



NEWS

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

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 23 APRIL 22, 1978

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TAKE ONE

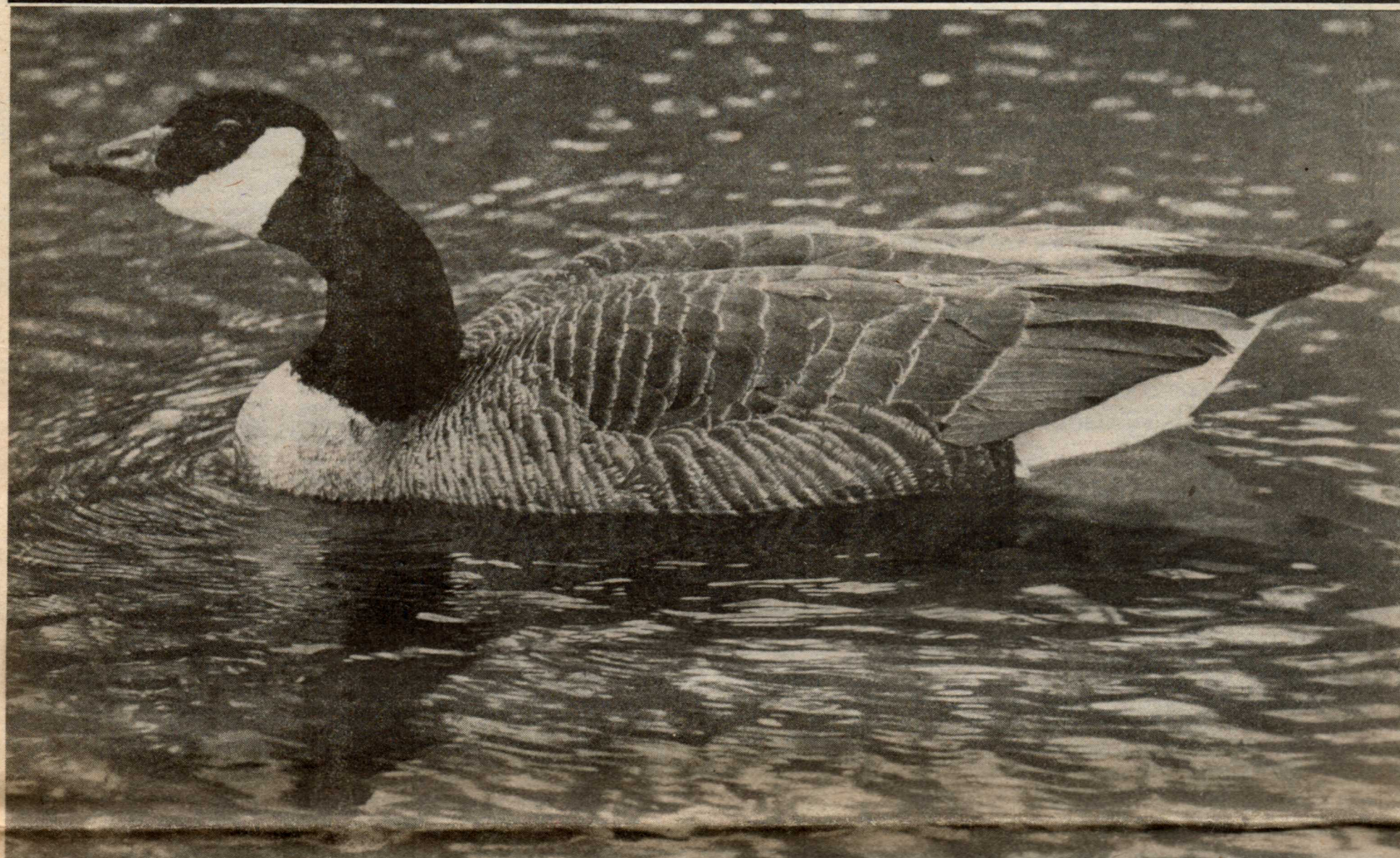


Photo by Cherry Hassard

A Canada Goose serenely floats in the pond in Riverdale Park. It and its mate are a very tame wild pair. And they're quite tyrannical too. They chase away any ducks who try to share in

handouts from the passers-by. (For more on swampy Riverdale Park west of the Don, see the letter on page 2.

