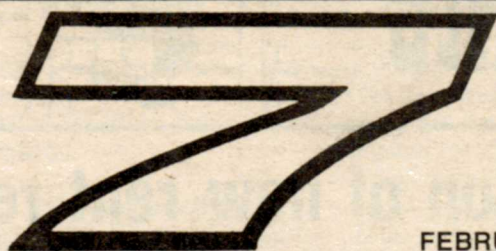


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NEWS

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

FEBRUARY 21, 1976

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 17

NEXT ISSUE

Next issue will be published over the week end of March 6. Deadline for news, features, letters, photos and ads is Monday, Noon of March 1. Better still, get your material in earlier as space may be a problem in the next few issues.

500 attend New Years festival

by MARY ROSEN

In the Chinese lunar calendar, the New Year 4674 began on the eve of January and ended two weeks of festivities on Valentine's Day.

The Chinese New Year, the Year of the Dragon, was ushered in Tuesday night, February 10, at the Riverdale Library by the least ferocious dragon ever seen.

Because the Year of the Dragon is the most auspicious year in the Chinese calendar, children from Alpha School, constructed a gentle dragon. The dragon, fifteen feet long, looking benignly in colours of yellows, pinks, orange and greens was led by the "Dragon Tamer," Ron Austin. He coaxed the dragon into docility with a silk fan while fifteen children inside the dragon moved, swayed and danced through an audience of approximately five hundred.

The children performed a most realistic simulation of a dragon. The Dragon Dance was taught to the Alpha children by Winnie Wai. It took approximately three weeks to construct the dragon and to learn the dance. Dora Cotterell and Gertrude de Benis, two teachers from the Alpha School, helped to make this introduction of the program a success. To quote Mrs. Frieda Ling, "the dragon is the only Canadian manufactured dragon in history."

Mrs. Frieda Ling, a librarian on staff in the adult section of the Riverdale Library, was largely responsible for putting the New Year festival together.

Frieda Ling is a very talented lady. She not only was master of ceremonies, she mimicked a horse in the shadow play and sang The Red Bean Song from a poem in the book of The Dream of the Red Chamber. Her second song was The Embroidered Purse. A young girl embroiders a ship on a purse for her love who is leaving for a long time. The ship is to remind him that it will carry him back to her again, safely.

Also appearing were Amanda Wei, Fanny Leung, Elsa Chu and Eva Lim who are all part of the University of Toronto Chinese Association. These attractive, graceful girls danced scenes depicting village life and also a dance called The Long Drum Dance, done when work is through and fun is to be had.

These young ladies looked beautiful in their red skirts and red blouses, their black sequined vests and pillbox hats. Red is the traditional color for goodluck, joy,



For one child, the highlight of the Chinese New Years Festival held last week at the Riverdale Library was the food that was served afterwards. It must have been good because she seems to be coming back for seconds!

Photo by Steven Evans

hope and happiness. Black is used merely as a contrast. They each had four braids, part of the village costume.

The audience was then treated to demonstrations of T'ai Chi as taught by the fourth generation of Wu, presently located at 193 Parliament St. Mr. Wu showed the light, artistic movements achieved by a body and mind in complete harmony and synchronization. Mr. K. Ho, the commentator for this event and president of the T'ai Chi Academy stated, "if you do this (dance/exercise) every day, I guarantee you, that you will never have to see a doctor."

Mr. Tsao-Wei Tsao and Kwong Gee Wu performed a "pushing hands" technique of T'ai Chi

which is a form of martial combat. The aim is to get your opponent to the ground. The demonstration was one of enjoyment and civilized behaviour even during a time of combat.

Judy Ameline, the head librarian, was presented with a yellow banner which is the age old Chinese manner of thanking people. In bold, black Chinese characters, words were written in praise of art and the exemplary performances of the people involved in developing and nurturing the arts so that universal appreciation is brought to and from various cultures.

Frieda Ling, Meeshan Low and Veronica Ling then gave a shadow

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

Metro stalls on issue of homeless derelicts

by NORMAN G. BROWNE and ANGIE GROSSMANN

Police estimate that 200 people sleep outside in the winter months. So far this year, three people have died cold lonely deaths from exposure on Metro streets. Most of the deaths of homeless derelicts occur in the Don District in Ward Seven. Statistics show that this area has the highest incident of alcoholism and homelessness in the city.

Last Wednesday, Feb. 11, a group of concerned citizens, community workers and aldermen met at the Christian Resource Centre (CRC) to deal with the problem.

They learned that all agencies equipped to deal with homeless derelicts are full very early in the day and in any event do not stay open all night. Many will not take anyone who is drunk.

Jerome Murray, a community worker in the south of Carlton area stated that the problem was compounded by the fact that police will often ignore a sleeping or derelict person lying outside at night.

A letter was finally drafted to go into the Metro Social Services Committee meeting being held the following morning.

The letter supported a recommendation of the South of Carlton Skid Row Committee who were presenting a report at that same meeting. The key recommendation was that Metro provide space and staff in a Metro owned building and it be used as an emergency all-night drop-off point.

The report suggested the basement of O'Neill Baths (on Seaton St.) be used with a simple arrangement such as mattresses on the floor.

The committee, meeting at the CRC also recommended "that the Police seek out potential exposure victims and especially people who are drunk, and take them to whatever space Metro has made available."

At the meeting of Metro Social Services the next day, Alderman Dan Heap and Alan Sparrow stated the case for immediate action as reported by the Skid Row Committee and discussed the previous night by the group who met at the CRC.

Heap explained that after three deaths, and the likelihood of more, the situation was an emergency. Social Services Committee chairman Gus Harris said that emergency funds were available but added that he thought "drunks liked living under the Sherbourne Bridge."

Alderman Barbara Greene of North York commented, "It would be ridiculous to have them all in there together, vomiting all over the place."

Alderman Sparrow stated the deaths were a symptom of a larger problem and called the behaviour of the Social Services Committee an "utter disgrace."

