up your kids?" The policeman laughed and said, "I'm not married." A man was sitting on the grass talking to another man and a policeman stepped on his feet.

I saw a policeman yelling and pushing some people. Some men

came to board up the house and a man said, "Why don't you board up your own house?" and a man who was boarding up the house said, "Get lost."

Then people started going home so I did too.

I was scared when the fighting started. I wouldn't want it to happen again. I understand why they were fighting, but it got too rough.

Too many people shouldn't lose their temper like that. If that's going to keep happening, the tenants aren't going to get anywhere.

Community Parole: a new concept in prison reform

Ward Seven has long been a leader in the struggle for more participation and control by ordinary people in things that effect their lives.

The latest application of this process being organized in the Ward is the concept of Community Parole.

Under this innovative approach the responsibility for parole supervision of convicted criminals is taken out of the hands of a parole supervisor and transferred to the parolees and the community. This is done by creating a Community Parole

Group consisting of five community people, five parolees and one staff process person.

Two such groups are now in the process of being formed in Ward Seven.

The groups will take on the usual duties of parole supervision—writing monthly parole reports, etc. Each group will also evolve a project of community betterment depending on the needs of the community and the desires of the group.

This aspect is basic to the program in that it performs a

needed service to the community and involves the individual parolee who traditionally has been alienated from the community.

The Community Parole organization has been working out of the Don Vale Community Centre for the past three months under the supervision of Ed Laboucane who is an ex-inmate himself.

Anyone wanting more information or wishing to work on a Community Parole Group is asked to call Sherran Ridgley at 924-9091.

Neighbourhood Renewal forms community board

The first steps toward a new future for Neighborhood Renewal, a housing rehabilitation project, were taken recently. A steering committee was formed at a meeting of residents of the Riverdale area, charged with planning the formation of a community board.

Up until now, Neighborhood Renewal has engaged in the maintenance, repair, and renovation of owner occupied homes in the Riverdale area. A dozen homes have been completed since the project began in February. The project is one of a

number like it in the city working on rehabilitation experiments.

Housing rehabilitation has become popular in the past year or so as a replacement for the "flatten and rebuild" technique of urban renewal. The rehabilitation approach was born out of citizen reaction to the planners' concept of urban renewal. Trefann Court and many other communities across Canada have established rehabilitation as a people's movement. It is the form of urban renewal, controlled and directed by residents, which will save downtown communities.

Nobody likes cars

Ward Seven residents who responded to the Third Seven News Poll (on transportation) showed an overwhelming dislike for the motor car as a form of transportation.

Those who responded were also negative to the idea of street widenings in the ward and gave a qualified approval to the TTC for the way it handles transportation in the Ward.

Here are the questions and poll results:

1. What method of transportation do you use the most? Car — 18 percent, TTC — 32 percent, bicycle — 14 percent, Walk — 36 percent.

2. Do you think less emphasis should be placed on the car and more on other forms of transportation? Yes — 92 percent, No — 8 percent.

3. Are you in favour of reserving lanes on main roads

for bicycles only? Yes — 80 percent, No — 16 percent, No answer — 4 percent.

4. Are you in favour of widening Dundas Street through Ward Seven to ten lanes? No — 96 percent, No answer — 4 percent.

5. Are you in favour of widening any street in Ward Seven? No — 72 percent, Narrow streets only — 12 percent, Don't know — 16 percent.

6. Do you believe your area is being well served by the TTC? Yes — 48 percent, No — 20 percent (all from the Don Vale area), Sometimes — 24 percent, Don't know — 4 percent, No answer — 4 percent.

7. Are you in favour of a ban on private cars in the downtown area? Yes — 56 percent, No — 4 percent, partial ban only — 40 percent.

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