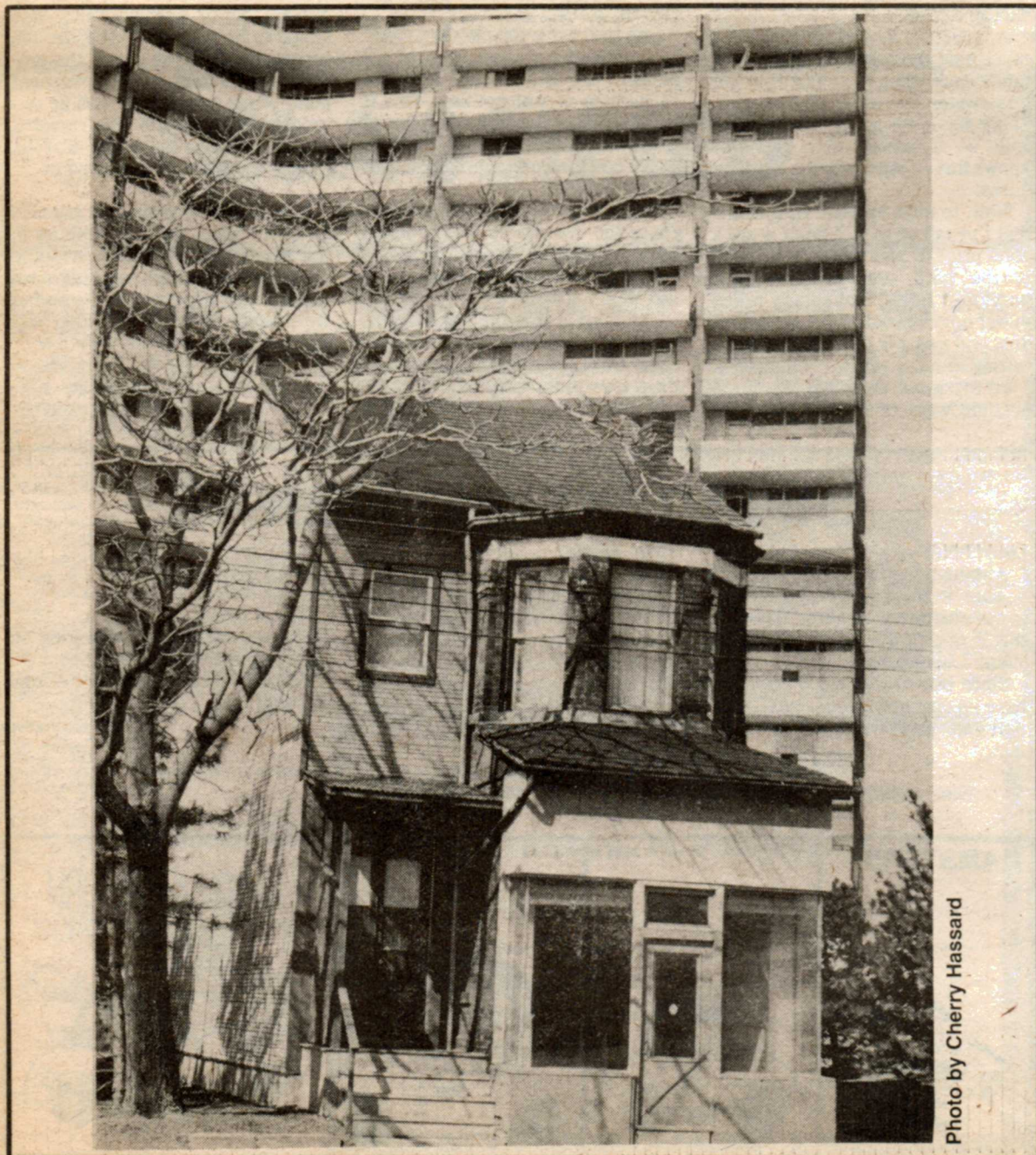


Photo by Cherry Hassard

The lonely house

If several thousand people had a birdseye view of your backyard would you feel a little inhibited? That's what it's like in the house at 600 Parliament Street, just above Wellesley, which is the only house left standing by the developers who tore down the local neighbourhood to build the St. Jamestown apartment complex.

The lone house has captured the imagination of many passers-by, who wonder why the house remains. Is it a historical building whose history prevented its destruction, or was it once the house of a famous person? The potential for speculation is limitless.

However, the real reason the house survives goes back to the mid-1960's, when the land for St. Jamestown was being assembled. The owners of the house were unwilling to sell for the amount being offered by Meridian, and held out for more. Meridian eventually responded by redesigning its development so that it would go around the house. All the other houses were torn down, and only 600 Parliament was left standing. The owners sued Meridian for loss of air and sunshine, but lost. The house has remained ever since, as something of a white elephant, and as a reminder of the birth of St. Jamestown.

Historic Parliament St.

by GEORGE RUST-D'EYE

Parliament Street gained its name from the first Parliament Buildings of Upper Canada, which stood near its foot, south of Front Street, from 1797 to 1824. It began as a trail for Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe and Mrs. Simcoe and their guests from the Town of York to Castle Frank, their summer home overlooking the Don Valley. The area gained the name "Cabbagetown" from the cabbages which the predominantly Irish settlers grew in their front yards.

Parliament Street and the rest of the area north of Gerrard were developed in the 1870's and 1880's. The tree-lined street was first "macadam", (dirt and gravel), and later paved with cedar block and

cobblestone. Sidewalks were wood planks, with ramps leading up to the stores from the street. Hitching posts were provided, and a horse-trough stood at Parliament and Winchester. The first electric street cars started service in the 1890's.

The street was at first mostly residential, interspersed with groceries, butchershops, taverns and churches. Houses were usually built in connected rows, or "terraces". Some remaining mostly intact are: Maple Terrace (519-527 Parliament), built in 1880; Darling Terrace (562-566 Parliament), 1877; Brougham Terrace, (549-563 Parliament), 1875; and Chamberlain Terrace, (568-592 Parliament), 1879. Another row of beautiful houses are

continued on page 8



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LETTERS

If you have comments or opinions about what is happening in the community or about what you read in 7 News, write us a letter, to 7 News, 265 Gerrard St. E., Toronto. All letters must be signed, but if you ask us to, we will publish your letter with a pen-name and keep your real name confidential.

Trustees talk nonsense

Dear 7 News:

The 7 News issue of March 25 contained a plea by trustees Nagle, Barr and Holmes for the abolition of the Metro Toronto Board of Education. The reason given was that the Board was refusing to give Toronto an extra \$800,000 over and above the enormous increase the Toronto Board has already received.

Trustees Barr and Holmes (I do not know Nagle's views well enough to comment on them) are caught in the myth of the 1960's. In the '60's then Education Minister William Davis believed that if enough money were poured into education all of society's problems would be solved. Needless to say this has not worked. Today most people are trying to limit the increases in educational spending but Barr and Holmes just want to spend more and more.

I am not at all upset to see my tax dollars go to education as long as the money is well spent — but it is not. A visit to the Education Centre at 155 College reveals much of the mentality of the trustees. Most luxury buildings still require people to push or pull on the doors to enter. The doors at the Education Centre open at the touch of a button. Can we, as taxpayers, really take seriously such opulence when our trustees want still more money? Inside the building one almost always meets a taxi-cab

driver who is picking up reports to be delivered. Most large corporations use a courier but our trustees spare no expense where somebody else's money is concerned. Needless to say they also spare no expense in office space for their staff.

Frills such as those mentioned above add to the cost of education but their elimination alone would not cut anywhere near all of the surplus fat from the budget. The Toronto Board employs hundreds of staff members to fill these offices. Salaries for "professionals" (psychologists, social workers, etc.) at the Board are higher than those for comparable professional jobs anywhere else in Canada, yet, unlike the comparable jobs, our professionals work only 200 days a year. Teachers in Ontario are the highest paid in North America and those employed by the Toronto Board are near the top for Ontario. To add to the absurdity teachers in Toronto frequently earn 50% more than University of Toronto professors with equivalent experience despite the fact that the professors hold Ph.D.'s. School secretaries and clerks do not do badly either, generally earning 35% higher than those available in industry and frequently topping them off with unemployment insurance cheques during the summer.

All of these expenses might appear legitimate if students were in fact obtaining the best possible

education. They are not. Literacy has declined badly and math skills are poor. Most kids I know hate school and state that they learn nothing and go only because they are compelled to by law. Every year school enrolment drops, educational standards deteriorate and costs rise.

There are no easy solutions to the problems our trustees have created. Any layoffs of staff would certainly hurt morale and cause standards to drop still lower. Our trustees could however stop hiring new social workers (most poor people need money not social workers) and freeze staff altogether. When the next contract period rolls around they could cut salaries for all staff by 5% and then freeze salaries for a couple of years until they got back in line with reality. They could stop purchasing expensive laboratory equipment and shop equipment and also could stop building of everything else. Eventually the budget might then become more reasonable in terms of service provided.

And incidentally the Nagle, Barr and Holmes argument that Toronto contributes 40% to Metro's budget but spends only 27% is also a sham. After all 25% of Metro's money comes from Ward 6 and only a fool would propose that Ward 6 be allowed to spend 25%.

Robert D. Katz
Wellesley St. E.

Underwater baseball

To the Editor:

A visit to Riverdale Park will reveal that the baseball fields are all underwater again — in fact they are underwater for most of the year. Some say it's a pond, others say a lake — it seems that everyone knows this — especially the kids and ducks.