Despite the opposition, the motion was passed.

But the victory was short-lived. A simple solution to a simple problem soon got overblown and wrapped up in red-tape.

Metro welfare commissioner Ray Tomlinson did the red-tape winding. He felt that mattresses on the floor weren't good enough. There had to be beds and staff and there was a legal problem. And all this made it a money problem and his department was under budget restraints.

At last report, there may be some extra beds put into Seaton House. Nobody knows if the police have been instructed to seek out people sleeping outside. A communications gap still exists between Metro, the province, the police and local agencies.

How many homeless Ward Seven residents are sleeping out tonight — and hoping the weather doesn't get colder . . . ?

8,620 new housing units

The new Official Plan passed recently by Toronto City Council calls for the addition of 8,620 new housing units in the Ward Seven area over the next ten years.

Most of this figure is made up of projects now in the planning stage. Some of the units, however, would be infill where space permits around present housing. Other possibilities include the replacement of industry and warehouses with housing.

All of the projected additional housing would be of the Don River. No figures or estimates are available on what additional housing may be built in the Riverdale area of Ward Seven.

Here is a breakdown of where the projected units would be built: River Street — 200 units; Don Vale — 60 units; North St. James-town — 1,250 units; West St. Jamestown — 1,350 units; South of Carleton — 1,050 units; Trefann Court — 200 units; St. Lawrence project — 3,700 units.

Eastdale Collegiate has more space than students can use

Eastdale Collegiate Institute, 701 Gerrard Street East, has a problem. Since being transformed into an academic high school, it has more space available than it has students to use it.

The situation will probably re-

ctify itself in three or four years as more public school students are streamed into the school but for the present it contains a lot of unused space that could be put to good use.

To solve the problem, the Board of Education and the local com-

munity have created a group called the Eastdale Parallel Users Committee. It is their job to find alternative and parallel uses for the classroom space in the school.

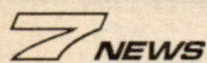
One program they have embarked upon is to conduct a survey

of the local neighbourhood to find out what residents feel the space in the school should be used for.

A public meeting is being held at Eastdale on Wed. Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. to discuss the final stages of the project and the training of volun-

teer interviewers.

The Committee reports that they still need volunteers from the local community to help conduct the survey. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Mrs. K. Love at 461-4687.



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Dog-guides are workers, not pets

Dear Editor:

I have been reading the Third Eye with interest for many months, especially the part relating to dog-guides, and frankly I believe there are some things that need to be explained to your readers.

We working dogs lead a very frustrating life. It is time that our point of view was heard. We selflessly dedicate our best and most productive years to dragging blind people around the streets, and what thanks do we get for our sore paws? We can't even go into restaurants or theatres quite often because we are called "pets". Pets! What a slander! What do people think we are — poodles lying in the lap of luxury? On the contrary — we are workers and proud of it, and we demand our rights.

The laws says no "dogs" are allowed where food is prepared or served. Well, when I go into a restaurant I am trained to lie under the table. Now let me ask you, how many restaurants prepare or serve food under a table?

And you ought to see some of the weirdos that do get served. There ought to be a law against it. I am neat, well-groomed, quiet, unobtrusive, and yet, time and time again I am refused the right to enter a public facility and sleep under the table. Is there no justice?

I further wish to point out that it is outright discrimination to allow white canes into public establishments and to deny me admittance. It is true that white canes don't take up much room, but you ought to see the tiny spaces under restaurant tables or bus seats that I am often forced to squeeze into. I certainly hope that this inequality of treatment between white canes and dog-guides is not racially motivated; that is, that I am discriminated against because I am not white like the canes. (Besides anything a cane can do, I can do better).

I'd further like to remind the

public to please be careful of my tail and paws on buses. Those big snow boots hurt like hell. I am forced to suffer these outrages without a whimper or snail. I do appreciate the tidbits given to me by strangers, even though I know they are bad for my weight. But please, don't lay hands upon me when I am working in my harness, it's very distracting and might get my master into difficulty. Besides, I'm the one that has to suffer through leash corrections and harsh words. There is no doubt that I lead a dog's life but such is my karma. But fortunately I have the patience and courage of JOB, (he's a bull terrier I know), and strength a dog-guide must develop certainly can put hair on your chest.

Thank you for BOOST's efforts on my behalf to get politicians to pass laws to allow me free access to my community, (but I must say in all honesty that if one defines "handicapped" as being an incapacity to function or work normally, most politicians would be considered handicapped). Keep up the good work and we will move together, hand-in-paw, into a world of equality.

Barkingly yours,
Vargus

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above letter was first printed in THE THIRD EYE, a newsletter published by Blind Organization of Ontario with Self-help Tactics (BOOST). The author of the letter, Vargus, is the dog-guide of Mike Yale, Chairman of BOOST. BOOST is located in the Don Vale Community Centre, and until very recently Mr. Yale was also Co-ordinator of the Centre. BOOST has since been successful in getting the law changed and Vargus can now enter any restaurant in Toronto where his owner may wish to dine NGB.)

LETTERS



Letters-to-the-editor are more than welcome. Letters should be short, topical and contain your name and address. However, your name and address will be withheld from publication at your request.

Clarification of new rent review laws

Dear Editor:

Tenants in Ward 7 should thank Wey Robinson and the Tenant Hot Line for their recent summary of the Rent Review Legislation. Perhaps the most important thing that they emphasized was that landlords no longer have the power to arbitrarily evict a tenant or refuse to renew the tenant's lease. Tenants need no longer fear complaining about their living conditions and certainly need have no fear about questioning and even challenging unjustified rent increases. Because the landlord under the new Landlord and Tenant Act Amendments cannot obtain a court order for eviction if one of his reasons is the tenant's ac-

tivities in a tenant association or in asserting his or her legal rights, the best protection a tenant can have is to join an association and see that those rights are protected.

