

This is the last issue of 7 News until January 14; the deadline for the next issue is January 9. 7 News staff will be keeping limited office hours during the Christmas season, so if you don't succeed in reaching us the first time, keep on trying. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



7 NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
Mailing Address: 265 Gerrard St. East
Office: Room 207, Eastdale Collegiate,
701 Gerrard St. E. Phone 465-3810

DECEMBER 17, 1977

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 15

**FREE
TAKE ONE**



Above, Santa Claus waves hello on Parliament Street.

Photo by Cherry Hassard

Community groups squeezed

By ULLI DIEMER

The Toronto Board of Education is putting the squeeze on community groups occupying unused space in schools across the city.

Starting January 1, the Board plans to start charging all community groups full rent for the space they occupy. At present, many organizations pay partial rent or not rent at all, under a Board policy of waiving charges to groups that are "of service" to the Board or that occupy space that would otherwise be empty. Other groups, however, have been paying fees, a fact that Board officials characterize as inconsistent in a report on the subject. Their solution is to have everyone pay the full rate, saying that it is too difficult to decide what kinds of groups should not have to pay.

At present, 16 or 17 organizations, including 7 News, use vacant school premises. Included are nine day care centres, the Portuguese

Free Interpreter Service, the Parkdale Golden Age Club, the New Chamber Orchestra, the Congress of Canadian Women, the YMCA Focus on Change Program, and the Block Parents Organization. Many of the groups have challenged the decision in submissions to the Board, and a number have said they will have to curtail services or close down entirely if the new policy is implemented.

They argue that in a time of declining enrolment in the schools, it makes a great deal of sense that empty space be used by the community.

Meanwhile, a report to the Board from Director of Education Duncan Green holds out the prospect of "locking up schools or" ... "sections of schools" in the near future. In the last 7 years, school enrolment in the City of Toronto has gone down 17%. The trend is expected to continue, since the birth rate in the same period has

gone down 31%, and since the percentage of pupils entering the public school system has gone down 34% on top of that. (Increasing numbers go into the separate school system.) Each year, more and more classrooms are expected to become vacant, especially since the total amount of floor space under Board jurisdiction has actually increased over the past five years.

In the last minute, in the last week of November, the Board decided to approach the City of Toronto to see if it would help subsidize the space costs for the community groups, offering to match any city money up to \$20,000. However, the proposal came too late to be considered for inclusion in the City's 1978 budget, so the idea fell through.

The affected community groups appreciate the need for overall restraint but are angry at what they

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City slides into skid row

By DON WEITZ

Perhaps some city planners and alderpersons are finally starting to take a serious look at Toronto's skid row areas and the people struggling to survive in them. And just perhaps, they'll come up with some solid and humane proposals which will get translated into action.

I've deliberately said 'perhaps' because of at least three reasons: 1) Skid row has traditionally been a low-priority item on the city government's social planning agenda; 2) the major characteristics and problems of skid-row existence have been sufficiently researched and well-known for many years, yet there's been no real attack or breakthrough initiated and carried out by any level of government, and 3) there's been no public commitment or outcry to do something constructive about people-on-the-skids — the "get 'em out of our community" response has been a 'solution' typical of all too many 'whitepainters' (Hugh Garner's 'Intruders') in Don Vale and other downtown, residential areas.

So, the fact that the City Planning Board, led by Chief Planner Dennis Barker, just published its 32-page "Report On Skid Row" last month gives some cause for hope. This report is the Board's response to a year-old request by the city's Committee on Neighbourhoods, Housing, Fire and Legislation to get a fix on the "projected size of the population" and "number of units of housing... required" by the skid row population.

Re population guesstimates, the report claims there are "8 to 10 thousand men... classified as skid row types." This figure is undoubtedly a serious underestimate, since the researchers admit they didn't try finding or counting skid-rowers

in rooming houses (where most people on-the-skids live). Furthermore, the report forgets or neglects to mention the fact that some women are also on skid row. "My guess is there are 150 women on the street, they're usually found in a small area from Parliament to Sherbourne and Dundas to Queen... Take a look... I've seen them in All Saints Church, as young as 14 or 15... the vast majority are not visible because they can always find a place to sleep no matter whom it's with."

That's Harvey ('Alf') Jackson talking; as an experienced, respected and committed community worker on skid row he should know. Harvey also disagrees with the report's guesstimate of 8-10,000. He believes the actual potential skid row population may be as high as "80,000 if I take into account the poorer families, our future skid-row people... In Cabbagetown, I'd go as high as 20,000."

Another alarming conclusion in the report is that a much greater proportion of young people (many in their teens) are ending up on the skids. "The skid row population could increase because the enculturation of a significant number of young, unemployed men is occurring more rapidly than deaths in the older, hard-core group." A lot of kids out of work and from the Maritimes are ending up on the skids, which Harvey and other city community workers can document and worry about, but nobody knows the number, or percentage.

Also, the report barely touches on the emotionally charged issue of recently discharged "mental patients" ending up on the row. Harvey and Jerome Murray, another skid-row community worker, see many former patients

continued on pg. 4

Bain gets control

After more than three years of struggle, negotiating, planning, waiting, and frustration, the Bain Avenue Apartments at 100 Bain Avenue have finally officially become a co-operative. Ownership was transferred from the City of Toronto to the residents' co-operative on December 1.

The co-op now assumes an \$8.15 million CMHC mortgage on the 260-unit project. Rents for resi-

dents will be little affected by the transfer in the short run, but organizers argue that co-operative housing has a better long-term record for keeping costs down than private or city-owned housing.

Earlier this year the concept of co-operative ownership was questioned by some residents at the project, but in a referendum held in the spring residents voted in favour of the co-op by a substantial majority.

Nature friends organize

By HOWARD HUGGETT

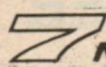
A well-attended, lively meeting was held on November 28th, called by a group known as Friends of the Spit. The Spit is four-mile point of land, stretching out into Lake Ontario at the foot of Leslie Street. It was constructed by land fill to enclose a large body of water and create an Outer Harbour.

Over the last few years vegetation has sprung up on this land and birds have taken over. The Spit has become an ideal area for bicyclists, joggers, dog-walkers and just plain strollers to relax and enjoy a natural environment. But the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has plans to develop this area into an Aquatic Park, with a swimming pool, a marina, parking

facilities and other undertakings.

There is even a plan to build a hotel. The estimated cost of all this was about \$22 million in 1975, but considering the effects of inflation and the tendency of estimates to be too low, the bill for his project could easily reach \$25-\$30 million. Then there is the cost of maintenance.

So, asks Friends of the Spit, why spend all that money when people are enjoying the area as it is? About 9000 of them went there this year alone. As a result of Monday's meeting a steering committee was set up to plan strategy for maintaining this spot in its present natural state. Anyone wishing to help them in their endeavour could get in touch with Friends of the Spit, c/o 174 Balsam Avenue, M4E 3C1.



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Parents help choose principals

By Trustees
**FRANK NAGLE,
 DOUG BARR
 SHEILA HOLMES**

Sometimes, it's the small issue that provides the public with an image, frozen in time, of a political body. Such was the case at the last meeting of the Toronto Board of Education on November 24th.

The issue at hand was whether or not the Board should add a local parent and student to a committee which selects high school principals and vice-principals. Away back in the dark age of 1973, the Board decided that the selection of a principal was too critical an event in the life of a school community to be left solely in the hands of the Director of Education. Accordingly, the Board voted to allow trustee representation on the selection committee. The first participants, under the new procedure, were the Trustees of Ward 7, Doug Barr and Gordon Cressy, who helped select the principal at Winchester School.

By 1975, the Board had added an elementary school parent to the process, now composed of 2 trustees, 2 administrators, and 2 members of the Toronto Teachers' Federation. Since that time, there have been some two dozen principal and vice-principal selections under the new procedure. The only complaint that has been made to the Board about the policy concerned the fact that it was a much

slower process than when a Director of Education could appoint people.

Despite that concern, most members of the Board felt that the process had met the objective of community involvement in a responsible way. Thus, on June 20, 1977 the Board decided to further extend the process by adding a parent and student to the secondary committee.

