

# NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
265 Gerrard St. East 920-8632  
Office at 80 Winchester St.

FEBRUARY 15, 1975

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 17

## Community seeks input in hiring procedure

Two important decisions were made at a meeting of the Frankland School Community Council held last week at the school. The meeting was well attended by parents, teachers and school trustees from both wards six and seven.

The meeting decided to ask the Toronto Board of Education to place a parent and a teacher from Frankland Community Council on the committee that will select a new principal to replace out-going Cecil Martindale.

The selection committee presently includes members of the school board administration, the Toronto Teacher's Federation and school trustees.

If community representation is



photo by Mark Inglis

achieved on the selection committee, it will create a precedent in the history of the board's selection procedures. Up to now, selection of teachers or principals has never included any direct lay input from a community.

The meeting also resolved to commence immediately in formulating criteria that would be used as guidelines for the initial screening of candidates for the position.

The guidelines would be used by the school administration and would assist the representatives of the community who hopefully will be involved in the interviewing of the final candidate.

To formulate the criteria, the entire community will be canvassed for their ideas, comments and feelings on the question of a new principal suitable for Frankland school.

## Little hope seen in halting permit parking

by ART MOSES

Despite the opposition of its Public Works committee, City Council will probably impose permit parking on Ward Seven on Feb. 19.

With more than 300 residents jamming the City Hall council chamber Feb. 4 the Public Works committee voted 5-4 to exempt Ward Seven—along with Wards 3, 8 and 9—from the permit scheme. The motion would return free overnight to the areas that previously enjoyed it.

But indications are the motion will not pass city council.

Council delayed implementing permit parking—scheduled to come into effect Jan. 1—because of hundreds of complaints and problems. The scheme would force people to pay \$24 a year to park on their streets.

A key swing vote will be cast by Ward Two alderman Tony O'Donohue, who will probably run for mayor in 1976. O'Donohue is currently wavering towards voting to impose permit parking on Ward Seven.

When he ran for mayor in 1972, O'Donohue counted heavily on working class votes in Ward Seven and will likely do the same in 1976.

Another possible mayoralty candidate—Ward Five alderman Colin Vaughan—spoke in favor of permit parking at the public works meeting.

Although he agreed with residents who wanted permit parking decided street-by-street, not dictated across the city, Vaughan said, "I refuse to allow some areas to get free parking while others must pay to park on the street."

"If we had free parking in the Annex, we'd be deluged with cars every day from Mississauga and Scarborough," he said, describing his central Toronto ward.

"But we don't have those problems in Riverdale," a member of the audience called out. "Why should we have to pay for permits because some streets in your ward want to have them?"

Ward One alderman Elizabeth Eays, another self-styled reform politician, assured the audience that "permit parking isn't like the Toronto Dominion Centre. If it doesn't work, we can rescind it."

"But we know now it won't work," several residents shouted, almost in unison.

Most of the residents who addressed the committee earlier that night complained permit parking doesn't guarantee a place to park, and if you must park on another street you will be ticketed. Several east-end Ward 9 residents complained that people living on main streets, where permits are not available, will not be allowed to park on side streets anymore.

Other residents said they previously had no parking problems on their streets, so the permits were just another financial burden.

A spokesman for the Don Vale Homeowners and Residents Association said his group came out against permit parking at its Jan. 26 meeting, and called for a return to the situation that existed before permit parking was introduced. parking problems must be solved on a street-by-street basis, he said.

His position was echoed by Richard Dick of the Danforth-Hogarth Residents' Association, Vern Burnett of the Playter Area residents association, and Anny Gray of Langley Ave.

In a letter to the committee Jean Bunn of Allen Ave. said "we need solutions to our problems, not dictators."

Works Commissioner Ray Bremner, the man who conceived the permit parking scheme and is determined to push it through, didn't attend the meeting, saying he was ill.

Ward 8 alderman Tom Clifford, a member of the public works committee, left the meeting early before speaking. He strongly supports permit parking, although his ward currently enjoys free overnight parking south of Danforth Ave.

Both Ward 7 aldermen—Janet Howard and John Sewell—strongly oppose the scheme.

But with a majority of City Council apparently willing to impose permit parking across the city, only stronger representations from citizens before the Feb. 19 council meeting (letters, phone calls etc.) can convince the aldermen their policy is ill-advised.



And you think prices have gone up in the last couple of years? This picture was taken at The Koffee Urn, 146 Queen St. East in

the year 1935. It is printed here courtesy of Mr. J. Bissonette and is from the Parliament Library historical archives.

### NEWS ROUND-UP

## DACHI residents join FODARA

A public meeting to discuss long-range planning and priorities of the **Toronto Public Library Board** will be held at the Parliament Street Library on Wed. March 5 at 8 p.m....

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street, will hold a BINGO on Monday, March 3 at 7 p.m. Admission is 75 cents and proceeds will be used to help the youth and adult programs at Dixon Hall....

The Central Neighbourhood House Thrift Shop which sells used clothing and other goods is seeking a store in the Don District so that they can relocate to a more visible location. Anyone having space to rent to them should phone 925-4363....

Don Keating, known to many people in the Ward for his role as co-ordinator of the Greater Riverdale Organization, is heading up a 15 week

course at George Brown College that will study mass based community organizing. For more information phone Don at 469-1677.... Don Keating's book on the history of GRO, titled "The Power to Make it Happen" is now in the process of being published....

A St. Patrick's Day dance will be held at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach street on Saturday, March 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 each, call Fred at 863-0499....

SEVEN NEWS has a full-time job opening for the position of **Distribution Manager**. David Ruppel, who presently holds that position is giving it up to devote more time to the job of Production Manager....

A St. Patrick's Day dance will be held at St. Paul's Hall, Queen and Power streets at 8:30

p.m. on Friday, March 14....

WoodGreen Community Centre has begun publishing a bi-weekly newsletter called **The WoodGreen Scanner**. In keeping with their aim to make it multicultural, the first issue contained eight pages in Chinese and only one in English....

Instruction in **sewing and typing** are being offered to women in the Don District by qualified teachers at the Salvation Army Community Centre, 470 Dundas East. Sewing classes are Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30; typing classes are Tuesday and Thursdays in both the afternoon and evening. Call 864-9364 to register....