There is one point in the January 24th article which should be clarified. It is true that a recent amendment to the rent review bill prevents a landlord from raising the rent on a unit more than once a year, but this is **only** if a Rent Review officer has made a **determination** as to the correct rent for that unit during that year. That determination comes about only if the landlord or tenant applies for a review of the suggested rent increase. Thus, even if the landlord's opinion is found to be

the correct one, and the review officer allows him the rent increase, the landlord is stuck with that figure for a year.

If, however, the tenant merely accepts the suggested increase and does not apply for a review, the landlord could again raise the rent after July 30, 1976.

Now that the power between landlords and tenants is more evenly balanced, the best course for a tenant wishing to protect and preserve those rights is to co-operate in asserting those rights (with a little help from his/her friends.)

Neighbourhood Legal Services
257 Seaton Street

DACHI situation has deeper roots

Dear Mr. Browne:

Lest the public become overly outraged at MPP Margaret Scrivener and citizen Gary Stamm as a result of Tim White's recent letter in your newspaper, perhaps some objective comments should be made.

Where no one would deny that the original intentions of the DACHI project were admirable, the purpose of the project seems to be lost. If my understanding is correct, the project was to provide low rental housing for the residents of the community, and renovations would be funded by a provincial mortgage. DACHI was good news for those who lived in near-slum conditions.

The utopia quickly wore thin when it was discovered what was meant by "breakeven rents", which would have to be raised to cover costs. A four-bedroom house originally rented at \$110 monthly may have to be rented at \$260 after March 1st. One woman's rent, if reports are to be



Photo by Steven Evans

believed, will go from \$140 to \$440.

Has no one thought to ask for a justification of this increase beyond attributing it to increased costs of the mortgage, utilities, and taxes? Rent increases in some cases more than 100 per cent

would seem to indicate that the original estimated cost of the project was so low as to indicate poor planning in the beginning.

By receiving provincial rent supplements, the DACHI project comes close to the system of OHMC housing and the true spirit of a community co-operative would be lost.

I commend the DACHI project for what it was meant to be, but the present situation in which it finds itself could just possibly be self-generated. To suggest, as Mr. White does, that the responsibility for the possible eviction of thirteen families lies entirely with MPP Margaret Scrivener and the Ministry of Housing is not beyond reproach. Surely the situation has deeper roots.

Beyond the immediate tragedy of these families is the possible collapse of the project itself and most of us will be sad with as much regret as we had for Trefan Court.

Richard Whitebread
Dermott Place

Reader enjoyed profile on Mr. West

Dear Sir:

Your most interesting paper is distributed in our apartment buildings regularly by willing volunteers, which I appreciate so much, even though I do not write and thank you and all your hard-working staff as often as I should.

Being an old-time resident of Cabbagetown where I have lived most of my life, I was intensely interested in the article by David Johnson which appeared in SEVEN NEWS of January 10th, 1976, entitled HAROLD WEST: Amateur Historian and long-time

resident. It really took me back in memory through the years to when our family lived in the area Mr. West described so well, and we all travelled around the streets and stores, also business firms he speaks of.

We can well remember when Wilton Ave. and Crescent was a nice district, lined with homes of prominent people, pleasant to walk through, and with trees on both sides. This was before the age of streetcars, and the name changed to Dundas Street. It was also the age of "personal service" in stores, large and small, very pleasant to recall in these times when it seems just about everything is "computerized", but Toronto is now a large Metropolis with a huge population, everyone rushing from one place to another, except when we have to stand in line waiting our turn to pay for various items we have managed to purchase. Shopping used to be interesting (when we had any money, which was often far from plentiful), but today with all the money now available, it is more like a real chore.

I was intrigued to note Mr. West's reference to the Geo. Calgey Butcher Shop which he mentions being at Gerrard & Parliament Sts. The one I particularly remember was at Berkeley & Wilton (now Dundas), which is also

still there — (the building, that is) and my mother never would buy her meat anywhere else all the years we were in the district, even when we moved further up from near Dundas, incidentally for years we lived on Otter Ave., (now in Regent Park).

At this time, from 1907 through to 1916, I attended Lord Dufferin School, through public and jr. and senior commercial where we were educated and equipped to enter the employment field. My four brothers also attended Lord Dufferin School, and we all thought it was a great school. My brother (George Newall) and brother-in-law (Cyril Linn) were active in the Dufferin School Old Boys' Association and both spent years as President, never losing interest in these activities, supporting them fully. Both have now passed away, having served their country and school faithfully to the end. I know their names, along with many others, would be on record.

I well remember the church where Mr. West and his wife were married fifty years ago. I'm also pretty sure I remember Mr. West, and would like to extend to them my heartiest congratulations on their Golden Anniversary and all the best for the years ahead.

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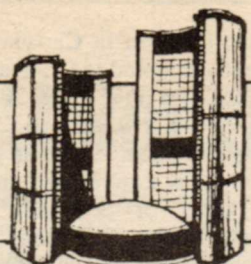
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city hall report



SOCCA gets \$15,000 award

by JANET HOWARD
Ward 7 Alderman

On Valentine's day Bob Phillips of Heritage Canada presented an award, accompanied by a \$15,000 cheque, to the South of Carlton Community Association in recognition of the Dundas-Sherbourne Project.

Mr. Phillips told the little group who had gathered outside one of the houses saved by the Association three years ago that this is the first time the award has been given. The guidelines set a high standard, and last year no project had been judged good enough for the award to be made at all. South of Carlton's entry combines several of the points Heritage Canada thinks are important: preserving good buildings while at the same time providing something useful — in this case, moderately priced housing — with the initiative coming from the local community.

Ethel Proulx received the framed award and the cheque for the Association. She and Ethel Smith, who also attended, were both hard-working members of the project team.

The South of Carlton Community Association has not yet decided what to do with the money, but at this point the award is ample satisfaction for having stood in the way of the bulldozers three years ago.

