

# Neighbourhood groups seek more natural ice rinks

by DAVE MOORE

A few community groups across the city, including Rose Avenue School, may ward off the Parks and Recreation Commission's plans to eliminate natural ice rinks completely.

Mr. J. Coulter, the commission's permit clerk said that the combination of poor weather and budget cuts have forced the commission to close all natural ice surfaces in the city. He said that it costs approximately \$12,000 a year to keep a natural surface in operation, and that in the past few

years that has only been six days.

The official opening dates have been December 15, but even that has been impossible. However, the artificial rinks were able to open on November 22, and the cost per location is only \$3,800 a year. He added that the artificial rinks all have an area beside them flooded naturally for those who wish to skate free style while a hockey game is going on in the rink, and that this policy will continue this year.

Coulter went on to say that it is too bad that the city hadn't spent money in the past few years to build more

artificial surfaces rather than wasting it on the sporadically usable natural ones.

As it stands now, there are four rinks available in Ward 7: Regent South, Regent North, Riverdale, and Jimmie Simpson.

The community groups still want their natural surfaces, though, and have appealed the decision. They have offered, in some cases, to supply the services free if the city would pay for the material. This would affect from 20 to 30 rinks in the city. The appeal was bounced from the commission to City Council, where it was heard last Wednesday.

## CHRISTMAS CARD

The back page of next issue will feature a Xmas Card to Ward Seven. Along with appropriate wording and drawings there will be space for the names of community people, businesses and organizations. The price to have your name included is \$5 this year. Phone 920-8632



# NEWS

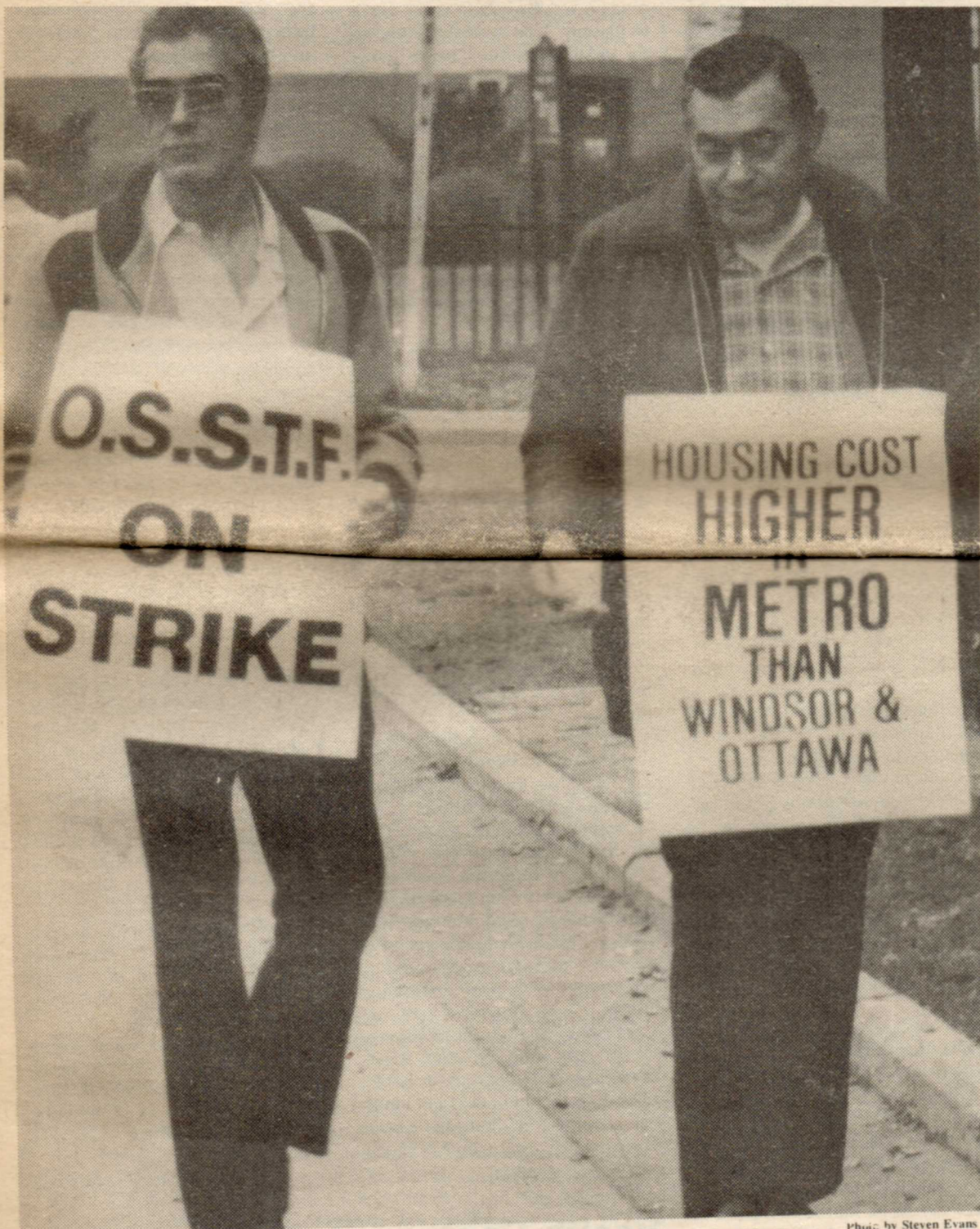
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## NEXT ISSUE

Next issue, out over the week end of Dec. 13, will be our 16-page colour, Christmas Issue. Because of the size of the paper, we need lots of material and we need it earlier than usual. If possible, please have material for that issue in to the 7 News office by Thursday, December 4.



Jan Spurgell (right) and R. Graham, two Metro Secondary School teachers, man the picket line outside of Eastdale Secondary School in Ward Seven. SEE STORIES ON PAGE NINE.

Photo by Steven Evans

# South Riverdale seeks \$7 million under NIP

by DAVID JOHNSON

The South Riverdale Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP) will include in its annual report to City Council in January a recommendation that its boundaries be enlarged.

If approved, this would result in an increase in projected funds for capital improvements in South Riverdale to seven and one half million dollars. One million dollars is currently projected.

In the past four months, the Steering Committee for the NIP area has been unable to come up with a plan that reflects the government requirements. Until such a plan is approved, the residents of South Riverdale see no capital improvements and see community projects die for a lack of funds. The area also remains ineligible for Federal money for home and small business improvements.

NIP is a complex program. The City of Toronto pioneered it back in 1971. It was so successful that it came to the attention of the Provincial and Federal governments who established their own NIP programs by 1973. (In order to avoid confusion, Toronto's program was renamed TIP, Toronto Improvement Program.)

The purpose of NIP is to divert money into low income neighbourhoods for capital improvements such as lane paving, street lighting, parks or the purchase of buildings for community uses. The money comes from the Federal government, the Provincial government and the City on a ratio of 50%-25%-25%. In order for a NIP designated area to receive funds, a capital program must be drawn up by a Steering Committee formed of

residents and be submitted to all three governments.

This plan lays out in detail what improvements are wanted and where they will be located. The plan must meet all the requirements of all three governments if it is to be accepted and be funded in full. The time and paper work involved are immense and so are the

quires that in every NIP area a gross amount of \$200. per capita be spent. They also require that the people who use or benefit from the improvements live within the NIP boundaries.

South Riverdale is underserved by the city and is short of almost every facility. Any capital improvements, especially major ones, will be used by people living outside of the NIP boundaries as they are presently drawn. This is against Federal regulations. The Federal government would reduce its share of the cost of such improvements pro rata by the use the facilities would receive by those people.

The City of Toronto has a small tax base and more limited resources than the other governments participating in the program. It cannot afford to increase its share of the cost above the 25% participation level. The Steering Committee knows this. They also know that the smaller the NIP area, the greater its chances of success. (The Dufferin-Davenport NIP area with a population of 5,000 has already purchased a site for a senior citizen's centre). But they have found it impossible to devise a plan for spending one million dollars in their NIP area.

A quick glance at a map shows why. The boundaries for the South Riverdale NIP were drawn up by the Planning Office several years ago and before a Community Development Officer was hired. Presently, they do not reflect any significant differences in family income, ethnic identity or community involvement between the blocks included and those not. The NIP area forms a thin gerrymander stretching from Ward Seven, across the bottom of Ward Eight and into Ward Nine. At most points it is only one block wide and at no

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Trefann Court houses to be occupied

by J. OLIN

Although you've read the above headlines before, it does not appear that the major dispute surrounding the 17 new houses on Trefann Street has ended. Trefann Homes Corp., the community non-profit housing organization, recently informed William Teron, President of C.M.H.C., that without any feasible recourse, the houses would be sold according to Teron's conditions.

