

Parents' group seeking more say in education

By DOUG BURTON

Ward Seven parents who feel overwhelmed by the politics and polemics of the Toronto school system, here is your chance to unscrew the inscrutable. You can be one of approximately 1,000 parent representatives who will meet March 31st to find out how the system works and how you and fellow parents can influence school board decisions on budget priorities and

curriculum.

The unprecedented city-wide convention to be held at Central Technical School will include representatives from Block Parents' Committees, After Four Committees, Language Liaison Committees, School Community Councils, Parent Teacher Associations, as well as Home and School Associations.

A major issue likely to involve Ward Seven parents will be the

question of budget cuts in the face of declining enrolment, Merylie Houston, parent advisor on the convention's steering committee, said. Other important issues will include how much money the school system receives from provincial and metro-funds, whether children in primary school should do homework, and questions of class or sexual bias in textbooks.

"A lot of parents who don't know how to get involved will learn, and hopefully they will find it isn't so frightening," Houston said.

Organized by the school board along with parent advisors to promote communication among some 250 school community groups, the convention will also let school board trustees and administrators lend an open ear to Toronto's most concerned parents.

In addition, the delegates will be required to report back to the communities they represent, Ms. Houston explained.

"A lot of Ward Seven parents will be there to find out what they have in common and what they can do together," she added, noting that until now local parents have not had a sense of belonging to a single community.

That sense of community spirit will be bolstered by an area meeting of parents from wards seven and eight in the break period between morning and afternoon sessions.

The convention's morning program features 24 simultaneous meetings, half of which are designed to let parents speak with other parents about the issues. Sample topics include the following:

Parents' Rights and Responsibilities; Declining Enrolment and the Neighbourhood School; Financing Education — The Province, Metro and Us; Curriculum Development and Issues; The Rights of the Child.

Afternoon workshops will focus on specific ways parents' groups can influence teachers, administrators, and principals. Sample workshop topics include the following:

How to Organize an Effective Parents' Group; Declining Enrolment; Discipline/Permissiveness; Bias in Curriculum Material; Sexism in the School System; Values and Sexuality.

Who can attend? Every school community organization may send up to seven persons as delegates, five of whom must be parents of school children. In addition non-school based organizations officially recognized by the school board may send up to two delegates, one of whom must be a parent. Other parents for whom there is no school community organization at their school may attend if nominated by a local school principal.

The fee for the convention is \$10 per delegate, which includes lunch, dinner, and free day care for children.

Full simultaneous translation for both morning and afternoon plenary sessions will be given in French, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, and Cantonese. Consecutive translation of workshops and discussion groups will be provided on request.

Anyone wishing to attend the convention may obtain registration forms from any school community organization or they may call Bert D'Antini, school community relations officer, at 465-2463.

Drea offers home to skid row residents

Throw 'em in jail

By JOAN BRYDEN

Just before Christmas, Consumer Affairs Minister Frank Drea was reported favouring more arrests of skid row bums. Despite the fact that his reasoning was supposedly out of concern for the protection of these unfortunate men and women, the reactions to his remarks from people working with these people ranged from surprise to annoyance and irritation.

Drea seems to feel that by putting derelicts in jail he would be protecting them from freezing on the streets at night during the winter as well as from muggings and brutal slayings. But, as Fred Dennis, supervisor at Seaton House, the city's hostel for men, commented, Drea "made the statement without knowing what goes on down here. (He) doesn't know the total situation." He added that "Drea seems to get his nose into a lot of things where it doesn't belong."

The fact is, no one has to spend the night on the street anymore. Seaton House, the largest hostel in the city, has over 500 beds and, when they are all filled, men are free to sleep on the floor. No one is turned away and there is no charge. Seaton House is just one of many such hostels. There is the Fred Victor Mission, for example, where the charge for bed and breakfast is

\$1.50 whenever possible but no man is turned away if he has no money. There is the Salvation Army and, for women, Nellie's Place and The Haven.

Dennis admits that for some of the "difficult cases" a long term drying out period is necessary and that jail "in very cold weather, may not be a bad thing until we get some other place for them". But, he also says that the majority of the skid row derelicts are getting into the hostels and that, in the long run, arresting them "is not the answer".

Dave Ruttan, a worker at the St. Mike's Detox Centre, said Drea's suggestion was "going backwards" and Paul Webb, Director at the Fred Victor Mission, agreed saying he was "rather surprised" by Drea's remarks. Detox centres were set up about ten years ago for precisely the purpose of getting drunks off the streets and out of jail. If Drea's suggestion was followed up on, "we would be back to the days before the Detox centres when people were picked up for drunkenness," said Webb.

Ruttan was quite vehement in his objections to Drea's remarks, saying, "You don't rehabilitate people in prison." He acknowledged that the St. Mike's Detox Centre will call police to pick up someone who is very drunk but who will not remain at the centre but this is only "for his own protection". He feels that generally "jails are a bad influence" as opposed to the detox centres which are "more positive". It would be a mistake for police to throw all drunks in jail instead of taking them to detox centres, as happens now, just to protect "the small percentage" who refuse to go to the centres or hostels. Ruttan said this would be "to the detriment of the majority who need treatment, not incarceration."

Dennis pointed out that, as Minister of Consumer Affairs, "really it's none of (Drea's) business." And, of course, Drea's comments are not law — yet. Still, Ruttan worries that police might be "influenced by Drea's statement" and, since it is left up to the individual officer's discretion whether to take a drunk to a detox centre or throw him in a cell, this could be a real concern. So far, however, there has been no noticeable effect and Ruttan feels that, as long as the detox centres can "maintain their integrity with the police" by proving they are better treatment centres than jails, the police will continue to turn most drunks over to them.

Businessmen meet

The Ward 7 Business and Professional Association met on January 15. Ward 7 Alderman Gordon Cressy was the guest speaker.

Cressy spoke on the need for businessmen to join together to act in their own interests, while not forgetting those less fortunate than themselves. Businessmen complained to Cressy that there was too much non-profit housing in the ward. Association members felt that the tenants of non-profit housing were not the type of people they would like to attract to the community.

Cressy agreed that the businessmen may have a valid point. He suggested that they meet with Michael Dennis, Toronto Housing Commissioner, to express their concerns.

The Association also decided to spearhead a drive to keep Texaco from turning the gas station at Amelia and Parliament Streets into a self-serve station.