What followed was a five-month battle between the Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. The Federation opposed the inclusion of both the parent and the student. It argued there was lack of demand for the parent, and that the student would threaten the confidentiality of the committee. The teachers backed their stand by imposing a "pink letter" on the Board. A "pink letter" is a sanction which tells teachers that if they apply for any position within the Board, they do so without the backing of their Federation. The effect is to freeze any promotion.

In order to get the pink letter lifted, the Board decided to meet with the teachers to reach a compromise. A consensus was reached between some members of the Board and representatives of the Teachers' Federation. The agreement proposed that a parent be allowed on the Committee, only if parents equalling 10% of the student enrollment attended the election meeting. For example, for Castle Frank, a school of 800 students, more than 80 parents would have to come to a

meeting in order to get a representative. The student representative was to be shelved until at least November 1978.

A lengthy debate ensued. Some members of the Board, including Trustees Barr and Holmes argued in favor of the proposal, urging a more gradual timing to alleviate the fears and concerns of the Teachers' Federation. Others, including Trustee Nagle, argued against the adoption of the proposal, citing the lengthy history of the issue, and the Board's previous commitments towards community involvement.

In the end, the Board compromised the compromise. By a vote of 15-8 it decided to reject the proposed position, and allow a parent, if 25 parents turned out to a meeting, to decide their representative. With respect to the issue of student representation, an identical proposal to that of the above, moved by Trustee Nagle was defeated 12-9.

The results are clear. The Board chose to move at a more cautious pace in the direction of community involvement at the high school level than at the elementary level. The rightness or wrongness of that decision can only be assessed over time. If community involvement for high schools grows and flourishes with this and other decisions one can conclude that this decision was a wise one.

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Ward 7 all the best for a safe and happy Christmas.

Good work!

Dear 7 News:

I am glad to continue as a supporting member of 7 News. For a small paper it is amazing how much information you give about what is going on in our community. It is interesting and helpful. I wish you continued success.

A Reader
 Shuter St.

There is so much bad news to be found in the news these days that the odd bit of cheer that shows up now and then provides some welcome relief. Seven News is going to have a try at letting in a ray of sunshine every issue. This won't be easy, and sometimes we won't be able to do it, but we are going to try. Here's the first one.

The Ontario Legislature recently passed a law that abolishes the concept of the illegitimate child for all purposes of law. This statute, which goes

into effect on March 31st, 1978, makes any discrimination on the basis of illegitimacy illegal. This will have special significance in court cases involving inheritance claims. Under the new law all children will have the same standing and right to inherit, whether born out of wedlock or not.

For far too long have illegitimate children had to suffer the consequences of their parents' actions. At last, here in Ontario, something is being done about it.

OLD SOL

Toy advice

With Christmas toy giving time just around the corner, the Canadian Toy Testing Council is warning parents to exercise care in buying toys. Each year hundreds of kids require medical attention due to injuries from unsafe toys.

The Council cautions that painted toys such as blocks, paints, crayons, and markers should bear a NON*TOXIC label.

Wheels on cars and trucks should be checked to see that they can't be pulled off exposing sharp axles.

Shooting games should be avoided, especially for children under six.

Electrical toys which use house current should employ a transformer to reduce voltage below 20 volts.

Food for Thought

"The law, in all its magnificent equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, or to steal bread."

— Anatole France

Gov't propaganda

Remember the article in last week's Energy Corner in 7 News that talked about how the federal Canadian Home Insulation Program has failed to get off the ground? Well, the government is now taking steps to promote the program. It has prepared a series of 13 columns on energy saving which it is distributing through the Vickers and Benson advertising agency. Newspapers are

given a financial incentive to run the articles: if they agree to do so, they will be given an ad to run promoting the series, paid for by the government. Of course, if like 7 News, they are already running their own regular series of articles on energy, they don't get anything. Federal money is available only to promote the hard-to-sell federal program.

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DEAR SANTA



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 A GLASS OF
 MILK AND SOME
 COOKIES



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 LEAVE SOMETHING FOR
 RUDOLF AND THE OTHER
 REINDEER, BUT I DON'T
 KNOW WHAT THEY
 USUALLY
 EAT



DO REINDEER
 LIKE CHOCOLATE
 CHIP COOKIES?



Kay Cole

Make the Don a Museum of Horrors

By ULLI DIEMER

Unless something happens soon, the old part of the Don Jail will be torn down early in the new year. That is the fate the man in charge, Tory Correctional Services Minister Frank Drea, has in mind for it, and he has made it clear that he intends to have his way no matter who protests. The Don, Drea & Co. inform us, is a horrible place with horrible memories which no one would want to preserve.

Now, no doubt one should be grateful for the government's newly-revealed attitude to the old jail, even if the horror it represents took more than a century to dawn on the government that operates it, and even if Mr. Drea, with the self-righteousness of a new convert, is now posturing as the man who all on his own figured out how dreadful the Don is. It's true, of course, that numerous cabinet ministers — and convicts — have been born and have died since this particular jail was first condemned, but then, as we know, the wheels of justice (and government) do tend to grind a trifle slowly at times.

Despite Mr. Drea's humanitarian pronouncements, however, there is a lobby that is trying to have the building preserved, not as a jail, but as an historic monument. The historical lobby argues the jail is worth preserving, and is floating various suggestions about how the place could be used, for example, as a community centre, restaurant, etc.

Certainly it is true that the old building does have some architectural features that make it worth preserving, but frankly, it would make a third-rate community centre. In fact, it would make a third-rate almost-anything. Most of these proposals for adapting the jail are unfortunately just so much silly nonsense seeming to come from a

determination to dream up some kind of use which would justify preserving the Don, rather than from any clear thinking about what a community centre, for example, should be like. If we can't do any better than that, we might as well let Mr. Drea plant his tulips on the site and just cart off a few gargoyles and arches to a museum.

But there is one use for which the Don is eminently suited: a museum of judicial horror. Many of us flock to the wax museums that show *bizarre and unusual* cases of crime and perversity — let us now have a museum that shows us the *bizarre but usual, state-imposed* crimes and perversities that have passed, and continue to pass, for "correctional services" in Canada and other "civilized" countries. For the true horror of the Don is not the ancient, decrepit, but guiltless building on Gerrard Street, but rather the philosophy it represents, the philosophy that continues, little changed, to dominate the prisons, however "modern", of our society, and that will persist, little changed, in the new prisons the inmates of the Don will be moved to by the humanitarian Mr. Drea.

For while the ball-and-chain and the cat-o'-nine-tails may be gone from most prisons, the spirit that conceived them is still alive and well in the men who run the jails. The idea — the *reality* — of punishment and revenge still dominates every second of prison life, all the propaganda about "rehabilitation" and "correction" notwithstanding.

When the bureaucrat's fancy social-worky phrases come at us like last week's snow-storms, it's sometimes easy to forget — if we know at all — what prisons are *really* like, what life in them is like, and what prisons do to the people in them.

They are, and remain, despite the now fashionable name "correc-

tional institution", jails. Prisons. Where your "home" is maybe nine feet long, six feet wide, and eight feet high, with walls and floors of concrete and steel bars for a door, furnished with a narrow metal cot, a lumpy mattress, a table, and a toilet. Where you see your family a couple of times a month if you're lucky, maybe 30 minutes at a time. Where you *never* have privacy. Where the threat of violence is always present, where *everything* is geared to reminding you that you have *no rights at all*.

For most prisoners, "rehabilitation" in such a place is — has to be — a joke. All of your time is spent in a criminal sub-culture with no motivation, nothing to live for, with just total, universal oppression. Is it any wonder that all "correctional" institutions teach most cons is the correct way to be a criminal?

Rare is the convict who doesn't leave prison convinced that his experience just represented society's revenge on him, and who isn't prepared to revenge himself on society again in turn, if he thinks he can get away with it.

Given these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that 70% to 80% of prisoners wind up back in jail, that riots are breaking out more and more frequently in Canada's prisons.

If any of this is ever to change, something more is needed than good intentions, social-work jargon, and tinkering with reforms. What is needed is an entirely different understanding of crime that recognizes that the causes of crime are to be found in the pressures of our society, and that the cure has to involve wholesale social change.

