



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
Mailing Address: 265 Gerrard St. East
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FREE
TAKE ONE



By SETH BORTS

Ward Seven has a new community resource: Space Unlimited.

Where you say?

Well, 95 Danforth Avenue. That's where.

No, it's not just another new apartment complex. Space Unlimited is a multi-use facility, that concentrates on "the movement arts", such as dance, mime and mask theatre.

In addition the space is also used as a "testing ground" for those artists who can't afford space elsewhere.

There is a resident theatre company at the space, The Mime Unlimited Theatre Foundation. They've been together for three years, yet the space is fairly new. During that time they've provided "resource people" for secondary schools around Metro, and have had many classes in to visit them.

people" for secondary schools around Metro, and have had many classes in to visit them.

According to both Barbara Mains (former general manager), and Ron East (current artistic director) "Space Unlimited wants to be a resource for the people of Ward Seven. It's a good way to meet people and have fun."

For further information call Space Unlimited at: 461-6551.

Look to schools for racism action

More than 60 people turned out at Eastdale Collegiate last week to talk to a sub-committee of the Board of Education about racism in and out of the schools.

The Board's committee, headed by Chairman and Ward 7 Trustee Doug Barr, has been set up to find ways schools can help fight racism.

One of the key questions that came up in the lively 2½-hour discussion was whether racism should be fought head-on, in a very public way, or whether the approach should be low-key and quiet. Nearly everyone present agreed that racism was a serious problem that had to be tackled, although not everyone agreed about the extent of the problem.

However, some people felt that drastic measures, such as suspension of students who use racial slurs, should be taken, while others put more stress on education, teaching about

different cultures, and discussion in the classroom.

The example of Eastdale Collegiate, the host school, which has a policy of suspending anyone guilty of racial name-calling, and which has found that this step is rarely necessary in practice, was among those considered. Few people, however, suggested that this tactic, while perhaps useful in a high school, could be applied to young children.

Discussion also focused on the underlying causes that produce racism. A number of people pointed to economic and social frustrations that lead people to take out their anger on others, instead of on the system at the root of their problems.

All the points and suggestions made were taken down by the committee for consideration for its report and recommendations.

Survey cites unemployment

By BARBARA ASHDOWN

A study by four local community workers has concluded that unemployment is the main social problem in the Don District right now.

The study, funded by a \$600 grant from Frontier College, linked a whole series of other problems, such as crime, alcoholism, drug abuse, family-breakups, poor health, and sub-standard housing to what it saw as the central problem of unemployment.

The community workers who carried out the study — Don Weitz, Norman Browne, Alf Jackson, and Bill Lee — are hoping to persuade Frontier College to become involved in the area to encourage people to establish their own employment programs. During the survey, people were asked if they were in favour of outside help from the College.

In the past, Frontier College labourer-teachers have helped Canadians in northern and remote areas to deal with problems such as unemployment and lack of education, putting emphasis on encouraging people to help themselves. Frontier

College is apparently considering becoming involved in the Don District, although it would be a "radical departure from fifty to sixty years of working in the bush country".

Bill Lee explains that "politicians seldom address themselves in any meaningful way" to the issues, and that therefore it is necessary for local people to rely on their own resources and look to non-governmental agencies for guidance.

The survey, which was conducted by Norman Browne in late August through to the end of September, asked three main questions: What is the main social problem in the community? Could this problem be alleviated by outside funding as well as the help of local people? Would people be willing to volunteer their services. The target area for the survey was bounded by Wellesley, Parliament, King, and Sherbourne. Of the 75 questioned, 40% were "active citizens", 40% were poor unemployed, and 20% were community workers.

Will they raze the Don?

Ontario Correctional Services Minister Frank Drea has announced that the old section of the Don Jail will be closed on December 31, and will then be torn down.

The jail at Gerrard and Broadview in Ward Seven, has been condemned on a number of occasions as being unsafe and inhumane. The new section of the jail is to remain in operation, and prisoners from the old section are to be transferred to newer institutions in Scarborough and Etobicoke.

However, local aldermen John

Sewell and Janet Howard, and a number of historians from the Toronto Historical Board, are calling for the building to be preserved for its historic value. They agree that the building should no longer be used as a jail, but think it shouldn't be torn down to make room for a flower bed, as Drea proposes.

Drea says the building should come down because it is just "a monument to human degradation and misery".

Sewell rejects the argument that the Don should be destroyed "because of the horrors that took place there. On

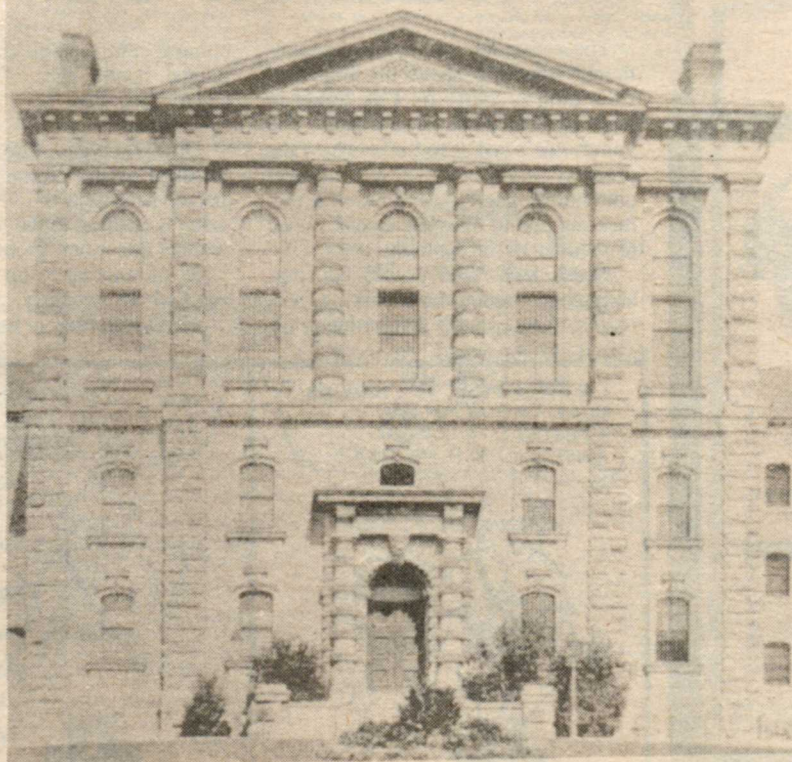
that basis" he says, "the first thing that should come down is the Legislature Building. More terrible things have happened there than anywhere else."