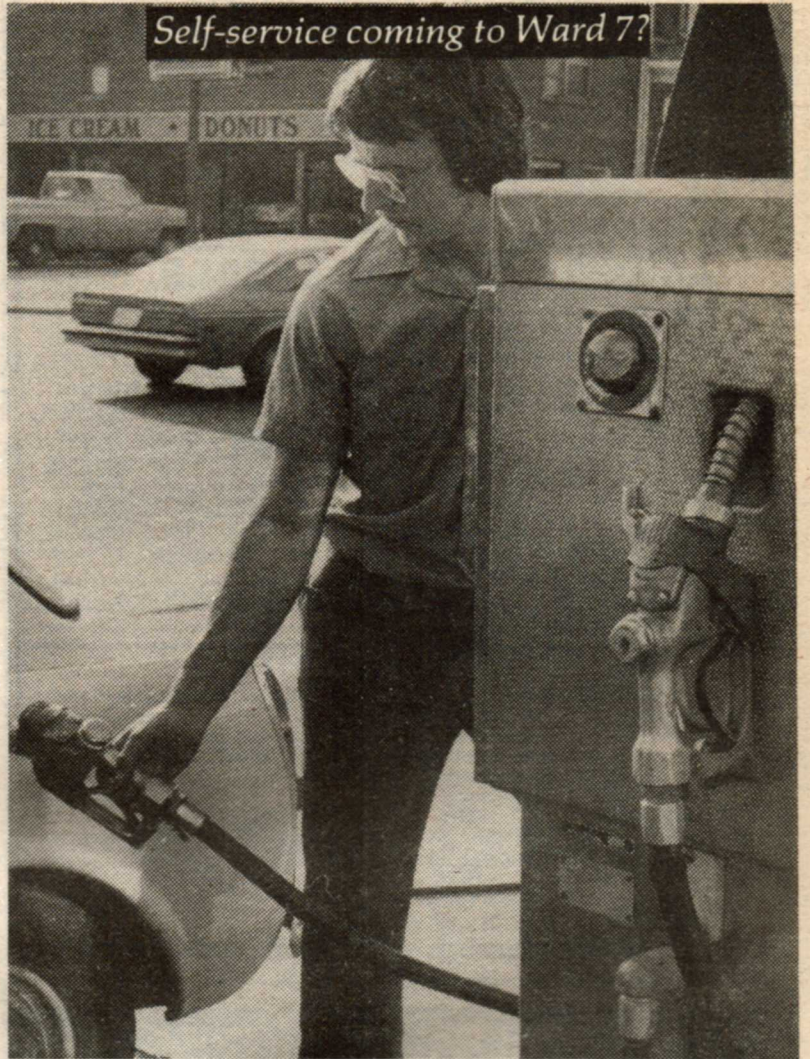


Photo by Cherry Hassard

Texaco wants us to pump our own

St. Jamestown Texaco car wash and service centre at Parliament and Amelia is slated to be turned into a self-serve, but many area residents are unhappy with the idea.

Dozens of individuals as well as the Ward 7 Business and Professional Association and the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Association have written letters to Texaco protesting the proposed change. One resident, Mark McNab, is starting up a petition.

"A self-serve is more efficient," says Bill Hutchison, manager of the station. "The people in the neighbourhood are going to lose, though. There will be no one there to do car repairs or anything like that."

McNab adds that "Texaco says that their studies show that this is an ideal intersection for a self-serve, but there's nowhere else in the area

to get work done on our cars."

The only consolation that McNab sees is the agreement of Texaco to hire an architect to design the self-serve in keeping with the "Cabbagetown" image.

Theoretically, the corner is not zoned to allow a self-serve, but Texaco is using a loophole in the zoning law which permits self-serve if another service is offered as well. The station will also offer oil and filter changes.

Gasoline companies have been moving to self-serve lately because they make for higher profits. As a self-serve, a station requires only two or three workers paid at the minimum wage.

Letters of protest can be sent to L.W. Sparks, President, Texaco Canada, 90 Wynford Dr., Don Mills, with a carbon copy to Alderman Janet Howard, City Hall. Or if you wish, fill in the coupon below.

L.W. Sparks
President
Texaco Canada
90 Wynford Drive, Don Mills

I, the undersigned, being a customer of your dealer at Parliament and Amelia Street in Toronto — Mr. William Hutchison — wish to advise you of my wish to maintain this location as a full service station and of my objection to its being turned into a self-service location.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
TEXACO CREDIT CARD NUMBER (if applicable).....

New tax to build Frankland

It looks as if a new Frankland School will be built after all, despite the refusal of Education Minister Bette Stephenson to make previously promised funding available.

Toronto and Metro Toronto school boards have approved a local levy to pay what was to have been the province's share of the new school. The levy will amount to a .18 of a mill addition to the City of Toronto mill rate. This will

amount to an average of 90¢ a household.

The Board took the extraordinary step of approving the levy because the school had already been promised, and because money from other levels of government had already been committed. This money, which included provision of a much-needed community centre to be housed in the same building, would have been lost if the school was not built.

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Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship

New approach to crime Blame the victim instead

The Ontario Provincial Police released a "study" on rape two weeks ago which claimed that most of these crimes are the fault of the woman raped. Blaming the victim has always been popular among those in power (see how the poor are blamed for the poverty, the unemployed for having no job) and of course we wouldn't venture to argue with the brilliant minds behind the police's report. But we would like to suggest that the principle which the police in their wisdom apply to rape cases be applied even more widely, since it seems to do away with so many problems, like having to pursue criminals, for example. Perhaps we might start by applying the police's approach to rape to crimes against property, as in the following example, which previously appeared in the student paper, Asylum:



"Mr. Smith, you were held up at gunpoint at 16th and Locust?"
"Yes."
"Did you struggle with the robber?"
"No."
"Why not?"
"He was armed."
"Then you made a conscious decision to comply with his demands rather than resist?"
"Well, yes."

"Did you scream? Cry out?"
"No, I was afraid."
"I see. Have you ever been held up before?"
"No."
"Have you ever given money away?"
"Yes, of course . . ."
"And you did so willingly?"
"What are getting at?"
"Well, let's put it like this, Mr. Smith. You've given away money in the past — in fact, you have quite a reputation for philanthropy. How can we be sure that you weren't

contriving to have your money taken by force?"
"Listen, if I wanted . . ."
"Never mind. What time did this holdup take place, Mr. Smith?"
"About 11 p.m."
"You were out on the street at 11 p.m.? Doing what?"
"Just walking."
"Just walking? You know it's dangerous being out on the street that late at night. Weren't you aware that you could have been held up?"
"I hadn't thought about it."
"What were you wearing at the time, Mr. Smith?"
"Let's see. A suit. Yes, a suit."
"An expensive suit?"
"Well, yes."
"In other words, Mr. Smith, you were walking around the streets late at night in a suit that practically advertised the fact that you might be a good target for some easy money, isn't that so? I mean, if we didn't know better, Mr. Smith, we might even think you were asking for this to happen, mightn't we?"
Naturally, this line of questioning, the innuendo, is ludicrous — unless we are talking about parallel questions in a rape case: the time of night, the victim's previous history of "giving away" that which was taken by force, the clothing. All of these are held against the victim.