The Danforth Library, 701 Pape, will have a puppet show

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# 7 NEWS

SEVEN NEWS is a bi-weekly, community-owned newspaper published by Seven News, Inc., 265 Gerrard St. East. Editorial offices are located at 80 Winchester Street, phone 920-8632. SEVEN NEWS does not support any political party or individual and invites all members of the community to write for it. The opinions expressed in SEVEN NEWS are those of the individual writers and do not represent the views of the staff or publishing organization. However, if errors in fact are brought to our attention, we will print a suitable correction.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: John Piper, Marty Crowder, Clare Little, Jack Cooper, Wendy Fletcher, Peter Patterson, Elizabeth Wilson, Thora Smaller and Jim Renieris.

## To strap or not to strap....

### Education Report

By GORD CRESSY and DOUG BARR

Few items trigger off in people as much emotion as a debate on the use of the strap in our school system. Everyone gets into the act—parent, teacher, student and psychologist.

Recent media attention has brought debate on the strap out into the open again. The ugly event at Castle Frank School in which a student punched a teacher in the face has been blown out of all proportion. There is no question about it—lack of discipline is a problem in our schools—and for that matter, in our homes and on our streets.

The television screen shows us violence every day. Our young people act out what they see. We expect parents in our ward are about evenly split as to whether the

strap should be used in the schools. Although we agree that parents have the right to use whatever form of discipline they choose in their own homes, our experience has taught us that the strap solves only the immediate problem in the school.

We are more concerned about the ability of our young people to read and write. It is our belief that most discipline problems occur with young people who are having trouble at school. Our task, then, is to build successes for these young people in our school system. This is a difficult job and one that we will not accomplish readily. Yet if we are to have a school system that is built on mutual respect, we must solve our problems without resorting to physical violence.

If you have thoughts on this mat-

ter, do contact us.

### French School

The Toronto Board of Education has supported the establishment of a French School starting September 1975. At present, sharing is the only possible way this can occur.

Two schools in our Ward—Sackville and Winchester—are being looked at very seriously. Very shortly, meetings will be held in these schools to assess parent and teacher reaction to these proposals.

In addition, a French Work Group is studying ways of improving the French programs in all of our schools. If you wish information on the French school or French program, call Mike Lennox at the Board of Education—362-4931.

## LETTERS



### Frankland parents want say in choosing principal

Dear Editor:

As members of the tax-paying public, we are aware at Frankland that we will in part contribute to the \$128,375,000 that will be the Toronto Board of Education's budget for this year. Sixty three percent of every realty tax dollar that we pay, in addition to the 34% paid out of our federal and provincial tax dollars, will be placed at the disposal of the administrators of education for the city of Toronto.

Basically the Frankland community feels that it is time that we should begin to have some say in how that money is spent. Recognizing the voice that our elected trustees has in these affairs, minimal as it remains at this point, despite their strenuous efforts to improve the situation, the Frankland community intends to be directly involved in an issue that affects and concerns us all—teachers, parents, and our children.

The present principal of Frankland School, Cecil Martindale,

will retire in June of this year, due to his age.

We recognize the need and desirability for each of these groups to be involved in that selection process, for they each bring special skills and knowledge that are vital

### Reader says "Thanks"

Dear Sirs:

This is to thank you for your exceptional write-up about the official opening of our new recreation rooms at 41 Oak street. We are truly grateful. We all look forward to receiving your paper in our homes.

Harold West, Pres.  
Mrs. P. Barrett, Sec.  
Regent Busy Bee Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks go to Dorothy Sangster. She wrote the story—we just provided the space.)

to the very difficult task of selecting a principal—a person whose education qualifications, leadership, and previous experience are vital to his or her potential performance as principal of Frankland.

However, with due respect, we do not feel that any of the members who sit on the principals selection committee as it is presently composed, can possibly know as much as we do about the special needs and unique characteristics of the community in which we live and work and in which our children are raised and educated.

Therefore, it is our intention to be included by representatives from the community, eg. teachers and parents, on the committee that will choose Frankland's new principal.

A meeting was held at Frankland School on January 30, at which, by an overwhelming majority, the community indicated its desire to be involved. A further meeting to plan strategies to realize these goals was held at the school on Thursday, February 6.

Sue Barnard  
Co-Chairwoman  
Principal's Selection Committee  
Frankland Community Council

### 7 News is looking for a

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### TOUGH !!

It is when you can't live at home. Friends say I've got it made—no hassles, no Old Lady on my back!

### BULL !!

At 15 I can't make it alone. I need an adult to live with; single or a couple. Children's Aid will pay my room and board; my social worker will help me get it together.

I'm not always easy to live with; who is? But I'd feel better if you called Lee Helmer, 924-4646 to say you'd like to try with me.

### INTERESTED?

### Injured Workman's Consultants to move

The Editor, 7 News

Injured Workmen's Consultants is entering its fifth year of service to injured workers throughout Ontario. We are relocating our office to 432 Dundas St. E., Toronto and are pleased to announce that we will now be functioning as a storefront operation.

It is hopeful that this will enhance our availability to the public which is in great need of our services. As a community non-profit agency, our major form of assistance is to solve and therefore alleviate the various problems encountered in the interactions of injured workers with the Workmen's Compensation Board. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic nature of the W.C.B. does not often permit the explanations and attention to which their claimants are entitled.

It is this type of support which we offer, in the form of representation at hearings, medical and rehabilitation appointments as well as general information regarding eligibility for alternate government assistance. Injured Workmen's Consultants stands alone as it provides this combination of services essential simultaneously, to the welfare of the injured worker.

We wish to extend an invitation to all to acquaint old friends and new at the opening of our new office on Tues., Feb. 18, 1975 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Miss Nicolette Carlan,  
Coordinator  
Miss Terese Bergman,  
Consultant  
Injured Workmen's  
Consultants

### Horseback riding at Riverdale?

Dear Seven News:

I was reading an article in your last issue about the plans for the old Riverdale Zoo site. For the further enjoyment of outdoor activity in Riverdale Park, I think it would be a good idea for the City to set up a horseback riding facility.

A small fee from the patrons would help towards feeding the

animals, etc. It would certainly be of benefit to those who like the sport and can't get out of the city to a farm.

Besides benefiting the people of Ward Seven, it would also attract people from Metro as well as visitors to the city and our area would be noticed as a point of interest in the city.

I would hope that our local aldermen and the city parks department would take note of this suggestion.

Bernard Ingram  
(EDITOR'S NOTE: And why not a pony ride as well, for the kids...?)