Now, to most baseball enthusiasts that I've talked to — a pond is not a good place to play ball — by the top of the third your galoshes have developed holes, and sliding home in wet mud instead of the customary dust and sweat is downright disconcerting to most veteran ball players.

To my mind there are just three possible ways of dealing with this

obvious conflict of uses.

One is to leave the park in its present state and get one out of 12 months' use as a baseball field and 11 months of wet nothing. This is less than desirable and a burden to taxpayers, since annual maintenance costs for one month of use is hardly justified.

Another is to raise the whole area above the water table. The problem with this idea is that it may cause flooding on the Bayview extension and would cost a lot.

The third is to make a permanent pond by removing the baseball fields from their soggy state and fit them in with the soccer field on the east side of the river where land is

higher, better drained, and well suited to field sports. Transpose the perpetually flooding site of the present baseball fields into a permanent pond where people and wildlife can rendezvous. Relocate the present running track on the east side of the river around the proposed pond.

In so doing we shall have gained a welcome pond and lost nothing in the transaction. In addition it would make an excellent employment opportunity, organized as a summer work program for some inner city kids.

W. Terry Fahey
Inner City Kid
Degrassi St.

Seven News praised

Dear 7 News:

Although I am a resident of Ward 6, your newspaper gets distributed in our apartment building. (Perhaps this is due to our proximity to the Ward 7 boundary.)

Since our own Ward 6 does not have its own newspaper, may I support your paper? Enclosed is a cheque.

Truly yours,
Celodonio M. Gloria

Dear people:

I thank you for the 7 News. I read it from cover to cover as I go home on the bus. I am a senior citizen and I go to the Second Mile Club, so I get your paper down there, and all the news and goings on. So keep up the good work. You are a real help to the community. Good luck with your campaign.

Mrs. Gladys Hall
2 Meadowglen Pl.

Dear 7 News:

I received your letter asking for my help for the 7 News. Yes, I will help, for I like to read. Best of luck to you.

Mrs. Cameron
270 Carlon St.



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BY WEDNESDAY MAY 3, 1978

ALL NOMINATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE A CONSENT FORM SIGNED BY THE NOMINEE INDICATING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO STAND FOR OFFICE. PLEASE INDICATE THE FULL NAME OF THE NOMINEE, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND A BRIEF PERSONAL RESUME.

Volunteers Needed

Seven News is looking for volunteers to distribute the paper on streets and in apartment buildings that presently do not have delivery. It would take about 10 to 30 minutes once every two weeks to deliver from 25 to 100 papers. The paper would be delivered to your door in a bundle every second Friday for you to deliver over the weekend. If you are interested, or know someone who is, call 7 News at 465-3810.

The South Riverdale Community Health
Centre invites you to a forum on

ALCOHOL

When? Monday May 1st 8:00 p.m.
Where? South Riverdale Community Health Centre
126 Pape Ave. (1/2 blk. n. of Queen St. E.)

Speakers: Mr. Dennis James, staff member
of The Donwood Institute
A member from Al-Anon

Mike Rachlis, M.D. South Riverdale
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Question period to follow panel discussion

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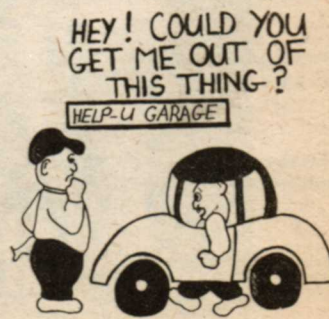
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Parents visit Eastdale

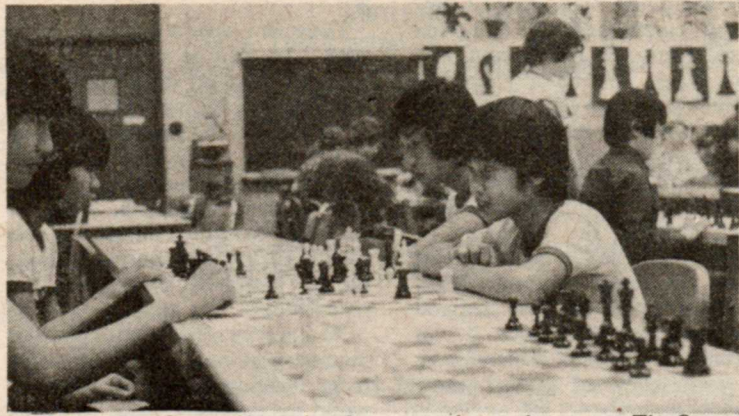
Eastdale Collegiate Institute was a hive of activity on Wednesday night, April 12, as 200 people of all ages were in attendance at the School Community Council's meeting with a difference.

When parents came in the front door, they were directed to their son or daughter's homeform room. There their attendance was taken and they were given a duplicate of their son or daughter's timetable.

From 7:30 to 9:30 the parents followed these timetables and moved from class to class every 15 minutes in the same pattern their children use in the dayschool.

Second term report cards were issued to the parents in the homeforms as well, so as parents moved around they were able to talk to the staff about the progress of their children as well as discussing the aims and objectives of the various programmes.

There were examples of the physical education programme on continuous display in the gymnasium throughout this period and at 9:30, at the end of the "school



Members of the Queen Alexandra chess team playing their game. The Queen A team, coached by Kolya Penhuyzen, has been very successful in public school competition, winning the city championships 4 years in a row.

Kolya Penhuyzen

day," everyone was invited to watch a half-hour exhibition game of basketball. Eastdale's Eagles defeated a team from the Woodgreen Community Centre by a score of 33-27.

At 10:00 a short business meeting was convened by the President of the School-Community Council.

Kay Love, Helen Katsoulis, the President of the Student Council, gave a progress report on the Yearbook and told of tentative plans for the first-ever Graduation Party! Mrs. Carol Wazonek spoke briefly on the tentative plans for the third Annual Banquet.

Is bigger really better?

By HOWARD HUGGETT

Up until a few years ago the dominant idea on this continent was that bigger was better. This was very evident in the field of automobiles. However, since the oil crisis of 1973 and the drastic rise of petroleum prices that followed, thinking is changing with regard to cars. People are discovering that small is beautiful.

So far this trend has not shown up in the economy. Companies are still becoming larger as more mergers and take-overs occur. Governments are swelling to enormous proportions, and this shows up in our tax bills. Complaints are constant against big business, big government and even big labour, but there are no signs of shrinkage. But here and there voices are being raised in defense of smallness, and an example is a book entitled: "Small Business, Building a Balanced Economy." Published by Porcepier Paper, \$2.95. The author is Rein Peterson, Professor at York University and Director of Small Business Programme, Faculty of Administration Studies.