CMHC socks it to Oak Street

The limited dividend building at 230 Oak Street is getting it again. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has just approved another \$20 a month on everybody's rent, after the owners got a \$19 a month increase in April. The latest rise amounts to 11.9% on the small one bedroom apartments, 9% on the two-bedrooms.

Since the building was completed in 1972, rents on the smallest units, which started at \$125.00, have jumped to \$136, then \$149, then \$168 in April, and now \$188. The two-bedrooms began at \$168 and now stand at \$242. Total increases in just over three years on the four sizes of apartments run from 50.4% for the smallest, to 47.5% for the regular sized one-bedrooms, 46.3% for the small two-bedrooms and 44% for the regular two bedrooms.

Since the owners have the benefit of a low interest mortgage for repayment over 50 years (although they can charge what they like after 15 years for the favour of supposedly keeping rents down) it is very hard to see how increases of that size could be justified.

Fortunately, limited dividend buildings fall within the provincial rent control programme. Metro Council, wanting to exempt its own limited dividend senior citizens apartment buildings from rent control (theirs are run on a non-profit basis) recently voted to ask the province to take out all limited dividend buildings.

If that happens, those tenants will have no rent control at all, even though the mortgage money comes out of public funds, because CMHC lets the private owners of those buildings charge what they like, as long as the figures they submit add up right.

In the past I have asked the owners to let the tenants see their figures justifying such increases. The owners said no. The local branch of CMHC cannot release them without the owner's consent, so I wrote to Ottawa. No luck. City Council passed a motion I wrote asking the Federal Government to give local governments access to the books of projects funded with federal housing money. No reply.

Provincial rent control procedures do make the owners' figures public. I am looking forward to that with great enthusiasm.

500 attend Chinese New Year festival



Photo by Steven Evans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

play which told the story of a barbarian horde threatening an emperor and his people. Meeshan Low narrated the tale while Frieda Ling did an excellent neighing horse that scared away the horde by casting a long shadow during the moonlit night. Veronica Lee represented the dog that also played a significant role in the tale.

The characters of the shadow play were made by Frieda Ling. She used umbrella spokes for the movable characters, notably the horse and dog. Deft fingers moved behind the screen to show a horse galloping at top speed in pursuit of the barbarians and then coming to a sudden halt once the enemy had fled. There was much excitement during this play. The darkened room added to the suspense. Children as well as adults vicariously enjoyed chasing the foes away.

Cantonese
Food

The evening was concluded with the serving of Cantonese food, especially made for the New Year's celebration by Meeshan Low and Veronica Lee. The sweet round balls, symbolizing a circle of perfection and goodness was passed around to the guests as well as round meat tarts and long deep-fried delicacies. These foods are meant to give a long and sweet life. Mrs. Dorothy Norman and her assistant were kept busy pouring hot and delicious Chinese green tea.

With such an entertaining evening, coupled with the hospitality and good will shown to all, the Year of the Dragon promises to be a happy and fortunate year for everyone.



Enthralled children, left, watch Chinese dances. Above, the Chinese dragon waits for its turn on stage and two of the children from Alpha School who "ran" the dragon, wait and watch in the wings.

Photo by Steven Evans

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Don Vale gets home visiting service

The Don Vale Community Centre and Christian Resource Centre (also located in Don Vale) have embarked on a joint program of home visiting for shut-ins, the elderly, the disabled and roomers living in the Don Vale area.

The sponsors of the program are looking for both volunteer visitors and for people in that area who would like to or need to be visited. Visitors would offer a variety of services, depending upon the needs of the shut-in. These could include such basics as shopping errands, paying bills or just putting out the garbage. More important, a home visitor would act as a check on the health of the shut-in and provide companionship and friendship to people who are lonely and isolated.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to be a home visitor or who wants to be visited or knows of someone who should be visited, please contact Purcell Gray at 921-2426.

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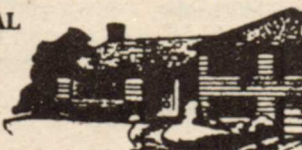
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Lisbon has health problems, too

by ART MOSES
Exclusive to 7 News

Art Moses, a resident of the Riverdale area of Ward Seven, wrote extensively for Seven News prior to his leaving last summer for an extended journey through Europe. His last articles for Seven News were about something he was also directly involved in — the creation of a community-controlled health centre for the South Riverdale area. Art is expected back in Canada within the next two months.

LISBON — For the poor people in Portugal's capital city medical care is a luxury.

Although illness is commonplace amongst inhabitants who barely have a roof to sleep under, the problem is often dismissed

after quick reference to the last paycheck.

Casal Ventoso is a low-income neighbourhood of 18,000 on Lisbon's west side where the "commissao de moradores", the residents' commission, is trying to establish a community health centre to meet the problem.

Lisbon's poor formed their residents' commissions after the overthrow of the old fascist regime on April 25, 1975. Before that, all movements aimed at organizing for social change were illegal. The commissions are similar in structure and function to many of Ward Seven's residents' associations, but are radically different in their practices.

The commissions are especially strong in Lisbon's tin shanty towns. About one-third of the city's 1,000,000 people live in these makeshift shack neighbourhoods, many without electricity, all without running water and all

without isolation from the wicked humidity that falls on the city every cold winter night. The locals call these areas "barracas" (doghouses).

About 4,000 of Casal Ventoso's residents live in barracas covering the side of a valley, overlooking a major highway interchange and the huge bridge that links Lisbon to the River Tejo's south shore. The setting is not unlike the Don Valley, but instead of Riverdale Park you have people's humble dwellings along the hillside. Other residents live in humble permanent structures overlooking the valley.

For people lucky enough to be working (Portugal's unemployment rate is now between 15 and 20 per cent) salaries are low. Construction workers make about \$180 a month. Even a skilled, professional electrician can't expect to clear more than \$300 a month. And these figures in a country where many basic food items are more

expensive than in Canada. (Eggs recently doubled to \$1.40 a dozen, potatoes are now above 20 cents a pound, and it's hard to find any meat for under \$2.00 a pound.) Portugal is now paying the price for years of economic underdevelopment under the fascists and her long reliance on her colonies and tourist income to prop her sick economy.