### Display at Danforth Library

An excellent exhibit of figure drawings and sketches will be on display at the Danforth Branch Library, 701 Pape Avenue, through the month of February. The artists are Joseph Panacci of Chester Avenue and Leoung O'Young of Woodbine Avenue. Both twenty years old, they attended Earl Grey Senior School and graduated from Danforth Technical High School last year. Leoung now works as a commercial artist and Joseph attends the Ontario College of Art. Beautifully executed, the drawings range all the way from those taking thirty seconds to complete to those taking two and one half hours. Joseph is also exhibiting a collection of his sculpture.

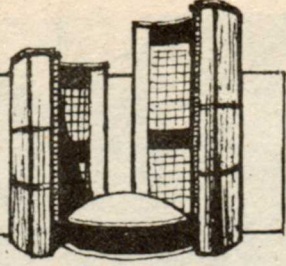
## PUBLIC MEETING

March 5 - 8 p.m.  
Parliament Street Library  
406 Parliament St. at Gerrard

The Toronto Public Library Board invites suggestions and comments from rate-payer groups and private citizens on the subject of Library Services in the central area of Toronto.

All groups are welcomed to make deputations regarding long range planning and priorities.

# city hall report



by JANET HOWARD  
Ward 7 Alderman

It wasn't all that long ago when families with medium and low incomes occupied most of Ward Seven. There were houses to rent with back yards and verandahs and enough room for children. If the house was sold, or if the landlord decided to move in, there was usually another house for rent at a similar price along the street or around the corner.

Most people looking for places like that have noticed that there aren't many left in Ward Seven. They are getting scarce in Ward Eight, too, and for a while it looked as if the only choice for a lot of people was going to be OHC—if they could get in.

Developers do not solve this problem because they remove family housing and put back luxury apartments. The City and community groups have had to get involved in providing this kind of housing, and some results are beginning to show. Bain Avenue and Spruce Court Apartments and houses in the Dundas-Sherbourne block are now City property.

They are being renovated and will be rented at cost. The DACHI project, while not City owned, is also non-profit and will provide rooms, apartments and houses for low and moderate income people in Ward Seven.

Don West Neighbours is another non-profit housing group, operating in the South of Carlton area with the same objectives of offering accommodation for people who are being priced out of rental housing and cannot afford to buy.

What these projects have in common is that the people who live in them will pay no more than the actual mortgage and operating costs and will have a great deal to do with decisions affecting their homes. They will not be evicted because other people can afford to pay higher rent for their housing. In the case of the private non-profit projects, the tenants, as a corporation, will also be the owners. The City intends to turn over much of the management responsibility to its tenants.

Now that City Council has agreed to take some responsibility for housing people, the question that arises is, which people?

Money for buying, renovating and building non-profit housing is turned over to the City and non-profit community groups by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in Ottawa, while rent subsidies—the difference between cost and what people can actually afford—also depends on Queen's Park. Neither of these levels of government will allow the City to use their money for reducing mortgages on land and houses, while means that in areas like Ward Seven, where land and houses are expensive, the purchase price is passed on to the tenants through the rents they pay.

What we could end up with is a lot of middle-income housing and nothing much for the poor. One reason why people are poor in the first place is that they are working at very low wages, which keeps goods and services cheaper for more affluent people.

Therefore, it seems a matter of simple justice that poor people should get back some part of what they contribute through equal consideration, if not greater consideration, when housing is bought or built.

This question is coming up in a number of ways: South of St.

James Town is going to be developed—for whom? Land in the Dundas-Pembroke block, bought from Meridian as part of the South of St. James Town deal, is to be used for housing—again, for whom?

Most importantly, the City is reviewing its whole housing policy, and we must make sure that the outcome of this review is to find new and better ways of making sure that all Ward Seven people have access to good housing.

It will mean putting pressure on Queen's Park and Ottawa to make it possible, but it wouldn't be the first time our ward has led the way.

## High rents for Dundas project

by MARK INGLIS

The proposed 243 unit development at Dundas and Pembroke Streets received the endorsement of The South of Carlton Working Committee despite the extra-ordinary high rents that have been forecast.

The project to be completed in 1977 by the City of Toronto's non-profit housing corporation proposes rents from \$140 for a small room to \$320 for a two bedroom unit. A bachelor would capture \$205 a month, and a one bedroom would cost \$265 a month.

The architectural plans call for a six storey, 196 unit apartment building on Sherbourne Street. It will also include houses bought from the Meridian group in the block bound by Sherbourne, Shuter, Pembroke, and Dundas Street East. These houses will be renovated and have additions to them to 46 units.

There will only be a provincial rent supplement on 14 of the 243 units. John Gladki of the working committee said that it really was not good enough to have such a ratio of subsidized housing considering the forecast cost of the units. "What we want really is a 50 percent ratio."

The project will be mostly for singles. Of the 243 units over 150 will be bachelor apartments or smaller. There will be 27 one bedrooms, 33 two bedrooms, and a small assortment of larger apartments.

## Media debate may spark fireworks

The big boys from the Toronto media will be in Ward Seven on Feb. 24 to defend their organizations against all comers.

It will be in the form of a panel discussion and featured on the panel are Borden Spears, Senior Editor of the Toronto Star; Don Nichol, assistant managing editor of the Globe and Mail; Arnold Amber, ex-editor of the Toronto Citizen and now a CBC producer; Peter Worthington, columnist and publisher of the Toronto Sun and John Piper, Chairman of the Board of Seven News.

Chairman of the meeting will be

school trustee Gord Cressy.

The topic of their discussion will be the media treatment of Ward Seven—does the media serve the needs of the residents and the community?

If discussion is allowed from the floor, it is expected that the Toronto Star will come under the most fire. Both the homosexual community in Ward Seven and many residents of Regent Park are angry with the Star. The gay community feels its being discriminated against by the Star (and the Globe and Sun) while Regent Park feel they are being ridiculed and patronized.

In any event, the inclusion of such diverse and fiery personalities on the same panel is sure to spark some fireworks.

The meeting, which is co-sponsored by Seven News and the Regent Park Community Improvement Association will feature a half-hour report on Seven News, an hour and a half of panel discussion and refreshments at 9:30.

The event will be Monday, Feb. 24, starting at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak street. Attendance is free and everyone is welcome.

## Residents complain in South of Carlton

Four recent block meetings held in the South of Carlton district reaped an unexpected dividend. The meetings were called to find out what improvements the city could make in the area over the coming year.