According to historian Donald Jones, "nothing can ever justify our past mistreatment of prisoners but history cannot be blotted out by the destruction of buildings ... The building must be allowed to stand so that no one will forget how we once treated one another."

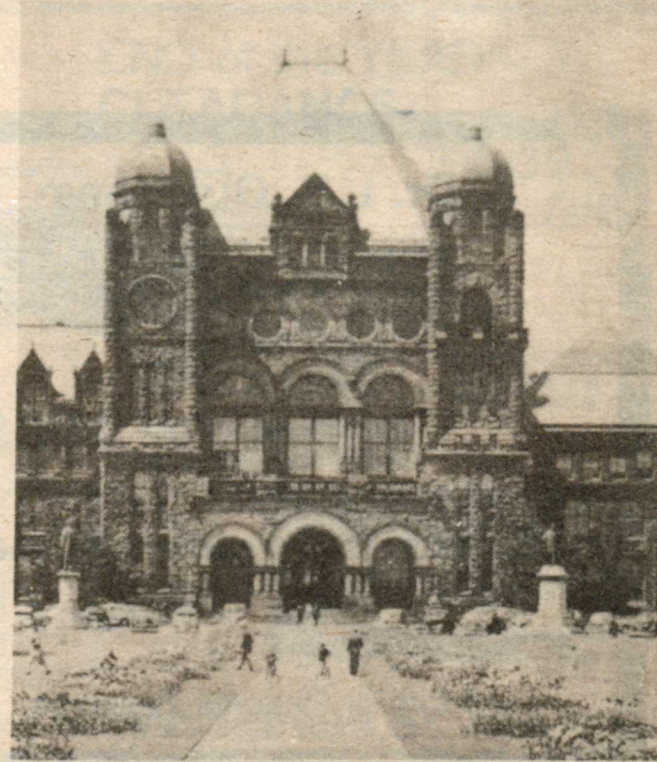
For more on the Don Jail, see letters, p. 2



John Sewell:



If horrible places are to be torn down ...



"the first place that should come down is the Legislature..."

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Save the Don Jail!

Dear 7 News:

For the second time in as many years the Provincial Government has dealt a devastating blow against every member of this community concerned with the preservation of the heritage of Ontario.

On Thursday, November 10th, the Hon. Frank Drea, Ontario's newly appointed Minister of Correctional Services, announced two significant decisions. The first, which I am sure will be welcomed by everyone, is that as of December 31st, the old Don Jail will no longer be used as a jail. No one could argue that this 112-year old building, with its ancient design and limited facilities, should continue to be used as it is now, to accommodate prisoners in inhuman and overcrowded conditions. Scores of grand juries and citizens have pointed this out over the years, and Mr. Drea is to be congratulated for his quick and decisive action to remedy this pressing problem.

The second decision, to destroy the old building, is as inhuman and unthinking as the first is humane and intelligent. I would have hoped that the Government, in destroying one of Canada's most important landmarks last year (the 1846 Howard Building, at 999 Queen St.), might have realized the social harm caused to this City by such vandalism.

999 Queen Street, designed by John G. Howard, and of recognized social and architectural importance, was torn down to make way for a parking lot. The Don Jail, designed by another of Toronto's outstanding Victorian architects, William Thomas, is to be replaced by a flower garden!

William Thomas designed St. Michael's cathedral, the St. Lawrence Hall, and other important buildings in

Toronto, as well as landmarks in other parts of the country, such as Brock's monument at Queenston and the Halifax Court House. The central portion of the Don Jail, designed in 1858, was his last work. Anthony Adamson, one of Canada's most respected architectural historians, states: "William Thomas shared with F.W. Cumberland the honour of having designed the finest pre-Confederation buildings in the City of Toronto."

Professor Eric Arthur describes the Don Jail as follows: "It is an impressive building in the manner made famous by Piranesi the etcher, and by Dance the younger who designed Newgate Prison. Compared with the grimness of Newgate, the City (Don) Jail is a friendly building..."

The inhumanities associated with the Don, and with 999 Queen Street, were the product of social conditions and the conduct of individuals. They were not caused in either case by the building. The conditions which Mr. Drea describes are to be found in man correctional institutions, both old and new, across the country.

The Don Jail is easily the most important landmark in Ward 7, and one of Toronto's most significant buildings. I implore Mr. Drea to consider alternative uses for it before pursuing further this hasty and ill-conceived course of action which he has announced.

The Don Jail can be re-cycled to provide lasting benefit to the citizens of Toronto.

Yours truly,
George Rust-D'Eye



Photo by George Rust-D'Eye

The gargoyle above the entrance to the Don Jail. 7 News reader says it should be preserved.

Protect the Waterfront

Dear Editor:

On our waterfront is a jewel which we are about to lose.

The headland that stretches from the foot of Leslie Street four miles into the lake is a paradise for hikers, bikers, joggers and naturalists, (and on summer weekends, bus trippers.)

It's a place where you can take the kids and never see a car or parking lot.