This book is small itself, but packed with charts and other data, and a short review cannot deal with it very fully. I will touch on two of the basic problems of our economy

that Professor Peterson deals with in his argument for more emphasis on small business. The first of these is unemployment. He quotes a statement in Hansard for May 30th, 1977, that over 59% of the labour force in Canada works for small companies. Statistics Canada has advised that in 1972 the 100 largest firms accounted for 46% of business activity. It is obvious from this that small companies employ far more people in relation to the value of goods or services that they produce. Big business, of course, uses great quantities of machinery in order to cut down on labour costs, and it is big business that is responsible for most of the unemployment. Therefore, it makes sense to encourage the smaller firms in order to create jobs.

On the subject of energy, machines use large amounts of it. Before the oil crisis of 1973 energy was relatively cheap, but now it is very expensive and going higher all the time. With oil and other fuels becoming scarcer with a surplus of labour power, it is logical to employ less machinery and more workers.

Professor Peterson makes a number of suggestions for a better balanced economy, too many to mention here. But it is difficult to believe that any governments now

in office would do much to encourage small business. Whenever we hear of government assistance to companies it is usually to someone such as Inco or Imperial Oil. They are the ones who get the interest-free loans or the tax deferrals.

For an example of how big business gets the breaks, take the tax system. Companies are allowed to deduct from their taxable income amounts for yearly depreciation on their capital assets. For example, most machinery is depreciated 30% every year. But it is big business that invests heavily in machinery in order to save labour costs, so they are the ones who benefit most from this provision.

Yet in many ways it is the small companies who are the hope of the future. In the field of renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind power, the existing firms are small. On the other hand, the oil, coal, and uranium companies are huge, and they are the ones who now get the lion's share of government help. As the non-renewable sources of energy run out we will of necessity turn to solar and wind power, but how much better it would be for us all if these small firms were given assistance now to develop the technology that we will need desperately in a few years.

NEWS BRIEFS

Suicide attempts up sharply

Attempted suicides have reached epidemic proportions in Toronto, especially in the downtown area, according to researchers at the Toronto General Hospital. Interestingly, drugs prescribed by doctors constitute almost half of the list of self-harming agents. Suicide attempts are highest among women. Those who commit suicide have a very high frequency of previous suicide attempts. In the sample used for the report, 8% were teenagers, and 50% were under 30 years of age. 26% of the men, and 34% of the women were married or living together. The oldest patient was 76, the youngest 15. Skilled workers, unskilled workers, clerical workers, sales and technical workers, professionals, housewives, and students, each accounted for more than 10% of the total. The hospital's study was based on 140 patients who had attempted suicide in the preceding week, 60% of them women.

Riverdale Farm being finished!

If it seems like years since the old Riverdale zoo was closed, it's because it has been. The city has been planning a model farm on the site, but work has been progressing slowly. Last Year, the Parks and Recreation Department was promising that the farm would be ready in September 1977. Last week, they told 7 News it would be opening "around June" — we presume they mean 1978. Maybe this time we can believe them: the buildings and fences seem finished, and even the paths have been covered with a coarse gravel that is almost impossible to walk on. And there was an ad in the paper recently seeking a farmer to run the place. Keep your fingers crossed, and maybe by June we'll really have a working farm on the site.

Don Jail deadline nears

Last-minute attempts are underway to save the Don Jail building, which the provincial government intends to demolish. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada is considering recognizing the jail as a historic site. And the

Toronto Humane Society is considering buying it as an animal shelter. The Humane Society however, does not have enough money to meet the asking price of \$7 million, and is also at this point still committed to a site it owns at Queen and River Streets. The province has given the city until May 1 to find a use for the building.

Black lawyer roughed up

Toronto lawyer Charles Roach was roughed up by two policemen recently on Selby St., just west of St. Jamestown. Roach was walking across the street to his own house late at night when he was accosted by two policemen who demanded he identify himself. When he refused, they roughed him up. Roach conceded that it would have been easier if he had immediately identified himself and stated that he was a lawyer, but he said that he could not "voluntarily accede to an intrusion into what I consider my rights." He noted that blacks are much more likely to be stopped on the street by police and harassed, and says that blacks must insist on their rights. "Otherwise, harassment will accelerate," he said.

Tired of Cooking

Planning a different meal each day is not always easy — eating out is becoming increasingly popular; no preparation, no dishes to wash. We suggest another way of having a good meal without the fuss: come to our **take-out Fish and Chips Store**, where the chips are crisp (and prepared from fresh potatoes) and the fish is halibut.

This store which is at 398 Parliament Street has been there for many, many years. However, the building is as good as new, as it was completely renovated in 1976. We receive many spontaneous compliments about our fish and chips from our regular customers and welcome new customers. Try our products, you will not be disappointed. Our store is just south of Gerrard.

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Our economy is in a shambles. If any further proof was needed, the recent unemployment figures solved that problem. We're even more disturbed that some 48 per cent of the million unemployed are under the age of 25. An army of young people are angry and alienated from prospects for "the good life."

At the same time, a series of articles in the media have drawn attention to the fact that there is a shortage of skilled labour. What role can the education system play to help solve these problems?

As Toronto Board Chairman, Dan Leckie, put it: "We should start by telling young people the truth. We need to help them understand that unemployment is not their fault. It is a problem of the way in which our economy and our society is structured and managed." Leckie meant that students should be taught how an economy functions. They should learn about the various contributions made by business, industry, financial institutions, government and labour. It's obviously important to understand the principles of collective bargaining and the history of the trade union movement in Canada.

The issue of "skilled labour" has

been examined by a Board Committee composed of Trustees Arnold Hancock, Jim Lemon, and Frank Nagle. The report mentions several barriers we face in trying to help students get into skilled training programs. These are: industry's reliance on immigrant tradesmen rather than training Canadian young people; the necessity of Grade 12 completion before young people can begin apprenticeships; negotiated contracts that demand equal pay for work done by an apprentice; the lack of leadership by different levels of government, business and labour; the emphasis on academic education by both the Ministry of Education and the pub-

lic.

Those are severe obstacles to be sure. They can be solved, though, through proper discussion and planning with the various sectors of our economy. As Hancock's report stated: "The public does not object to subsidizing the education of doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, etc. Why therefore, should it object to subsidizing apprenticeship training for plumbers, electricians and pipe fitters?" We agree.

Fortunately, the Toronto Board is not at square one. For example, we have developed several types of work experience. Some students enrolled in business and technical subjects (at say, Central Technical or Eastern Commerce) spend a week or two in various business, industry and government locations. A similar program is available for academic students who may spend three days examining career choices. Castle Frank has a co-operative education program, where business students are earning credits towards their diploma and being paid for three hours of work per day. Recently, Parkview,

in co-operation with Community Care Services, has started a program of in-school work experience for senior citizens.

In the curriculum area, a few teachers have been working quietly for years in developing units of labour history for their classes. As well, Board teachers and Administrators have co-operated for some years with the business sector in a "Business Education Week." Finally, the Metro Toronto Labour Council is preparing to submit proposals to the Board on a labour education policy.