Portugal's haphazard social security system means at least 30 per cent of Casal Ventoso's residents have no protection against sudden medical bills. For the rest, medical insurance paid through payroll deductions is unreliable. Some workers report paying the deductions, but never receiving any benefits when ill.

According to members of the neighbourhood commission a doctor's house call costs between \$10 and \$20; simple consultation in his office, \$2.

"We have much sickness here," said one member, "but it's very hard to get proper care."

The nearest hospital is several miles away.

The commission has been negotiating with sympathetic doc-

tors and nurses at one of Lisbon's largest hospitals. The medical staff may volunteer some hours each day for free consultation at Casal Ventoso.

The proposed health centre already has a location. The commission recently occupied an old vacant chalet in the neighbourhood as a popular meeting place and service centre.

"Maybe the centre will be working in two months," said the commission member. "But it will be difficult because there is no money. The government isn't involved at all."

He also said many people have stopped their activity in the residents' commission. "After the 25th of November they are afraid."

On that day Portugal's conservative military leaders declared a state of emergency in Lisbon region. Banning all news media besides official broadcasts, they ended a paratroop rebellion and moved conservative troops to Lisbon to disarm the local regiments — who hadn't joined the rebellion — but who had been aiding the city's poor in concrete measures to better their lives for many months.

RENT REVIEW

Office locations

Landlords and tenants wishing information, forms or assistance in connection with the Residential Premises Rent Review Act may call or visit their local rent review office listed below. The offices will commence operation Monday, February 9, 1976.

OFFICE AND AREA SERVED	OFFICE LOCATION	MAILING ADDRESS (for all correspondence including completed forms)
METRO TORONTO City of Toronto	77 Bloor St. W. Tel. 923-1199	Ontario Rent Review Box 5370 Postal Station A Toronto M5W 1N6
Etobicoke	56 Aberfoyle Cres. Tel. 923-1199	Ontario Rent Review Box 511 Postal Station Etobicoke M9C 4V5
East York	1880 O'Connor Dr. Tel. 923-1199	Ontario Rent Review Box 1013 Postal Station O East York M4A 2N4
North York	45 Sheppard Ave. E. Tel. 923-1199	Ontario Rent Review Box 234 Postal Station A Willowdale M2N 5S8
Scarborough	2100 Ellesmere Rd. Tel. 923-1199	Ontario Rent Review Box 940 Postal Station A Scarborough M1K 5E4
York	702 Weston Rd. Tel. 923-1199	Ontario Rent Review Box 23 Postal Station A Weston M9N 3M6

If you live outside the toll-free dialing area for the office serving your municipality, dial the operator and ask for Zenith 9-6000. You will be connected with the rent review office free of charge.



Ministry of
Consumer and
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(PLEASE CLIP & FILE)

DRAMA in the WARD

by CHRISTA VAN DAELE

Play on women proves a great success

Take Five: A Play on Women opened on February 14 at Factory Lab Theatre to an enthusiastic capacity house. It was co-directed by Beryl Fox and Cecil O'Neal.

Frank, hilarious, ironic, painful in parts, the revue-style show featured a series of sketches that poignantly made a concentrated statement about the lives of women today — our expressed joys, specific sorrows; our irreverent fantasies; and, on the darker side, our secret embarrassments, the apprehensions and dread of the unknown that each of us harbours inside us.

Five actresses, ranging from a lithe and 'groovy' eighteen year old to a comfortably solid woman sixty years of age, represented a kind of miniature epic span — the 'five ages of woman'. The play opened on a sketch of the youngest phase, a mother and daughter in conflict. It gradually fleshed out from there, gathering strength, emotional excitement, and remarkable feedback from the audience — to a study of the middle and post-menopausal years of life. Ending on a buoyant, positive last note, **Take Five** presented the oldest of the actresses, Helen Carscallen, in a natural, one-to-one conversation with the audience. "Decency," she confides, to a gentleman on my right, "It's a word I'm tired of."

And how the audience loved it! I swear that the hair stood straight on my head for the show-stopper of the evening. "Do you like my smile," a gracious, wholesomely pretty Doreen Lipson asks us. She smiles winningly. Out of the darkness, we all smile back. She smiles some more. We smile back, but the smiles are definitely beginning to wear. She's still not finished. She demonstrates her tennis smile, her hostess smile, her cradling-the-baby smile. "THANK YOU." Smile ...

Lipson's sketch ends horrifyingly, for suddenly and grotesquely, she stops smiling. And screams instead. Throws that lovely smile into our own stunned faces.

It's as fine a moment of theatre as I've experienced anywhere in Toronto. You don't need to call yourself a feminist to get the point: women are saddened, outraged and humiliated by living behind a big fake smile all of their lives. By rough and loveless sex (the moving "rape" sketch). By competing so mercilessly with one another (the pointed restaurant scene).

The musical piano-and-guitar accompanied singing of Barbara Young assisted the overall coherence of the show greatly. Lisa Wilder's mock macho "Midnight Rambler" had me rolling down the aisle. I'd encourage lovers, husbands, fathers, brothers, and women of all stripes to see the show. And for all of you who have suffered plenty from the generation gap, let me close this way: I PLAN TO SEE **Take Five: A Play on Women** a second time. In the company of my mother.

Theatre Omnis. **Take This Rose**. Previews March 9; opens March 13 at the Don Vale Community Centre. Starring singer George Coventry and directed by Janet Day.

Theatre Nextdoor. **The Matchmaker**. Set around the turn of the century, this was the inspiration for the Broadway musical **Hello Dolly**. In the St. Jamestown auditorium at 240 Wellesley St. East. Tickets \$2.00. March 5, 6, 12 and 13. Call 923-4813 for more information.