What we also have to realize is that prison is not generally an appropriate way of dealing with the crimes against property that make up so much of the judicial courtload, or for dealing with peo-

ple who are mentally ill. Canada is one of the most jail-happy countries in the western world, with a special predilection for putting the poor, and racial minorities, such as native people, in prison for relatively minor offenses.

The fact is that at present prison is not so much a last-resort line of defense of society against truly violent people, but a form of social control, backing up the school and the factory.

In any society, it is true, there will probably need to be a system for keeping those who are truly a threat to others out of circulation. But this necessity in no way implies that those subjected to this treatment should be brutalized as they are now. This virtually guarantees that those subjected to it will emerge more anti-social than they entered it. Loss of freedom is all the punishment that could ever be needed. Within the prison, the objective must be to encourage the prisoner's positive tendencies, not to feed his hatred of society by acts that confirm it.

Unfortunately, many people don't see it that way. They're looking for an eye for an eye, and they're getting it, more than they realize. For them, and for all of us, a museum of prison horrors is just the thing that is needed. Let's bring out the old medieval torture devices, the dungeons, and the strait-jackets and chains of the modern era, the electric chairs and the nooses. Let's have some cells where tourists can be locked up for a while, just to see what it's like. Let's get some wax figures depicting prison life as it was in 1867, as it is in 1977. If enough of us visited such a museum maybe we'd demand sweeping changes in the penal system. And then we wouldn't have to argue about what to do with future Don Jails, because there wouldn't be any.

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Is this the last year in Ward 7's life?

By JANET HOWARD

The new year may see in a drastically changed City Hall. At least six aldermen, as well as the Mayor, are seriously considering moving on to Federal politics, while the Provincial government is pondering the fate of local government in Metro Toronto.

So far, Darcy McKeough, who largely determines what is to happen, has said only that there will be no major boundary changes despite the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Metro Toronto (the Roberts Report). Those who believe Roberts really meant to strengthen local government as opposed to Metro, or regional, government say that without enlarging York and East York the rest of the major recommendations cannot be implemented, as the two smallest boroughs would be swamped at Metro Council.

However, those who think as I do that Roberts fully intended to weaken the power of the local municipalities believe that the Province could easily implement direct election to Metro Council, which is the key to making Metro the real government. This would mean admitting that the local municipalities are really only window dressing, but since most of the heat generated by the report concerned the boundary changes only, there would not likely be much protest. In fact, both Metro and City Councils voted to go along with the proposal.

By spring we will know whether or not Ward 7 will survive 1978. The Roberts recommendations include dividing the City into 24 mini-wards and 8 maxi-wards for Metro. This newspaper might be renamed, "Wards 19, 20 and 21 News".

A very sad reflection of the apathy that has settled like a cloud over local politics was the response to Roberts. Even though the suburbs would be in a better position to ram through their expressways, cut out programmes needed mainly by City residents, bankrupt the transportation system to service their wasteful sprawl communities and force us to fit our official plan into their appalling vision of what a city should be like, people just couldn't seem to get together on anything but the boundary changes. A miracle might still save the City, but it's looking bleak.

During the possibly final year of Ward 7, a number of fairly major developments will be under construction: Meridian's Winchester Square, the Broadview YMCA site, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood (already going up in the Ward 6 portion). Planning is going ahead on the Oak Street school site, although no doubt it would have to be 1979

before anything could get off the ground. Riverdale Park will feature the 1850s farm, complete with another barn, cows, goats, chickens and big Clydesdale horses in the spring.

The economic situation will dictate much of what matters to ward residents. New parents needing day care, the unemployed trying to keep food on the table, tenants in search of housing they can afford, will all have reason to quarrel with the Metro and Provincial governments as budgets for social services and housing are kept level in the face of increased need.

City Council will continue to churn out rezonings for high priced, high density housing and office space. People who once called themselves reformers now routinely approve developments half again as dense as St. Jamestown, and with the Central Area Plan in place in 1978 unless the OMB decides otherwise (which is unlikely), such things will receive building permits without any input from anybody.

In spite of all that, I'm still confident people will eventually say, "That's enough!" and we will have another wave of reform. Maybe it will begin in 1978, and maybe this time it will succeed.

Happy holidays to all of you. See you in the New Year.

Dance group moving in

Don Vale residents turned out last Monday to hear plans for St. Enoch's Church at 80 Winchester (the former Don Vale Community Centre). The building has been purchased by the Toronto Dance Theatre, which plans to use it for teaching dance students, rehearsals, and office space.

No one at the meeting expressed opposition to the group's proposed uses of the building, but some concern was expressed by neighbouring residents about potential parking problems and crowds which

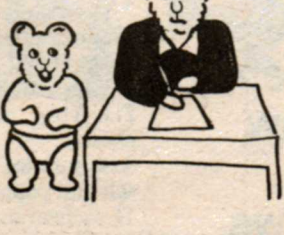
might be brought into the neighbourhood. Spokespeople for the group gave assurances that they saw the building as a teaching facility, not a theatre. They do not envisage more than 10 or 12 small workshop performances per year, with no more than 100 people at maximum attending. They also foresaw few parking difficulties, and pointed to their ability to fit into the neighbourhood at their present facility on Broadview Avenue. Residents seemed satisfied with the plans being made, and left it to ward aldermen Janet Howard and John Sewell to obtain the assurances given in writing, and to steer the theatre's application through City Hall. The Dance Theatre plans extensive renovations on the building, which it hopes to have operational in July 1978.

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City notices skid row

thrown out of 'mental hospitals' like Queen Street Mental Health Centre, Lakeshore Psychiatric and Whitby Psychiatric — which make little or no effort to place patients in decent, community houses or accepting communities — few as they are (there are only about 500 beds in Toronto in halfway and other houses for released "mental patients").

As far as housing for the skid-row population is concerned, the report claims "there is currently a sufficient supply of basic shelter ... much of it could be considered inadequate." Yes, especially many rooming houses owned by absentee landlords who refuse to meet the city's rooming house by-law standards. As a partial inventory of available housing, the report lists a total of "983" beds in hostels, as well as a "bed/head count of 177 on the night of May 6, 1977" — which includes 200 or more men sleeping outside in "illegitimate" places like parks, hallways, etc.

The report makes the useful observation that skid row is not restricted to the traditional, well-known "Eastern Downtown Area" (Queen-Yonge-Carlton-River), but has spread to other areas; e.g., Queen/Spadina, College/Spadina, Queen/Broadview, South Parkdale and the Junction around the stock yards.

Other major conclusions are that "poverty and lack of family ties

characterize skid row individuals", and that dependency on skid row institutions is definitely increasing — a common syndrome of social agency involvement.

Unlike most bureaucratic documents, the report comes up with some solid and practical recommendations which, if put into action could help stem the skid row tide — like creating a "Skid Row Prevention Centre" which stresses "early identification of those alienated young men who have begun to drift into skid row" and backed up with an "aggressive outreach programme" with staff "carefully chosen" for their "personal suitability", establishing "store-front 'emergency centres' to meet the immediate needs of the hard-core skid rower; e.g., first aid, companionship, snacks, a safe place to sober up or flop ... offered on a 24-hour-a-day basis" and run by "rehabilitated skid row individuals rather than by professional staff", and a "Workers' Co-operative" which would generate not only some livable wages but "encourage self-sufficiency and self-respect" as well. (The report responsibly includes relevant information on the successful Independent Co-operative Enterprises inc. in Winnipeg which could serve as a useful model in Toronto).

But even if plans were put into action, 'skid-rowers' are likely to be among us indefinitely. Our present

unemployment crisis is one major reason. Skid row community worker Harvey Jackson sees a direct link between growing unemployment and a growing skid row population. "This year with unemployment well over the million mark, we have a chance to go to 2 million which will enlarge or triple skid row as we know it today ... Don't forget skid row has grown with the 20 and 30 year-olds moving in..." Jackson is also critical of some of the more recent housing for skid-row men, like the 38-bed house at 179 Gerrard St. E. He believes, "it will fail, because it needs 24 hour-a-day staff people; it now has only one staff person part-time."