Toronto can be proud. No other city has created such a large urban wilderness. It is an area of young trees, sand dunes, shallow bays and bird colonies.

However plans for the headland include almost 2000 parking spaces and other facilities that will destroy its unique natural qualities.

A group is now getting together with the aim of preserving the headland in its current natural state. (And, unlike the alternative, this will not cost the taxpayers money.)

We're meeting at the YMCA, 907 Kingston Road, on Monday, Nov. 28 8 p.m. All those who share our concern are invited to join us.

Yours truly,
Russell J. Vaughan

Food for Thought

According to a study done at Purdue University, the lung cancer death rate is twice as high in large cities as in rural areas. It says polluted air has shortened city dwellers' lives, on a comparative basis, by five years.

Aid for immigrants

Dear Editor:

The immigrant who arrives in Toronto is thrown into a society vastly different from the one he/she has left. New customs, a new language, finding a home to live in, looking for work. These and other situations add to the immigrant's confusion and estrangement.

Our program, the Immigrant Orientation Program, is looking to help these newly arrived immigrants, as well as immigrants who have been here for some time and still need to learn about social, cultural, community and educational services that are suitable to them. Our staff will refer clients to the various agencies in Toronto. This is a very important

service since most immigrants are not aware of the services that are available to them.

The Immigrant Orientation Staff also offers free orientation classes to aid immigrants in adjusting to Canadian life. Any topic that the immigrant is concerned about will be dealt with by the staff. The program offers aid in nine languages: Arabic, English, French, Greek, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish and West Indian.

If you are newly arrived or know of someone who is, visit our office at 1174 St. Clair Ave. W. at Dufferin or call 652-3074.

Santo Cairra,
Orientation Counsellor.

Talk on Oak St. future

The committee set up by the community meeting about the Board of Education property on Oak Street in late September has begun work. The committee's task is to find out how the property might be developed to meet community needs as expressed at that meeting and to meet the Board's need to recover its investment.

Needs expressed were: housing, shopping, employment, parking, recreation centre, park, swimming pool,

cultural centre, adult day courses and mental health care. The committee added day care to the list.

Different types of housing are being checked at the moment. A resource person from the Co-op Housing Federation is coming to the next meeting to answer questions about how different types of housing co-op might work on the Oak St. property.

The committee is looking for resi-

dents from the Oaks apartments to represent the interests of the people there. All meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be at the Oak St. portable on Monday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. Contact person is Malcolm Robertson, 978-2684.

Dr. L.S. Guiddens

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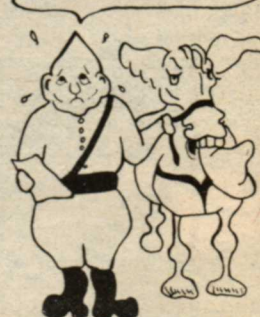
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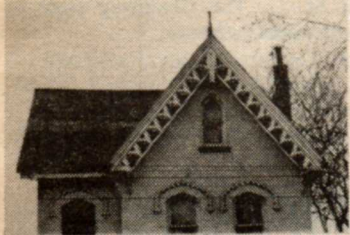


Ours is a ward of many gables

By GEORGE RUST-D'EYE

One of the most enjoyable features of Victorian houses is that the people who built them seem to have lavished so much time and attention on items which were of no practical use whatever — things whose sole purpose was to divert the eye, and to amuse. This architectural frivolity was best expressed in the decorated barge boards better known as "gingerbread", which graced the gables of many of the houses built in Toronto in the 1860's, 1870's and 1880's.

A gable is the triangular upper portion of a wall under the end of a ridged roof. Barge boards, also known as verge boards, are the two boards, usually of 2-inch white pine, which frame the top of the gable.



295 Carlton

In a recent Canadian Book called *The Gaiety of Gables*, Anthony Adamson and John Willard tell the story, in word and photograph, of the highly decorated barge boards which are to be found throughout the southern Ontario countryside. But while it is true that many of the most exuberant barge boards are to be found in the rural parts of the Province, it is also true that some of the older residential areas of Toronto, particularly Ward 7, contain beautiful examples of this whimsical art form.

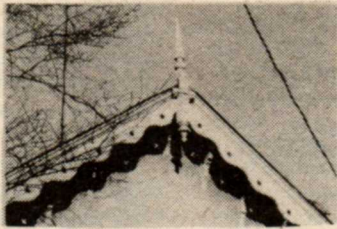
In *The Gaiety of Gables*, it is pointed out that barge boards were of late medieval German origin, and came to be used in England as a practical device, to cover and preserve the projecting ends of rafter supports (known as "purlins"); "The medieval barge boards were mortised into a vertical post at the ridge of the roof called a knop which gave an interesting point or silhouette to the peak of the gable. In late Tudor and Jacobean times in Britain these boards were elaborated with hand-chisel carving along their lengths and with pendants (hanging decorations) at their lower extremities as well as with knops at the top."



231 Seaton

The use of barge boards began in Ontario with the architectural period known as 'Gothic Revival', which occurred in Ontario in the middle 1800's. The adoption of the pointed arch and other Gothic and medieval forms symbolized a rejection of previously-accepted classical forms. Although of unquestionably English, and properly religious, connotation, the neo-Gothic style stressed an individualistic and eclectic approach. Builders no longer strove for symmetry and classical perfection. New emphasis was placed on a building's silhouette, and on drawing the viewer's attention to particular detail, rather than to an overall sense of proportion and harmony.