However residents also voiced complaints about a number of other things in the area that were bugging them. Among the problems stated at the meetings were the following:

- Shelters at TTC stops should be provided on routes where the bus service is slow. (Sherbourne and Parliament streets.)
- Poor service at the Bank of Nova Scotia at Gerrard and Parliament. People felt the bank should be more oriented to community needs.
- Better policing of the Adventure Playground at the corner of George and Dundas, particularly in the stockade area.
- The Dominion Store in the new OHC building at Sherbourne and Queen should be opened. Ward Aldermen and local residents are presently working on this issue.
- The excavation site at the water-main project at Pembroke and Dundas was not well pro-

tected. (Metro has since been contacted and the contractor in charge has agreed to improve the fencing around the excavation.)

Barony Estates should be contacted and asked to remove railings around open space on Seaton street so that it could be used as a small park.

Complaints were received about the methyl hydrate fumes that surround the Imperial Optical factory at Dundas and Ontario streets.

Unfortunately, the problems still exist and except where indicated, no action has been taken on them.



South of Carlton residents at recent block meetings also indicated they wanted a number of lanes paved. Pictured above is a lane in their area with high priority to be paved. Photo by Mark Inglis

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# Mementos of Yesteryear



by **GEORGE H. RUST-D'EYE**

Sherbourne street, which forms the western boundary of our ward, was a slow starter. It began early enough, in 1773, as one of the original streets in Simcoe's Town of York.

In those days it was named Caroline, after the Princess of Wales, daughter-in-law to George III, and extended from Palace street (now Front street) to Duchess street (now Richmond street).

But there it stayed, for over fifty years, blocked by Moss Park, the family farm of the influential Allan family, and by a natural obstacle, Toronto's historical nuisance, Taddle Creek.

The Taddle commences near Bathurst and St. Clair, in Wychwood Park, where it springs out of the escarpment formed by the shoreline of the ancient Lake Iroquois, and ends its apparent existence in a sewer on Davenport Road.

But in early times, it continued to flow south-east through what was later called "the Annex", and on through the grounds of the University of Toronto, forming a pond beside University College. It then continued south to the parade grounds of the University Armouries and east past Trinity Church.

Finally, near the intersection of Queen and Sherbourne, it joined with another stream, and coursed with it down to Lake Ontario. Its ravine proved such an impediment to travel that Queen street was not completed across it until 1847.

The area between Dalhousie street and Caroline, immediately north of Duchess street, was known until the 1840's as "the Meadow". Governor Simcoe's early system of land distribution involved the division of the area between Lot street (Queen) and the First Concession, (Bloor) into 100-acre Park lots. These were then granted to certain members of the administration and to the military.

North of the Meadow, all of the land between the present Sherbourne street and the northerly extension of George street was

known as Park Lot Six. This land was originally granted to David W. Smith, then the Surveyor-General of Upper Canada, in 1794. However, when he returned to England in 1804, he sold it to William Allan.

William Allan came to Canada in 1787, and to York in 1796. He was the first postmaster in York, justice of the peace, collector of customs, inspector of stills and taverns, member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada in 1825, and of the Executive Council from 1826 to 1841.

In his spare time, Mr. Allan was also a soldier. One of his more distasteful duties was the signing of the treaty of surrender to the American forces which captures the town of York in 1813.

Colonel Allan lived originally at the south-west corner of Frederick and Front streets. In 1803, he built "Moss Park", a stately mansion, at the south end of his park lot. When his mansion was built, all of the land north of it was tree-covered. Taddle Creek ran by its windows and Caroline street stopped at its front doors.

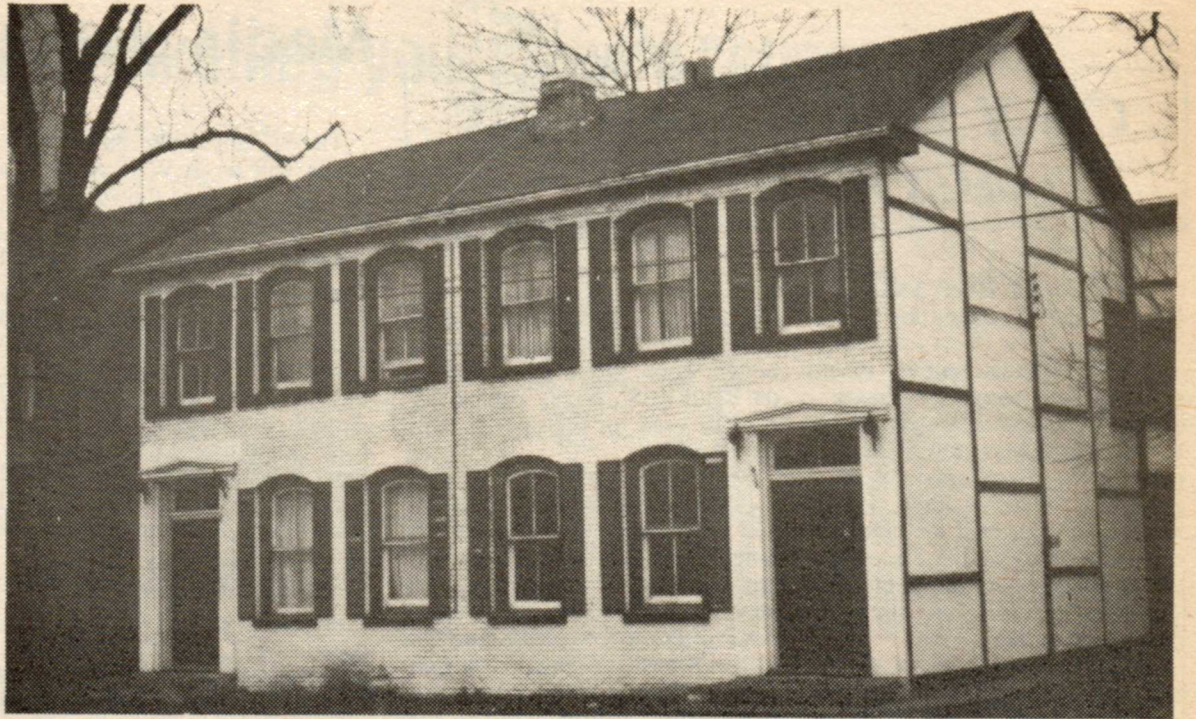
**Sherbourne street had a long way to go.**

Colonel Allan's son, George W. Allan, was also a fairly busy person. He attended the recently established Upper Canada College, was called to the Bar of Upper Canada in 1846, and was elected Alderman for St. David's Ward (the predecessor to Ward Seven), in 1849, and Mayor in 1855.

In 1858, he received the support of William Lyon MacKenzie in his bid for election to the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, a rather surprising fact in view of his "Family Compact" origins and his efforts during the 1837 rebellion to keep the Bank of Upper Canada out of the hands of the rebels.