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This is the first opportunity I've had to write a column for 7 News since the election last November. I appreciate the tremendous support I received from many of you throughout the Ward, and I hope my work in the next couple of years

the Buildings & Development Committee for an amendment to the zoning by-law to remove all visitors' parking from above ground at 650 Parliament St., 240, 260 and 280 Wellesley St. East, 666 Ontario St., and 77 Howard St., and permit

60 days at City Hall

By GORDON CRESSY

will justify that support.

I promised during the election campaign to file with 7 News a list of my campaign contributions and expenses. This has now been done. Simply stated, we raised \$7,577.75 from 241 contributions ranging in size from \$2.50 to \$150.00. Our expenses totalled \$7,569.63. A more detailed account is available from 7 News or from City Hall.

The first office I walked into in City Hall after the election belonged to an executive alderman. With such a position came an office that provided more than ample space for the size of its occupant — John Sewell. As I sit in my tiny cubicle writing this note to the constituents of our Ward, I am thankful that my assistant and I are fairly small people! We do, however, have room for a phone (367-7910), and my secretary Dorothy Ainsworth and my assistant Joanne Campbell will be happy to help you if I am not immediately available.

We have already received many calls of concern, ranging from permit parking problems in the Ward, to inadequate day care facilities, to slow snow removal. While being able to assist peoples' travels through the maze of bureaucracy at City Hall, I am quickly learning that many legitimate concerns voiced by Ward 7 residents go unsolved. After barely two months in my new job, I see my task as one of your spokespersons is a very large one, and throughout the tenure of my term I intend to keep you informed as to the specifics of the progress that I hope both City and Metro Councils will make.

I serve on the Buildings & Development Committee and the Parks & Recreation Committee at the City level, and on Social Services & Housing at Metro. There are endless other committees, sub-committees, task forces and the like — too many to list here — which occupy a large part of my time. At times City Hall seems to flow from one meeting to another.

The following is a brief summary of some of the current events of particular concern to Ward 7 residents:

Bloor/Sherbourne Project: A public meeting will be held at Trinity Evangelic Lutheran Church, 619 Sherbourne St. at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12. The purpose of the meeting is to gain public feedback on a proposed five level building to be constructed above the Bloor/Sherbourne Subway Station. The building will contain a wide range of commercial uses.

St. Jamestown Visitor Parking: An application has been made to

underground parking at 650 Parliament St. and 280 Wellesley St. East. A public meeting will be held in the near future to discuss the feasibility of this project and to look at options for using the outdoor space.

Texaco Service Station, Parliament & Amelia: There has been considerable concern among many Ward 7 residents around Texaco's intention to convert the station to a self-serve gas bar, maintaining only a lubrication pit. City staff is looking into this matter to determine whether such a conversion would be permitted in the zoning by-law. In addition, several residents and the Ward 7 Businessmen's Association have made their concerns known to Texaco. Anyone else sharing these concerns is encouraged to do so as well. In my view, the service as it exists at present is essential to the neighbourhood and should be maintained.

Broadview Y Development: A public meeting was held on Thursday, January 18 to discuss the implications of the sale of the development to a consortium which plans to rent the units under the federal MURB program. The units were originally to have been sold under the federal AHOP program which has now been replaced by the Graduated Payment Mortgage, which clearly is less advantageous to potential homeowners. Residents in the area expressed concern at the changes and future meetings with residents, ward aldermen, and the developer and property manager are planned. In the meantime the units are up for rent with occupancy planned in late March.

Don Mount Village: The question of the disposal of three parcels of surplus land in the Don Mount Re-development Area has come up at the last City Executive and City Council meetings. It was decided that the parcel adjacent to Toronto Metal Spinnings Ltd. would, subject to federal and provincial approval, be put up for sale by public tender since that company is interested in expanding its operations. A decision as to the future of the other two parcels of land will not be made until June 1979. We will be holding public meetings in the near future to discuss possible community uses of the lands.

While I will continue to report on developments at City Hall, and I hope the many solutions we need to arrive at, I would appreciate receiving feedback from the residents of the Ward. Dorothy, Joanne and I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you.

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Wednesday, January 31, 8 p.m.

Everybody Welcome

Sponsored by
the Beaches-Woodbine NDP Riding Association

Group asks for smaller class size in schools

By KATHRYN ROGERS

The Toronto East Community Council (TECC) is actively circulating a petition throughout the East End in an attempt to pressure education authorities on the issue of quality education.

The petition, addressed to provincial Education Minister Bette Stephenson and Toronto Board of Education Chairman Fiona Nelson, makes a number of demands, including:

"that there be no program cuts for the year 1979-1980;

"that the Toronto Board of Education regain the right to negotiate its budget directly with the provincial government; and

"that the direction of education be to smaller classes."

The petition is available at the Area 4 office located in Queen Alexandra School at Dundas and Broadview.

TECC originated in the spring of 1978 at Riverdale C.I. Declining enrolment in the school led to a loss of teachers and some important programs at the school. Students responded by organizing meetings and a petition that collected close to 1,000 signatures.

But as the meetings grew it became apparent that the issue of declining enrolment and cutbacks affected many elementary and secondary schools in the East End.

When TECC was officially formed in November 1978 it consisted of representatives from Eastdale

C.I., Earl Grey, Parkview, Winchester, Riverdale C.I., Lakeview and others as well as the trustees of Wards 7, 8 and 9.

The trustees all endorsed the petition and accepted the council's invitation to become non-voting members.

The past couple of meetings have dealt with the problems of Frank-

land School in getting new or improved quarters, with the Report on Declining Enrolment, and with the petition.

The next meeting will take place on February 14, 1979 at 8 p.m. in Winchester Public School (Prospect & Parliament, just south of Wellesley). The petitions are due at this meeting.

Old library disappears

By HOWARD HUGGETT

The Parliament Street Library was really jumping last Saturday, its re-opening day. In some places it

see, that tireless book hound, Ulli Diemer, was going to be there by 9:00. If you can't get there before Ulli there is no use in going.



was difficult to reach the books for the crowds of people — some of them looked as if they hadn't been in a public library for a long time. I sure hope that they hadn't because that would mean that the opening was attracting new customers. The renovations have resulted in a most attractive building that is a credit to the neighbourhood.