As a board, we can do much to strengthen the ties between the classroom and the workplace. However, it is essential that before everybody jumps on the "apprenticeship" bandwagon, that certain conditions be fulfilled. Perhaps the most important item is to ensure job opportunities are available following job training programs. The ball, therefore, is squarely in the courts of the federal and provincial governments. Their track record has not been encouraging.

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Budget blahs

by HOWARD HUGGETT

The morning after the federal budget speech I took a long walk through Ward Seven, thinking it would be very pleasant to see people dancing in the streets. Such sights are rare in Toronto, but after that hand-out of pre-election goodies the night before how could there fail to be some celebrations? After all, the Ontario sales tax had just been cut almost in half, from 7% to 4%. On a \$300 refrigerator that means a saving of \$9. Anyone who buys a suit costing \$150 in the next six months will get a reduction of \$4.50 on it. What is the matter with these people, don't they appreciate what the federal government is doing for them?

I wouldn't be surprised if some executives of oil companies were doing a little dancing, but not in the streets of course. The new budget gives oil companies faster write-offs and reduced taxation for certain types of development. They will be allowed a depletion allowance of \$1 for every \$2 spent on development, compared to the previous arrange-

ment of \$1 for every \$3. No doubt the big oil men were executing a few steps on the broadloom of their corporate offices. Can you think of anyone who needs the money less than the huge oil companies?

Oh yes, old-age pensioners were not forgotten. Those who are fortunate enough to have money invested in Registered Retirement Savings Plan will now have more alternative ways to allocate the money when they reach their 71st birthday. But there are many hundreds of thousands of pensioners who have no money saved up, they have only their pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement to get by on as inflation continues to increase their expenses. What did they get out of the new budget? Did someone mention that 3% cut in sales tax? Well, the cost of living rose by just over 1% last month alone, according to Statistics Canada. When the sales tax is back up to 7% in six months living expenses will have gone up a few more points.

"We Cried Out Loud and Died"

(In answer to Miss Brenda Stevens' poetry)

Yes Brenda we were the teenagers of yesteryear,
We didn't smoke pot and we came from homes where love was so dear,
Our heads were young like yours but we had to go,
To fight for this great land,
And now we sleep where poppies grow,
We never had a change like you,
To show the world what we could do.

So Brenda, when you're having fun,
Remember us who fought and won,
To you from falling hands we throw the torch,
If you break faith with us who died,
We shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders Field.

So we gave up our lives for you,
Is giving up pot so hard to do?

R. M. Corbett

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday April 22

The Mothers Club of Regent Park United Church is holding a **daffodil tea** with a white elephant sale, door prizes, and refreshments today. Everyone is welcome.

St. Luke's United Church at Carlton and Sherbourne is holding an **opportunity sale and snack tea** today from 1:30 to 3:30 in the church. There'll be hats, clothing, jewelry and accessories on sale. Everyone is invited.

The Guides, Brownies and Rangers of East York will hold a **rummage/bake/craft sale** today at noon in St. James Anglican Church, 393 Main Street. Proceeds will be used for the Guide, Brownie and Ranger activities in East York.

Sunday April 23

The Choir of Kingsway College in Oshawa will sing **Evensong at St. Paul's Church** 227 Bloor Street East this evening at 7:30. No admission is charged but a free-will offering will be received.

St. Luke's Sunday afternoon forum invites you to meet **Alderman Janet Howard** who will speak in the church, 353 Sherbourne Street, at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 25

You are invited to attend the **Oak Site Committee Meeting** tonight at 7:30 in the portable on the site.

Find out about **Erin Lane**, a distinctly independent and alternative school, at a meeting tonight at Neil Wycik, 96 Gerrard Street East, at 7:30. For general information about the school, phone Don Vander Klok at 465-4076.

Starting today, and continuing for ten consecutive Tuesdays, **Woodgreen Community Centre** is sponsoring **art classes for beginners**. The cost is \$2.00. Call 461-1168 for information.

Wednesday April 26

The YWCA is introducing a **new course in team sports**. Classes in basketball and volleyball will be held one night a week at Winchester Public School on Prospect Street starting tonight until June 14. Course cost is \$20. Call 487-7151 for more information.

Thursday April 27

The Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area celebrates the **100th year — approximately — of business on Parliament Street** on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday this week. Plans include strolling musicians, free pony rides, balloons, a clown, decorations, birthday cake and shopping bargains. Everyone is welcome. Come dressed like your grandfather or grandmother, and have a great time.

You are invited to the **Parliament Street Library's third annual birthday celebration in honour of William Shakespeare** tonight at 8 p.m. Actor Alex Jeffories will perform Shakespeare and act as Master of Ceremonies. You are invited to bring poems, stories or anecdotes on Shakespeare and to read from his work. And — admission is free.

Friday April 28

April 28 through 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the **National Black Media Conference** will take place (location not yet decided.) This conference is intended as a forum on the relationship between Blacks and the media in Canada. Registration is \$10. Call Ian Francis for more details at 960-3697.

Fred's Free Films are off and running at the 519 Church Street Centre tonight at 8 p.m. The flick for today is *Grapes of Wrath* and *White Man's Country*.

Saturday April 29

Today from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. **Regent Park Public School** will be holding its **Fun Fair and Bazaar**. Activities taking place will include a bingo, dance and childrens games. There will be a sale of plants, crafts, baked goods and white elephants. Everyone is welcome to attend and have fun.

Monday May 1

Starting today at 1:30 p.m. **Woodgreen Community Centre** is offering a **fitness course for Seniors** (age 55 and over) for 8 weeks. Cost is \$4.00 for the 8 classes and pre-registration is necessary. Call Carol at 461-1168.

The South Riverdale Community Health Centre invites you to a **forum on Alcoholism** to be held tonight at 8 in the Centre at 126 Pape Avenue, 1/2 block north of Queen. There will be a panel discussion with an open question period to follow.

Tuesday May 2

The People and Places film series continues at the Danforth Library, 701 Pape Avenue, tonight at 7:30 p.m. with **films about Scandinavia**. Everyone is welcome, admission is free and coffee is served.

Thursday May 4

John Tuttle performs at St. Paul's Church, 227 Bloor Street East, at the popular noon hour recital today from noon to 12:30. Bring your lunch and prepare to relax.

Frankland Public School, at 816 Logan Avenue, is holding its **annual Funarama** today from 7 to 9 p.m. The rummage sale and bake sale will be included once again, as well as various games and activities for young and old. Everyone is welcome.

The **8th Annual Meeting of the Neighbourhood Information Post** will be held at The Parliament Street Library, at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The program includes election of officers, volunteer recognition, and refreshments. For more information call 924-2543.

Friday May 5

The Regent Park Adult Recreation Centre, suite 101, 605 Whiteside Place, is holding its **annual open house** today from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tenants of the park and surrounding areas are invited to come and see what facilities the centre offers. The centre is open for membership at a cost of \$2.00 per family per year. There is a bowling league looking for avid new bowlers, and there is a Christmas party planned for children 12 and under.