There were two other major factors that led to the extensive use in Ontario of the decorated barge boards. Firstly,

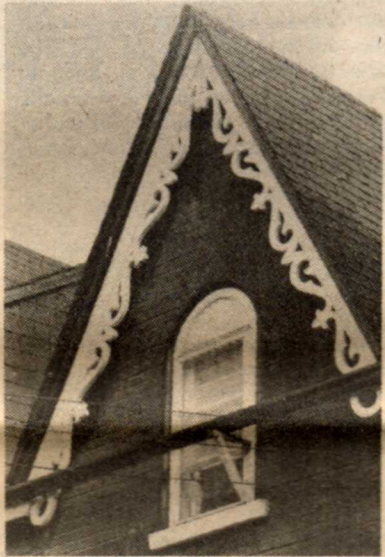


306 Seaton

Ontario builders tended not to leave purlins exposed. Consequently, barge boards did not have to serve the practical purpose of protecting the roof supports, so they could be carved, cut or chiselled, they could have holes cut in them, or they could become simply a series of ornamental pendants. The second important factor was the ready availability of the finest wood in the world for the purpose — the Canadian white pine.

Although some of the early Gothic-inspired barge boards were to be found in pattern books of the period, most were the creations of the individuals who made them. The decoration of barge boards presented a rare opportunity to Victorian builders to express themselves in their houses, and to communicate to others, in a permanent form, their own sense of pleasure and of humour.

Anthony Adamson, in *The Gaiety of Gables*, describes Ontario barge



Allen Ave.

boards in the following way: "Ontario barge boards were attached to nailing strips on the underside of the roof boards. Sometimes the overhang of the eaves had a soffit or a board to hide the nailing strips. Sometimes the boards were mortised into finials and ornamental pendants were hung onto the lower ends. Sometimes the boards were themselves a series of cut-out flat pendants. Sometimes the boards were moulded or bevelled, sometimes they were not. Sometimes they had turned wood embellishments. Usually they were open or pierced. They were attached to gables and dormers and



Broadview Ave.

porches of both the flat classical and the steep Gothic pitch. Sometimes they travelled along the horizontal eaves to the next gable."

A pattern would be drawn out on a board. If the design was to be cut through the board, a hole would be drilled and the saw blade (either a jig-

saw, also known as a scroll saw, or a fret saw), would be inserted in the hole and the blade would cut along the marked lines. If the board was to have an irregular edge, the outer profile would be marked and the board cut with a band saw (an endless steel belt with teeth at one edge, running in two pulleys). In most cases the boards would be finished by hand. Barge boards in Toronto were usually painted white.



60 Spruce St.

During the 1870's and 1880's, most Toronto barge boards were mass-produced in mills, although an extremely wide variety of patterns was available. This accounts for the fact that quite often the same pattern will be found repeated several times in one area in which a particular builder was active, and is why identical barge boards will be found in different cities. Barge boards were also available by mail order from catalogues.

In later barge boards, the emphasis shifted from the boards themselves up to their peaks. It had become popular to express externally some of the pieces which tied together and supported the barge boards. This led to an increase in carved woodwork around the top of the gable. Although the term "gingerbread" has, since at least the 1940's, been used to describe decorative carved woodwork on houses generally, it is this upper gable display to which it is most appropriate.

Ward 7 is amply supplied with a variety of whimsical barge boards, all pleasing to the eye. In this and future issues of 7 News I hope to show some of the more interesting examples around the Ward. However by far the best way to appreciate Toronto's Victorian houses is to go out and see them for yourself, and this is what I would encourage all readers to do.



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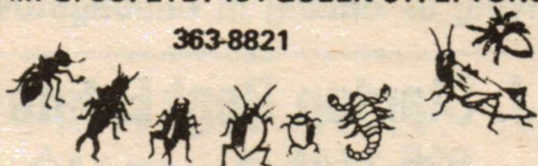
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NEWS BRIEFS

CRC needs money

The Toronto Christian Resource Centre at 20 Spruce St. is in serious financial straits and is looking to friends and supporters for assistance. The centre needs over \$10,000 to pay for all of its budgeted expenditures. The CRC sponsors programs such as the Rooming House Tenant Project, sewing classes, and a Home Visiting Program. People wishing to help with its work should contact the CRC at 922-7391.

Ward 7 fire alarm leader

According to the Fire Department, Ward 7, and especially the Regent Park area, is the worst part of Toronto when it comes to false fire alarms. In 1976, there were 1,619 false fire alarms in the ward, about 20% of the city's total. Platoon Chief John Rider of the Toronto Fire Department puts most of the blame on children and on parents who fail to teach them the dangers of ringing false alarms. There have been cases of trucks being delayed for real fires because they were out on false alarms, and cases of people not bothering to leave their apartments when a real fire breaks out because they are so used to false alarms.

Christmas gift bureau opens again

Once again this year, the Metro Toronto Social Services Department is operating a Christmas bureau which keeps

records of needy families needing assistance at Christmas-time, and agencies and donors wanting to provide presents. The Bureau operates from now until December 23rd, from 20 Spadina Rd., 3rd floor, phone 961-1724.

Vandals face eviction

Neill-Wycik College on Gerrard St. E. is planning to take action against vandals in the building. The residence has recently been plagued by bottles and water-bombs being thrown out of windows, bulletin boards being ripped off walls, holes being punched in walls, and thefts. Plans are to tighten security and charge and/or evict residents responsible.

Brief briefs

Evelyn Murialdo has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA). ... Bart Davis has resigned as chairman of the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area. ... Joseph Badat of Joe's Barber Shop, 416A Parliament St., has retired after more than 20 years of working as a barber on Parliament St. ... The Chainway store on Parliament is closing its doors.

Fighting the frosty weather

By HOWARD HUGGETT

Now that the chilly weather is here again what a pleasure it is to come inside from the cold and turn up the thermostat. The welcome heat surging up from the registers, and the sound it makes is like the purring of a great cat. Older readers will recall "the good old days" of coal furnaces, when you had to go down there and shovel the black lumps into the great gaping mouth. On a cold winter's morning, or at the end of a day's work, it was no fun to stoke up the fire, particularly when the fire had just gone out. Today it is so easy to just turn the dial — a little too easy. The hard part comes at the end of the month, when the bill comes in.