The Planning Board's Report On Skid Row is "only fair" says Harvey. But at least it's a cut above most other bureaucratic documents on social problems, since it clearly summarizes most of the major characteristics and problems of skid-row existence, honestly admits some major weakness and failures of the usual, bandaid 'rehabilitative' solutions tried by many social agencies (like the detox centres planned by the Addiction Research Foundation), and responsibly outlines some workable, down-to-earth proposals partly based on self-help and democratic principles. Besides, it's a refreshingly short, succinct and readable and costs only \$1 — just about what it costs to flop for a night on-the-skids.

Board hurts groups

continued from pg. 1

see as the Board's penny-pinching approach. If the new policy goes through, the Board stands to gain a maximum of \$12,205 per year, substantially less than the \$20,000 it was willing to put up to match the City grant, had it come through. Larger amounts are wasted regularly; for example, in Eastdale Collegiate, where a number of rooms are not used by the school, 7 News was given space in the library, which is unused because the Board will not let the school hire a librarian. As a result, an estimated \$15,000 worth of books are left to sit on the shelves.

Groups involved are also skeptical of the rationale for the decision given by associate director of

education Edward McKeown, who was largely responsible for pushing trustees to adopt the new policy. McKeown told delegations at City Hall on December 6 that rising energy costs were the key factor behind the move, but those opposing the policy argue that schools have to be heated whether or not one or two classrooms are occupied by community groups.

7 News has submitted a brief to the Board of Education arguing that criteria should be set up that would make it possible to decide which kinds of groups deserve to use school space free of charge, or at reduced rates. The brief suggests that non-profit community groups that contribute to the school and/or

the community, and that have community support, should be eligible. The brief notes that "in a time when many community groups — including 7 News — are facing the severest financial strain, the Board of Education has the opportunity to contribute greatly to the life of the community by providing such groups with tangible assistance at very little cost, and some considerable benefit, to itself."

The Board of Education has a responsibility to the taxpayers and the community. Whether it will meet that responsibility, or whether it will increase the financial strain on groups in the community for the sake of an amount of money that is insignificant to itself, is now open to question.

How to face Christmas

By BONNIE SARTORI

Any turkey can roast a turkey, but it takes a true professional to make a passable potion to soothe the savage beast of too much seasonal "good cheer". 'Tis the season to be jolly, but it is also the season of far too many refreshments of a fermented nature, and when one has over-imbibed, one should do the following:

- 1) hide one's car keys if one is the possessor of a Detroit pollution-making machine
- 2) get a lampshade, place it on one's head and stand in a corner and giggle maniacally
- 3) call the corner store, ask if they have pop on ice, and when they say "Yes", tell them to please take him off before he gets a cold, and then giggle maniacally
- 4) when the party gets boring, tell everybody Bonita's never-fail-to-get-a-laugh worm joke and have everybody around you giggling

maniacally (in the interests of public delicacy, the joke cannot be printed here, but if you send a liberal donation to Ward 7 News fund-raising campaign plus a stamped self-addressed envelope, the joke will be on its way as soon as the postal strike is over.) (Co-editorial note: please disregard the above. I have heard the much-vaunted worm joke MANY TIMES and it is NOT FUNNY, BONNIE!)

- 5) when the pink reindeer starts dancing on your head, call a cab, go home, and go to bed
- 6) when you get up in the morning, call your mom, get her to come over (moms are fools for any of their kiddies in distress and will come to visit even if they live in Prince Rupert) and make the following. It may not cure your hangover, but you'll sure have fun eating it.

Bonita's Inimitable Happy-Face Broccoli:

- 2 stalks of broccoli, chopped and steamed
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp white flour
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup grated mild cheddar cheese
- 2-3 eggs, depending on your mood
- 2-3 Tbsp more grated cheddar cheese
- dash nutmeg
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1) preheat oven to 375 degrees
- 2- dump steamed broccoli in the

bottom of a well buttered casserole dish

- 3) melt butter in a pot
- 4) add flour, stirring constantly to make a smooth paste
- 5) remove from heat, add milk, and return to heat stirring till the mixture thickens
- 6) add cheese and seasonings, stirring the mixture till the cheese melts
- 7) remove from heat and dump on the broccoli
- 8) make 2 or 3 holes (depending on how many eggs you are in the mood for) and place the eggs sans shells into the holes. Try and arrange the holes so that you will make a face. This is very important. Tell your mom that this recipe will not work unless you place the eggs in such a way that they will make at least 2 eyes. Use the left-over cheese to make eyebrows, mouth, etc.
- 9) bake at 375 degrees for about 15 minutes or until the eggs are set (sometimes they take longer, depending on the mood of your oven)
- 10) eat it with toast, have a nice visit with your mom, and giggle maniacally.

Quotations to Remember

"Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity."

— Lord Acton

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday December 17

Harbourfront presents its **Saturday Family Program** in the Craft Studio today from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Today bring the whole family and make your own Christmas cards, tree decorations, "god's eyes", and Christmas window stencils. For more information phone 364-5665.

Sponsored by the Toronto Chilean Association, **Children's Christmas Carousel at Harbourfront** takes place today at 2 p.m. The program includes a Children's Theatre, Portuguese folkdancers, Chilean Folkdancers, a children's art and poetry workshop, and a film "The Red Balloon". The program will be in Spanish with English translations. Admission is free.

Today and Sunday the National Film Board of Canada, Toronto Arts Productions and Harbourfront present **"A Christmas Celebration"**, featuring dance, song and films for children. The program includes the Father Henry Carr Choir and Band, the Oakwood Wesleyan Youth Choir, the Greek Canadian Education Organization Dance Group, Ukrainian Ilarion Dance Ensemble, St. Demetrius Choral Ensemble, Portuguese Infant Folklore Group and children from the Latin American Community, plus mime artist Naomi Tyrrell.

Films include: "An Old Box", "The Ride", "The Great Toy Robbery", and "The Christmas Cracker". Today's program takes place at the Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front Street East from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, the program is at Harbourfront. For more information call 364-5665.

Sunday December 18

Don Keating, author of "The Power To Make It Happen", will speak on the **political understanding of community organizing** at St. Luke's Church 353 Sherbourne St. (at Carlton) today at 2:30 p.m. This is another in the popular series of free forums presented on Sundays at St. Luke's.

It's fight night at the **Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Club**, 2 Lancaster Street (off Parliament behind the Brewers' Retail Store). Starting time is 7 p.m.

Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak Street, is holding **church services** today at 11 a.m. and a Candlelight Service this evening at 7 p.m. Evening service includes lessons and carols.

The Black Education Project Christmas Party and Open House will be held today at St. Barnabas Church Annex, 175 Hampton Avenue (near the Chester subway station) from 2 p.m. to midnight. This is a family day with games, social activities, films, music and gifts for the children.

A new version of "Beauty and the Beast" will be presented today by the Dancesmiths of George Brown college School of Dance at 2 p.m. in the Harbourfront Theatre. Admission is free. For more information call 364-5665.

An evening of dance will be presented tonight at Harbourfront by dance students from George Brown College. Three new works will be presented free of charge in the Harbourfront Theatre at 8 p.m.

Monday December 19

Woodgreen Community Centre continues its **Monday Movie Night** with a delightful screening for adults of six short films including "Marilyn Munroe", "Helen Keller", "Music from Oil Drums", "King of Blades", "Nature in the Wrong", and "Jungle Cat of the Amazon." Films are free and begin at 7 p.m.

Tuesday December 20

The Danforth Library, 701 Pape Avenue, presents its **Christmas Program of Films** tonight at 8:30. Admission is free.

Wednesday December 21

Residents of St. Jamestown are invited to an evening of song, humour, and memories of Christmases of yesteryear when the **Smile Company** entertains in the 200 Rec. Room. Show time is 6:30 p.m.

Thursday December 22

The popular series of **Noon Recitals** on Thursdays from 12:05 to 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor Street East. Janet MacFarlane, Organist, will perform today. Admission is free, the programs are informal, and it's difficult to find a better, more relaxing way to spend your noonhour.