Essentially this means that resale value of the houses will be based on the equity payments adjusted to the change in the cost of

living index. As equity includes only a 5% downpayment and minimal principle payments on the mortgage, Trefann residents had been reluctant to accept the C.M.H.C. conditions. The Trefann proposal called for an adjustment based on the sale price of the house, not just equity payments. The concern being the ability of a family who would leave a non-profit house and have to cope on the private market.

C.M.H.C., has, however, agreed to pay their share of the interest on the mortgage advances and legal fees which have been in-

curring due to the long delays in resolving the situation. Only those amounts in excess of the mortgage application estimates will be paid as an urban renewal expense.

The houses which were built by June of 1974 will be occupied as soon as possible. However, due to the remaining legal and mortgage financing documentation as well as time for occupants to give notice at their present residence, it appears unlikely that many of the units will be occupied by February, 1976.

Phase II of the Urban Renewal Scheme, with a potential for a further 200 new units (apartments

and row housing) over the rest of the Trefann area, is presently in limbo for two basic reasons. The first is that until the new 17 houses are actually occupied to the satisfaction of all parties, any decisions on Phase II would be premature.

The second factor is that since the finally resolved question of tenure worked out to be in conflict with basic scheme objectives as approved by all levels of government as well as the Trefann Working Committee, it is a yet to be made decision by the Working Committee as to their sponsorship or involvement with more new housing under Phase I conditions.



SEVEN NEWS is a community-owned newspaper published every other Saturday 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. Any opinion expressed in SEVEN NEWS are those of the individual writer and do not represent the views of the staff or publishing organization. Where errors of facts are brought to our attention, we will print a suitable correction.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jack Cooper, Alan Dudeck, Patricia Riley, Bill Lee, Marilyn Williams, Jordan Hill, Carol Finlay, John Cheng and Bev Coney.

## Correction and apology

Dear Norman,

I would like to draw your readers' attention to an error and omission made in my article on Senior Citizen groups in Ward Seven published in the last issue of your paper.

Apologies are due to the Senior Citizens group at 41 Oak Street. The organizer of this group is John Sanlon, 368-7503. Mr. Sanlon,

who is unit representative for the building was instrumental in creating the group. It has been in operation now for about five years.

The club meets on the main floor of 41 Oak Street and they have a Bingo every Tuesday from 1:30 to 4:30. They also sponsor outings, parties and other activities.

Shelley Birenbaum  
N.I.P.

## DACHI only evicts for arrears

Dear Editor:

With regard to Fran Rukevina's letter in your last issue: Ms. Rukevina seems unable to grasp the basic precepts of co-operative living. She does not realize that the residents of DACHI are in the process of gradually taking over its operation.

We now have six resident Directors and three non-resident Directors, a balance which anyone can see is heavily in favour of the residents.

The occupancy agreement she mentions has in fact been drawn up by residents with some input by the Board of Directors. Member selection is a process conducted by residents and chaired by a resident Director. The co-op is endeavouring to create a balance between low and middle income people for which the project was designed.

With regard to Ms. Rukevina's comment on evictions, the only evictions in process involve delinquent rent payers, and as DACHI is a non-profit co-operative, we do not have any other source other than rent to meet our mortgage payments. It is thus obvious that we cannot afford delinquency in rent payments.

In regard to DACHI releasing confidential information to others in the project, Ms. Rukevina is referring to the fact that the Office Manager informs the rent committee when a resident is in arrears. That committee, made up of residents and chaired by a resident Director, then meets with the resident and tries to help them find a solution to pay their rent.

If, after several attempts the residents proves not to be serious about their intention to pay, the committee may recommend eviction.

Ms. Rukevina appears to be under the misapprehension that there is some mythical "management" in DACHI. This co-op will finally get off the ground when residents like Ms. Rukevina realize that it stands or falls on the positive or negative input of its members.

Janice O'Conner  
269 Carlton St.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It would be nice if each co-operative housing project in Ward Seven would clearly define what they require in the way of "co-operative living" from its resident members . . . NGB)

# LETTERS'



## Education problems are complex: reader

Dear Norman:

It's only a short time ago that it was illegal for teachers to strike, but now we have a full-fledged walkout. Perhaps the legality of the strike is indicative of a society that is changing its sense of values. Perhaps it no longer places quite as much importance upon teachers as it once did. Teachers are now dispensible.

Change is also reflected in the classroom itself. At the same time as discipline in the class has disappeared in comparison to less than ten years ago, teachers are expected more than ever to be responsible for the lives of their students — look at all the guidance facilities that have had to be utilised in order to help a student cope in this rather chaotic society.

The government has poured all sorts of money and propaganda extolling the indispensibility of its system, thus raising the expectations of students, parents and teachers alike, but now they have stopped the flow into the mechanics of the system so well advertised. Thus the false expectations of the people involved have been found to be that — groundless.

At the same time, some educational critics are promoting a "deschooled" society. Even John White, when he was minister of Colleges and Universities, privately wondered if it would be a good idea to issue B.A.s along with birth certificates. Teachers are beginning to doubt the worth of work they are doing, and many of them are constantly searching for a better way of making our young into our old. SEED and schools like it are examples of meaningful alternatives being worked on by teachers and administrators.

Even as the teacher is contemplating the ramifications of the system he or she is working in, he must remain in it for the time being at least. They are always trying to find that magic moment when a child really learns something with hundreds of students a day. That instant probably doesn't happen too often. Thus it's a frustrating job.

To compound this frustration, teachers have historically been in a downtrodden area of society. "Those who can do, those who can't — teach," seems to be heard quite a lot. But in order to do, and to explain in a comprehensible way to a generally uninterested audience has to be more difficult than just doing. So it takes a bit of education, both to learn, and to learn how to teach. It takes just as long as it takes to become an engineer and in many cases, longer, while the government-paid engineers seem to make more money than the teachers. What's more important anyways — our future generation or our skyscrapers and highways?

The strike is a build-up of all these things and more. It is in many ways a moral thing: a strike out against a situation with many variations, but not a nearly articulate enough way of expressing grievances in a way that people will understand them. The public sees money behind the whole thing, and that is all. If the teachers want to air their whole pile of philosophy and alternatives, they are going to have to develop a whole new form of protest. More

choices are going to have to be made available in the field of education for children ... the factory is going to have to disappear.

Teachers are perhaps made up of the most different people in the populace ... surely they are the most diverse occupational group. In one factory of education you have artists ... promoting their area of interest, to industrial experts, to mathematics purists, to commercial proponents. All of them under one roof, and all of them agreeing overwhelmingly that something has made it worthwhile to voice a note of dissent. That is the unifying factor and to the public it looks like — since they all took the same form of protest — that they all have the same thing to protest about.

That's what happens when we try to institutionalize something like education. Rather than simplifying things, it makes them more complicated.

It forces the people operating in it to lash out against it in a form that it itself has dictated; thus no real change is produced, thus "truth becomes a raise in salary" ... for a few short years, anyways.

After that contract is finished, the same thing will happen all over again. Perhaps someone will look back and realize that it's déjà vu, and perhaps that will instigate a little change. Until then, the frustrations will still exist, money or no money.

Dave Brent  
Winchester St.

## School board lies to children

Dear Editor:

Because our children go to school we think that they are getting an education.

If your children go to a public elementary school which has a large number of children from families categorized as low income, single parent, coloured, recent immigrant, or families on some form of public assistance, they are likely to be at least two years behind other children in reading, math, etc.

Just ask any inner-city school teacher!

These children, who are behind the education system standards, are being passed yearly until they leave school or end up in vocational or alternative school programs.

Parents are led to believe the lie, that their children are succeeding. Teachers tell the parents little or nothing about their children's level of academic performance — unless the parents press them or the principal for more information.

Parents are told in grade three or four that their child is at least two years behind in his reading and that it would help if parents could do some work with their children at home.

Teachers don't want to live the lie for very long and they don't. Many leave the inner-city schools. They face the truth that the inner-city doesn't give their kids a hope in heaven of going higher in the educational system.

What about the children who believe in the adults: their parents, their teachers who are selling them a bill of goods? The kids are learning to accept the lie as their truth, a condition they will never be able to change.

What choice did these kids have? They didn't choose to be born into a situation where their education would be so far behind the majority of kids in schools.

A group of parents at "Duke of York School", a Ward Seven elementary school, has had enough of these lies. We challenge the Toronto Board of Education to deny the truth that inner-city children are behind.

They can live their lie comfortably in the offices of 155 College Street while parents, children, teachers and principals of the inner-city face the results of these lies daily in seeing the children.

If your child goes to a school where you feel he or she is getting less than the education he needs, start asking questions like why? before it's too late.

We want the schools to stop promoting our children, when they know darn well that they're not ready for promotion. That is the first lie we must stop.