Back in the days when the furnace was fed by hand, it was quite plain how much fuel was being used, and there was a tendency to shovel a little less in when the supply was getting low. Besides, the daily relationship with your heating unit afforded plenty of opportunity to know how it was performing. Now that we have furnaces that are able to do their own stoking most of us are inclined to neglect them. Sometimes they get back at us by just refusing to obey the thermostat, and other times they get even by continuing to operate, but not very efficiently. We may not find out about the poor performance for some time, and all that while it is costing us money.

At the price of fuel today it is even more important than ever to bestow a little tender loving care on your heating unit. Fortunately, there is available today a very useful little booklet that will help you to do just that. The title is *The Bill Payer's Guide to Furnace Servicing*, and it is obtainable at no charge from The Office of Energy Conservation, The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources, 12th Floor, 56 Wellesley St. W., Toronto M7A 2B7. The telephone number is 965-3246. There is a lot of helpful information in this publication.

You know, there are quite a few people who refuse to become concerned over the energy situation. They claim that there is no shortage of fuel, and they may very well be right. We are all dependent, governments and private citizens alike, for our information on the giant oil companies. These are the same people who assured us just a few years ago that there were ample supplies of oil and gas to last on into the next century. One set of figures is wrong, and perhaps they both are, but this much is certain, no matter how much or how little fuel is left, it is all going to be expensive.

The governments of the OPEC nations and the huge oil companies between them control production and distribution and set their own prices, and these prices do not necessarily

bear any relation to costs. All oil from the Middle East, which has the lowest production costs in the world, sells at the highest figure, the world price of between \$12 and \$13 a barrel as set by OPEC. Oil from wells in Western Canada, which supplies most of Ontario's needs, is still priced considerably below that at \$10.75 a barrel. However, increases of \$1 a barrel are scheduled for every six months, and we in this province will soon be paying the world figure for "our own" oil. When you recall that Alberta oil, coming mostly from wells that were explored and drilled a number of years ago when costs were lower was marketed before 1973 at a profit for less than \$4 a barrel, you can see how we are being ripped off. Imagine what the price will be for oil from the new fields in the Arctic, where costs are really high.

So it makes sense to save money by conserving energy. There may come a day when fuel supplies are available at reasonable prices, but there is little sign of that now. In the meantime the oil barons set the figure, but at least we have some say as to how much we use. Besides, even if there is no real shortage of energy now, there surely will be one in the future as we continue to use up our non-renewable resources at a rapid rate. Something has to be left for future generations.

Theatre has 'capital-T' Talent

By SETH BORTS

Whether or not you want to marry the girl (or boy) next door, go and see the Theatre Nextdoor. They won't disappoint you.

This reviewer was pleased to be invited to a dress rehearsal (before opening night) of one act of Theatre Nextdoor's latest production — three one-act plays by Tchechov, Tennessee Williams and Robert Saroyan. Williams' "The Case of The Crushed Petunias" was the event of the evening.

Normally, it's rather unusual, borderlining impossible, for a reviewer to view a play before it's within the grasp of the public. However, deadlines presented so many dead ends that this seemed the only way to review the play while you would still have a chance to see it. They didn't even have the lighting ready, so I decided to view it with sympathy and an open mind. As it turned out, this wasn't really necessary. For so-called amateurs these people have talent with a capital "T".

Williams' play is spiritually and physically set in turn-of-the-century

Boston. A prime and proper miss is caught up in the "notions" store which is her mental prison. Petunias growing around the store are the only things that she seems to care about rather than people or life itself. Suddenly, her petunias are treated to the "petuniacydal tendencies" of someone with size 11D shoes.

This petunia-maniac turns out to be (now get this) a travelling life salesman. He crushed her petunias. She gets sold on life. And, at his invitation, she decides to go beyond the humdrum boundaries that were her existence before this liberating experience. For starters she goes beyond the

walls of her "notions" store.

Moments of solid comedy and vibrant joy of life are present in both Williams' lines and the way they are delivered.

Amateur theatre can be comprised of either the professionally amateur of those professionals who retain their amateur standing. The actors and actresses of this company show great promise.

A Ward Seven neighbour, Theatre Next Door bills itself as the "only drama group in Canada which operates within an apartment complex."

After previewing one of their three plays, the other two beside it on the programme seem like something to look forward to. Hopefully, high standards are uniform throughout the entire production.



Theatre Nextdoor players are shown above in a scene from "The Case of the Crushed Petunias."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday November 19

Theatre Next Door presents **three one-act plays** including *The Case of the Crushed Petunias* by Tennessee Williams, *A Marriage Proposal* by Tchekoff, and *Hello Out There* by William Saroyan. Play dates are November 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26 at 8:30 p.m. in the Vancouver Building, 240 Wellesley St. E. Tickets are \$2.00. For further information phone 483-3995 between 5 and 8 p.m.

The family program at **Harbourfront** today includes clay sculpting, rug hooking and painting. Activities take place in the Craft Studio from 1 to 5 p.m. For further information phone 364-5665.

Woodgreen United Church, 875 Queen St. E. is holding a **bazaar today** from 11 am to 2 p.m. There'll be great bargains in fancy work, Christmas decorations, novelties and much more. Afternoon tea will be served.

Alpha School, Toronto's oldest alternative school, will hold a **benefit** today starting at 7:30 p.m. Come along to 190 Carlton St. for a night of music by Bill Clint, of dancing, a massage, a family portrait, good food and drink. Tickets \$2.50, children free.

Sunday November 20

Everyone in the community is invited to the **free forums at St. Luke's United Church**, 353 Sherbourne St. at Carlton. Today's forum presented by Professor Greta Riddem Dixon is on the topic of Aging. The forum starts at 2:30 p.m.