The Ontario Mental Patients Association (OMPA) will hold its first **Christmas dance** tonight from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the basement of Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street. There will be a lot of good music, non-alcoholic refreshments, and a guaranteed good time. The dance is open to the public and is free, but donations are needed and will be gratefully accepted.

OMPA is a non-profit self-help group of former psychiatric patients, the only one of its kind in Toronto. **General meetings** are held every Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. in All Saints Church (Sherbourne and Dundas). These meetings are restricted to people who have experienced psychiatric treatment. For more information about OMPA write Box 7251, Station "A", Toronto, or phone Don Weitz at 923-2772.

Sunday December 25

Regent Park United Church will hold its Christmas service today at 11 a.m.

For people who will be alone on Christmas, St. Paul's Church (227 Bloor St. East, at Jarvis) is holding a full course Christmas turkey dinner today, Christmas Day. The church opens at noon; dinner is served at 2 p.m. There is no charge, but the church would like you to call if you are coming so they will know how many to expect. Call 961-8116.

Thursday December 29

Robert Mackenzie, Sub-Organist at St. Clement's Church, will perform today from noon to 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor Street East. This is part of St. Paul's continuing series of free Noon Recitals.

Friday December 30

The Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Avenue, presents a free screening of the Chinese movie "The Happy Family" tonight at 7 p.m.

The **St. Jamestown Emergency Help Service** will close down operations as of today due to a lack of alternate funding.

Sunday January 1

Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak Street, invites you to its New Year's Day **Special Sunday Service** today at 11 a.m.

Monday January 9

Residents of St. Jamestown are invited to join one of the YMCA's **adult fitness classes** which begin this week. These classes are held in the auditorium of the **Vancouver Building** at 240 Wellesley Street and are given by a trained YMCA instructor. For fee schedule and times of classes contact the YMCA office at 260 Wellesley Street.

Wednesday January 4

The YMCA in St. Jamestown is offering a series of **squash lessons** to residents beginning today. This five-week program of lessons for beginners and intermediate level squash players is held every Wednesday in the YMCA Health Club located in the Ottawa building. For fee schedule and information about classes contact the YMCA office at 260 Wellesley Street East.

Friday January 13

Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre, 870 Queen Street East, is holding its **First Annual Winter Carnival** Friday January 13, Saturday January 14 and Sunday January 15 at the Centre. It is intended as a weekend of free winter fun and activities. The tentative schedule of events for the weekend is as follows: **Friday** 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Grand opening followed by an ice skating party with refreshments. **Saturday** 10 a.m. to noon — Pancake Brunch; 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — tournaments, games, and contests; 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — pleasure skating; 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. — Country Ho Down.

Sunday 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — tournament finals, games, contests and draw prizes. The schedule is subject to change, so be sure to contact the Centre at 461-2550 ahead of time to check.

General

The 519 Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, continues to offer a number of courses to its members free of charge. Every Wednesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. there is a **legal aid clinic** and no appointment is necessary. For further information about the clinic and about other services, contact the Centre at 923-2778.

The Women's Writing Collective invites you to three evenings of exploring poetry in January. The workshops run on consecutive Thursdays at 8 p.m. On January 12 there will be reading, discussion and a book display. On January 19, there will be an exploration of men's and women's voices in poetry (Bring poems). And on January 26 there will be a closer look at women's voices (for women). Interested people are encouraged to come and share their ideas and work. (read and discuss your work). It doesn't matter if you have never written before, or if you are a secret closet writer, or if you are a well-known poet. For information regarding the workshops, call 651-0225.

Calling all kids interested in **ball hockey** in St. Jamestown! The last day of registration is January 1, 1978. The age breakdown is 14 and under; and 15 to 18 years of age. The games are played Monday and Tuesday nights at either Woodgreen Community Centre or Blake Street.

A **Christmas Sale and Exhibition** of handcrafted work by Harbourfront's resident craftspeople continues until December 23 in the Harbourfront Exhibition Gallery. The sale is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 235 Queen's Quay West.

The Art Gallery of Ontario presents **cartoons and vignettes** by the American political cartoonist David Levine. The show runs December 17 through January 15. Running until January 29 is "The Child's World", an exhibition of clothing, toys and books in the Grange Music Room. The exhibition takes a look at children in the 19th century and how they spent their time — at school, work and play.

What are your children doing over the holidays while you are at work? The central YMCA is offering a **Christmas package for kids ages 4 to 12**. Program includes sports, games, arts and crafts, swimming, gymnastics, out-trips, sing-songs, and much more. From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended day care hours available, your child will be cared for in a small group of children her/his age. The program is available December 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 30. You can register your child for one day or the whole package. Phone the Central YMCA at 921-5151 for more information.

For the holiday between Christmas and New Year's, Harbourfront is planning a **four-day drop-in for kids**. The program, which will run from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday December 27 through December 30, includes workshops, films, arts and crafts, and entertainment. Phone 364-5665 for more information.

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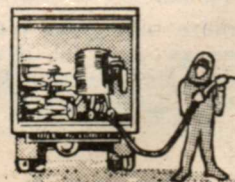
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Cabbagetown winners

By BRYAN LUNT

Every one of us has come across the guy who is a poor loser but last Saturday evening I encountered the unique, when I met two of Cabbagetown's poor winners: the brothers John and Peter Wylie, the driving force behind the Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Club.

Stop anyone in Toronto and ask them what the area is best known for and it's likely you will get the reply "unemployment, vandalism, drunkenness, dead beats". If anyone can change this image that the average Torontonian has in his mind, it is these two men. Working at all hours at the club, besides holding down regular jobs, they have brought together 450 of the area's youth on a fitness thing (and that means out of the drug and drink scene.) I met kids who were Japanese, Chinese, Ukrainian, Scottish, English, Irish, Indian, African, Portuguese, Polish, North American Indian, West Indian, Swedish, Greek, Macedonian, Canadian ... you name the nationality and the club has it. At a time when multicultural relationships (or lack of them) are hitting the headlines, this club illustrates just what can be done through sport.

If you're still a little sceptical and are the kind who says "what else did they do?", then try this for size: several hundred trophies, two league and two playoff championships and winners of the international tournament in Ottawa with their soccer teams. In volleyball they claimed both the Ontario and Quebec consolation championships and are currently rated fifth-best in

Canada. In boxing with eleven entries to Ontario's Golden Globe Championships they came home with nine winners. They've provided two members for the Canadian National Team and also have five Ontario Provincial Champions. In international competition a club member was the winner of Canada's only gold medal in Finland. And that's just this year's results.

If I describe the club and its facilities as a mess then I'm being kind. Several buckets collect water dripping through a leaking roof, paint is peeling from the walls, the floor needs work, the hydro is inadequate and dressing rooms pathetic. What I could not understand was how with all of the monies unspent in Wintario, some cash had not found its way to the club. The answer is simple. First you find half, then Wintario will match it.

We've seen money going to art lovers, to grants to study the French Canadian way of life, followed by a grant to study the English way of life, followed by grants to study ethnic and racial problems. But the Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Club, which has a record of achievement in harmony above and beyond talk and reports, can't get any money.

Somewhere out there Ward Seven has an army of street fighters. Once they constantly battled with City Hall and built themselves a reputation for being smart cookies.



Photo by Bryan Lunt

In the last edition of *Seven News* John Sewell asked where they had all gone. Perhaps John Sewell can be persuaded to come out of retirement and lead his merry men and women back into battle for the CBYC. The cause seems pretty just, and this club needs \$8,000 just

to meet its deficit.

Recently three of the boys started training to represent Canada in the Commonwealth Games. The least the City could do is to ensure that the boys have a dry roof over their heads. Surely the voters of Cabbagetown would appreciate tax dol-

lars being spent on a poor winner instead of being squandered on a procession of expensive losers. And by the way ... the next fight night is Sunday December 18th at 7 p.m. at 2 Lancaster St. I hope to see you there.

There's just no way of getting away from taxes

By HOWARD HUGGETT

What a time to talk about taxes, did you say? Well, according to the story in the Bible, Jesus was born while his parents were on a journey to Jerusalem to pay their taxes. Even then there was no such thing as a good reason for being late with your payment.