If you are concerned about these issues, we invite you to attend a meeting to be held at Duke of York School, 14 Pembroke Street, on December 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Marion Driscoll

## Health Centre gets new board

Dear Norman,

The Don District Community Health Centre apologises in being remiss in not publishing their new Board of Directors list. The annual general meeting was held at 155 Sherbourne St. on Sept. 17, 1975. By kind permission of the Tenants Association, approximately 50 people attended the membership drive. After a break for refreshments provided by the board a new board of directors was voted in.

Holdovers from the previous board re-elected were: Marion Bingham, Marlene Burns, Paul Chamberlain, Edna Dixon, Carol Douglas, Noreen Gaudette, Liza Guerin, Doug Wallace and Julia Brown.

The five new members are: Helen Beck, Donna Hamilton,

Ruth McGuin, Jean Noyes and Sassy Waddell.

The new Board will serve for one year during which time they will be responsible for the on-going policy and operations of the centres on Queen St., Shuter St., and Gerrard St. They hire and supervise the staff needed in the Centre and gauge the medical needs of the community and direct the staff to implement them. We hope to publish our Financial Statement as soon as our audit is completed and would like to inform the community that there is one vacancy for a Director on the Board. For further information, ring Maggie Brockhouse (364-1361).

Maggie Brockhouse  
Executive Director

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## City holds up Riverdale post office takeover

by DAVID JOHNSON

Plans to leave Old Postal Station "G" at Queen and Saulters Streets by South Riverdale for a Community Centre have run into an unexpected snag. City Solicitor William Callow, at the November 19th meeting of the Executive Committee of the City Council recommended any action be deferred until his office prepares a report on the legal aspects of leasing the building.

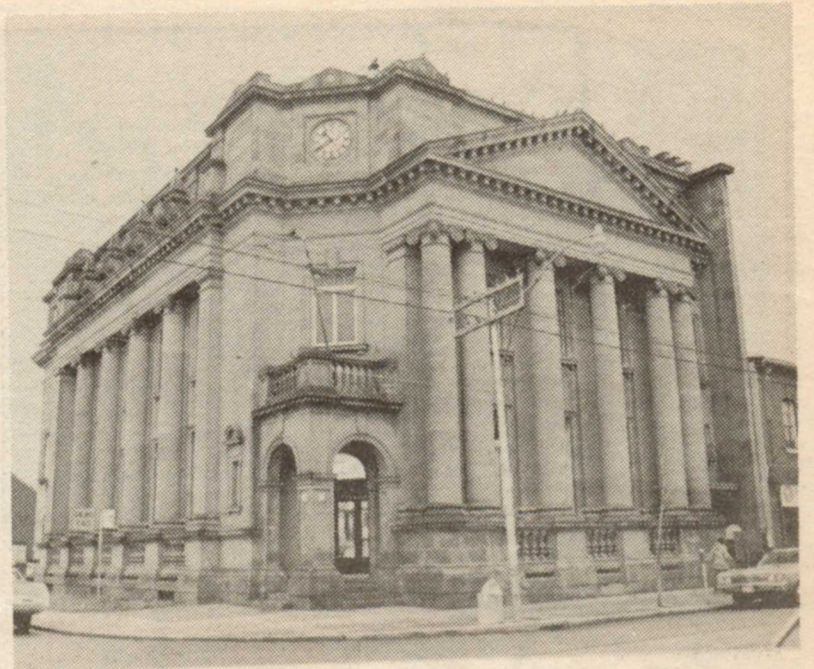
The Steering Committee for the Neighbourhood Improvement Program in South Riverdale sought to lease the building in order to bring municipal services into the area and to provide space at reduced or nominal rent to community related organizations. The Centre was expected to be self-supporting from this revenue.

Solicitor Callow's objections centered around what constitutes "municipal services". He noted

that since all proposed tenants will not be branch offices of Municipal Departments, the city cannot take ultimate responsibility for the lease. He furthermore pointed out that the city might have to tax itself if the building is leased under a city guarantee. He promised to clarify these points in his report.

Citizens in South Riverdale feel neglected by the city since there are few services of any kind available in their neighbourhood. They felt it necessary to have a Centre with adequate space before they could attract municipal, provincial and federal offices as well as local social service agencies and community-based groups. They will not approach the Library Board for example for a branch library until they had space to house.

The three storey masonry building has been vacant since March 1975. Public Works Canada wishes to lease the historic structure and is renovating it to bring it up to standards. If the community fails to obtain a lease, then it will be offered by tender to commercial interests.



Old Postal Station "G" has been a prominent landmark and focal point in the community for over sixty-years. The building was erected in 1913 and designated a historical site in 1973. It was designed by E. J. Lennox who also designed the old City Hall and Casa Loma. The exterior is in the Classical Revival style and the interior includes lavish use of marble

and carved woodwork.

South Riverdale must wait until the City Solicitor prepares and presents his report. If his objections are not serious, then the community could have its Centre early next year. If not, then South Riverdale will continue to be under-served and continue without a focal point and basic facilities for citizen involvement.

## Parking restrictions lifted

by PAT FILLMORE

The Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area has successfully applied to City Council for the lifting of afternoon rush-hour parking restrictions on Parliament Street.

In late October, Bart Davis, chairman of the Association and Pat Fillmore, co-ordinator, appeared before the City Council Committee on Public Works.

They maintained that the volume of traffic on Parliament Street was not excessive during rush-hour and supported their argument with photographs taken before and

during the rush-hour period. The Public Works Committee voted unanimously to approve the request.

A few days later, Toronto City Council passed a motion to lift the parking restrictions. The necessary changes in the by-laws have been made.

Although the "No Parking 4:00 to 6:00" signs are still up, store-owners and customers look forward to their removal. Shoppers will now be able to stop on the way home from work to pick up cleaning or groceries without fear of a "green hornet" swooping down on them with a \$10 ticket.

## Regent Park to have Carol sing

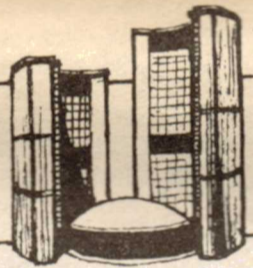
Regent Park will have a joint Christmas Carol Sing on Friday, December 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. As in previous years, the Carol Singing will be sponsored by three churches: St. Bartholemew's Anglican, St. Paul's Roman Catholic and Regent Park United Church.

Singers will assemble outside 203 Sackville Green at 7 p.m. All who wish to join in the caroling are

invited to come along and be there at that time.

After everyone is assembled, the group will move off to five locations in North and South Regent Park to sing during the evening. After the caroling, there will be refreshments and a social gathering for all the singers.

## city hall report



### Restraints sought in budget

by JANET HOWARD  
Ward 7 Alderman

It's budget time again. This is the least favorite time of year for any politician torn between what programmes he or she thinks should be carried out by City and Metro governments and the wallop between the eyes Torontonians get with their tax bills.

Despite calls for restraint, Metro is again planning to spend money like a drunken sailor. Little items like the \$65 million Spadina Expressway will begin in 1976 while great plans are announced for Olympic swimming pools, stadiums, expressway-sized roads called "high intensity arterial roads," etc.

The Reform Caucus has been monitoring committing meetings where these budgets are discussed. So far, we are only dealing with capital budgets, that is items such as bricks, mortar and sewer pipes. Last year, the capital budget came to \$222 million, largely reduced through Provincial and Federal subsidies.

This year, some departments are nearly doubling their requests for capital projects. Don't forget that each department has an operating budget as well, out of which come salaries and everything else except buildings. That total last year was \$451 million gross or \$230 million, raised through taxes, after subtracting subsidies.

The City of Toronto is going to have to lay off staff in order to keep its share of the taxes from increasing more than 10%, according to a member of our own Budget Review Committee. Metro and the school system take the biggest bite of the tax dollar. When Metro's Budget Committee has finished going through the budgets the first time, they are going to be left with so enormous a sum that their current refusal to cut anything out will have to give way to more careful scrutiny of needs and justifications for each and every item.

Where the important political decision comes in is deciding between expressways and daycare centres and Olympic sports facilities versus parks projects, which most of us would enjoy, and — this is the one that is hardest to tackle — big projects that will encourage urban sprawl versus projects that are necessary to maintain good standards within the boundaries of Metro Toronto.

You have to be a masochist to enjoy budgets but maybe that's what a responsible politician should really be: allocating the dollars and cents is a more political activity than virtually any other.