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Avenue, presents a **forum on national unity** tonight at 7:30. The panelists, who will speak to the question "How should we approach the French-English crisis?", include Pete Garvey of CKEY, Gabrielle Lacelle of the Canadian Council of Churches, Monique Popiel, Chairperson of the French Association of Ontario, Reverend Guy Deschamps and Denman Ross.

Tuesday November 22

The Danforth Library, 701 Pape Avenue, presents a showing of **student films** from Earl Grey Public School tonight at 7:30. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

The last in a series of concerts given on Tuesday evenings will be sung by the **Hart House Chorus** in Saint Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St. E. tonight at 8 p.m. The program will include music by Canadian composers Derek Healey, Harry Somers, Healey Willan and Derek Holman, as well as *Missa Brevis* in D by Benjamin Britten. Tickets are available through Hart House at the University of Toronto, or the Parish Office at St. Paul's Church as well as being available at the door on the evening of the concert.

The City Waits (Toronto) celebrates St. Cecilia's Day with a **baroque trumpet and organ concert** featuring Edward Tarr and George Kent tonight at 8:30 at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Queen and Power Streets just east of Parliament. Tickets are from \$3.50 to \$5.00 and are available by contacting City Waits, 94 Courcelette Rd., Scarborough, or by phoning 691-4660.

Wednesday November 23

The Wellesley Hospital's Community Health Centre in St. Jamestown is sponsoring a public health education **meeting on alcoholism** today at 2:00 pm in the recreation room at 375 Bleecker St. A film, "Americ on the rocks", will be shown and there will be a speaker from Alcoholics Anonymous. Everyone welcome.

Thursday November 24

It's a **double book launching!** Tonight at the Parliament Street Library, 406 Parliament at Gerrard, at 8 p.m. Canadian poets Milton Acorn and Ted Plantos will give selected readings from their works. Acorn will read from his new book of poetry "Jackpine Sonnets" and his re-issued poems "I've Tasted My Blood." Plantos will read from his new book "The Universe Ends at Sherbourne and Queen." Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

The popular series of **Noontime Organ Recitals** continues at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor Street E., at 12 noon till 12:30. Today Andre Knevel, organist from St. Chatharines, will perform. The recitals are informal, free of charge, and a fine way to spend your lunch hour.

There will be a **rummage sale** today at St. Ann's Church, DeGrassi and Gerrard, from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Come expecting some great bargains.

The Dundas Day Centre is holding an **open house** today from 1 to 4 p.m. at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street on the second floor. There will be articles for sale including homemade jam, caraffes, coins, etc. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

The children of Ahbenoojeyug are having a **bake sale, rummage sale and craft sale** all rolled into one this evening from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Eastdale Collegiate, 701 Gerrard St. E. The proceeds will be used for children's outings. Phone 364-8775 for more information.

The Christian Resource Centre will hold an **informal communion service** the third Thursday of every month beginning today at 4:30 p.m. All members of the community are welcome to share in this service. The CRC is located at 20 Spruce Street.

The Danforth Library presents the last films in its **Multi-Lingual Film Festival** tonight at 7:30. The films tonight are in Hindi.

Friday November 25

The **New Chamber Orchestra** presents the second concert of its 1977-78 concert series today in St. James Cathedral Concert Hall, Church and Adelaide Sts. Tickets are \$6.50 and are available at Eatons, Simpsons, or by calling 862-0327.

The Riverdale Library presents a **free film** tonight at 7 entitled *Our Songs Go Far*. Everyone is welcome.

Movie tonight at the Parliament Street Library starts at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday November 26

The Riverdale NDP Women's Club is holding its **Christmas Bazaar** and tea today from noon to 6 pm at 6 Playter Blvd. (2 blocks east of Broadview, north of Danforth). Come have your cup of tea read. Tickets only \$1.50.

St. Peter's Church, 190 Carlton St., will hold its annual **Christmas Bazaar** today from 1 to 4 pm. A tea room, toy shop, country store as well as craft and knitted items will be for sale. Admission free.

Sunday November 27

St. Luke's United Church presents another in its Sunday series of forums this afternoon at 2:30 in the church at 353 Sherbourne St. at Carlton. Arturo Chacon, from Chile, will discuss **The Church Under Dictatorship**. Everyone is welcome to attend what looks to be a lively and interesting forum.

Monday November 28

There will be a public meeting this evening at 8 at the YMCA, 907 Kingston Rd. concerning the **Leslie Street Headland**, a three-mile extension into Lake Ontario situated at the foot of Leslie St. Discussions will be around a proposal to allow cars on the headland and to provide parking space for 1,965 cars. Are you in favour of allowing cars and parking on the headland, or do you feel the area should be preserved as an emerging urban wilderness? Come to the public meeting and air your views.

Wednesday November 30

The Dundas Mothers Club is holding a **bazaar, bake and rummage sale** today from 9 am to 11:30 am at Dundas Public School, 935 Dundas St. E. in the gym. Come for some great bargains.

Thursday December 1

The Metro Toronto Association for the Mentally Retarded holds its **annual mammoth Party and Draw** to raise funds for the mentally retarded in Metro today from 5:30 pm to 11 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Centre, 123 Queen St. W. There will be dancing all evening to the music of the Stan Hiltz Orchestra and a gala Monte Carlo Night. Tickets are \$1.00 and serve as both admission to the event as well as a chance to win some fabulous prizes. For ticket information phone 361-0773.

General

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St., is offering **homework help** to any Park School student every Monday from 5 to 6 p.m. except holidays.