I didn't make it to the book sale of library discards at 9:30 a.m. You

A casualty of the renovations is the drop-in centre that used to be next door to the library itself. The expansion of the library has swallowed up the saps, so that those who have been using that facility will now have to drop in among the books. How this works out remains to be seen, although the library administration welcomes them. This arrangement may lead to overcrowding.



Photo by Cherry Hassard

The Ward Seven Community Orchestra is recruiting new members! String players — violin, viola, cello or bass — are especially welcome. The orchestra is also on the lookout for new music and would appreciate any donations of orchestral scores. If you play an instrument, come and join the group any Monday evening at 7:45 at Winchester School, 15 Prospect Street; or call conductor John Piper at 921-7798. Shown above is violinist, Liz Scott.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday January 28

The moderator of the United Church of Canada, **George Tuttle**, will be speaking at St. Luke's United Church at 353 Sherbourne St. (corner of Carlton) at 10:30 a.m. In the afternoon at St. Luke's forum, George Woodheck and George Crust will be presenting a musical program.

Wednesday January 31

The St. George NDP riding association is holding a meeting on the topic "Gay Rights — Is It Time?" at 8 p.m. at 519 Church St. Community Centre, with panelists John Argue, Chris Bearhell, and Harvey Hamburg.

There will be a general membership meeting cum potluck supper at the **519 Church Community Centre** at 6:30 p.m.

The **Mothers' Group at Dundas School** has invited Ward 7 school trustee George Martell to attend their meeting today between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. to discuss education issues. All parents are invited. A similar meeting will be held on Wednesday February 7 between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

The Arthritis Society is sponsoring a series of meetings on **Living With Arthritis**. These meetings are open to anyone — especially patients and their families. Topics discussed will range from the medical aspects of arthritis to diet and quackery. The meetings will be held on four consecutive Wednesdays (Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 14, and Feb. 21) at the Casa Loma Campus of George Brown College. The meetings will run from 7:30 to 9:30. There is a registration fee of \$5 which covers all four meetings. To register or for further information call 967-1414.

St. John Ambulance will be conducting a **Home Nursing Course** at 46 Wellesley St. E. starting today from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Classes are held two hours weekly for six weeks. Total cost is \$9.00. Call Joan Holba at 967-4244 for details.

There will be a **craft group** held today at Park Public School, sponsored by parents of Park Public School. Bring your children and join the fun. For more information call Irene

Kitson at 364-4624 or May Barrett at 368-7392.

The Christian Community Centre is making **clothing** available at minimal prices today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at 270 Gerrard St. E.

Thursday February 1

There will be a **rummage sale** at St. Paul's Catholic Church at Queen and Power Streets today from noon to 6 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday February 3

Celebrate the **Chinese New Year** at the Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Ave., today, starting at 6 p.m. There will be a lion dance, Kung Fu demonstration, Chinese music, songs, folk dancing, and movies.

The Riverdale Inter-cultural Council and the Chinese parents of Dundas St. School, and Leslie St. Public School together with the Woodgreen Chinese Elderly Persons Club will sponsor a **Chinese tea house** at Queen East Presbyterian Church today, the seventh day of Chinese New Year. The objectives of the event are to celebrate the Chinese New Year, to provide an opportunity for the Riverdale Chinese community to work together and demonstrate their culture, and to raise funds.

Wednesday February 7

The Regent Park Communications committee, a group of agency workers and tenants of Regent Park meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Regent Park United Church, 40 Oak St. The group meets to discuss and act on issues identified by community residents and also to enable agencies to co-ordinate programs and avoid duplication. The next meeting is today at 9:30 a.m.

教育委員馬德里 接見華人家長
第七選區教育委員馬德里將於
二月七日星期三晚上七時半至

九時半在登打公校接見華人家長
長聽取家長對學生家課及其他
教育問題有華人在場翻譯如
對目前教育制度有任何意見
應到時赴會並加以反映

Saturday February 10

The Parliament Street Library, the Danforth Library, and the Riverdale Library all have regular **programs for kids** Saturdays at 2 p.m. and sometimes during the week. For more information call the Parliament Library at 924-7122; the Danforth Library at 465-1221; or the Riverdale Library at 466-0776.

Income tax clinics at Dixon Hall are starting in February. For more information call 863-0499.

The South Riverdale **Child-Parent Drop-In Centre** is a place for parents to come with their pre-school children for coffee, conversation and play. It is located in the Old Post Office, 765 Queen St. E. (two blocks east of Broadview). Hours are Monday to Thursday 9:30 to 1:00. For more information call 469-3776.

The South Riverdale Community Health Centre is starting a series of once a month community **health awareness** programs, the first Saturday of each month beginning February 3. At the first clinic, at Gerrard Square, people will be able to have their blood pressure measured for free, and receive information about OHIP. The hours are between 12 and 4.

There is a **teen drop-in** in the 325 Bleecker St. Teen Room every night at 7 p.m.

Concerned about the future of folk music in Canada? Lack of places to hear folk musicians in Toronto? A group is being formed of musicians, fans, and other interested parties to try to make the future of folk music a bright one. A meeting will be held Wednesday January 31 1979 at 8 p.m. to discuss relevant problems and possible solutions, at the Nervous Breakdown Coffee

House, 200 Carlton St. Please, come and join us and give us your ideas.

Community Calendar is a free community service. If you have something to announce, just send your notice to 7 News, 315 Dundas St. E., or call 363-9650. The deadline for submissions is the Monday prior to publication. The next deadline is Monday February 5, for the February 10 issue, which will announce events up to and including February 24.

BRIDE'S

N.I.P. re-opens

After being closed since the fall because of renovations in the Parliament Street Library House, the Neighbourhood Information Post is back in service. N.I.P. is back in the Library House, only this time in the room at the front. If you need information, call 924-2543 or drop in at 265 Gerrard St. East.

Silayan Centre Opens

The Silayan Filipino Community Centre held the official opening of its new centre at 2A Bleecker St. on Friday. Formerly on Sherbourne above Wellesley, the centre is now on Bleecker, which is one block east of Sherbourne, immediately north of Carlton. The phone number is 922-3977.

Hospital Beds to be cut

The Progressive Conservative Government of Ontario is calling for the elimination of more than 1,000 hospital beds in Toronto despite warnings from hospitals that they are already dangerously overcrowded. Hospital administrators have reacted with dismay, saying that there will be no way of dealing with emergencies during which the demand for beds rises above the government's arbitrarily set average. Among the hospitals to be affected will be the Wellesley Hospital at Sherbourne and Wellesley, which last spring had an occupancy rate of 117 per cent (patients had to sleep in the halls).

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REWARD

1979 is International Year of the Child



Here's what Ontario is doing and what you can do to improve the well-being of our children.