Senior Citizens are invited to **Woodgreen Community Centre's Health Fair** today from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 835 Queen Street East. If you have some concerns over your health and are a senior citizen, this is the fair to attend. Events include: vision tests, glaucoma screening, blood pressure and lung function test, foot examination and hearing tests, preventive medicine, health counselling from doctors and nurses, nutrition guidelines, films, and information on diabetes, lung disease and a variety of health conditions.

General

The **Forsythia Festival** is coming to us again on Sunday May 7 at 1 p.m. in Wellesley Park (at the easternmost end of Wellesley St.). There will be a number of activities including the annual dog contest and of course the planting of a Forsythia bush. Stay tuned to the community calendar in the next issue of 7 News for more details.

On July 1st weekend this year, **Iroquois Falls High School** will welcome back all former students, teachers and friends to a program that includes a picnic, dance, banquet, tours and a parade. The Welcome Back Committee invites its friends, and former students and teachers to contact it at Box 455, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.

Theatre Pass Muraille and Cafe Soho, 334 Queen Street West, present **"Queen Street"** April 26 to May 7 at 8:30 p.m. Billed as an urbane look at the urban in everyone, "Queen Street" zeroes in on the social, political and personal life of the street as seen through the eyes of three dancing waitresses. Call 862-0199 for information and reservations.

Volunteers are needed to plan a **bigger and livelier New Delhi pavilion** during the upcoming Metro Caravan from June 23 to July 1. This year the pavilion is located at 647 Markham Street in St. Peter's Church. If you can help out, call 651-1400.

The Urban Alliance on Race Relations is sponsoring a **free legal clinic for victims of racism**. Qualified lawyers will provide advice and assistance. The clinic is held every Tuesday evening from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at 229 College Street. For more information call 598-0111.

Making Changes is a unique course for immigrant women that combines information sharing on community and educational resources, career planning and assertiveness training. In order to expand the course to immigrant women who do not speak English, two workshops for **facilitators** who wish to teach a similar course in their community in a language other than English are available Saturday April 22 and Saturday April 29. The workshops take place at 1669 Eglinton Avenue West from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and cost \$5 including student workbook. For more information call 675-3111 extension 455.

The Federal Government is sponsoring a new project to popularize the concept of the exercise break. **Seven minutes of exercise** can promote a sense of well being in participants who do the exercises on a daily basis. Interested in learning more about this seven minutes of relaxation put to music? Contact Kim Siegner at 463-9302, and let her arrange a demonstration for your church group, mothers group, office department, etc.

Withrow Public School Kindergarten pre-registration takes place Wednesday, May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:35 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

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WOODGREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

835 Queen Street East

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Members of WoodGreen Community Centre will be held at 835 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada on Thursday, the Eighteenth Day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy Eight at 8:30 p.m., Toronto Time, for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the report of the Directors, President, and Executive Director;
2. To receive and consider the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 1977, and the report thereon of the Auditors, Clarkson, Gordon & Co.;
3. To elect Directors;
4. To elect Auditors;
5. Generally to transact such further and other business as may be properly brought before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

DATED AT TORONTO, this Tenth Day of April, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy Eight.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
Robert Gentleman, Secretary

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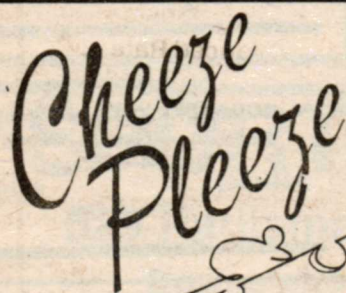
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John Ross Robertson

By GEORGE RUST-D'EYE

John Ross Robertson, one of the best-known and most-loved Torontonians, lived at 291 Sherbourne Street from 1881 until his death in 1918. To-day, sixty years after his death, his contributions to the life and health of this City are still being felt and appreciated.

He was born in Toronto on December 28th, 1841, the eldest son of John Robertson, a well-known local wholesale and dry-goods merchant, and Margaret (Sinclair) Robertson. He was educated at Upper Canada College. There, in 1857, he showed his first interest in publishing by issuing a school paper, the "College Times", printed in a small office in his father's residence on John Street. It was a four-page paper, issued monthly, for fifty cents a year. In the first issue, Robertson editorially criticized the action of the Senate and College authorities in taking out part of the school grounds for sale as building lots. The editorial led to the savings of the grounds, but also to the threat of expulsion for Robertson if he continued the name "College Times". Thus, the "Monthly Times" was founded and continued for a few months, until changed to the "Boys Times", which published until 1859.

John Ross Robertson then attended the Model Grammar School, where he started a paper called "Young Canada". After he left school, he continued to publish it as "Young Canada Sporting Life" (later "Sporting Life"), the first paper in Canada largely devoted to athletic sports and pastimes.

Robertson was himself an all-around amateur athlete participating in many sports. In later life he assisted in promoting cricket, hockey and bowling by donating three magnificent hand-crafted silver cups as prizes for these events. He was president of the Ontario Hockey Association from 1899 to 1905.

After leaving school, Robertson worked on several newspapers. He was city editor of "The Globe", (founded by George Brown in 1844), publisher of the "Grumbler", a satirical weekly, from 1863-1864, and did reporting and advertising for the "Leader". In 1866, with James Cook, he founded the "Daily Telegraph", a well-respected journal which published until 1878.

bina, a U.S. border post, at a time when the temperature was -40°F.

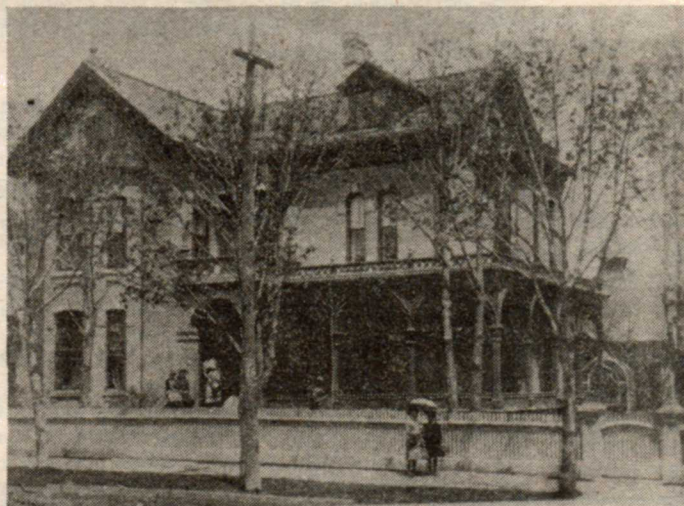
From 1872 to 1875, Robertson lived in London, England, serving as foreign correspondent and business representative for the Toronto "Daily Globe". He then returned to Toronto to manage the "Nation", edited by Prof. Goldwin Smith.