He was elected to the Council and, after Confederation, went on to become President of the Canadian Senate.

In the 1840's, the Hon. G. W. Allan gave part of his land for the building of Sherbourne street from Queen to Bloor. Sherbourne street was formed from a twenty-foot strip on the east side of his property, and thirty-foot strip granted by the Ridout family, owners of



Numbers 278 and 280 Sherbourne are two historically significant houses in danger of demolition by Metrowest Limited. photos by George H. Rust-D'Eye

Park Lot Five.

Thomas G. Ridout (1792-1861) was the Register-General of Upper Canada and cashier of the Bank of Upper Canada. The Ridout family came to Canada from Dorsetshire, England, the seat of their country home, which was called "Sherborne".

**It is unclear how the name came to be misspelled when applied to the Toronto street which was formed partly from their land.**

The Allan grant was limited to twenty feet for the purpose of preserving the beautiful row of trees which stood upon the lands of Moss Park and which lined Sherbourne street until well into this century.

Later, of course, the widening of Sherbourne street led to their complete destruction. The Allan Home, "Moss Park", has also been destroyed.

In the 1850's and 1860's, the Hon. G. W. Allan began to dispose of parts of his property north of the Moss Park estate. In 1857 he gave five acres in the area bounded by Carlton, Sherbourne, Gerrard and Jarvis to the City of Toronto. The area was to be used to provide public botanical gardens, so that everyone could share his enjoyment of flowers. The city later acquired a further five acres from him for this purpose, and thus Allan Gardens was completed.

Allan also laid out Wilton Crescent (Dundas street between Jarvis and Sherbourne) and Pembroke street, and donated a large plot at the southwest corner of their intersection to the Canadian Institute.

Finally, he began to subdivide lots between Gerrard and Dundas, and to sell these lots to private developers.

**In 1869, he sold one and a half lots to Robert Sargeant, who proceeded to build three similar houses on the west side of Sherbourne. These houses, some of the earliest homes in the area, still exist as numbers 276, 278 and 280 Sherbourne.**

They are attractive rough-cast structures of two storeys, each originally featuring five large shuttered windows, and a doorway patterned in the Greek revival style which characterized the late Georgian period of Ontario architecture.

For this reason, number 276 Sherbourne has recently been listed by the Toronto Historical Board as having architectural and historical significance. Its neighbours to the north are equally interesting, although over the years a few changes have been made to their doorways.

Number 282 Sherbourne to the north, built by James Booth in 1876 as one of a pair, is more typically Victorian in its style. It features high Gothic windows, intricately-carved verge boards, and decorative cornice brackets and chimney.

Together the four houses compliment each other and the street, but their owner, Metrowest Limited, has applied for a demolition permit, which would allow them all to be destroyed.

Two years ago, all of the build-

ings on the east side of Sherbourne between Dundas and the Ontario Provincial Police College, were also about to be destroyed.

At the last minute, fast effective action by local citizens and civic officials prevented this from being done. The city acquired the twenty Victorian houses, and they are now being repaired and restored for use as homes.

One of the significant benefits of this action was the preservation of the east side of the Sherbourne streetscape, one of the few remaining examples of its kind in the city.

**Now, the west side of that streetscape is in serious danger.**



Pictured above is 276 Sherbourne recently listed by the Toronto Historical Board as having architectural and historic significance.



Number 282 Sherbourne street, above, is also considered very historic and is threatened with demolition.

## Volunteers needed by Seven News

Did you know that SEVEN NEWS involved more volunteers in its operation than any other group in the ward?

Would you believe 200 volunteers every issue?

Would you believe around 1,500 people have done volunteer work for SEVEN NEWS in some capacity since its creation?

Yet SEVEN NEWS still has need of specialized volunteers for jobs that present volunteers can't do and that are too much for the present overworked and underpaid staff of three people.

Glance down the following list and see if there is something that you can help out in doing. It's your paper—you own it. But that ownership doesn't mean much unless you get involved as well....

**Carpentry** — SEVEN NEWS

needs a wooden case built to hold back copies of the paper. We'll supply the lumber and probably would find someplace where it could be built. It'll take maybe three or four hours work—that's all.

**Distribution** — There are still a few streets in the Ward not being covered by SEVEN NEWS on a regular basis. If you want some exercise and fresh air this could be it. It takes about one hour every two weeks.

**Filing** — The present internal SEVEN NEWS files are a mess. It might take about three hours work to straighten them out and set up a proper system—after that, one hour a month is enough.

**Paste-up** — SEVEN NEWS needs people who are fairly skilled at lay-out, design, and paste-up and who are available to work in

the afternoon or morning. A few hours of your help every two weeks would be a great help.

**Writing** — The staff of SEVEN NEWS is inundated by ideas and tips from the community, but we need people who will take these ideas on assignment and turn in a readable story. Or how about being a sports reporter and covering local boxing or hockey or baseball, etc.? Maybe you've got more than a passing interest in the history of the area? Send us a complete article or even a tid-bit—they're all welcome. And if you have no time for any of these, at least write a letter-to-the-editor. Surely there's something going on in the community that bugs you—tell us about it....!

The SEVEN NEWS number is 920-8632—or drop in and meet us any afternoon at 80 Winchester street.



photo by Mark Inglis

## John Innes Centre criticized

The John Innes Recreation Centre on the west side of Sherbourne between Queen and Shuter came under strong criticism at recent block meetings held in that area.

Residents expressed considerable dissatisfaction with the Centre saying it did not seem to be well used, particularly by people in the surrounding community.

Residents at the meeting requested that the Centre's programs be more oriented to local needs and specifically, that facilities be open during the day to skid row men.

The Centre faces across the street from the Salvator Army Men's Hostel and is surrounded by park, stores, flop houses and high-rises largely tenanted by the elderly.

## South of Carlton continues fight

by MARK INGLIS

The South of Carleton Neighborhood Improvement Program may be on ice for good because of the federal government's pressure to spend the money on other projects.

The problem facing the committee is \$840,000, offered as a package through N.I.P. from the federal, provincial, and municipal branches of government. The federal government is the largest donor and has final recourse on every project. All the levels of government must approve the project in order that a grant be awarded.

The committee wants to spend the money improving the exterior of private homes in the area, but the federal government refuses to allow the money to be spent in the private sector. However the com-

mittee has the endorsement of the city on this project and has a verbal promise of the money allotted by the city whatever the federal government decides to do.