Under our modern system it isn't necessary to travel to Ottawa to pay up. Ottawa comes to you, and it starts coming on the first payday of

the new year, so that by the time that Yuletide comes around you have often paid it all — and a lot more. In that case there is a refund due, but it is payable during the following spring. Of course, no interest is due to the taxpayer for the money he had loaned to Ottawa, so the amount of interest he should have got is a kind of Christmas present to the federal government.

This year there was an attempt to

make Ottawa give a present to the taxpayers, but of course it didn't work. A few weeks ago Parliament was considering amendments to the Income Tax Act, and the Social Credit Party introduced an amendment to raise the amount of the employment expense deduction to \$400. That is the deduction a worker is allowed to make from his taxable income before calculating the tax, and it is presumably meant to cover the cost of going to work. It

doesn't, of course, because it is calculated by taking 3% of gross income, with a maximum of \$150. That modest sum would not pay the expense of public transit fare to and from work, to say nothing of lunch money, special clothing or the cost of driving to work. The figure of \$150 has not changed since 1972, although the cost of almost everything has been going up steadily. And what has the amount of a person's income have to do with the

expenses of going to work? Highly paid workers may live close to their place of employment, while low income working people may live far away.

Raising that deduction to \$400 would have been quite a help to working people. However, the federal government with its parliamentary majority voted that down. There is a Christmas present we don't get.

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POEMS AND PROSE BY TED PLANTOS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANGELINE KYBA



A vivid look at Cabbagetown from a writer who grew up with the harsh reality and the legends that make this neighbourhood distinctive. Plantos includes his "Legend of Red Ryan", the true tale of the notorious bank robber from Cabbagetown who shocked the entire Canadian public in the 1930's.

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Poetry night

By MARY ROSEN

Poetry lovers (the tribe is increasing) have been well treated by the Parliament Street Library recently.

On November 17, Len Gasparini, well-known Toronto poet and playwright read from his new book of poems, *THE WRONG SIDE OF THE DREAM*. He also included poetry from a previous book, *IF YOU LOVE*, published by Borealis Press. The audience was titillated by his keen sense of humour as evidenced from his *Mafiosa* typewriter; moved to tears by poems from his private world such as *After The Divorce* and all that that entails; the unspoken love between two men, poles and worlds apart, Gasparini's aged father suffering with a backache and riding all night on a train from Toronto to Buffalo to help his son in an hour of crisis; his perception of the suffering of others, especially little children, coming no doubt, from his awareness of the alienation he bears from his children, especially his own son.

Then on November 24th there was a double treat — the launching of two new books, one by Milton Acorn, *Jackpine Sonnets*, and the other *The Universe Ends at Queen and Sherbourne* by Ted Plantos. Both these books were published by Steel Rail Press, a relatively new publishing house begun in 1976, whose aim is to promote books which will "liberate Canadians into a new national awareness and pride in themselves."

Ted Plantos is a local cabbage-town boy who has done well. There was no need for him to go anywhere to prove himself — he has done so, staying in the neighborhood he knew as a child. His poems derive life from the sights, sounds and feelings of a youngster growing up in Cabbagetown, through the eyes of a mature adult. He opened his reading with the poem for which the book is titled, *The Universe Ends at Queen and Sherbourne* — "old men listening to their bodies groan with the wind that flies like an axe through stone and snow — won't make it past the morning." This is an area of losers, dead-beats, the ones who have never made it in life because of their own defects or circumstances of life.

Plantos also included "Red Ryan", that notorious bandit of

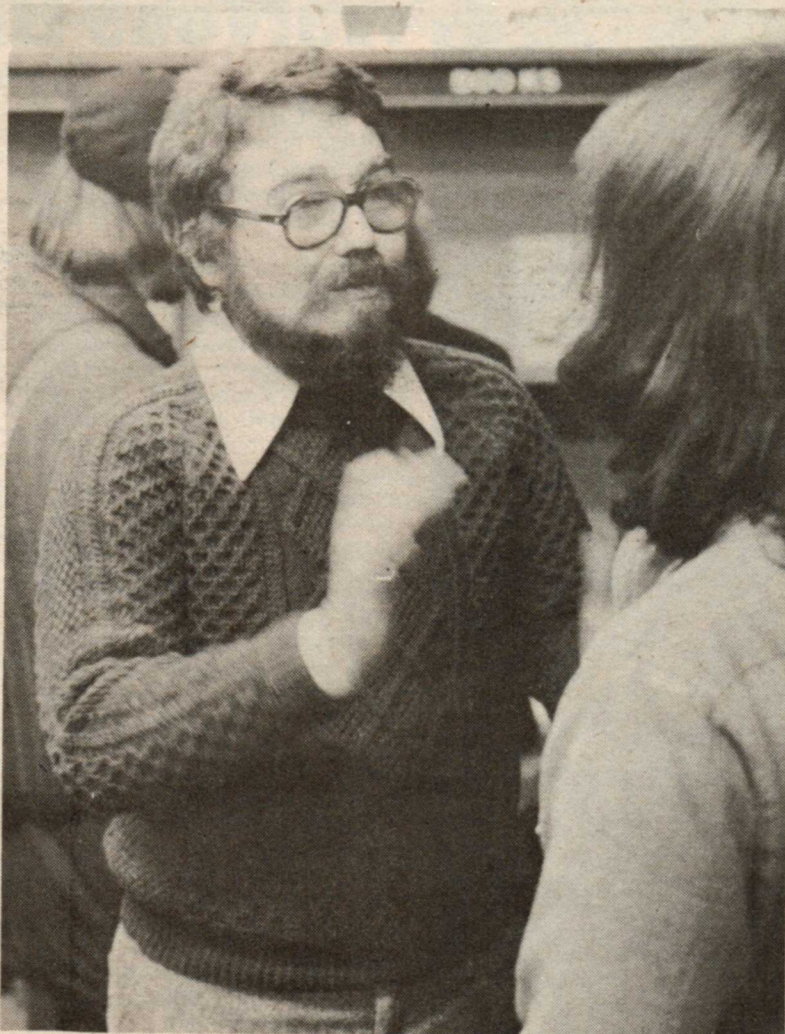


Photo: Toronto Public Libraries

Ted Plantos at poetry reading at Parliament St. Library.

yesteryear in his repertoire. This work for several voices was originally heard on CBC Anthology a few years ago.

The audience was highly amused by his *Hallelujah, Lady*, a study of refined con artistry foisted on the gullible and the avaricious. The Cabbagetowners don't let opportunities slip lightly through their fingers.

Having read the book, more humorous delights come forth in *Frozen Road Apples* (an old/new form of hockey disk) and *Cashing A Cheque* in Cabbagetown.

The book, however, has its serious side. Living in Cabbagetown can be hard, tough, violent, uncompromising, and demanding its own scale of rigid ethics. There is nostalgia and despair in the uprooting of Vivien St. and the upheaval caused by its total erasure to families. A neighbourhood dies as well as the people in it.

A tribute to his mother, *Born Out of Your Pain*, is a tender, strong poem with a passage such as

"Winter at the window screams to be let in next to the few rushes of breath between my ribs, and hangs its thorns of ice over my opening eyes." With that kind of beginning and *As A Child I Played in Destruction*, it is a marvel Plantos has emerged in toto. He has risen out of the ashes and debris to survive happily, the culmination being in the book *The Universe Ends at Queen and Sherbourne*. For him we hope it is the beginning of a successful career in poetry and prose writing.

Where Gasparini's world is confined within himself and those close to him, Plantos' Cabbagetown and people he has known, Acorn's world is global in scale. His *Jackpine Sonnets* contend that they are a new form of sonnet, "ragged and rugged as the jackpine, not adhering to the strict rule of 14 lines. He states it is "realisant", "growing in any shape that suits the light, wind, itself." That statement sums up Acorn and his life — he is his own man. Acorn's book is a good read with many beautiful, spine grabbing lines.

Scrivener big election spender

Conservative Revenue Minister Margaret Scrivener spent \$51,534 to hold onto her seat in the Legislature for St. David riding in the provincial election last June, more than twice as much as the man who almost unseated her, NDPer Gordon Cressy. According to returns filed with the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses,

Cressy spent \$23,155, while Liberal Robert McClelland spent \$13,224 in finishing third. Across the province, Scrivener was second only to Larry Grossman among her fellow Cabinet Ministers in the amount she spent.