Every Tuesday afternoon a group of retired men and women arrive at Riverdale Hospital to bring some cheer into the lives of the lonely patients. These volunteers are part of the Senior VIP Service of the Volunteer Centre of Metro Toronto. Each week, before they go on their visits to patients, the Senior VIPs meet together to share experiences and have their questions answered by the director of volunteers. The sociability of their meetings is one of the bonuses of this volunteer program. Many more senior volunteers are needed for this program. Residents of Ward 7 who have half a day per week to share are asked to contact the **Senior VIP Service** at 923-4477 if they are interested in helping out.

The **Eastdale Resource Bank** was created by the community to aid businesses and local residents in employing students. The ERB has qualified students who can do jobs from typing to house painting to pet care. Interested persons are asked to contact the ERB at Eastdale Collegiate, 701 Gerrard St. E., Mondays and Tuesdays, or phone them at 461-0835.

English Language Classes are available every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 at Winchester Public School, 15 Prospect St. The classes are available to all New Canadians in St. Jamestown who wish to learn the language.

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St., holds **progressive euchre games** every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.00.

Would you like to stretch your dollars a bit farther and make your own and your children's clothes? At Woodgreen United Church, 875 Queen St. E., every Thursday night at 8 there is a **free sewing class** in the Don Mount Lounge. There are sewing machines available and a fully qualified instructor. Just bring along your own material and patterns. Tea will be served.

Woodgreen Community Centre is offering a number of interesting **programs for teenage girls and adult women** at the Centre at 835 Queen St. E. Programs include a Single Mothers group, a Sew and Share group, Take-A-Break group. As well, there is a group of girls age 15 to 19. For further information drop by Woodgreen or phone them at 461-1168.

Calling St. Jamestown! St. Jamestown is in the **Riverdale Ball League** and boys that are still interested in playing are asked to call Brend at the 200 "Y" office, 925-8001. The age breakdown is 14 and under, and 15 to 19. The registration fee is \$1.00.

The **Ontario Mental Patients Association** holds meetings every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at All Saints Church, 315 Dundas St. E.

There are **Alcoholics Anonymous** meetings at the Christian Resource Centre every Tuesday night at 8 p.m.

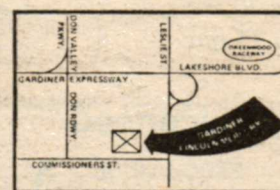
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OPINION

Riding boundaries subvert democracy

By ELLEN POMER

Much of Ward Seven is a part of this thing called St. David. I remember the first time I looked at a map of St. David and wondered how to make sense of it all. Being what is called a 'strip' riding (for it is a narrow, long riding, extending from the waterfront to north of Davisville), St. David struck me as a kind of phallic symbol, albeit a peculiar one. But what do politicians know of such things?

Or perhaps, I thought, St. David was designed as a tribute to Marx's concept of class struggle. There it all was: the proletariat and the bourgeoisie ready to take arms. And then there were all those people swarming about in their high rises, not knowing whether to aspire upwards or to join the downtrodden. Even two parks were provided as make-shift battlefields: Moore Park and Regent Park.

St. David: The fate of a strip riding

Not long ago there was the opportunity to do away with strip ridings. Before the 1975 provincial election a commission appointed by the government was given the task of redistributing riding boundaries. At that time, the NDP submitted a brief criticizing the commission for keeping the old strip boundaries in Metro in spite of a 1969 Ontario Municipal Board opinion that block boundaries were more preferable. The brief also argued that "The people roughly south of Bloor St. have different interests and attitudes than those north of it. Communication between people in the strip riding is anything but effective and the proposed ridings violate the new ward system of the city. There is no valid reason why boundaries should not be redrawn to reflect these considerations."

But in 1975 and 1977 residents of St. David went to the polls with the interests of Don Mount pitted against Moore Park against Don Vale against Rosedale against Regent Park against the high rises. Needless to say, strip ridings were not done away with when redistribution occurred.

Now anyone who really believes that an MPP can represent such a variety of interests ignores the fact that such groups have different vested interests in the workings of this province. So why do we still have strip ridings? Quite simply, they ensure that the Conservative Party and the Government of Ontario are perpetually chained in a blissful union.

It is not accidental that had people voted for the same party in 1975 (under the new boundaries) as they had in 1971, the Tories would have benefitted greatly from redistribution. Had we toed the Tory line in 1975 the way we had in 1971, the Conservatives should have jumped from 78 seats to 86 seats; Liberal strength should have dropped from 20 to 15 seats; the NDP should have risen marginally from 19 to 22 seats. And nothing could have been better designed to aid the strategy favoured by a number of Tories: crush the Liberals and crank the NDP into official opposition. Polarize the province between free enterprisers and dogmatic socialists; and Tory government is secure. Anything else would be sacrilegious!

But in 1975 the unsuspecting Ontario electorate did not conform to the grand design. Providence was out of joint. Had we only been given the Word, maybe we would not have been so foolish as to stray from Tory majority.

How strip ridings benefit the Tories

Like a three dimensional movie, the results of the 1977 campaign in St. David dramatically portray the reason why Tories favour strip ridings. North of Bloor, Cressy polled about 4800 votes compared to the 5,700 votes he received from Ward Seven. Scrivener was supported by 3400 people in Ward Seven; north of Bloor, she polled about 7,900 votes. While north of Bloor, in 1977, the Liberals dropped by about 2,300 votes from 1975, both Cressy and Scrivener increased their votes in this part of the riding.

With an increase of 1260 votes over 1975, the NDP reached its projected target north of Bloor. But the NDP's target for the north did not take into account a weak Liberal campaign. A stronger Liberal may have captured enough of Scrivener's votes so as to cause an upset. (Had the NDP been less concerned with their self-righteous posture, they could have been just devious enough to send some workers over to Liberal headquarters.) But with both a weak Liberal and a strip riding to contend with, the NDP had to pull an inordinately high number of voters from Ward Seven in order to defeat Scrivener. Ultimately, Cressy was defeated because he could not increase the NDP vote by yet another 900 votes in Ward Seven. All this raises the question as to whether or not the Conservatives can be defeated in St. David in the foreseeable future.