The committee then has a choice of accepting what is now \$231,624 from the city or to come up with a new development plan that will get them the \$840,000. Some new suggestions that would please all the levels of government would be a building for the Don District Community Health Centre, or the setting up of a halfway home for the skid row men and women.

Whatever the final decision the committee decided to postpone their decision in hopes that the federal government would give in to the lobbying of the community.

## Local gays host Ontario conference

by PETER ZORZI

"No one you know may conform to the classical stereotype or admit he or she is Gay. But is this surprising given the hostility society directs against the homosexual? Is it not logical that Gay men and women should disguise their sexuality in order to pass as straight; to find acceptance in an intolerant social milieu? This, in fact, characterizes the approach most people have taken towards their homosexuality: it is often the only way they can maintain their jobs and escape the rejection of those who are close to them."

(Gays for Equality pamphlet)

According to Kinsey statistics one in every ten persons is gay. Mainly through the promotion of changes in social attitudes the gay liberation movement attempts to relieve some of the pressures exerted on gay people. Three gay organizations are now based within Ward 7. Glad Day Books on Seaton St. is an outlet for current writings on homosexuality and the gay movement. Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE) focuses mainly on the civil rights aspect of gay liberation. The Body Politic, which shares an office on Carlton St. with GATE, functions as a medium for news and information within the gay community. It also acts as a forum for public discussion of aspects and implications of sex and sexuality which are shied away from by other media.

Recently GATE was host to a provincial gay conference held at the Don Vale Community Centre.

At the two day meeting some fifty delegates representing gay organizations in London, Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo and Windsor met to set up the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario (CGRO).

The formation of CGRO follows a call at a national conference in Winnipeg for such an organization. There, the need was expressed for a body to co-ordinate the efforts of the different groups and oversee a long term civil rights campaign. CGRO itself will have a national counterpart.

Besides the present members, groups in Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, and Thunder Bay are expected to affiliate with the Coalition.

Women present totalled about a quarter of the delegates. They considered themselves more or less satisfied with the level of consciousness at the conference, as pertained to women, and plan to try for more participation by Ontario lesbian caucuses.

In addition, individuals present representing religious organizations plan to seek out support for the Coalition from other religion-oriented gay groups.

It seemed to be the feeling at the conference that, because gay organizations represent the whole spectrum of political views, emphasis on the civil rights aspect of gay liberation offered the best possibility for common action.

Among the immediate aims that can be seen for CGRO would be the continuation of pressure on the provincial and federal governments for amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Act and the Bill of Rights. Such amendments would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the fields of housing and, especially, employment.

Another aim of CGRO would be deletion of clauses in the Immigration Act which call for the deportation of immigrants and visitors who are gay.

Also to be sought from the federal government is repudiation of a 1960's royal commission report among whose recommendations, incredibly, was one that gay people be excluded from higher levels of government employment.

Many other areas of discrimination call for action. Among these is selective enforcement against gay people, of certain laws.

What is hoped for, of course, by groups such as GATE is that focus on issues like these will lead to a re-examination of social attitudes. Considering the large number of people living in the ward who are gay, it seems fitting that some of the impetus for this re-examination should come from organizations based here. The mere presence of the GATE-Body Politic offices on Carlton St. has caused many people to consider their own views.

### TENDER

For the renovation and alteration of 4 houses, Spruce St., Toronto.

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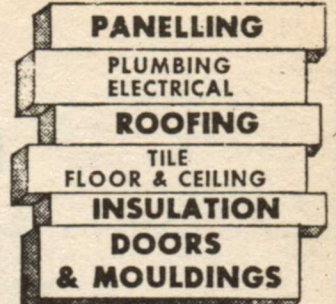
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# Hey, Mom!

by CATHERINE VERRALL

Your tiny baby is busy learning—at a faster rate than ever again—if you give him the chance. If you don't help him learn now, he may never catch up to what he might have been.

Here are some things you can do with your baby, to have fun together. At the same time, she'll be learning confidence in herself, trust in other people. She'll be learning that the world is an interesting place to explore, a place she herself can change. And that little baby brain will be getting ready for talking and reading. You really are important!

Help your baby SEE.

Stick bright pictures and designs on the crib and wall. What interesting things can he look at while you're changing him?

Make mobiles: bright, interesting designs laying where baby can watch them tremble. Use your imagination to make mobiles from scraps (aluminum foil, tissue paper, shiny stuff, cloth strips.)

Stick coloured cellophane shapes on the window where the sun shines in.

Arrange a mirror in a safe way so your baby can watch his own reflection moving. Fascinating! (Perhaps by the "changing" place.)

A goldfish bowl with fish inside: place where baby can watch.

Make baby mittens. Take infant socks, a bright colour. Cut off the toes. Slit a hole to let baby's thumb go through. Now you have fingerless mittens to make baby's hands even more fascinating to watch as they flail about.

By 3 months, prop her on an infant-board, so she can see you while you work; and see the world while she rides in the carriage.

## A guide to awakening your baby's senses

### Help your baby HEAR

A jumble of noise from T.V. and radio and people confuses a baby. Teach him to listen.

Talk to him, from the day he is born, even if he doesn't understand. Talk about what you're doing. Talk about the pictures on the wall. Talk about anything at all, but talk to him.

Repeat his gurgles back to him so he knows you respond to his efforts. Keep up a gurgling conversation!

Sing to him. Baby doesn't care a hoot for perfect pitch, so don't worry. Rhythm is most important, so keep a steady beat. (Just watch his legs go, practising rhythm!)

Whistle, if you can. (I can't, alas!)

Let him hear different sounds, like a clock ticking, a pretty bell, wind chimes, cellophane crackling...

Chant nursery rhymes. Baby enjoys the sound, the rhythm and the rhyme.

### Help your baby follow and grab

When your baby is lying in a flat, safe place, stand behind her, shake the rattle until she sees it. Slowly move the rattle in a circle around baby's head, so her eyes follow it. Later, move the rattle (slowly and steadily) in various ways so baby has to move her head to follow it. If she touches it (coordinating ear-eye-hand: bravo!) reward her for her effort. Let her hold and mouth it for a few minutes. Then play the game again.

Help your baby discover by touching. (What's me, and what isn't me?) He discovers most with his mouth. So whatever you give him must be mouth-safe: too big to swallow; not sharp. Each day give

him a NEW object, and a few familiar ones. (Not too many at once.)

Your kitchen has all sorts of treasures. Think about different textures. Try metal jar lids, plastic containers, paper bag, (never a plastic bag), sponge pieces, coloured plastic curlers (spikey), fur, cloth pieces.