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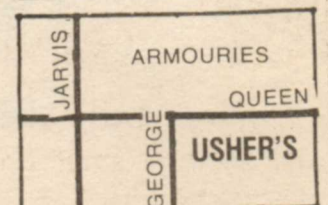
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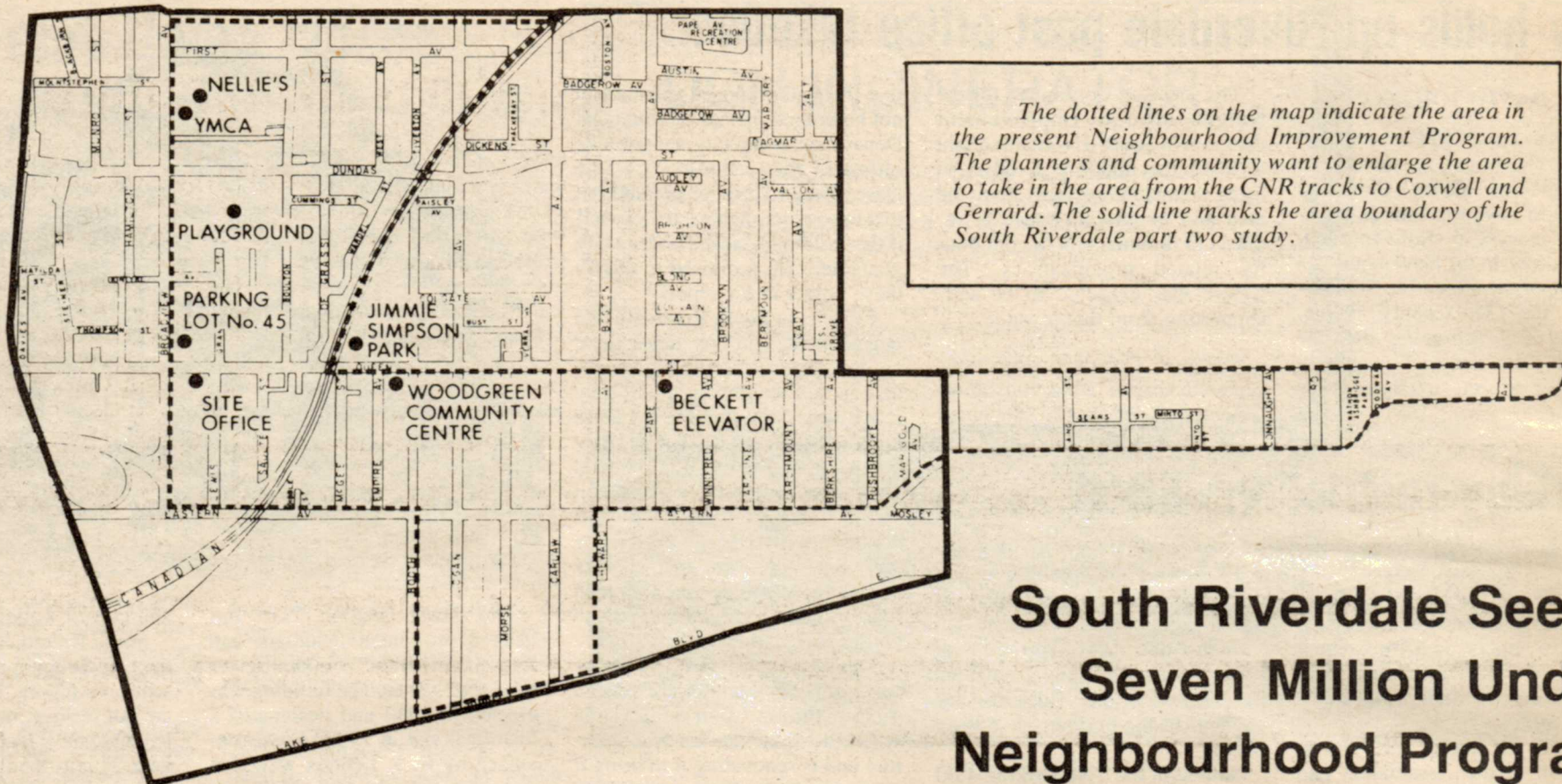
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The dotted lines on the map indicate the area in the present Neighbourhood Improvement Program. The planners and community want to enlarge the area to take in the area from the CNR tracks to Coxwell and Gerrard. The solid line marks the area boundary of the South Riverdale part two study.

## South Riverdale Seeks Seven Million Under Neighbourhood Program

FROM PAGE ONE

### People problems can be serious problems.

### This is what Ontario is doing to help solve them in advance.



Recently arrangements were made for a group of Indian children to attend the public school in a northern Ontario town. The principal of the school in the town was aware that Indian children sometimes had a rough time at the hands of other students, and to try to forestall this kind of situation, he called in a Human Rights Commission counsellor to talk to the other children. The counsellor asked the children if any of them had ever moved to a new school, and what they thought it would feel like if they were the strangers. In this way he helped them understand how the Indian children would be feeling when they arrived, and the integration proceeded relatively smoothly.

Community counselling is one of the major roles of your Ontario Human Rights Commission. We hold seminars and discussions with police in areas where there are communication barriers between them and minority groups, to help relieve tension and promote mutual understanding.

We attend meetings of immigrants and native-born minority groups to explain to them both their rights under the legislation and their responsibilities as citizens of this Province.

We also help bring people into contact with local agencies like home-and-school groups, community and government agencies, and churches, which are available to help but which many people don't even know exist. Wherever there's a difficulty based on race, language, colour or creed, the Human Rights Commission is available to generate discussion and motivate people to develop understanding and respect for the other's point of view.

Our job is to help bring people together and encourage healthier relationships among all groups.

If you would like more information or assistance, contact the Human Rights Commission at any of the following addresses:

**HAMILTON**  
1 West Avenue South  
Postal Zone: L8N 2R9  
Telephone: 527-2951

**KENORA**  
808 Robertson Street  
Postal Zone: P9N 1X9  
Telephone: 468-3128

**KITCHENER**  
824 King Street West  
Postal Zone: N2G 1G1  
Telephone: 744-7308

**LONDON**  
560 Wellington Street  
Postal Zone: N6A 3R4  
Telephone: 438-6141

**OTTAWA**  
2197 Riverside Drive  
Postal Zone: K1H 7X3  
Telephone: 731-2415

**SAULT STE. MARIE**  
125 Brock Street  
Postal Zone: P6A 3B6  
Telephone: 949-3331

**SUDBURY**  
1538 LaSalle Boulevard  
Postal Zone: P3A 1Z7  
Telephone: 566-3071

**THUNDER BAY**  
435 James St. South  
Postal Zone: P7E 6E3  
Telephone: 475-1693

**TORONTO**  
400 University Avenue  
Postal Zone: M7A 1T7  
Telephone: 965-6841

**WINDSOR**  
500 Ouellette Avenue  
Postal Zone: N9A 1B3  
Telephone: 256-3611

**Ontario Human Rights Commission  
Ministry of Labour  
Bette Stephenson, M.D., Minister**



Province of Ontario  
William Davis, Premier

point does it encompass a complete neighbourhood.

The project is stalled for want of a solution, but it is not dead. When its annual report is submitted to the three governments it will include a request that its budget be continued for another year and its boundaries be enlarged. The proposal is to extend them northward to include both sides of Gerrard Street, eastward to include Coxwell Street and westward to the Don River. The southern boundary would stay as it is. In order to include land between the Don River and Broadview, the city must drop the designation of this land as an Urban Renewal site.

The change of boundaries would increase the population of the area from the current 12,500 to 37,000 persons. This means the projected funds for capital improvements would also increase from one million dollars to the seven and one half million dollar figure. Vacant land along the Don River would become available for development into parks or as the site of daycare or community centres. Improvements along Queen Street would no longer be limited to the south side only.

There are problems that go hand-in-hand with this solution. Such a large area would be hard to manage and might necessitate the hiring of additional personnel for planning and co-ordination. The city is currently trying to trim its budget and restrict new hiring. The City Council very well may not want to approve additional staff.

The City has budgeted approximately one million dollars to fund its portion of the eleven NIP areas in Toronto. If the South Riverdale NIP area is expanded, the City's portion of the increased cost alone would be over 1.7 million dollars. Some of the money could come from other NIP's who do not use their full allocation. Where the rest of the money would come from is unknown at this time.

Residences of South Riverdale are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Steering Committee on December 1st at 8:00 p.m. at the South Riverdale Site Office located at 731 Queen Street. For more information, call Margaret Bryce, Community Development Officer, Telephone 463-5914.

**THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED ON THIS ISSUE.**

## NEWS ROUND-UP

## Bain Avenue youth centre needs donations of furniture

Free short **National Film Board** films continue at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street, every **Wednesday evening** at 7:30 p.m. and **Sunday afternoon** at 2 p.m. ...

... **Need a babysitter?** People from the community, interested in babysitting have listed their names at the Neighbourhood Information Post, 265 Gerrard East. If you want to do some babysitting or need someone to mind the kids phone **924-2543** ...

The Riverdale Library, **Broadview and Gerrard** is now open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from noon to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 5 p.m. ...