In neighbouring St. George riding, Conservative Frank Vasilkioti

followed Scrivener's example in spending more than both of his principal opponents combined. Vasilkioti spent \$41,115 — \$12,600 less than he paid out in 1975 — but still lost to incumbent Liberal Margaret Campbell. Campbell spent \$23,186, while NDPer Lukin Robinson, who finished third, spent \$17,002.

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Photo by Cherry Hassard

Nervous Breakdown

By CHERRY HASSARD

Every night of the week you'll find something happening at The Nervous Breakdown coffeehouse, 200 Carlton Street west of Parliament.

Monday to Wednesday it's the Village Revival, three evenings of music, mime, poetry and theatre with everyone invited to participate. Prospective performers should contact Don Kennedy or Kathryn Quan at 690-8038. Scheduled Thursday through Saturday is the main fare of The Nervous, the regular concert nights, which encompass a wide range of performers and musical styles. Sunday, there's a surprise Special, with no cover charge, just donations for the musician.

At the November 24 to 26 concerts Peter Mathieson, on acoustic guitar and dobro, and partner Trish Haynes, on guitar, offered original Mathieson compositions and David Wiffen and Raffi songs in sweet two-part harmony. Song material, often mournful, was sandwiched between Mathieson's outrageous puns. After "Heaven Help the Fool" dedicated to a friend gone

wrong: "And now, as the same junkie would say, something in a different vein".

The December 1st to 3rd slot featured guitarist and vocalist Mose Scarlett known for his versions of ragtime numbers and golden oldies such as "Sweet Sue (Just You)," "He's In the Jailhouse Now", and "Melancholy Baby". Mose was accompanied by his new "snide man", Kid Stormy Weather, a harmonica player who turned in a virtuosic performance of "Ain't Misbehavin'".

Husky-voiced Bob Carpenter appeared December 8 to 10; upcoming in the remaining weeks of the year are Ian Tamblyn, Stan Rogers, and Friends of Fiddler's Green.

In addition to the good music, you'll find good coffee at The Nervous Breakdown, as well as an unpretentious decor and an unpretentious menu (prominent on the sandwich list is "Peanut Butter Deluxe, with jam, banana, and apple"). Cover charge is 99¢ Monday to Wednesday, \$2.50 Thursday to Saturday.

Blessed on Parliament St.

He came toward me
The sun behind him
Making a halo around his head
A saint in sandals.

Got a quarter? He implored
I liked his look
I felt religious, benedictive,
And put my offering
In his shaking hand.

Bless you! He piously intoned
As his alter ego clenched the coin.

Feeling religious again
I promised myself to go to church.

Passing the next corner
I saw 'Saint' Bacchus
The lights from the wine-store
window
Hallowed his head
Another blessing? I wondered.

I went to my poetry meeting
Feeling sanctified!
I wonder if it helps my poetry?
Leah Burke

Project Co-ordinator

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Toronto Board of Education HERITAGE LANGUAGES PROGRAM

WHAT IS A HERITAGE LANGUAGE PROGRAM?

In a Heritage Language Program, students learn a language other than English or French — usually their native tongue. This program is open to all students attending elementary school. The enrollment is not obligatory, this is a voluntary program over and above the regular school day curriculum. Most classes take place after school, in the evening or on the weekend. Classes may take place during the school day under certain conditions.

Through the Toronto Board of Education and in cooperation with many community organizations, Heritage Language Programs are being offered in the following languages in 1977:

Bengali	Hindi	Ojibwe	Spanish
Cantonese	Italian	Punjabi	Ukrainian
Croatian	Japanese	Polish	Urdu
Greek	Korean	Portuguese	Gujrati
Mandarin	Russian		

For further information on these programs, please call the Board of Education at 598-4931, local 346.

HOW TO APPLY TO HAVE A HERITAGE PROGRAM?

If there is no Heritage Language Program near you or in your language, you may wish to request that one be established. The Ministry of Education policy states: "...Any group of parents will be able to approach its local school board with the request that heritage language classes for elementary school children be given under the Continuing Education Program."

An average of approximately 25 students per class is required. If you are interested in beginning a Heritage Language Program, please contact your school principal. Further information may be obtained from the Board of Education at 598-4931, local 346.

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Parkview grads

By BURNADETTE MURLE

On November 17, 1977 I attended Parkview Secondary School Graduation where I, among others, graduated. The evening started out pleasantly until Mr. Brundage, our school principal, mentioned the terrible things that the newspapers had printed about our students. The media implied that the students of Parkview Secondary School supposedly carried arms for protection.

I am newly graduated from Parkview, and still attending on a part-time basis. I am a female student and I have never found it necessary to carry any kind of protective weapons, except a loud mouth.

Along with the advice from our principal, Mr. Brundage, and vice-principal, Mr. Frenke, I thought it was an overwhelming graduation. As I waited in line to receive my diploma I felt very special, and I'm sure everyone had this same feeling. After all the graduates received their diplomas, and the most outstanding students of the year received their awards, refreshments were served in the gym for all the participants including the parents. Following the refreshments there was a dance held in the gym gallery. The evening was not all that sad after all.

I personally had a splendid evening in spite of the false rumours about Parkview. To me, Parkview Secondary School has been a most rewarding Educational Experience. I was proud and filled with honor to accept my Secondary School Graduation Diploma and welcomed the advice of Mr. Brundage. I just hope that I would never disappoint my fellow classmates

and endeavour to become a respectful citizen.

By APRIL STAGG

I thought that the Commencement at Parkview was very well done, and that everyone had a terrific time. All the students that were graduating were dressed so beautifully. I even wished I was up there with them all, but I know that I will have to wait my turn.

Even though the graduating students seemed nervous before the ceremony, they all looked so calm as they crossed the stage accepting their diplomas. Many of them received special awards. These included the T. S. S. M. A. Bursary Award which was won by Peter Hale; the W. Bart Folkeard Memorial Award donated by the staff of Parkview was won by Terry Bacchus and the Student Council Award was given to Cheryl Steinhoff for all the work that she has done for the school. The students were very proud to accept these awards.

Mr. Brundage made a speech about students going out into the world to improve it and everyone seemed quite affected by what he said.

After the Commencement Ceremony, all the students, staff and parents went to the gym where Parkview's Food Services Class had set up long tables covered with trays of food. A dance followed and when it was over, I wished the whole thing could begin again. I hope that Graduation Night will be just the same when I graduate. I wouldn't change a thing.



Students in Parkview School's graduating class assemble for a last picture together.

The old wood stove is making a comeback

By HOWARD HUGGETT

How often are you told, by radio, television or the printed page, to keep your thermostat down to 68 degrees? Fairly often, no doubt. Well, not in this column. Everybody knows that more heat costs more money, and it is up to them to make the decision.

But, when you are deciding what temperature you want or can afford, it is helpful to recall that it wasn't always possible to enjoy shirt-sleeve temperature indoors during a Canadian winter. Senior citizens who grew up on a farm may remember what it was like to sleep in an icy bedroom underneath a half a foot of blankets. In the 1830's an English family by the name of Langton emigrated to Ontario and settled near what is now Fenelon

Falls in the Peterborough district. One of the Langtons kept a diary which was later published under the title "A Gentlewoman in Upper Canada", and in that journal she told of waking up one bitterly cold morning in January when the outside temperature was -20 (Fahrenheit of course). The thermometer in her bedroom read about 5 degrees. That makes 68 seem tropical.

The fuel that was used in those long-gone days was wood, of course. There was lots of it around, but you had to chop or saw down the trees, cut them into lengths and then split them. It was a steady job, and the Langton diary records that one person was kept busy every day, cutting fuel for the family stoves. The old-fashioned wood

stove is a very important part of Canada's past. But not of its future, you may say. Well, you could be wrong.

You see, there is now a new-fashioned wood stove. It has an airtight door and draft opening that is controlled by a thermostat. These modern stoves are much more efficient because less heat is lost up the chimney and it takes less wood to keep you warm. Out in what is called the cottage country wood stoves, particularly the modern ones, are making a comeback. When the price of oil and gas started to go up cottage-owners began to notice how much wood was lying about.