Toronto Free Theatre. **Passion and Sin**. By playwright-director Hrant Alinaka. 24 Berkeley Street. March 3.

THEATRE Second Floor: (turkish/delight) Begins Wed. March 10 at 86 Parliament Street for an indefinite run. Admission \$1. For information call 364-4025.

NEWS ROUND-UP

Mother Led Union opens office in Regent Park

A special by-election general meeting, held in Don Vale, has resulted in the election of **John O'Connor** and **Elmie Saaltink** to the executive of the Don Vale Resident's Association. Both are residents of the DACHI housing project in Don Vale.

The Sherbourne 155 Residents' Association will hold a **rummage sale** in the main floor recreation room at **155 Sherbourne Street** on Saturday, Feb. 28 starting at 10 a.m.

The regular monthly **rummage sale** held by the **Don Vale Community Centre** will also be held on that Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street.

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street has an **adult dance** every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Coffee is served, **admission is free** and all are welcome. For information phone Josie at 863-0499.

St. Jamestown residents with a project too large to work on in their apartment, now have a **hobby shop** at their disposal. It is

located in the **240 Wellesley St.** building and is open weekdays from 10 to 10. For information, reservations or to get the key, contact the St. Jamestown YMCA office at 964-8775.

The **Bridgeman family** of Don Vale, Sheila, Bill and Sandy, have a new baby boy called **Jason**.

Seven News is holding a **party** on Fri. March 26 for the kids who distribute the paper door-to-door each issue. Volunteers are needed to help organize the party, arrange refreshments, drive kids there and back, supervise and generally help out. Anyone with spare time who can help call **Ulli** at 920-8632 or **Susan** at 461-1168.

Both the Don District Health Centre and the Don Vale Community Centre are organizing **groups for women**. The Health Centre group is for young mothers and meets every Tues. from 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. **It is free** and babysitting is provided. It's at Central Neighbourhood House, **349 Ontario**. Information on the Don Vale

Women's group can be had by phoning 921-2426.

On Feb. 4, **Don Vale's floor hockey team** received their baptism of fire from **Al Robertson** and his friendly fuzz from 51 Division. Needless to say, the Police fire was drenched 29 to 2. But don't feel bad Al. Don Vale challenges you to a return match as soon as you've had a couple of weeks to practise your passing.

There will be a **public meeting for tenants** on rent increases and evictions on **Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.** at Woodgreen Community Centre, 835 Queen Street East. A guest speaker will be on hand from the Metro Tenants Federation.

Would **Harold F. Stoner** or anyone using that pen-name please contact Norman Browne at the 7 News office. We would like to print the item you submitted but can't as long as you remain anonymous. Your name can be withheld or a pen-name used in the paper but the editor has to know who you are.

The **Mother Led Union** has set up a branch in **Regent Park**. It's located in the house at Oak and River and plans to establish a drop-in for women and children there. Anyone wishing to know more about the group and their plans call **Jill Swindell** at 465-1480.

A forum on **price and wage controls** is tentatively planned for the afternoon of **March 6** at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street. It is hoped to have speakers and participants from the Toronto Labour Council, Metro Tenants Federation, National Action Committee on the Status of Women and various social agencies. Local MP **Donald Macdonald** is also being asked to attend. For more information, contact **Mike Yale** at 921-2426 or **Maureen Morris** at 922-4954.

Volunteers are needed for the **Escort Service in St. Jamestown**. People are needed to escort patients to and from the local health clinic and nearby hospital. Phone **924-4402** for more information.

Space at Enoch Turner

The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse has space available for community activities this summer. The Schoolhouse, which has been a community centre for almost 140 years, would like to provide some local group or organization with a place to work this June, July and August.

Built in 1848, the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse is the oldest surviving school building in Toronto. In 1969-70 the Schoolhouse was extensively restored and renovated. For the last 5 years, classes of students from all over Metro have come to the Schoolhouse to see what it was like to go to school in 1848.

Recently, however, the Schoolhouse has lost touch with the community around it. Many of the older families who knew the Schoolhouse have moved away. The area has become more commercial. The old feeling of neighbourhood has been lost.

These changes, along with many others, have made it very hard for the Schoolhouse to keep on playing its traditional role of community centre.

That is why the management of the Schoolhouse is looking for a local group to use the Schoolhouse this summer.

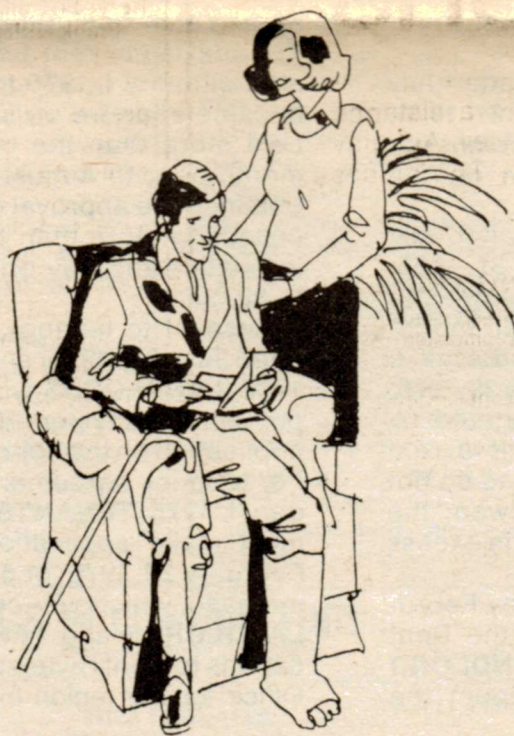
Facilities available at the Schoolhouse include an auditorium that can hold up to 200 people, a lounge, two washrooms, a small but well-equipped kitchen, and an office that can double as a box office. The Schoolhouse also has a slide projector, a screen and 200 stackable chairs.

The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse is located at 106 Trinity Street right behind Little Trinity Church. Public transportation to the Schoolhouse is good. The King Street car stops at Trinity Street and the Parliament bus turns around at the Parliament loop at the corner of Parliament and King.