An anthology of **writings** by former and present Canadian "mental" patients is being compiled for publication in 1976. Material can be anonymous and need not be up to professional standards. Contact "**Brainwaves**", Box 7251, Station "A", Toronto ...

Broadview Community Health Clinic held a successful **open house** last Friday. The occasion was to celebrate their move from Broadview and Gerrard to their new location at **791 Queen Street East** ...

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street, will be the site of an **adult dance** to be held Saturday, December 5 at 8 p.m. There will be a buffet, disc-jockey, and cash bar. Admission is **\$2.50** — call Fred for tickets at **863-0494** ...

As a follow-up to their successful Rooming House Operator course, held in conjunction with George Brown College, Central Neighbourhood House is designing a **Homevisitor Course** which should start in the new year ...

The Regent Park Busy Bee Club will hold their annual **Christmas Party** on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the downstairs lounge at **41 Oak Street**. Dinner is at 7 with entertainment to follow. It's for members only ...

... The next meeting of the Board of Directors of **Seven News** will be held at 7:30 p.m. on **Monday, December 1** at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street ...

**Centro Donne** has re-opened at **368A College Street**. They are a women's centre for

Italian, Spanish and Portuguese immigrants. Their number is **924-7161** ...

... Anyone objecting to the fact that the upcoming Ontario Rent Control Program **will not** include rooming houses should phone the Metro Tenants Association at **364-1486** ...

Three inexpensive and **nourishing meals** are being served weekly to the community at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street. Meals are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday noon at varying prices up to \$1 ...

The **Riverdale Library**, which already houses the largest collection of books and newspapers in the **Chinese language** has recently received a further large shipment of books for children in Chinese ...

... Local businessmen who have **full or part-time jobs** available for 14 and 15 year-olds are asked to contact **Albert Joseph** at 615A Gerrard St. East, phone 461-7549 ...

Senior citizens from Nisbet Lodge and **Chester Village** in Ward Seven will have a display of their arts and crafts at the Danforth Library, Pape and Danforth, during the month of December ...

**Senior citizens** living around Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach, are invited to drop in and sign up for a variety of programs being offered for their age group. Or phone **Josie at 863-0499** ...

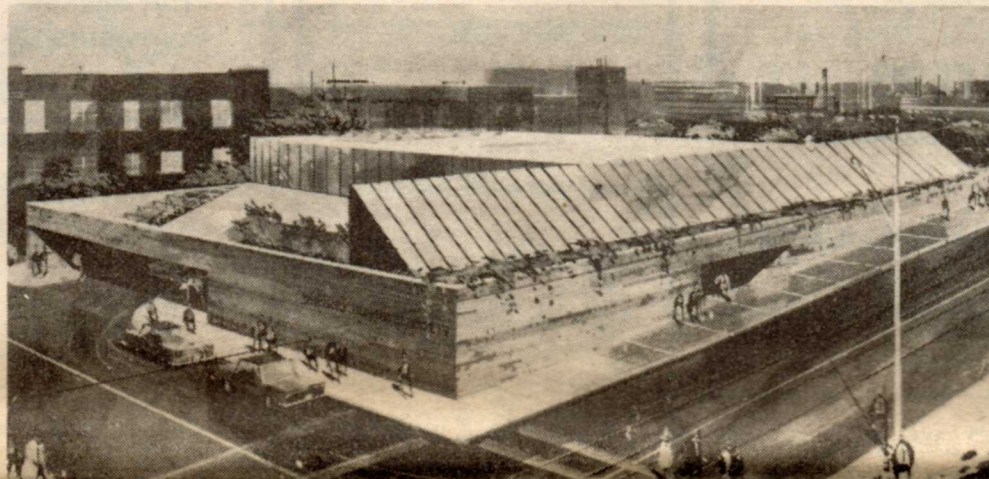
The East Toronto Training Centre will hold a bazaar on Friday, **Dec. 5**, starting at 10 a.m. at the **Broadview YMCA**, 275 Broadview ...

... **Dan Havens** has recently been appointed as Special Executive Assistant to **MPP Margaret Campbell**. He will work out of the St. George Riding office at **314 Jarvis Street** which is open 9 to 4 on week-days or phone 366-6650 ...

A credit union, **for women only**, has opened an office at 615 Yonge St., Suite 401. It's open Thursdays only from 10 to 10 and more information can be obtained from **Mary Hassard** at 651-4811 ...

**Gildersleeve Lane** in Don Vale will not be paved but will be grassed as a mall for the use of tenants in nearby Spruce Court Apartments

On Tuesday evening, **December 30** at 6 p.m., the Don Vale Community Centre will



Above is an artist's sketch of the new Toronto Humane Society building being built at the north-east corner of River and Queen Streets in the heart of Ward Seven. The new building will be the most modern and up-to-date facility of its kind for the humane treatment and handling of stray animals. The Humane Society is presently having a fund-raising drive to raise the necessary money to complete the project.

offer a **turkey dinner** with all the trimmings. Price is \$2 for adults, \$1 for senior citizens and children with tickets available in advance ...

The Tuesday **literary workshop** at the Parliament Library House, 265 Gerrard East will feature **George Swede**, a poet - psychologist speaking on poetry therapy on Dec. 2 and **Beth Learn & Co.** will speak on language technology on Dec. 9. Starting time is 7:30 and admission is free ...

**BOARD MEETINGS:** **Neighbourhood Information Post** at the Post, 265 Gerrard East at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3; **Don Vale Community Centre** at the Centre, 80 Winchester St. at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 ...

Bain Avenue Co-op has received a LIP grant to set up a **youth centre** and they urgently **need furniture** for it. Anyone with extra chairs, tables, etc., that they can donate is asked to call **Bess Binney** at 465-3167 ...

There will be **Christmas carolling** through the streets of **Don Vale** on December 22 starting at 7 p.m. with rehearsals at the Don Vale Community Centre over the next three weeks. Anyone wanting to take part phone the DVCC at **921-2426** or John Piper at **921-7798** ...

An evening of poetry with poets **Gwen Hauser** and **Paul Smith** reading from their own works will be presented at the Parliament Library, 265 Gerrard East at **7:30 p.m.** on December 11 ...

Spruce Court Apartments, a City-owned housing project at Spruce and Sumach Streets in Don Vale, still has **14 empty apartments**. Ten of the 14 apartments are available to those needing rent supplements. For info on renting one, phone **Anne Baxter** at **924-2039**

The Don Vale Community Centre is seeking good quality **rummage and baked goods** for a sale they are having **December 21** starting at 2:30 p.m. at the Centre. Donations should be brought to 80 Winchester Street or phone 921-2426 ...

Senior Citizens in Ward Seven are invited to the Parliament Library House on **Dec. 10** at **1:30 p.m.** to help join in the making of Christmas crafts ...

## Xmas issue will be BIG

The next issue of Seven News, out over the week-end of December 13, will be our Christmas Issue and the last issue to be published this year.

Projections are that it will be 16 pages, twice our normal size, and have color front and back. As in previous Christmas issues, the back page of the issue will be a giant Christmas Card to Ward Seven. Along with appropriate Christmas graphics and drawings, it will contain the names of individuals, families, groups and businesses in Ward Seven who want to wish the readers of Seven News and the residents of Ward Seven a Merry Christmas.

The price this year to have your name included on the list is

five dollars (\$5). If you wish to have it included on the back page Christmas Card in color, **print** your name on a slip of paper, place in an envelope along with \$5 and drop it off at 249 Gerrard East or 265 Gerrard East or 80 Winchester.

If it is not convenient for you to drop it off, phone 920-8632 and leave your name, address and phone number with our staff or answering service. Specify it's for the Xmas Card and we'll bill you in the New Year.

Because of the size of the Christmas Issue, deadlines for both copy and ads have been pushed back. Please get editorial and ad copy in by the middle of the week of December 1st.

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## THE ASSESSMENT ACT

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS  
AND TENANTS

Due to the interruption of regular postal services, the Ministry of Revenue has extended the date for return of the assessment rolls from December 16, 1975 to **January 21, 1976** in all municipalities and localities across the province.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of The Assessment Act, assessment notices will be delivered to all assessed persons on January 6, 1976, 14 full days prior to the return of the rolls.

This extension affects the time period during which owners and tenants may appeal their assessments. Therefore, the final date for commencing an appeal to the Assessment Review Court has also been extended from January 6, 1976 to **February 11, 1976**.

Should the postal disruption continue into the month of January, the date for the return of assessment rolls may be further extended. A notice of any further extension will be published at a later date.

**NOTE: TOWNSHIP OF WICKSTEED —**

These alternate arrangements will *not* be in effect for the Township of Wicksteed in the District of Algoma. Assessment notices will be delivered to owners and tenants on the regular date, December 1, 1975 and the assessment roll will be returned on December 16, 1975. The final date on which owners and tenants may commence an appeal to the Assessment Review Court in the Township of Wicksteed is January 6, 1976.