Now of course Ward Seven is not exactly in the cottage country, so there is no market for wood stoves

around here. Yes, that's what I thought too, until my next-door neighbour set up a box stove in his kitchen. It made sense for him, he was renovating his house and was up to his ears in scrap wood. And then I began to think about those piles of old boards and two-by-fours that you see on lawns every garbage day. Well, it seems that a lot of people are thinking about wood these days, because there is a dealer in East Metro who specializes in wood stoves. He tells me that some of his customers live near his store. You will find this dealer's advertisement in the pages of Seven News.

So maybe there is a wood stove in your future. It makes much more sense to burn all that scrap wood than to pay people to cart it away to throw on a garbage dump or use as

land fill. Wood is a cleaner fuel than coal or oil, and it burns with such a cheerful crackle. There is a heart-warming thought for a cold winter night.

Winchester Music

Winchester School was alive with the sound of music last Monday as the school held its annual Christmas sing-along. The school strings and the Ward 7 Community Orchestra provided music, and parents, teachers, and students sang along, as everybody got into the Christmas spirit. A good time, as they say, was had by all.

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Allan Gardens is one of the places mentioned in "The Adventures of Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica".

Kids' guide to Toronto

By FRANCES WATMAN

"The Adventures of Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica, and how they discover Toronto" is a children's guidebook to the city written for the age seven to twelve set, and published in Toronto.

Written by Kati Rekai and illustrated with watercolour paintings by Elise Kane, the book chronicles the sightseeing adventures of four animal friends: a Toronto-born German shepherd, a beagle adopted from the Humane Society, a pup from an Indian reservation, and a tabby cat with a passion for swimming. Together they explore the city's tourist attractions including the Royal Ontario Museum, the Planetarium, the Toronto Islands — where they are upset to learn that a movement is afoot to raze the Island homes — Casa Loma, the Science Centre and the new City Hall. They go shopping for picnic food in Kensington Market, and, another time, go grocery shopping in Greenwin Square.

One day, their travels take them to Allan Gardens. Their exuberant guide Mickey, a German shepherd and native Torontonion, proudly shows them through the park, points out the statue of Scottish poet Robert Burns at the west side of Allan Gardens, tells them briefly about Central Hospital on Sherbourne Street "where the most

foreign languages are spoken", and escorts them through the greenhouse which, Mickey explains, is the original Palm House still standing after the fire which destroyed the previous larger structure.

While the book is an interesting tale about four good friends, it is an exceptionally detailed and useful guide for children — and their parents — to Toronto. The author unobtrusively dispenses hordes of historical and factual information about each attraction through the enthusiastic and knowledgeable German shepherd, Mickey. The animals, together with Mickey, carefully plan their sightseeing trips each day, meet at a central location, and decide on the best bus and subway routes to take to their chosen destination. Besides learning how to plan a day's outing, young readers can learn how to use the city's transit system to reach various attractions, and what to expect to see when they get there. There is a map of Toronto on the back cover of the book, and a listing of Places of Interest, complete with addresses and phone numbers, on the last two pages.

"The Adventures of Mickey, Taggy, Puppo and Cica, and how they discover Toronto" is published by Canadian Stage and Arts Publications, 52 Avenue Road, and is available at bookstores and toyshops for \$1.95 — \$2.95 for the French language edition. You can borrow the book from your neighbourhood library as well.

Getting along together is important.

This is what Ontario is doing to help develop understanding between people.



As our society grows more diverse, community tensions may arise from time to time. Our responsibility is to help individuals, groups and communities resolve any difficulties that may occur, and reduce tension so that greater understanding and respect may be reached.

The Ontario Human Rights Code is designed to assure the rights and dignity of all persons without regard to race,

creed, colour, nationality, ancestry, place of origin, age (40-65), sex and marital status.

In addition to investigating and mediating complaints of discrimination in such areas as employment, housing, public services and facilities, job advertisements and the posting of signs and notices, the Ontario Human Rights Commission works for healthier relations between groups at the community level.

Community counselling is one of the major roles of your Ontario Human Rights Commission. We endeavour to break down communication barriers among groups by working together with agencies, institutions and the community itself. By explaining both the rights and responsibilities of all residents in this province, we believe that the aims and the objectives of the Code can be achieved.

If you would like more information or assistance, contact the Ontario Human Rights Commission office nearest you:

HAMILTON
1 West Avenue South
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Telephone: 527-2951

KENORA
808 Robertson Street
Postal Zone: P9N 1X9
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Ontario Human Rights Commission



Bette Stephenson, M.D.,
Minister of Labour

William Davis, Premier

Province of Ontario

Kids

Danforth Library

You are invited to a Christmas party at the library Saturday December 17 at 2 p.m.

Parliament Street Library

Saturday December 17 at 2 p.m. it's Christmas Cheer at the library. There'll be a puppet show, Christmas tree decorating, carol singing and hot cider.

Week days are great days to spend at the library. Tuesday December 20 at 4 p.m. come and learn how to make Christmas wreaths. Wednesday December 21 at 4 p.m. listen to some old and new Christmas tales. Tuesday December 27 at 2 p.m. there'll be a Happy Game Hour. Wednesday December 28 at 2 p.m. come and hear a story and paint a picture. Friday December 30 at 2 p.m. come one, come all for a New Year's Party. Games, hats, balloons, and a Pinata surprise!

Riverdale Library

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By LYNN BISSELL
and
CINDY WILKEY

Everyone deserves to have a festive Christmas season, but for people on low or fixed incomes, providing the Christmas goodies that many take for granted can mean real financial hardship. Fortunately, Christmas is also the time of year when many groups traditionally provide Christmas extras for those who are in need.

Christmas Baskets and Hampers are available from places like the Christian Community Centre (270 Gerrard Street East - 929-9614), Regent Park Community Service Unit (63 Belshaw Place, No. 101 - 863-1768), Scott Mission (502 Spadina Avenue - 924-4437) and various churches in the area.

Food Vouchers (for those not getting the Welfare Christmas bonus) and **Toy vouchers** are available from the Salvation Army at 470 Dundas Street East (rear entrance).

The following are free Christmas Dinners that will be provided on December 25th: AA Open House and Buffet, Metropolitan United Church, 51 Bond Street, 487-5591, 9:30 - 4:00, open to all; St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St. E., 961-8116 (phone ahead), 1:30 - 5:00, open to all; Shoppers Drop In, 719 Yonge St., 2nd floor, 961-4874, 5:00 - 12:00, open to anyone (men, women and families); Salvation Army Harbour Light Centre, 160 Jarvis St., sittings at 3, 4, 5 and 6:00 pm, open to single men and women, music, chapel and gifts; Salvation Army, 135 Sherbourne St. and 723 Queen St. W., 12:00 noon, open to men from the area; Scott Mission, 502 Spadina Ave., 10:00 - 11:30 am, open to men only.

In addition, on December 26th there will be a Christmas dinner at Woodgreen United Church, 875 Queen St. E., 12:30 pm. This is open to men and women but you must get tickets ahead of time at the church or at the Fred Victor Mission. Call Mr. Crawford, 431-0524, for more information.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff, volunteers and Board of the Neighbourhood Information Post.

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- E. Day/date Accutron automatic. Silvertone & goldtone combination. \$210.00
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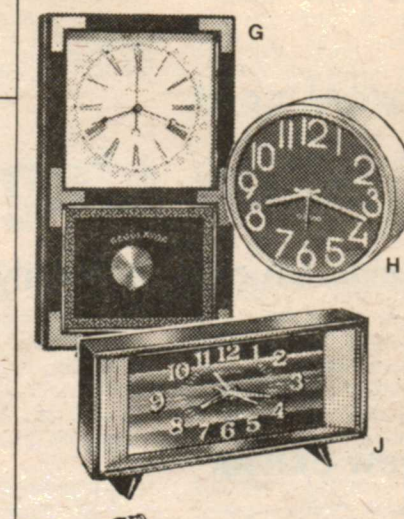
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Bank of Nova Scotia (Broadview & Gerrard)

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Holy Name School

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