Any group or organization interested in finding out more about the Schoolhouse should contact the Headmaster, **Lee Oestreicher** between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. any weekday at 863-0010.

People are sometimes the innocent victims of violent crime.

This is what Ontario is doing to help compensate them.



Here in Ontario, we have a law called "The Compensation for Victims of Crime Act." It is administered by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Happily, not too many people need to use it.

But when someone is injured or killed by a crime of violence which is an offence against the Criminal Code of Canada, your Ontario Government may award compensation to the victim, a person responsible for supporting the victim, or the dependants of the victim.

Among the crimes for which compensation may be awarded are murder, wounding, assault and rape. And victims do not need to be the persons against whom the crime was originally directed. People killed or injured while preventing or attempting to prevent a crime against another person, arresting or attempting to arrest someone committing such a crime, or assisting a law-enforcement officer may also receive compensation.

Compensation may be awarded for:

- expenses incurred as a result of death or injury,
- monetary loss incurred because of the victim's inability to work,
- monetary loss incurred by dependants as a result of the victim's death.

Compensation may also be awarded for other results of violent crime.

Applications for compensation must be made within one year of the injury or death, but the applicant should apply as soon as possible—not wait for a court to convict the alleged criminal.

For enquiries, an application form, or a brochure explaining the Act in detail, contact:

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
505 University Avenue (3rd floor)
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X4

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Distributor of the week

by PHIL JALSEVAC

Distributors of the Week for this issue are Mr. and Mrs. Lillian and John Axtell of Carlton St. The retired couple have been reading Seven News with great interest since it was first published as they have resided in the Don Vale area now for close to thirty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Axtell combine their efforts to distribute the paper to every home on Carlton St. The one area where John's efforts are most appreciated by his wife is when they come to a house with the family mutt outside. "She's scared of dogs," said John.

The couple stated that they receive a lot of satisfaction from making the paper available to people on their street, and combining this with something that is "good

exercise". John noted that several residents on Carlton eagerly anticipate his arrival with the latest edition of Seven News.

Lillian first phoned this office to volunteer their services when the old distributor quit, leaving a gap in the distribution network, and also disappointing themselves and other residents who had grown accustomed to receiving the paper regularly. With their help now, "everyone gets one," as John put it.

Mr. Axtell said that they especially enjoy the columns by George Rust D'Eye, with his memories of the Cabbagetown of old. "Not too many people remember or know about this," commented John.

The couple say they have always enjoyed living in the area, and

especially now with the cosmopolitan nature of Cabbagetown and its many diversified stores, both old and modern. It has, as Lillian stated "a little bit of everything."

John's favourite hobby is fishing and the two of them find such TV shows as "Policewoman" and "Adam 12" of special interest. John is also especially fond of the old westerns shown on TV.

What about the wide proliferation of renovated townhouses and "white painters", as some would call them? John indicated he had no quibbles with this, as he felt the area was at least having some improvements made to the houses and stated, "sure it's a good idea. I'd rather have a lawyer (for a neighbour) any day than a lot of drunks."

The couple also admitted a concern for the many DACHI residents who are allegedly facing



Photo by Steven Evans

tentative rent increases of up to 100%

Mr. and Mrs. Axtell have shown themselves to be active and con-

cerned about the many friends and neighbours they have in the community and are to be congratulated for the work they are doing on behalf of Seven News.



RENT REVIEW

FEBRUARY 29th DEADLINE

February 29th is the deadline for many important procedures under the Rent Review Act.

- For tenancy agreements taking effect on or after July 30, 1975 and up to and including December 31, 1975, **TENANTS** wishing to dispute increases up to eight per cent for that period must make application on the appropriate form by February 29, 1976.
- For tenancy agreements taking effect on or after July 30, 1975 and up to and including December 31, 1975, **LANDLORDS** wishing to charge more than eight per cent over the rent charged during the last full month prior to August 1, 1975, for the above period, must make application on the appropriate form by February 29, 1976.
- If the **LANDLORD** and **TENANT** have not agreed by January 17, 1976 on the prescribed form for a rent increase above the eight per cent guideline, and do not apply to have the rent for that period reviewed, the **TENANT** is entitled to a rebate of any rent paid in excess of eight per cent by February 29, 1976.
- If the **LANDLORD** fails to refund excess rent by February 29, the **TENANT** is entitled to apply to the Rent Review Office for a payment order. If the **LANDLORD** still does not comply, the **TENANT** may deduct the

agreed sum from future rental payments.

- The maximum rent **LANDLORDS** may charge tenants after January 1, 1976 for all tenancy agreements which became effective on or after July 30, 1975 is eight per cent more than the rent charged during the last full month prior to August 1, 1975. Unless the landlord has obtained the approval of a rent review officer, a landlord collecting more than this contravenes the rent review legislation and may, on summary conviction, be fined up to \$2,000.
- In respect to tenancy agreements taking effect on or after July 30, 1975 and up to and including April 30, 1976, **LANDLORDS** wishing to charge more than eight per cent for any period after January 1, 1976 must make application on the appropriate form by February 29, 1976.
- For tenancy agreements taking effect on or after January 1, 1976, **TENANTS** wishing to dispute any increase must make application on the appropriate form by February 29, 1976, or 60 days after receiving a notice of increase, whichever comes last.
- **LANDLORDS** and **TENANTS** are reminded that applications for rent review must be made to the Rent Review Office for the region in which the premises are located.

For major landlords, the provisional landlord's guide to the preparation of cost revenue statements in support of rent review applications now is available from the Rent Review Offices listed below.

If you require a booklet, or further information, please write to Rent Review, Box 580, Postal Station F, Toronto, or telephone the Rent Review Office for your area. If you live outside the toll-free dialling area for the office serving your municipality, dial the operator and ask for Zenith 9-6000. You will be connected with the Rent Review Office free of charge.