In 1876, with Prof. Smith's financial backing, John Ross Robertson founded the "Evening Telegram", which was immediately successful. It originally sold for two cents a copy, but became more popular when, in 1877, the price was changed to one cent, and five editions were published daily. The "Evening Telegram" was based on Robertson's belief that people were interested in obtaining "to-day's news to-day", particularly local news published in readable form. He therefore paid special interest to issues of concern in Toronto, and, in the interest of obtaining honesty and efficiency in government, the paper took pains to scrutinize the actions of local politicians.



John Ross Robertson, 1841-1918.

Among the publishing techniques pioneered by the "Evening Telegram" was the providing of short inexpensive want ads, a service extremely popular with everyone but the paper's competitors. John Ross Robertson's own



John Ross Robertson's house at 291 Sherbourne Street as it appeared when he lived there. Today the Victorian decoration and woodwork are gone, and the house is painted white and has neo-classical trim. The coach house at the rear of the property still remains.

In 1869, as a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph", he travelled with a "Globe" reporter to the Canadian North-west, journeying by horsedrawn sleigh 400 miles across the frozen prairies through raging snowstorms. On arriving in Fort Garry, they were immediately imprisoned by Louis Riel as "dangerous characters". A week later, Riel ordered the reporters out of the territory. They arrived in Pem-

interest in local history led to the publication in the "Evening Telegram" of a series of articles, mainly written by Mr. T.G. Champion, chronicling people and events of importance to the early development of Toronto. These articles were later published (from 1894 to 1914) in a set of six volumes, "Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto", by far the most important source of information about

Mementos of Yesteryear



early Toronto. Robertson also found time to edit and publish, in 1911, The Diary of Mrs. (John Graves) Simcoe, another extremely important book about Toronto's beginnings (The "Diary and two volumes of "Landmarks" have recently been reprinted and made available for relatively low prices.

Aside from his newspaper work, John Ross Robertson is best remembered for the support which he gave to the Hospital for Sick Children. The hospital had been founded by Elizabeth McMaster and some other women, in 1875, and for a time occupied a house on Seaton Street near Carlton. Robertson and his wife, bereaved by the death of their only daughter Goldie, from scarlet fever, began working as volunteers at the fledgling hospital. Mr. Robertson was so moved by the plight of the children that he began to use every means at his disposal to raise money for the cause. During his life he raised over \$500,000 for the Hospital, much of it his own money. He served as chairman of the board of trustees for the last 27 years of his life. In his will, he directed that his house be sold and the revenue from the proceeds used to support the Hospital. A stained-glass window just inside the world-famous Hospital for Sick Children on University Avenue, commemorates the memory of its greatest benefactor.

In 1883 he built a convalescent hospital, the Lakeside Home for Little Children, on the Toronto Island, near the Gibraltar Point lighthouse. Thousands of sick and crippled children were thus able to enjoy the fresh air and comfortable surroundings made possible for them by this gift.

John Ross Robertson's other achievements were many. He held the highest ranks in the Masonic Order, in which he served for 51 years, and wrote several books on the history of Freemasonry in Canada. He represented Toronto East in the Dominion Parliament from 1896 to 1900. In 1887 he was offered, on one day, both a knighthood and a senatorship, both of which he gratefully declined.

His interest in Toronto history led him to search throughout the world for old documents and photographs about this City. His searches led to the discovery, in the Public Records Office in London, England, of the original survey of Toronto, completed in 1788 and lost for over a century. Robertson's house, at 291 Sherbourne Street, was stuffed with papers and photos, a collection which grew to over 20,000 pieces, valued at the time at over \$250,000 which he donated to the Toronto Public Library, and which has since that time been available to the public.

John Ross Robertson's Sherbourne Street house once had elaborate wooden decoration around its roof, and a Victorian verandah which ran from the main door on the west side around the south end of the building. To-day, all of this woodwork has been removed, some of it replaced by a more modern and neo-classical trim. The house is painted white and serves as a training school for the Ontario Provincial Police. Only a plaque on the lawn reminds passers-by of the great Toronto philanthropist who once lived there.



"A Few Things About Us" a musical variety show with a Caribbean flavour, performed by Black Theatre Canada, took Eastdale Collegiate by storm when it played there recently.

Rockie Lam

Black Education Project

The Black Education Project is a non-profit community organization which has been active in Toronto's Black community since 1967. Its main focus over the past seven years has been on the problem of young Blacks in the Toronto school system. Because of this, activities have centred around a student After School Program, counselling for parents, advocacy with the school system for parents and kids, advisory assistance to teachers and principals, as well as seminars and workshops on racism and on the particular problems of Blacks in the school system.

Politically responsive, the Black Education Project has sponsored community rallies and meetings around such issues as the deportation of Blacks and other immigrants, and the new, much criticized Immigration Bill C-24.

For the first four years, the Black Education Project was run entirely by volunteers. Some government funding coupled with revenue from

memberships, fundraising events and community support have allowed B. E. P. to continue existing programs and initiate new ones in response to community needs. Due to diminishing government funding, community financial support is being sought in the form of donations to B. E. P. Volunteers are needed in all areas of the project including various cultural and recreational activities for kids and adults, the After School program, and committees such as fundraising, public relations, education and community development. Resource persons are needed as well.

People interested in learning more about the Black Education Project and who would like to become involved in its academic, cultural, or recreation programs as a participant or a volunteer, can visit B. E. P. at 175 Hampton Avenue (near Chester and Danforth) weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or phone the Project at 461-6318.

KIDS STUFF

Danforth Library

Saturday April 22 drop by the library and find out how to make paper flowers. The fun starts at 2 p.m.

Learn all about planting things by visiting the library on Saturday April 29 at 2 p.m.

Parliament Street Library

Are you someone who likes to paint? Come by the library Saturday April 22 and try something new — painting to music. Fun starts at 2 p.m.

Have we got a puppet show for you! Saturday April 29 at 2 p.m. come to see an Indian Fairytale puppet show. There'll be some International Folk Dancing with Reva Diamond, too. So come and kick up your heels at the library.

Riverdale Library

Saturday April 22 at 2 p.m. there'll be stories and crafts for young people in the library.

Do you like drawing stuff? Then come to the library Saturday April 29 at 2 p.m. and join other painters your own age.

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MEN & WOMEN wanted to attend group discussion surveys for Market Research Company. You will be paid for your time. Please phone Helen 621-5674.

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or postdated cheques _____

Please make all cheques payable to Seven News. Our mailing address is 265 Gerrard St. East, Toronto. If you would like your donation to remain anonymous, please check here _____

The following people have renewed their supporting memberships, or have become supporting members of 7 News for the first time, since March 27. Thanks to them all; and for those of you who are not yet supporting members, now is the time to do so.