Make a texture pad. Glue materials of different texture, like a patch-work, onto a rubber pad, or leftover floor tile. Use strong white glue. Even a two-month baby will enjoy the different feels as her hands touches it.

- to be continued. Excellent book.

**How to Parent:** Dodson (Signet books, \$1.50)

## Busy Bees enjoy films

Members of the Regent Park senior citizens Busy Bee Club enjoyed two excellent colour films at their Feb. 5 afternoon meeting—"Some are Sunfishers" depicting the annual trek of ranchers and horses to the Calgary Stampede and "Toronto" (places and people). At the February 19 meeting of the club, another film—"Today's Firefighter"—will be shown.

Membership in the club (fifty cents a year) has now risen to 92. More social events are in the planning stage. Meantime, the Busy Bees' active researcher, Dorothy Sangster, is continuing with her visits to senior citizens in north and south Regent Park. It is the hope of the Busy Bee Club that research into the day-to-day living problems of the elderly will result in future home-help services to those who need it.

## Staff change at NIP

The new lady hanging out in Neighbourhood Information Post is Susan Seaby. Susan was hired from the throngs of thousands who just love lots of work and not very much pay. She comes from Ottawa and thinks Toronto's winter is springtime; and she can hold her own with Jack Heighton from the Library House—the fellow with the large beard, large stomach and equally large voice.

Since she was the only person who did not run out the door when faced with the Post's friendly insanity, she was unanimously hired and immediately had a cup of "Red Zinger" tea with Jack, Nancy and Dolores Montgomery. Dolores, by the way, is going to work for the Environment Law Association as a lobbyist.

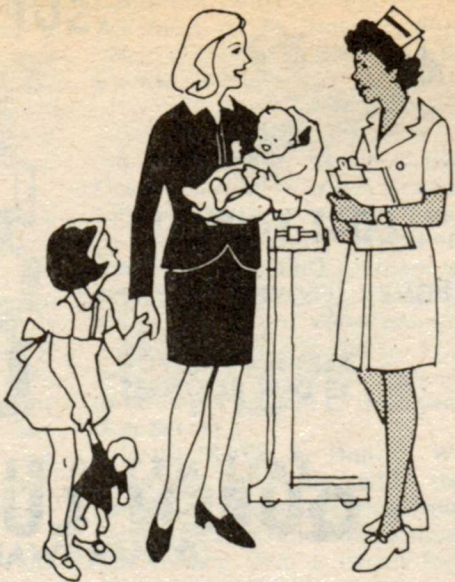
She has two and one half months to poke people in Ontario so they will grumble to their M.P.P.'s about the lousy laws we have to protect our environment; like the ones that allow our working men to get silicosis in asbestos plants, and our kids to come home sick from school with lead poisoning.

The folks at the Post wish to assure you that yes, they love doing income tax returns as much as you do, and so are delighted to help on Mondays through Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Just call the Post at 924-2543 and make an appointment.

Dolores says thanks for being so good to her while she was working in the ward. She will still be living in the area.

## Protect your children against disease, through immunization.

### This is what Ontario is doing to help you.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health Resource Centre  
Communications Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Health  
Hepburn Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S2

Ministry of Health  
Frank Miller, Minister



Government of Ontario

William Davis, Premier



## DRAMA in the WARD

by SCOTT WILLOWS

The Firehall Theatre, 70 Berkley St.

The Firehall theatre is presenting a tragedy by Leo Tolstoy, **THE POWER OF DARKNESS**. Neither the production nor the shape and content of the drama can match the skill and power of any one of the number of novels by the same author; however it is an interesting example of a kind of drama which was rare in Russia at the turn of the century.

In its time, the play was effectively banned for its lurid and violent subject matter; nonetheless before you rush off to see it be forewarned that times have changed and that 1902 was obviously a dull year.

There seems to be a great deal of shadow boxing going on across the stage. The old script is caked with melodramatic asides and soliloquies, and the cast curiously underplays the colourfully horrific scenes of violence and sin.

The exception to this general ennui is Frances Halpenny's portrayal of Matryona, the hero's scheming mother. Peter Kunder as the roustabout Nikita, (who murders his bastard child, the product of an illicit union with his stepdaughter) is so understated through out the play that his confession and spiritual turnabout at the end is not convincing. The set is excellent and the lighting is creative but the play as a whole is an uncomfortably long drawn out affair.



Joan Calderera and Peter Kunder in Firehall's **POWER OF DARKNESS**. Photo by John Bloom

The Theatre Second Floor 86 Parliament

Des McAnuff's **LEAVE IT TO BEAVER IS DEAD** begins Wed. Feb. 12. It is directed by Paul Bettis and includes in the cast Larry Davis, Gena Kovacs, Carol Lazare, and J. W. Messinger.

Theatre Passe Muraille East Dundas at Sherbourne

The new seed production opens on Feb. 26. **THE FOLLIES OF CONVICTION** is a comedy based on an actual incident of attempted censorship in Toronto of 1912. The show combines a recreation of the original burlesque, "Darlings of Paris" with characters and incidents from the surrounding controversy. For more information call 961-3303.

### Softball league to hold first meeting

The snow is still on the ground but already people in the ward are thinking of summer baseball. The first meeting of the Don Valley Softball Association will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18th at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street.

The League this year will consist of ten teams and there is still openings for three teams. The league also needs coaches, managers and umpires. Most of all, it needs players.

The season runs from May 15 to Aug. 30 and if you are interested in getting involved in any way at any level, phone Bill Hands at

961-2812 or George Liberty at 423-0123. Or come out to the meeting at Dixon Hall on Feb. 18.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Newsround-up

### Library presents an evening of Laurel & Hardy

children called **Princess and the Pea** on Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. Admission is free.... On March 1 at 2 p.m. the special children's attraction will be **Symphony Street** with **Keith Gerrard** and his flute....

Don Vale historian **George H. Rust-D'Eye** has recently been appointed to the **Toronto Historical Board**. He will fill the terms remaining to **Janet Howard** who had to quit because of her new job at City Hall....

An evening of **Laurel and Hardy** will be presented by the Parliament Library House, 265

Gerrard East on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. Admission is free.... Local poet **Alfred Rushton** will be featured at the open poetry reading at the Library House on Thursday, Feb 27 at 7:30....

The **DACHI Residents' Association** has become a member of the Federation of Don Area Residents Association.... The DACHI Residents' Association hope to fill the **three vacancies** that now exist on the DACHI Board of Directors....