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Peterborough 743-9511
Richmond Hill 884-6092

CENTRAL-WEST
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Kitchener 579-5790
St. Catharines 684-6562

SOUTHWESTERN
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Owen Sound 376-3202
Windsor 253-3532

EASTERN
Belleville 966-4451

Cornwall 933-8662
Kingston 549-4426
Ottawa 238-5055
Pembroke 735-0135

NORTHEASTERN
North Bay 476-1231

Sault Ste. Marie 942-1123
Sudbury 673-7173
Timmins 264-9555

NORTHWESTERN
Kenora 468-3159
Thunder Bay 475-1595



Ministry of Consumer
and Commercial Relations

EDUCATION REPORT

Stormy meeting puts educators on the hot seat

by GORD CRESSY
and DOUG BARR

Why are Ward Seven kids not getting as much as they should out of inner-city education? That was the main question on the agenda of an often stormy meeting called by a "parents group concerned with the quality of inner-city elementary school education."

Over 40 people attended the meeting held late last month at Duke of York Public School on Pembroke Street. During the meeting, trustees, school staff and would-be politicians were put on the "hot seat" to answer some very tough questions.

The meeting was the result of several weeks worth of organizing on the part of a group of Duke of York parents assisted by some students from the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto.

Florence Robinson got the meeting started by asking why Ward Seven children were being promoted when they were not ready academically. Frank Crawford, head of guidance at Park School indicated that no child should be sent ahead without the approval of the child's parents.

Trustee Doug Barr pointed out that the Board's policy in the last few years has been to discourage such "social" promotions and to encourage teachers to be honest with parents about their child's academic standing.

He pointed out that a new policy had been passed making report cards clearer in terms more understandable to parents. The question remained however, was the policy being carried out evenly at the level of the local school?

Another parent, Marion Driscoll asked if the Board presently believed that inner-city schools had enough teaching personnel to give inner-city kids an opportunity to progress academically equal to non-inner city children.

Gord Cressy, answering that one for the five trustees present (Spencer, Leckie, Nagle and Barr) said "no". The key issue behind the failure of most inner-city kids to learn was class size. Unless money could be obtained from Queen's Park to reduce the ratio of pupils per teacher — things would continue to be tough.

At this point the Progressive Conservative candidate for St. Andrews, Frank Visconti spoke

up saying that it wasn't true that the Province wasn't providing enough — it was just that the rate of increase was being restricted.

The meeting took off at that point and after Frank Macdonald from Regent Park gave a vivid picture of the way it was for his several children, Dan Leckie pointed out that this year the Province will be actually reducing its grants to Toronto by some \$30 million.

Irene Kitson spoke of how difficult it was to hold good teachers in the inner city and noted how much her daughter had appreciated one teacher she had had recently. She asked why teachers didn't want to teach in the inner-city and why so many of them were fresh out of Teachers College. There was discussion about what made it more difficult to teach here and what steps the Board had taken to ease matters.

Harold Jackman pointed out that immigrant students from other countries tend to progress more rapidly in our schools than kids who had been born in Canada. This was confirmed by several of the high school students at the meeting. Betty Ann Roth asked why the public school system seemed

more permissive in discipline than the separate schools.

Ossie Smith stated that the parents had asked a lot of questions about education and he wanted to hear what the Board had done and was planning to do. The trustees present listed several achievements, pointing out that these were only small gains and that much more had yet to be done.

Advances over the past five years included:

- Changing the formula for allocating teachers to the inner city to provide more help for the needier schools (many of which are in Ward Seven).
- The Vocational Schools Report which desegregated the schools, opened up the levels offered and set up Eastdale as an inner city collegiate institute.
- The "honest reporting to parents" policy.
- The quiet project at Dundas School to see if high academic learning can be based on the culture of the working class.
- The transfer policy giving preference to teachers who have taught in inner city schools for five or more years.

- The priority now given to local parents in the hiring of educational assistants.
- The reaffirmation of the value and acceptability of homework.
- The plan to provide co-ordination for inner city programs across the city.
- The hiring of consultants from Youth Employment Services to help students and guidance staff gain better skills in finding jobs.
- The Leaving School Early Program which attempts to maintain a school connection with potential drop-outs.

Perhaps the most important message given at the meeting was that of Janet Ross, President of the Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA). Janet stated that the time for confrontation between parents and teachers was over and that each needed the other. If any improvement was to take place in the inner city schools, she said, it would come as a result of the co-operation of those two groups.

Trustee Dan Leckie ended the meeting with a suggestion of how that co-operation could result in more teachers for the inner city. He pointed out that the recent settlement between the Board and the elementary teachers brought an extra 100 teachers into the system and that if parents and teachers could jointly put their case forward, the inner city might get 60% of them.

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OPEN ASSIGNMENT

This column, started last issue, offers story ideas that cry to be written and as the title suggests, they are open to the first person phoning in who is willing to take on the assignment.

So far, there has been a 100% response and both assignments listed in the column last issue have been snapped up. Tom Corbett, a Sherbourne Street resident and Ryerson student, has taken on the assignment Crime in the Ward. Doug Champigny, a Hamilton Street resident and employed in the ward, has indicated an interest in Antique Stores in Ward Seven.

Here's the next two Open Assignments. If you are interested in writing up one of them, phone Norman Browne, editor of 7 NEWS AT 920-8632, and it's yours.

Meridian in Ward Seven: Meridian is the largest private land-owner in the ward. How large? In terms of acreage? Units? Types of units? Who, or what is Meridian? How big are they? What is their present thrust? How did they get started? By whom? WHEN DID THEY START ASSEMBLING IN Ward 7? Why? Etc. etc., etc.

Doctors in the Ward: How many doctors are now located in the ward? As compared to three years ago? Where are they located? How many per 1000 publication? Above or below provincial or national average? Do we have too many? Why Ward Seven? What caused influx? Are taxpayers being better served? Are patients? Etc., etc., etc.

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