1979-International Year of the Child

The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 as International Year of the Child in order to focus attention on children everywhere.

In Ontario, the Government has always looked at children as our most precious resource and has worked to provide them with the best possible health, education and social programs.

In 1979, we intend to strengthen these services and programs in the belief that the peace and prosperity

of the future depends on the well-being of our children today.

However, the Year of the Child to be truly successful in Ontario, must have everyone's support... your support.

Only you, as a parent or friend, can provide the love and concern that is so essential to the healthy development of a child.

For more information on the Ontario Government's programs for our children, and a list of suggestions of what you, your organization or community can do

during the International Year of the Child, write to:

International Year of the Child 1979, "Today is for Tomorrow" Secretariat for Social Development Whitney Block, 1st Floor Queen's Park Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2



Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development
William Davis, Premier
Province of Ontario

Harbourfront Happenings

free

free

Vol. 5 No. 2

A bi-monthly listing of events at Harbourfront

January 29-February 11, 1979

Francophone Hospitalité

The ivy on the walls of 435 Queen's Quay West isn't green at this time of year; the pretty little umbrella tables have been put away and there's a chilly breeze blowing off the lake, but it's warm and cozy inside **le Centre francophone** at the foot of Spadina Avenue.

Hanging macramé-covered lamps illuminate the large room, little tables with checkered tablecloths are arranged around a stage, art hangs on the white walls and displays of hand-made crafts grace the tables near the entrance. There are also racks of French-language publications on view.

Le Centre francophone serves as a cultural centre to Toronto's French-speaking community as well as students of French. On Thursday nights, for example, "Les Talents cachés" provides a stage for amateur performers; **La Crêperie** serves simple meals six days a week; there are French-language craft workshops on Sundays; and the traditional music of French Canada is performed on Friday eve-



Anne-Marie de Varennes-Sparkes presents her one-woman show at le Centre francophone February 2 at 9 p.m.

nings. In addition, there are many special events year-round at the centre.

By 8 p.m. on a recent Friday evening, **La Crêperie** is comfortably crowded with people who have come down to the waterfront meeting-place for a bite to eat and the chance

to hear the cabaret stylings of **Anne-Marie de Varennes-Sparkes**. It's the opening of her one-woman show, "V'nez donc m'voir, j'sus pas sorteuse!", which will run each Friday night until February 2.

The petite Anne-Marie, chanteuse, raconteuse and

comédienne, takes the stage at 9 p.m. With a captivating energy and passion, she struts, sings, shrugs and seduces her way through songs and monologues about love, life and French-Canadian culture (not necessarily in that order).

The menu for **La Crêperie** is simple and delicious — crêpes, salads and pâté. There is a licence on Friday evenings, so your crêpe can be accompanied by a bottle of wine. As a starter, try the Québec pâté. With a basket of bread and a glass of wine it

is almost a little meal in itself for \$1.25.

The crêpes are varied — ham and cheese at \$2.65, *marinière* (shrimps, scallops, fillet of sole and mushrooms in a white wine sauce) at \$2.75, and — especially recommended for spinach lovers — *épinards à la crème* at \$2.95.

For dessert, try crêpes *hélène*, stuffed with marmalade and topped with orange and lemon crème at \$1.95, crêpes *normande*, filled with apple, cinnamon and cognac, at \$2.35 and crêpe aux fruits frais (*en saison*) at \$2.35.

Dinner for two with a bottle of wine and an evening of entertainment will cost about \$20. In Toronto these days, that's a bargain.

La Crêperie is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 2:30 p.m., on Thursday and Friday from noon to 2 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Closed all day Saturday.

For more information on **La Crêperie** and other Centre francophone activities, call 367-1950.



Wooden boats get a second chance . . . Boatbuilder Nial Leslie works on the restoration of an 8-metre at the Canadian Shipwright Guild.

The Canadian Shipwright Guild

What happens to wooden boats that have seen better days?

Until recently there were two options—the classic Peterborough Royals, Lakefields, Dukes and Gravetts were abandoned on beaches to rot or else they were unceremoniously sunk. Is that any way to treat a lady?

Absolutely not, if you share Gerhard Andary's passion for wooden sailing vessels. Andary is a founding director of **The Canadian Shipwright Guild**, at Harbourfront's Spadina Quay. About a year and a half ago Andary rescued an unwanted Peterborough Royal that was slated for Davey Jones' locker. He restored it, adding another ten years to its life. In the two weeks that followed the rescue of the Peter-

borough he heard of two other wooden boats in distress—both nursing advanced cases of dry rot and suffering a chronic shortage of repair capital.

It didn't take much investigation to discover that these beautiful boats were being discarded because of lack of funds and facilities for their restoration. After meetings with the mother of invention in the guise of the Canada Works Program, some concerned individuals and other businessmen, **The Canadian Shipwright Guild** came into being. Dedicated to the restoration, preservation and maintenance of the heritage of wooden vessels, the non-profit Guild moved onto the Harbourfront site in April, 1978.

There are now nine people working on the site,

five of whom are learning the trade of boatbuilding and two who are upgrading their building experience. Their mandate is to restore boats for museums or appropriate institutions for public display; to function as an advisory service to individuals who are interested in the restoration of classical boats and to provide some space for these projects; to donate historically significant boats to museums for public display; and to provide restored boats to civic groups for recreational purposes.

All work at the Guild is done under the direction of master boatbuilders, and, whenever possible, absolute authenticity is maintained in workmanship, the use of woods, materials and finishing.

continued on Page 4

TUE. JAN. 30

Textile techniques

An eight-week **Survey Course in Textile Techniques** begins tonight and continues every Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. till March 27. Helen Mackenzie teaches this course in soft sculpture, wall hangings and clothing for beginning and advanced students. \$75 tuition includes basic materials. For advance registration, call 861-1691.

Crafts

Learn the art of jewellery making in silver and other metals and materials in a ten-week **introductory course in jewellery making**. Aspects covered will include cutting, soldering, stone setting and surface techniques. Students can choose from Tuesday evening classes beginning tonight and continuing to April 3, or Wednesday evening classes from tomorrow night to April 4. Both courses run from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$75, silver, solder and sawblades extra. For advance registration, call instructor Wendy Shingler at 861-1691.

Write on

Novelist-poet **Robert Kroetsch** reads from his works at tonight's **Reading Series**, beginning at 8:30 p.m. Among this Alberta-born author's titles are **The Studhorse Man**, **Seed Catalogue**, **The Stone Hammer Poems**, and his newest novel, **What The Crow Said**.