Ontario

Ministry of  
RevenueArthur Meen  
Minister of Revenue  
T.M. Russell  
Deputy Minister



# Christmas in

## for Christmas!



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OLD CABBAGETOWN  
Radio 740  
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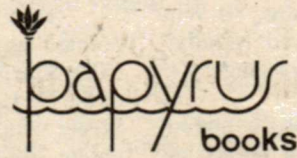
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From the management & staff at the  
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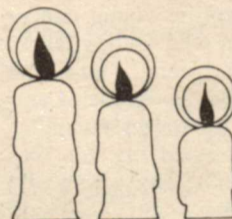


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SEASONS GREETINGS

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SEASONS GREETINGS

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### DAVIS CLEANERS

## Toronto Board of Health seeks input from the community

by MAGGIC BROCKHOUSE

At recent Board of Health meetings at City Hall members of the Board of Health expressed a wish to possibly hold a number of their business meetings in the community. This would have the advantage of letting people see how they conduct their business (if you think your association meetings are a trial, you should see theirs) and would also give them a chance to meet the people they serve to get input and feedback on how they are functioning.

Lately of course the Board of Health has been in the news. This

is because the Province has been dangling a carrot in front of their noses to the tune of 75% operational funding if they will amalgamate with the Boroughs into one large Board of Health (at the moment the Province donates 25% of operational costs). Our local Board of Health feels strongly that they should retain autonomy for the following reasons:

- 1) The need to be close to the community they serve.
- 2) The necessity of being able to have flexible programming to account for local differences.
- 3) The lack of evidence that amal-

gamation would produce better service per capita health costs.

Presently the Board of Health is composed of both citizens and council members, an innovative move considering that the Provincial Ministry of Health, even through its Project and Implementation group which funds Community Health Centres, does not allow any community input into its policy design system.

They are now coming into the community to get an assessment from people on the services they provide and as well get some input on how they should function. The best way people can do this is to

speak at the Participation meeting on December 15 (Monday) at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St.

The business meeting is at 3 p.m. and a limited amount of seats are available. The Community Input meeting is at 7:30 with plenty of room for everyone. The meeting

is being hosted by The Don District Community Health Centre. All those individuals and associations who wish to speak should contact Lois Jackson at 364-1361 and ask to be placed on the agenda.

## Distributor of the Week

Eight year old Dawn Johnson of 325 Bleecker St. is this issue's Distributor of the Week. Not only does Dawn take time to deliver her 150 copies of Seven News to half the residents and sixteen floors of her building, which she has been doing for the last several months, but she is also active in a host of other activities that keep this young girl busy as a beaver and happy as anyone you might find with that special sort of innocent "joie de vivre."

Dawn is a Grade 3 student at Our Lady of Lourdes Separate School,

and is making "excellent progress" according to the reports from her teacher which her mother, Ethel, was proud to show us.

She is a prolific young dancer and entertainer who studies dance, including tap-dancing, jazz, the baton and ballet at the Jack Lemmon dancing studios on Yonge St. She has been studying for five years now and admits that she hopes to see her training develop someday into a career.

At the same time, Dawn is giving serious consideration, even at her tender age, towards the possi-



Photo by Steven Evans

bility of becoming a doctor, perhaps with the possibility of doing both things simultaneously.

Along with these activities, she is busy with such things as singing in the children's choir at Our Lady of Lourdes church on Sherbourne, taking guitar lessons, and performing in the occasional TV commercial, such as the present one you may find on your sets advertising certain "Del Monte" products and one sponsored by the Ontario government.

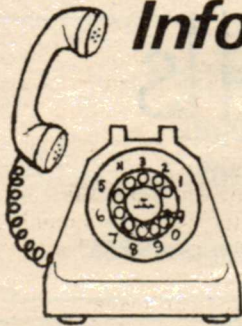
## Housing co-ops seek greater input

by DAVID JOHNSON

Two Ward Seven non-profit housing groups, Spruce Court and Bain Avenue, appeared recently before the City Council Housing committee to air their grievances. Though their specific problems were different, their complaint was the same: the city's Non-Profit Housing Corporation was not consulting them on important decisions and was making no effort to work with their Management Teams.

Pamela McConnell and Christopher Wilson, representatives of the two groups both expressed the sentiment that since the tenants were charged with the responsibility of running their organizations themselves, they should be consulted about financial matters and be included in making important decisions. As it is, they claimed, they are now advised by the N. P.H.C. board only after the decisions have already been made.

Alderman Mike Goldrick of Ward Three, noting the valuable service that these housing groups provide both to Ward Seven and the city as a whole, moved that the pending decisions by the Committee be deferred until the residents of the housing groups had time to study the proposals. He told city officials to work more closely with the Management Teams and to use the expertise that these citizens had to offer. The motion carried unanimously.



**Information from the post**

Neighbourhood Information Post  
265 Gerrard E.

## WARD AND AREA FOOD CO-OPERATIVES

by SHELLEY BIRENBAUM Gray at 921-2426.

With food prices skyrocketing, it is beneficial to realize that there are some ways to cut down on the high cost of food. One of the methods to beat the high cost of food and also to learn to work co-operatively, is to join a food co-operative (also referred to as a food co-op).

What exactly is a food co-op? A food co-operative is a group food buying program, generally organized as a non-profit enterprise for lower food prices and better customer services. The food is cheaper due to the fact that it is usually bought in bulk and or in mass quantities, and there is either no or very little mark-up for transportation costs, packaging, advertising, etc., as this work is generally done by members of the food co-op. Most food co-ops require a small membership fee and the input of a few hours of volunteer service per month.

There are at least four food co-ops operating in the Ward Seven area and presently there is a Federation of Food Co-operatives which is attempting to obtain a van which would be used communally to help other co-operatives to get started.

**Central Neighbourhood House**, at 349 Ontario Street has a food co-op. It deals in fresh fruits, vegetables and cheeses. Orders must be put in and paid for on Tuesday and the food is picked up on Wednesday. After the orders are filled, the surplus food is sold. For further information, contact Peter Banks at 925-4363.

**Dixon Hall**, at 58 Sumach Street also has a food co-op. It runs approximately twice a month. The ordering is done on Friday and the pick up is on the following Tuesday. This co-op deals in fruits, vegetables, cheese and eggs. There is a \$2.00 membership fee per year and some volunteer help required. For further information, call Fred Andrews at 863-0499.

A food co-operative at **Don Vale Community Centre** was scheduled to begin operation Wednesday, November 12. It will have fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs and cheese. It will run every week, with ordering done on Wednesday and pick up on Thursday. There will be a yearly \$2.00 membership fee and volunteer work required. For further information, contact Carmel Hili at 922-7391 or Purcell

The **WoodGreen Food Co-operative** operates out of the WoodGreen United Church, at 875 Queen Street East. The co-op runs every two weeks, with the ordering being done on Monday of the second week and the buying on the following Wednesday. Vegetables, fresh fruit and eggs are available. There is a \$2.00 fee per year and some volunteer work in the co-op required. At present, volunteers are urgently needed to drive, package, and total. For further information, call 461-1105.

Just outside the Ward 7 boundaries is the **Don Vale Karma II Food Co-operative**, in Neil Wycik College at 96 Gerrard Street. Here the primary emphasis is on co-operation and only secondarily on the control of food prices. All sorts of produce such as: grains, lentils, beans, all types of flours, nuts, dried fruit, honey, peanut butter, a large assortment of cheeses, vegetables, fruits and some canned and dried goods are sold. Staples such as unbleached flour, which are not readily available in supermarkets, are sold at Karma II. There is a membership fee of \$12.00 per year (\$8.00 for students) and a volunteer commitment required of a couple of hours per month. There is also a compulsory orientation session. If interested in joining, just come down to the co-op, which is open Friday from 12:00 to 7:00 and Saturday from 10:00 to 1:00 and speak to one of the members.

Further outside Ward 7 is the **Karma (I) Food Co-operative** at 344 Dupont Street. It is a health oriented project, which offers education on how to shop, what to eat, etc. It sells fruit, vegetables, yogurt, grains, flours, dried fruits, and nuts in bulk, cheeses, oil, peanut butter, grocery items and even some meat. Books on health foods are also available. The co-op is open Thursday from 4:00 to 8:00, Friday from 12:00 to 8:00 and Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. There is an annual fee of about \$5.00 (2.00 for the rest of 1975), plus a commitment of 2 hours per month and a general attitude of responsibility to the co-operative. There is a loan of \$12.00 per member which is refundable when one withdraws from the co-op and also a compulsory education meeting. If interesting in joining, either come down to the co-op or call 923-3013.