A **General Meeting** of the Don Vale Community Centre will be held at the Centre, 80 Winchester, on **Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m.** All members of the community are invited to attend....

**CORRECTION:** A LIP project operating in the Riverdale area is called **Rent-a-van**, not Need-a-van. However, despite the name change, the service is free to those

in need who can't afford a commercial trucking service. Phone them at **961-2844**....

Free **pottery classes** have now started at the Don Vale Community Centre, **80 Winchester street**. Children are Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and adults are Wed. evenings from 7 to 9 p.m....

A post-election party for **Janet Howard** will be held at Holy Trinity Church on Fri Feb. 21 at 8:30. Tickets are \$5. each....

Central Neighbourhood House has been given a grant of **\$134,000** for 1975 from the United Way. This is 12% over what they received last year but still a bit less than they asked for....

**WENDO classes** (self-defense for women over 15) will be starting Wed. Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester street. Five two-hour sessions are only \$5....

(The cost of presenting this column is offset by an on-going grant from the Office of Community Consultation, Ontario.)

### Food Co-op seeks members

by NEIL ROTHANBERG

The Central Neighbourhood House Food Club has started to lay the necessary groundwork for its first food selling day, which will be Wednesday, February 19.

Preliminary arrangements have been made for the use of a van for their food buying trips and they are also looking for some weight scales. Membership is open to anyone in the area and it's free.

The Food Club will be carrying fruits and vegetables and eggs to begin with and hopes to be carrying other items as time goes on.

Some sample prices for items the food club carries are: oranges, 39 cents a dozen; apples, 13 cents a pound; celery, 21 cents a bunch; potatoes, 4 cents a pound; and large eggs, 72 cents a dozen. Prices may vary up or down by a few cents depending upon wholesale market conditions.

The food club also is seeking volunteers—it needs them in order to survive. Only a few hours a month are required and the work is interesting and enjoyable. Also needed are old paper bags and egg cartons for distributing produce and eggs.

Food order sheets are now available at Central Neighbouring House, 349 Ontario; or for more information, phone Neil Rothanberg at 925-4363.

### Lord Dufferin kids get day care

After two years of effort, the Downtown Youth Centre at 315 Dundas St. East has become licensed as a daycare centre for students of Lord Dufferin Public school.

The program will consist of breakfast, lunch and an after school program of arts & crafts, gym, sports, swimming and possibly bowling at Metropolitan United Church. The program will be for students aged six through ten years.

Payment for the program will be according to the parent's ability to pay and will be subsidized by the Metro Social Services Department.

Parents wishing to having their children registered for this program should make application to the Child Care Services at 345 George St. Applications will be on a first come-first served basis with priority going to low income working families.

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### It's Janet's Party!

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## New theatre form gets good reception

by SCOTT WILLOWS

One room atop the old Winchester Public School is current serving as the headquarters for the Open Circle Theatre's enthusiastic and widespread audience development program. The co-founders, Ray Whelan and Sylvia Tucker are attempting to bring live theatre to a wider range of Toronto's population.

The demand for tickets is not always directly linked to the qual-

ity of a play. More often a combination of unpredictable elements, word of mouth, theatre reviews, other media coverage or effective publicity, is responsible for a successful run. The majority of Toronto's theatres operate on a box office income of 25 to 40 per cent capacity. The losses are offset substantially by government or public grants.

To combat this often fragile dependency, Open Circle has taken steps to establish an educational and attractive strategy to draw out the crowds.

On the long blackboard at Winchester there is a chart which lists the times and the places where Ray Whelan will direct a free form dramatic workshop—in exchange for a guarantee of 30 seats at an Open Circle production. Another

arrangement provides wine and cheese, for slightly more than the price of the tickets, to anyone who can round up sixteen friends to come and see the play. This combination social outing and theatre night has thus far attracted a most enthusiastic response.

Mr. Whelan and Ms. Tucker are excited by the visible results of what they can see happening already. There is a tremendous variety of response which they feel is allowing them to know their craft better and the education of the audience and the performer-writers has become very mutual and enriching for both.

People who have never been to a theatre before feel no hang-ups about talking during or even adding to a performance in progress. They guffaw at the use of forbidden language and generally are as comfortable in the theatre as they would be in front on their own living-room television.

On the other hand, many of the more affluent patrons of Open Circle have stated that they have been genuinely touched by the social context of many of the situations portrayed by the theatre's particular emphasis on documentary drama.

Both Mr. Whelan and Ms. Tucker unhesitatingly declare that their priority for this theatre is good wide-open entertainment. All and any feedback from their productions is valuable and is digested into an enlightened re-



sponse from the actors to the audience in the next production. If you would like to take advantage of their workshop for your group or school give them a call and ask some questions at 967-6584. You'd be surprised at the alternatives to your television set.



### 7 NEWS

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iness skills will be advantage-  
ous.

## NIP worker fights tax return rip-off

Dolores Montgomery is angry.

She's angry because as a worker at the Neighbourhood Information Post she fills out the rent rebate portion of people's income tax forms. She's good at it and she can do one in from six to ten minutes.

And she does them for free.

Last Friday, she called H. & R. Block and asked them how much they charged to do a return. Like she was doing for free.

"I called and said I was on Mother's Allowance, had two kids, paid \$100 per month rent and asked how much it would cost to have my rent rebate filled out. The receptionist said \$10, if I wanted to get back the most to which I was entitled."

Dolores estimated that one H & R employee, completing ten returns on non-taxable income in one hour, could make \$100.

"Even in view of inflation, \$100 an hour is excessive for brainless work," said Dolores.

A called to the Better Business Bureau informed her that there was no legislation that dealt with fair pricing.

Another thing that has Dolores angry is a "racket" that crops up about this time every year. Under this "racket" a needy person sells his right to a refund to someone who fills in the form for him.

The needy person signs his tax form and "an assignment of negotiable instrument" form and receives \$50 cash or half his refund. Ottawa then sends the tax refund directly to the person who has filled out the form since he is now legally entitled to his customer's refund.

Dolores feels that "if it is not by the letter of the law, illegal, it is surely unfair and immoral."

The complexity of the new Income Tax forms, the lack of places that will fill them out free or at nominal cost and the fact that Ottawa hasn't sent out any rebates as yet—all make the situation even more critical.

Dolores is so angry that she's writing a letter to Donald Macdonald the Member of Parliament for this area about it.

And she's sending copies of the letter to 45 other individuals, groups and organizations to alert them of the situation.

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