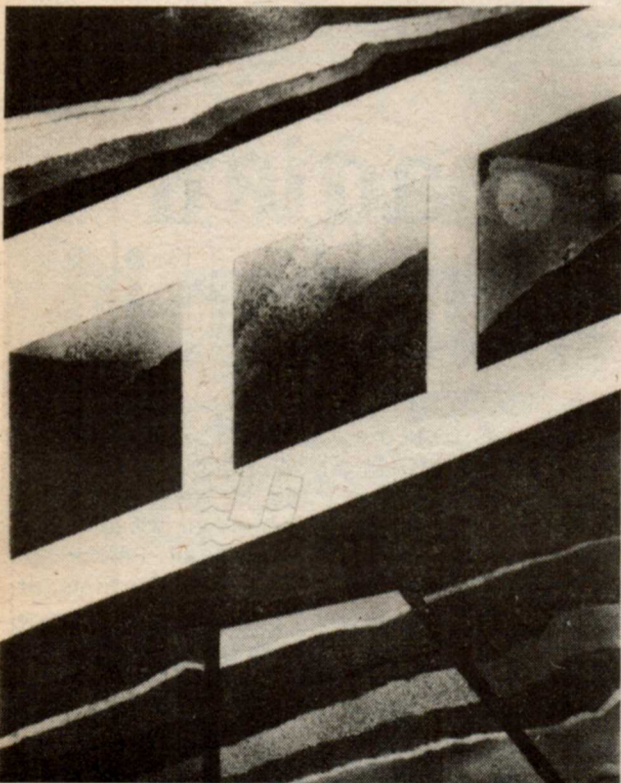
WED. JAN. 31

Bergman and Bogart

Tonight's **Wednesday Night Movies** lead off at 7:30 p.m. with **Bogart**, a film which examines the growing interest in Bogie and his work. Then Sam plays it again for Bogart and Ingrid Bergman in **Casablanca**, Warner Brothers' classic 1942 spy thriller.

THUR. FEB. 1

Aluminum art



An exhibition of **Anodized Aluminum Works, Paintings and Graphics** by **George Rackus** opens in the Community Gallery tonight from 7 to 10 p.m. The show is on view daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. until February 14.

First-time folkies

Potential Joni Mitchells and B.B. Kings can find an audience every Thursday night at 8:30 p.m., when **Open Sing** gives amateur folk and blues performers a chance to strut their stuff in front of a live audience. Call Steve Pritchard at 261-8948.

FRI. FEB. 2

Sailing seminar

A three-day **Cruising/Offshore Sailing Seminar**, the first of its kind in Canada, begins tonight at 6:30 p.m. with registration, orientation, an introduction to the weekend's guest speakers and an informal reception.

Saturday's activities begin at 10 a.m. with **Rod Stevens** of Sparksman/Stevens, the world's largest design firm for offshore boats. Stevens, whose company's latest offshore design won the Whitbread Round the World Race, will speak on **Offshore Boat Design**. He's followed at 2 p.m. by a lecture on **Offshore Cruising for Novice and Expert** by world cruiser and author **Hal Roth**. **Cape Horn to Port**, a film of the 1978 Whitbread Round the World Race, begins at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, single-handed sailor **Tony Lush** speaks at 1 p.m. on **Self Steering**. The seminar wraps up with a question-and-answer period featuring all three speakers from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Admission is free, but **participants must register in advance**. For more information and registration, call 364-7127, ext. 44.

Squaring off

Friday night is **Square Dance** time at Harbourfront — **Walter Cosburn** does the calling as you and your partner promenade left and do-si-do. Starts at 7:30 p.m. 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

No films

Friday Night Films are cancelled in February and March, due to renovations at York Quay Centre. The free films return in April.

SAT. FEB. 3

Batik it and quilt it

Helen Mackenzie is putting two popular crafts together and offering a **Double Workshop in Batik and Quilting**, running today and tomorrow and continuing February 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend number one deals with batik and next weekend continues with quilting as the technique in a course that explores ways to combine the two crafts in a finished product. Basic materials are included in the \$70 tuition. Call Helen to register at 861-1691.

Blender art

There's more to a blender than meets the eye, as Anne Gaze shows in a **Bookbinding and Papermaking Workshop** today, tomorrow and Saturday, February 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students will learn how to make paper using a blender and natural cellulose fibres, and follow up with the construction of a book using basic bookbinding techniques. Cost of the three-day workshop is \$50, materials included. To register, call 861-1691.

Space oddity



Make a space character, robot or self-portrait at **Kaleidoscope** this weekend from 1 to 5 p.m. with boxes from home. Participants can also make bendable paper dolls or bring material scraps from home to make an apron. 50¢ is requested to help cover material costs; children must be accompanied by an adult. 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

You should be dancing

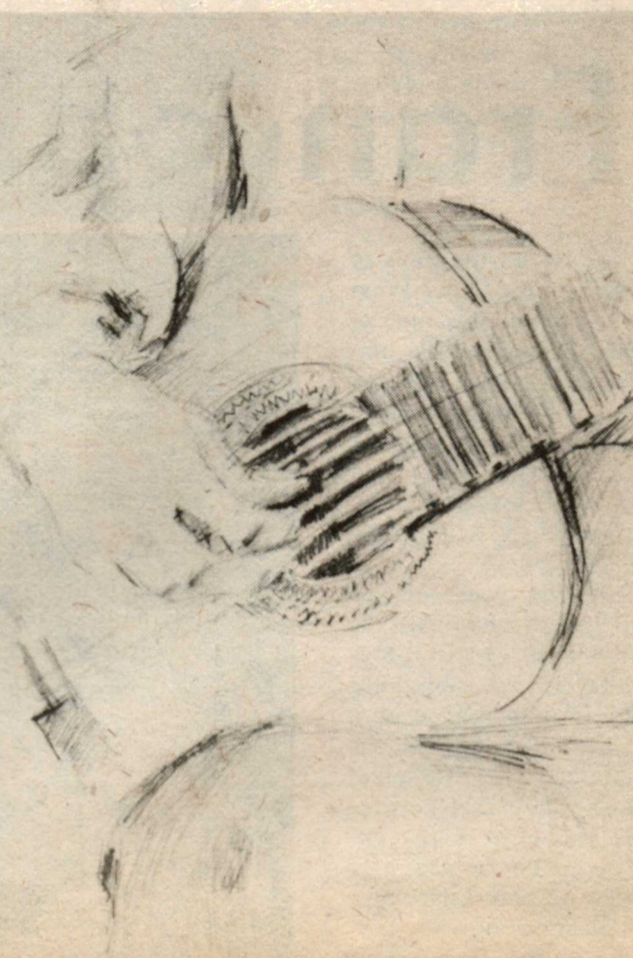
Waltz down to Harbourfront tonight at 8 p.m. and **Ballroom Dance** your winter blues away. 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

SUN. FEB. 4

Kaleidoscope

See yesterday's Kaleidoscope listing for today's program. Kaleidoscope runs from 1 to 5 p.m. A 50¢ donation is requested to pay for material costs.