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## Opinions mixed on teacher's strike

by DAVE MOORE

A random sampling of the opinions of teachers, students and parents show that the secondary school teachers' strike, now in its fourth week, has created mixed feelings across Ward Seven.

"I am advertised by the government as one who is responsible for the performance, the expedition, and the motivation of students," said Robt. Brownell, Riverdale Collegiate's head of Guidance, "and that's worth more than I am making now."

"It seems," continued Tamma Gentile, an English and Art teacher at Jarvis Collegiate, "that teachers and social workers are expected to work for the sheer joy of it."

"We want it over with," said Ian Spurgell and R. Graham, both imported to Eastdale to supplement the strike-line there "but we've been forced to strike by a board that has refused to listen to its own mediator." "... knowing," adds a Riverdale Geography teacher, "that public opinion will slay us."

An employee of the Public Works Department yelled his support from the seat of his green GMC, and when approached later, said, "Sure, I mean, these guys have to go through all sorts of school and university and yet they only make about as much as a fireman or a policeman. These

guys are the guys that are teachin' our kids, eh? No reason why they shouldn't get more."

Three women from Regent Park with daughters in high school thought a bit differently. Mrs. R. Colley remarked, "You only know what you read in the papers. The teachers my daughter has had have been excellent, but from what you hear about the others, I don't know." Apparently some of the "others" at Eastdale give "much attention to each student" according to Mrs. A. Jones, whose child is in Grade 10 there. Both agreed in principle with their neighbour Mrs. Hassan, who said, "It's a lot of hooey; the teachers shouldn't strike. I don't know what they were offered but they should take what they've been given."

A hurried individual on the street yelled as he ran off "I'm not in high school. As far as I'm concerned, they can stay out for ten years."

"I have a cousin in Ottawa who has to take three pre-requisite courses at Carleton because of last year's strike up there, and it's also going to affect the scholarship picture," said one Grade 13 student.

Mike Duic and Shawn Hartney of Eastdale are taking a pro-teacher stand. They help man the publicly donated strike headquarters on top of the Bank of Nova Scotia on Broadview and Gerrard.

Mike argued, "Teachers have to

handle kids in groups of 20 to 40, and they have to keep their cool. That's hard. I mean, parents get angry at only two or three."

He and his friends stated that they will worry about summer school if the strike goes on too long, but will apparently lay their pragmatism aside for now and continue to support the strikers by bringing coffee and cookies to the line.

Most students, however, appear to be neutral. One said in the library at Jarvis, "Being here is not indicative of any stance, we are just studying."

As Eastdale's principal, Bob Beardsley, said, it seems to be a "quiet, eerie strike."



Above is the recent 7 News annual meeting held in North Regent Park. Past Board Chairman John Piper introduces the panel who discussed the current high cost of food prices. Photo by Steven Evans

## South of Carlton TIP a success

by ANDREW DUPA

Last spring, when the South of Carlton community decided to withdraw from the federal government's Neighbourhood Improvement Program, it did so in order to be able to spend City funds on the acquisition of non-profit housing.

After a prolonged struggle, the federal government informed the community in March of this year that NIP funds were definitely not available to aid in the acquisition of non-profit housing. South of Carlton residents, bitter about this betrayal of NIP's highly publicized objectives, agreed to pull out of the program and let the federal government take its money elsewhere.

In hindsight this appears to have been a very rational decision: very few communities in Ontario have so far received funding under NIP.

Those communities that have continued to pursue NIP funding are finding that the program is unable, and the bureaucracy administering it, unwilling, to confront two problems that have plagued inner city residents' groups since the early days of citizen activism in the 1960's. One is government bureaucracy: red tape, delays, uncooperativeness, insensitivity to the needs of communities, indecisiveness, "passing the buck", etc. The other is the land market in

housing. Every since the early days, the objective of the citizen groups have been continuously thwarted because people have no means of controlling land prices or housing prices. The South of Carlton NIP experience illustrates that this program was designed to augment the problem of the land market not confront it.

Since TIP (Toronto Information Program) funds were controlled by the City government, residents of South of Carlton felt that these funds could be used for housing without any problems. As they soon found out, such was not the case. Because the money was to be used with other federal funds to buy up non-profit housing, the federal government's inspectors had to check the properties out before they were bought.

All houses that were examined between April and September of this year were rejected. On one occasion, when an inspector looked at a house, he is reported to have turned his eyes wistfully towards a nearby high-rise and said: "Why not build those in this whole area — they're clean, well-built, neat .... You'd get rid of all these dirty houses."

Finally in October a single family house on Ontario Street was

bought with TIP funds. In addition, a number of other actions have since been undertaken:

- A large rooming house (37 rooms) has been acquired on Gerrard Street East, where it is hoped a self-help programme for the hard to house will be initiated.
- A sum of money was set aside to fix up the George Shuter Project, which is presently housing a number of roomers and some families.
- A sum of money has been directed towards the redevelopment of some vacant land on Ontario Street, as a mixed family and non-family project, by Donwest Neighbours, a local non-profit housing group.
- The possibility of converting an empty schoolhouse in the South of Carlton area into family units is also being investigated by the South of Carlton group.

Some funds still remain in the South of Carlton T.I.P. budget, although it appears that the funds spent to date have been used as originally intended — to preserve at least some of the housing in the South of Carlton area for persons of low to moderate income through a programme of non-profit housing acquisitions.

### Education report

## Ottawa ruling sought on wage offer

by DOUG BARR and GORD CRESSY

### SACKVILLE SCHOOL

On Thursday, Nov. 20, the Business Administrative Committee of the Board of Education approved a proposal for a creative playground for the students of both the new French elementary school (now nicknamed Sac Ville) and Sackville Public School.

Under leadership provided by French school parent Marsha Cressy and the Playground Planning Committee, discussions with Board officials have produced both an acceptable design and a time-frame for implementation.

### FRANKLAND SCHOOL

It appears that the new Frankland School building will contain significant space for community use. In addition to the double general purpose room, which has already been approved, the Frankland Shared Use Committee of David Rich, Winston Roach and Bill Weldon have obtained a mandate from parents to include a learner's swimming pool, several community rooms, arts and crafts areas as well as storage and office space.

On Nov. 18, Frankland parents moved an important step closer to making this hope a reality. At the Committee on Share Use (Board of Education and City of Toronto) motions were passed approving the facilities in principle, including the total cost of same. They also approved the design portion of the City's share in the 1976 budget. It is expected that both City and Board will ratify these designs shortly.

### ELEMENTARY CONTRACT

As you are no doubt aware the Anti-Inflation Review Board in Ottawa has ruled that even though we had not signed an official contract, the agreement reached between the Metro Board and the elementary school teachers prior to the introduction of the wage and price controls is a valid one.

This means that the Boards are now legally able to pay elementary school teachers the settlement agreed upon (which, by the way, averages out to approximately a 40% raise over two years.)

### SECONDARY NEGOTIATIONS

Unfortunately things have not progressed as smoothly in negotiations with our secondary school teachers. By the time you read this it will probably be old news as events seem to change almost daily.

Teacher negotiators have been saying in the press that the Boards have not been negotiating in good faith. We do not believe this to be true. The Board is most anxious to negotiate several non-monetary items but to date remains firm on its salary offer.

Secondary schools are open on a limited basis in Ward Seven. To find out what is available in general, students should call the student information service at 363-0357. If you want to know what's happening at a specific school, call the office of that school.

As your trustees we feel we have accountability to three different groups — to the teachers: to provide them with a fair and adequate wage; to the parents: to ensure that public funds are spent wisely; and to students: to offer them quality education.

We remain optimistic that a settlement can be reached. We believe our teachers are collectively the best in the Province. We want them back where they can maintain those standards — in the classrooms.

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# Credit Union closes

by JIM HOUSTON

The Board of Directors of the Davisville Credit Union closed down the Don Area Branch office last week only half-way through a scheduled four month trial period. The Committee of local residents, who had worked with the Davisville Board to set up the Branch, were not consulted about the decision. They were simply notified that it had been made.

Last ditch efforts by committee Chairwoman, Mary Anne Shaw, to get the Board to meet to reconsider their decision, were of no avail. On Friday Ms. Shaw delivered a strongly worded letter to the Davisville main office protesting the manner in which the decision had been made, and accusing the Board of acting "in very bad faith".

The idea of setting up a branch of an established credit union, rather than try starting a new one, had been suggested originally to the Don Area committee by Davisville's own manager, Mrs. Marie McAuliffe. Ward 7 people would have access to the established financial base of the parent credit union, and the full range of services available at the main office. But they would also have the convenience of a nearby location where once a week they could make deposits and loan payments.

The Davisville Board approved the idea at its July meeting and agreed to a four-month trial period. The Don District branch opened on September 11.