Federal ridings changed

By FRANCES WATMAN

Electoral boundary changes which will come into effect at the next federal election expected some time in 1978 will significantly alter the contours of the present federal ridings of Broadview and, to a lesser extent, Rosedale.

A spokesman in the Office of the Representation Commissioner in Ottawa explained that the changes in the federal riding boundaries are made routinely after every census in response to population shifts.

The present riding of Broadview, to be renamed Broadview-Greenwood, will retain its previous east-west boundaries of Greenwood and Broadview, but the old southern boundary of the Lakeshore will be changed to Queen Street. The previous northern boundary along Fulton and Sammon Avenues will be extended north to O'Connor Drive.

Critics of the electoral boundary changes in Broadview charge that such alterations have been made without reference to existing community boundaries. They complain that the effect of such changes in Broadview will be to artificially cancel NDP strength in the riding by taking the area of South Riverdale, a traditional NDP stronghold, and adding it to the new Rosedale riding. The inclusion of the southern portion of York East, in the north, an area where, according to one NDP worker "our polls are never all that good", is viewed as an attempt to cancel out the remaining NDP strength in the southern portion of the riding.

John Gilbert, the NDP MP for Broadview for the past 12 years, has announced his decision not to stand for re-election in the next federal election. While the old Broadview riding was seen as a "safe" NDP seat, the new boundary changes and the loss of incumbent Gilbert may make Broadview-Greenwood a difficult seat for the NDP to retain.

Boundary changes should have a less significant effect in Rosedale. Although the new riding will include South Riverdale, where NDP strength is significant, the effect will likely be to further polarize the Tory and Liberal votes. Even with the decampment of Donald Macdonald, former Liberal Finance Minister, the riding of Rosedale is likely to continue its tradition of electing a Liberal to Parliament.

Dirty tricks here too?

A conservative MP, Frank Oberle, has suggested that there may be a connection between a break-in at the office of a Toronto publisher, and the security branch set up by the federal government in 1971.

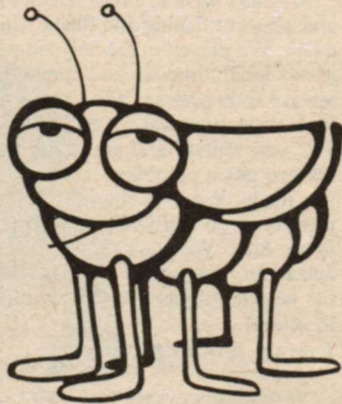
The break-in in question occurred on the night of June 23, 1971, in the office of James Lewis and Samuel Publishers. The firm published City Hall magazine, put out by a number of "opposition" municipal politicians, including Ward 7 aldermen John Sewell and Karl Jaffary, and also published a number of books about municipal politics that criticized developers and establishment politicians, while siding with the causes of citizen groups.

During the break-in, which occurred just as Sewell was making a series of sensational revelations about then alderman Ben Grys and his involvement in a conflict of interest, files were rifled and papers and a briefcase were stolen. A small amount of money was taken, but a larger amount of cash and office equipment were left untouched. The briefcase appeared later in the office of then-executive alderman David Rotenberg, who says he turned it over to police.

According to the Globe and Mail, Oberle thinks the break-ins (there was a second, and possibly third, later) can be connected with the "operational arm" of a civilian security planning and analysis branch set up that year by

then solicitor-general Jean-Pierre Goyer.

The Globe also cited another missing letter, a copy of which later turned up in the hands of a Conservative campaign worker in St. David riding in the 1971 election. The worker was said to be promoting the idea through the letter that there was a link between local left-wing politicians and the FLQ in Quebec.



La Leche

The newly organized Greenwood Group of La Leche League will hold its first meeting on Tuesday Nov. 22nd at 8 p.m., at 237 Glebe Mount Avenue.

The name, La Leche, is Spanish and means "the milk". A non-sectarian, non-profit organization, the League's purpose is to help encourage "good mothering through breastfeeding".

The group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. A series of four meetings will discuss, informally, different phases of breastfeeding. The topic for the first meeting is the *Advantages of Breastfeeding to Mother and Baby*. Discussion leader will be Mrs. Miriam Hurrell.

All women who are interested in nursing their babies are invited... as are their babies. You need not be pregnant or even have a family to attend. If you hope some day to have children, if you are a grandmother, if you are interested... you are welcome.

La Leche League began in a Chicago suburb twenty-one years ago when one mother who had successfully nursed her baby helped another who wanted to breastfeed.

This is still the basic approach, although the league is now international in scope, with more than 3,000 groups helping thousands of women in the U.S., Canada and twelve other countries.

For further information about the new Greenwood La Leche League Group, or if you have questions about breastfeeding, call Mrs. Miriam Hurrell, 461-8359.



Photo by Cherry Hassard

A blind-folded contestant in "Pin the Nose on the Witch" pins the nose on the wrong wall at the Parliament Street Library's Hallowe'en party. Held on Saturday, the party also featured a puppet show, apple-bobbing, a costume contest and a pumpkin pinata full of treats.



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JOB AVAILABLE, Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St. Van Driver - Maintenance position. Must be 21 years of age or over, have a chauffeur's license, and a clear driving record. Apply to Jessie Berlin at 863-0999.

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FLATS FOR RENT - South Riverdale, TTC, quiet residential street. Days - 367-9825/Evenings - 368-6924.

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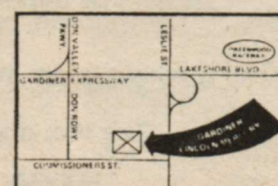
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