Hayes concert



Classical guitarist **David Hayes** presents the first of four Sunday concerts today from 3 to 3:45 p.m. in the Community Gallery.

Jazz

Dr. McJazz will provide the dixieland music at tonight's **Jazz Club**, starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1. Senior citizens are admitted free.

TUE. FEB. 6

Three poets read

Playwright-poet **James Reaney**, author of **The Donnelly Trilogy**, poet **Colleen Thibeaudeau**, author of **My Granddaughters Are Combing Out Their Long Hair**, and poet **Anna Szumigalski**, author of **Women Reading in Bath** are tonight's featured readers at Harbourfront's weekly **Reading Series** at York Quay Centre, starting at 8:30 p.m.

WED. FEB. 7

Films

Tonight's **Wednesday Night Movies** features a Somerset Maugham double bill, beginning at 7:30 p.m. **Of Human Bondage** stars **Leslie Howard** and **Bette Davis** in the tale of a young medical student and his infatuation with a promiscuous waitress. Then **Walter Huston** and **Joan Crawford** star in **Rain**, Maugham's story of a puritanical minister's attempts to reform a lost woman on the island of Pago Pago.

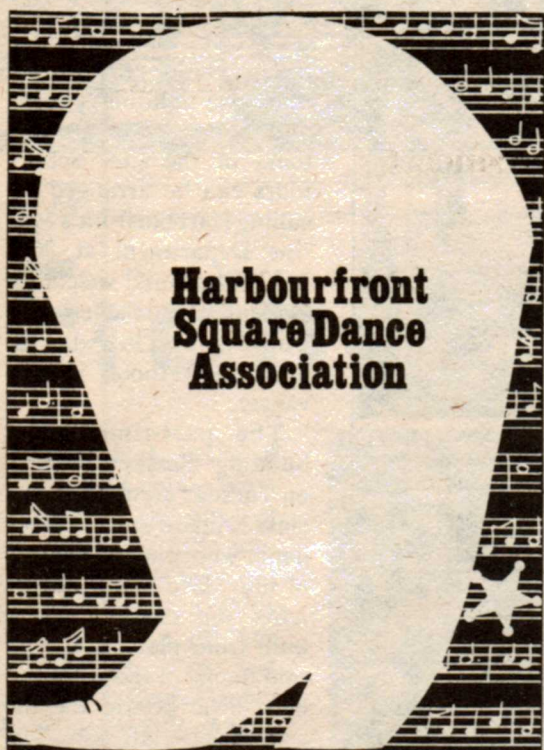
THUR. FEB. 8

Open sing

Singers in search of an audience need only come down to Harbourfront's weekly **Open Sing** tonight, starting at 8:30 p.m. Interested performers are asked to call Steve Pritchard at 261-8948.

FRI. FEB. 9

Square dance



Harbourfront Square Dance Association

Square dancing has re-captured the imagination and fancy of Canadians everywhere, and that's why Harbourfront's weekly Friday **Square Dancing** has become so popular. Tonight's program starts at 7:30 p.m. at 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

SAT. FEB. 10

Kaleidoscope

Come and join in the fun at Harbourfront's popular **Kaleidoscope**, an arts and crafts program for children and their parents. It's Valentine weekend at Kaleidoscope. Using colorful play-dough, make hearts and designs that can be painted when dry. Also, make flying cupid dolls and help decorate Kaleidoscope's Heart or make a Valentine bookmark. Today's program runs from 1 to 5 p.m. at 222 Queen's Quay West (see map). A 50¢ donation is requested to pay for material costs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Dinghy association

Sailing enthusiasts and Mirror Dinghy owners are invited to attend tonight's **Open House** of the Mirror Dinghy Association from 8 to 10:30 p.m. in the Ice House at York Quay. The program includes lectures and films on Mirrors. For further information, call 366-6207.

Ballroom dancing

The era of big-band dancing has returned, and Harbourfront's Saturday night **Ballroom Dancing** features such oldies but goodies as the rumba, foxtrot, and jitterbug. Come on down tonight at 8 p.m. and get swinging to the popular sounds of the '40's. Tonight's program takes place at 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

SUN. FEB. 11

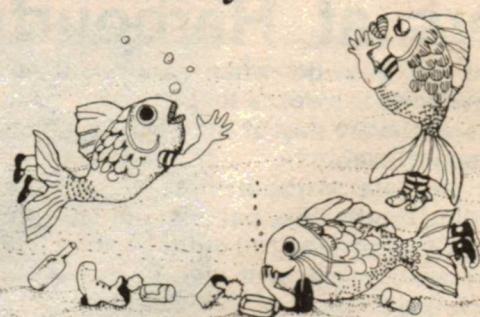
Antique market

The popular Antique Picker's Market is open today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. So come down to Harbourfront and browse through the large assortment of antiques and "junque" at 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

Afternoon music

Classical guitarist **David Hayes** performs a concert of contemporary folk music today in the Community Gallery. Passersby are invited to listen in from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

Pollution is fishy



Jesters-Plus, a group of 9 to 13 year old performers, present **Pollution is Fishy** today from 3 to 3:45 p.m. The mini-musical tells the tale of a group of fish and their concern about the pollution of their watery home. Jesters-Plus is a children's drama workshop sponsored by the North York Council for Lively Arts.

Kaleidoscope

Children and their parents are kept busy at Harbourfront's **Kaleidoscope** program. For today's program, see yesterday's listing. Kaleidoscope runs from 1 to 5 p.m. The program will be held at 222 Queen's Quay West (see map).

Sorry about that . . .

Several of the courses offered this winter by the Harbourfront Craft Studios have been affected by the renovations at York Quay Centre. Since there are no firing facilities in the temporary location in 222 Queen's Quay West, all ceramics and glass-blowing courses have been cancelled till March. Fabric, metal and stained glass courses will continue as scheduled.

Call the Craft Studios at 861-1691 for more information on your course.