About a dozen people joined the Credit Union that evening but transactions in the office fell off sharply in subsequent weeks. Some Thursdays nobody came in to do business.

At its October meeting, the Davisville Board heard manager McAuliffe's report on this situation. Although a four-month trial had been agreed to with regular review in consultation with the local committee, the Board voted "reluctantly" to shut down the Branch.

With their annual meeting coming up soon, apparently a nervous Board felt they would have some problems justifying to their 3,000 members an expenditure of about 250 dollars (mostly for advertising in-7 News) to set up a branch that

so far was showing no signs of being able to pay its way.

Members of the Don Area committee were shocked and angered by the news. According to Ms Shaw's letter, Committee representatives had been deliberately excluded from the fateful Board meeting. No indication had been given that the Board was unhappy about the way things were going at the Branch. The news that the operation had been cancelled came as a complete surprise.

Committee members point out that the Board had constantly vetoed plans for a concerted membership drive in the area, and only reluctantly agreed to permit a few selected committee people to appear on request at meetings of community groups to inform ward residents about the presence of the credit union branch.

The Board had also resisted the local committee's attempts to establish targets or goals by which the success or failure of the branch could be judged. The Board had insisted on the vague, undefined criterion of "activity in the office" to be judged on a week by week, month by month basis. No joint evaluation of any kind had yet taken place when the Board suddenly voted to shut the branch down.

Ms. Shaw's letter to the Davisville Board of Directors concludes: "It is the Committee's opinion that the Davisville Credit Union does not appear to understand our area or how it functions, nor is it willing to find out or to make concessions .... Because of our irreconcilable differences and the manner in which you have dealt with your commitments, I can only express on behalf of our committee and of every committee member, our regrets at the manner in which this transaction has been handled."

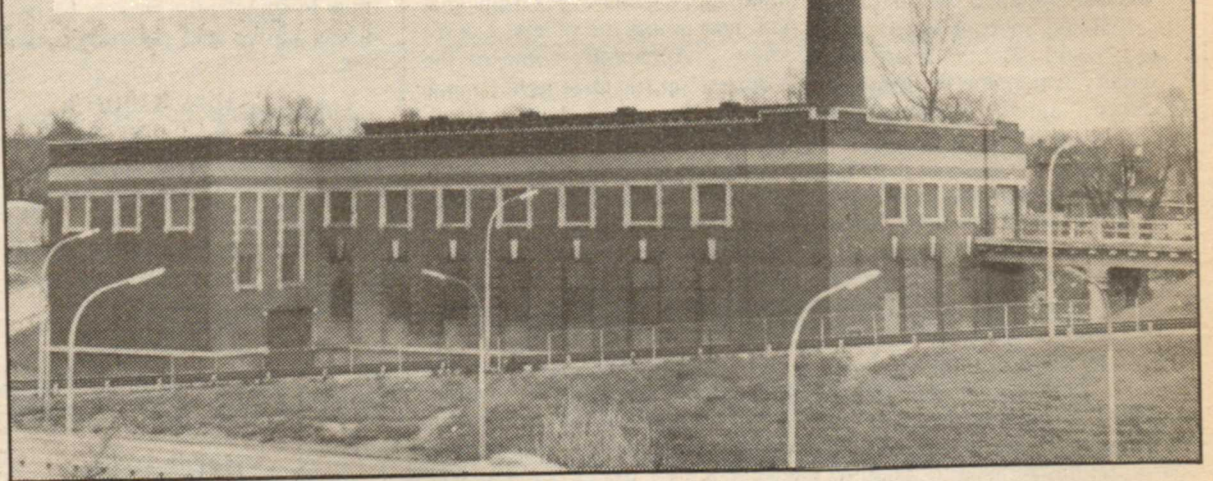
Several Committee members have decided to withdraw their savings and membership from Davisville to protest the Board's action.

A copy of Ms. Shaw's letter has been sent to the Ontario Credit Union League, along with a request that the League assist in looking at what alternatives might now be open to Ward Seven residents who still want to see a community credit union serving residents of the area.

# DON INCINERATOR

*The Don Incinerator. In the last issue of Seven News a reader wrote complaining it was an eyesore and its grounds were a dumping area for debris and garbage.*

Photo by Audrey Kitson



# Local librarian visits Don Jail

by EVA MARTIN

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the summer of this year, Eva Martin, Chief Librarian at the Parliament Street Library accompanied members of the Elizabeth Fry Society to the Toronto (Don) Jail. The purpose of her visit was to give a talk to the female inmates about the community services offered by the Parliament Library, Library House and Neighbourhood Information Post. The following is her story of that visit — printed with the permission of the Toronto Public Library ...)*

It was a soul-scouring experience. Not only was it pouring rain, but as our group waited outside until everyone arrived we were approached by a very drunk woman begging for help. She had come to the jail because she thought she could get a bed for the night there.

Her pleas were ignored by the guard in his cage by the door, who also refused to look up the addresses of some of the hostels in the phone book for us. A "smart" young lawyer offered the woman a bus ticket — useless to someone in her condition who didn't know where she was going. We finally persuaded the lawyer to drive the woman to the Salvation Army hostel.

At last we were admitted with a great ceremony of pushing buttons and clanging doors. Guards accompanied us up to the meeting rooms, locking and unlocking a great many doors — even the elevator door was locked after we entered. Fetid damp air prevailed throughout the building. Many of

the small rooms were thick with stale smoke.

We were finally ushered into the "recreational" room. The Elizabeth Fry Society provided coffee and soft drinks, peanuts, potato chips and cookies. About fifteen women were "led" into the room by three hefty women guards who remained by the door throughout the programme.

Food was passed around and it was pathetic to see how it was grabbed and devoured by the inmates. I suppose because it had taste and texture absent from the daily prison fare.

Six of the prisoners were black and were awaiting deportation to the U.S. on charges of illegal entry and prostitution. They were hardened criminals and interested only in relating their experiences prior to pick-up by the police — all very enlightening.

## Drug charges

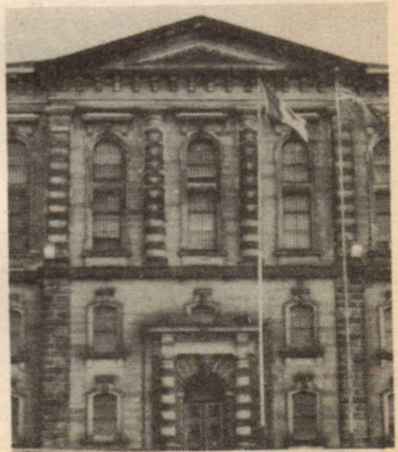
Three or four women were native Canadian Indians or Chinese, were in their late teens and were "in" on various drug charges, and the others were Anglo-Saxons charged with anything from possession of stolen goods to forgery to armed robbery and murder. Over half of the inmates were over 30 years of age.

One woman exclaimed: "Oh, I used to go to the Library House all the time with my boy friend to watch television." She was in jail because she murdered said boy friend!

Another woman had been part of an Eaton's charge account swindle, the rest of the gang served brief sentences and pointed the finger of blame at her. Hence she received the longest sentence, and was awaiting transportation to Kingston. She was four months pregnant.

Another inmate had "borrowed" a rented car for four days and had been charged with theft and would have to serve an 18 month jail term. She had a five-month-old child. All of the women were very talkative with the exception of two who were exceedingly withdrawn.

Faced with such a mixture of personality and background, I felt at a loss to make our middle class institution relevant to these women. In the first place, it was difficult to concentrate when so many of the inmates sat fondling each other. All of them seemed to be craving for affection.



Also, the atmosphere was sterile and there were the ever-present guards who though they seemed pleasant enough did not mingle with the inmates. I tried to make them aware of the variety of services provided by the library, especially the kinds of community information and referral, and in the middle of the talk one girl burst out: "If you are from the library, why didn't you bring any books".

Out of this remark evolved a lengthy discussion of the kinds of books they wanted to read. Apparently the women have nothing to do, only two of them had jobs cleaning jail offices. The others lounged about and smoked. They complained that the jail library contained only war stories and material of interest only to men. They expressed a desire for love stories, books on sex, on health and homemaking.

## No special materials

The following day I contacted Miss McKay who is in charge of women and she firmly denounced the idea that there was any need for special materials for the women. She said there was a whole cartload of paperbacks, and that they never asked for anything and therefore couldn't expect to get anything. Apparently publishers often send cartons of books but they are mainly duplicate titles and there may be only two or three individual titles.

There seemed to me to be a feeling of complete hopelessness and despair. One does not expect a correctional institution to offer all the comforts of home, but it could offer at least some possibilities for self-improvement and creative endeavour.

As we left in the drenching rain, I felt most depressed by the vindictiveness of our society and our communal failure to search for and find the creative spark in the individual, regardless of his background.

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