David Rounthwaite; Ontario St.; Frank Showler, Chesterhill Rd.; Andrew Keith, Don Mount Court; R.A. Graham, Oak St.; Evelyn Elrick, Sherbourne St.; Harry Gibbs, Greenwin Square; Alan Dudeck, Tennis Cres.; William Goodwin, Ontario St.; Lois Day, Sherbourne St.; Len Desroches, Grant St.; The Wellesley Hospital, Wellesley St.; Mrs. L. Wiley, Huron St.; Helen Marie Reid, Dundas School; Sister Lydia Tzysko, Montcrest Blvd.; Elizabeth Nyburg, Queen St. E.; Penelope Hynam, Sackville St.; Mara Glebous, Gerrard St. E.; Mrs. B. Thompson, Blevins Pl.; Hai Leang, Broadview Ave.; J.M. O'Brien, Aberdeen Ave.; Rev. V. Goring, Bowden St.; Community Guardian CO.;

Andrew & Kathrine Cunningham; Jesuit Community, West Ave.; Stephen & Angela Langmead, Metcalfe St.; D.N. MacDonald, Bleecker St.; Charles A. Cain, Allen Ave.; Graham & Charlotte Mudge, Ontario St.; Kit Gummer, Hogarth Ave.; S. McIver; bob, Giuliana, & Reva Katz, Wellesley St.; Salvation Army Sheltered Workshop, Matilda St.; Mrs. Cameron, Carlton St.; Ken Popert, Millbrook Cres.; Lucy & John Schlathau, Sumach St.; Stephen Jack, Hillcrest Pk.; Eleanor & Dave Britton, Wellesley Ave.; Gladys Hall, Meadowglen Pl.; Withrow School, Bain Ave.; Judy & Larry Haiven, Bain Ave.; Jane Heinemann, Wellesley Ave.; Evie Gilmour, Glen Rd.; Kathleen Austin, Withrow Ave.; James Campbell, Sword St.; Joe McDonough, Wardell St.; Erwin Buck, First Ave.; Karen Davies Buck, First Ave.; A. Thomson, Shuter St.; Julia Hoffman, Boulton Ave.; Marjorie Fawcett, Carlton St.; Valerie Veinotte, Rose Ave.; Mrs. J. Schleinig, Spruce St.; Peter Tabuns, Bain Ave.; B. Cohen, Sherbourne St.; Mr. & Mrs. J.

How can you help

There's a lot more to 7 News than meets the eye.

7 News tries to be a **community** paper, a newspaper that informs, entertains, and stands up for the people in the community, not a paper that is published by an elite whose main interest is making a profit from it.

So the way 7 News is put out is very different from the way most newspapers are put out.

Running the paper, you have a Board of Directors elected every year, and a very small staff. But a very large part of the credit for putting out the paper goes to the **hundreds** of people who anonymously contribute their time, effort, and money to it every year. Without them there could be no 7 News.

Like the volunteer distributors who bring the paper to your

doorstep every second week. And the storekeepers and community centres that display copies of 7 News for you to pick up. And the writers and photographers who are responsible for producing much of what you see in each issue. And the other volunteers who send out bills, mail subscriptions, help in the office, and do countless other things to help 7 News get out regularly. Without their collective help — and without the help of all the people who have become supporting members by contributing money to 7 News — 7 News would not be in existence today.

If you would like to help in some way in getting 7 News out, give us a call at 465-3810. And of course, if you haven't already done so, **become a supporting member by contributing \$7 — or whatever you can afford to our fundraising campaign.**

Membership Campaign Scoreboard

Membership sent in or renewed since March 27	85
Amount contributed	\$1097

Peddle, Sackville St.; Karl Wieland, Victor Ave.; Howard Huggett, Sparkhall Ave.; Dr. Elmyre Versteeg, Parliament St.; Celedonio Gloria, Isabella St.; C.P. O'Rourke, Teesdale Pl.; Sharon A. Lynas, Metcalfe St.; Ulli Diemer; Mrs. Clarence J. Farrell, Empire Ave.; John Gladki, Amelia St.; Dan Burns & Anne Smyth; James Swift, Amelia St.; Wolfe Erlichman, Riverdale Ave.; Jane Craig, Amelia St.; Nina K. Herman, Ellerslie

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Parliament St.

continued from page 1

the four stately Victorian mansions just south of the Liquor Store, (502-508 Parliament), built in the late 1870's.

Many of the old buildings were built as commercial establishments. The attractive Lepper's Block, (433-443), 1885, is a typical store row from that period, as is the block south of it (411-415). The block at 242-250 Carlton is another good example of Victorian commercial-residential design. The old Barr's Dairy (1890) at the NE corner of Parliament and Amelia, is on the Toronto Historical Board list, as is the pair of Georgian buildings at 229-231 Carlton (1860), the oldest buildings in the area. The first steam marble works in the city, (1868) was once housed in the building at the North-east corner, Parliament and Winchester.

Fresh-killed animals no longer hang over the sidewalks in front of the butcher shops but today Parliament Street north of Gerrard is the "main street" for the Victorian neighbourhoods around it. Its diversity and exuberance provide a focal point and meeting place for the community, and a new meaning to the name "Cabbagetown."

HELP!

If you like reading 7 News, but don't get it delivered to your home, then maybe you would like to deliver it yourself on all or part of your street or in your apartment building. It's easy, and it gives you a chance to get out and meet your neighbours. If you are interested, or know someone who is, call 7 News at 465-3810.

If you hire young people for new summer jobs, Ontario will help you pay their salaries.

Here's how the program works.

If you operate a business or farm and create new jobs between May 1 and October 21, 1978, the Ontario Youth Employment Program will give you a grant of \$1.25 per hour (up to a maximum of \$50.00 a week) towards the wages of each eligible youth you hire for those jobs.

Employers; Anyone who has carried on a business or operated a farm in Ontario for at least one year prior to May 1 may receive grants for up to 6 new positions per business location for eligible youth employees.

Employees; Employees must be at least 15 but not 25 years old on May 1, 1978. Employees cannot be directly related to the employer. Employees must reside and be eligible to work in Ontario.

Duration; The program is in effect for 25 weeks from May 1 through October



21, 1978. An employer is not required to hire a youth for the full 25-week period.

Terms of Employment; To be eligible for funding, a position created must be in addition to regular and seasonal employment normally provided during the program period. It must provide a minimum of 25 hours of supervised work per week for at least six weeks.

Grant; Approved employers will receive a grant of \$1.25 per hour up to a maximum of \$50.00 a week (40 hours employment) for each youth hired under the program.

NOTE; Grant funds are limited. If you wish to hire a youth any time during the program's duration, please submit your application as soon as possible. In order to hire under the program you must first receive approval from the Ministry of Treasury. Applications for participation cannot be considered after September 4, 1978.

For more information on the Ontario Youth Employment Program and application forms please write: Ministry of Treasury, Subsidies Branch, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R8 or telephone 1-800-268-7192 (toll free). In Metro Toronto telephone 965-0570.

Darcy McKeough, Treasurer
Ministry of Treasury, Economics & Intergovernmental Affairs, Subsidies Branch.



Margaret Birch,
Provincial Secretary
Ontario Youth Secretariat
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