ONGOING ONGOING ONGOING

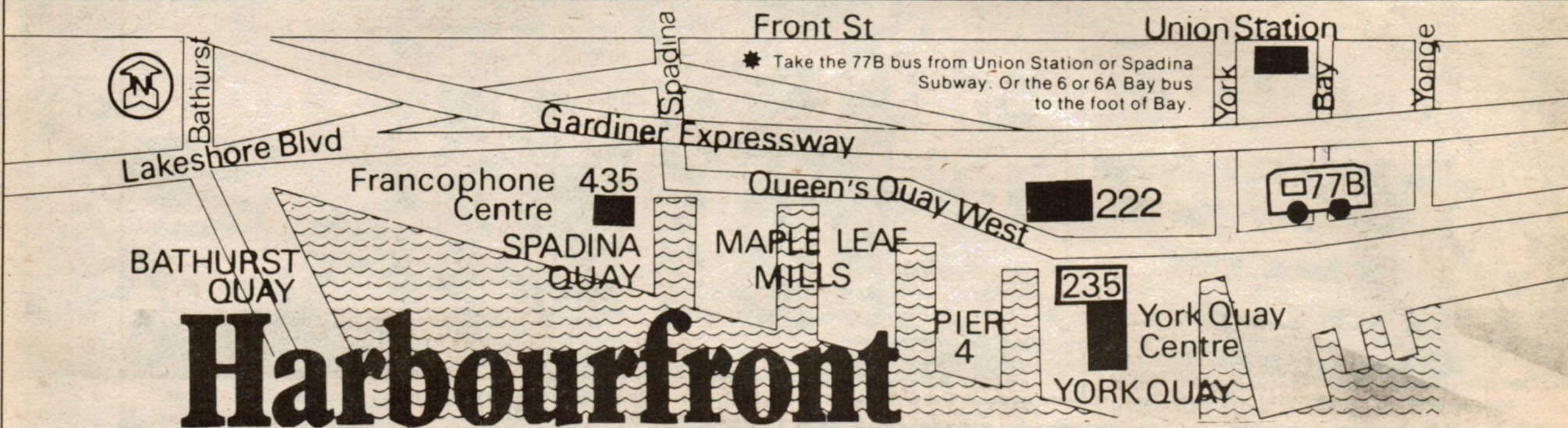
Harbourfront continues to offer clay workshops, films and craft demonstrations to **school groups** each weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Teachers are invited to call the Harbourfront Education Department, 364-7127, for bookings and information. The cost is \$1.50 per student.

The Education Department also offers tours of the Harbour Police Basin and the cold storage facilities of Harbourfront's Terminal Warehouse. These tours must be booked separately and cost \$1 per student.

The **Francophone Centre** at 435 Queen's Quay West offers a variety of ongoing programs for Toronto's French-speaking community. For details, see story on Page 1.

La Crêperie, the little French-style eatery by the waterfront, announced new operating hours this month. Crêpes, salads, homemade soups and hot chocolate will now be served Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 2:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from noon to 2:30 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m.; and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. La Crêperie will be closed on Saturdays.

The **Harbourfront Art Gallery** will be closed for renovations until mid-April. Watch for an announcement of the exact opening date in the art pages of the Saturday *Globe and Mail* or in subsequent issues of **Harbourfront Happenings**. The Community Gallery will function as usual at 235 Queen's Quay West, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.



Harbourfront

All about Harbourfront

The Harbourfront site, which stretches from York Street to west of Bathurst Street, is open year round. The recreational, cultural and community events you enjoyed last summer are available all winter too. During the next few months many programs which normally take place at **York Quay Centre** will be located at **222 Queen's Quay West**, directly across the street (see map), because of renovations.

Continuing winter programs include the **Reading Series** on Tuesdays, **Films** on Wednesdays, **Open Sing** on Thursdays, **Square Dancing and Movies** on Fridays, the family program **Kaleidoscope** on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, **Ballroom Dancing** on Saturdays and **Jazz** on Sundays.

The **Pier 4** complex of marine-oriented suppliers and the **Pier 4 Storehouse Restaurant** are also open all winter.

Admission to all events at Harbourfront is free, unless otherwise stated.

Admission to the site is always free.

Further details on programs can be obtained by calling the Information Centre at 364-5665. For information on programs in French and on the **Francophone Centre**, located at 435 Queen's Quay West at the foot of Spadina, call 367-1950.

Harbourfront Happenings is published every two weeks and focuses on the many and varied programs at Harbourfront. You can find your copy of **Harbourfront Happenings** at the Information Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West, or at your local library. There is a mini-version published alternate Saturdays in the *Globe & Mail's* TV Guide, *Broadcast Week*. All enquiries should be directed to Harbourfront Communications

Department, 207 Queen's Quay West, Suite 400, Toronto M5J 1A7.

There is no charge for parking weekdays after 5 p.m. or anytime on the weekend in the parking lot on Queen's Quay West, just east of York Quay Centre.

Where to go

Activities take place in and around York Quay Centre at 235 Queen's Quay West or 222 Queen's Quay West, unless otherwise stated. York Quay Centre is the home of Harbourfront's Information Centre, Art and Community Galleries, the Brigantine Room, Theatre, Cafe and Craft Studios.

Harbourfront is served by two TTC bus routes. The Spadina 77B bus from Union Station and Spadina Subway passes York Quay Centre, 222 Queen's Quay West, and the Francophone Centre. The Bay 6 or 6A takes you to Queen's Quay West, just east of York Quay Centre.

222

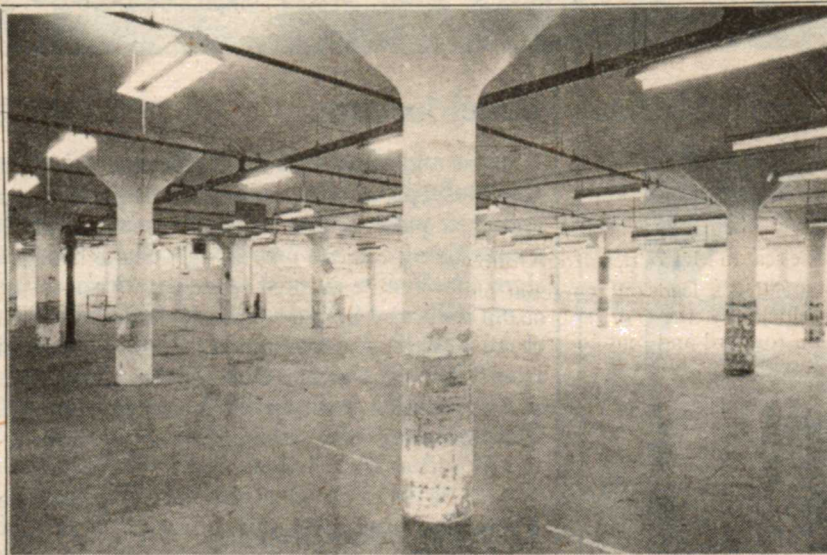
Warehouse— opens its doors at Harbourfront

What do you do when you want to make renovations in a space that is used by hundreds of people every day of the year for special programmed events?

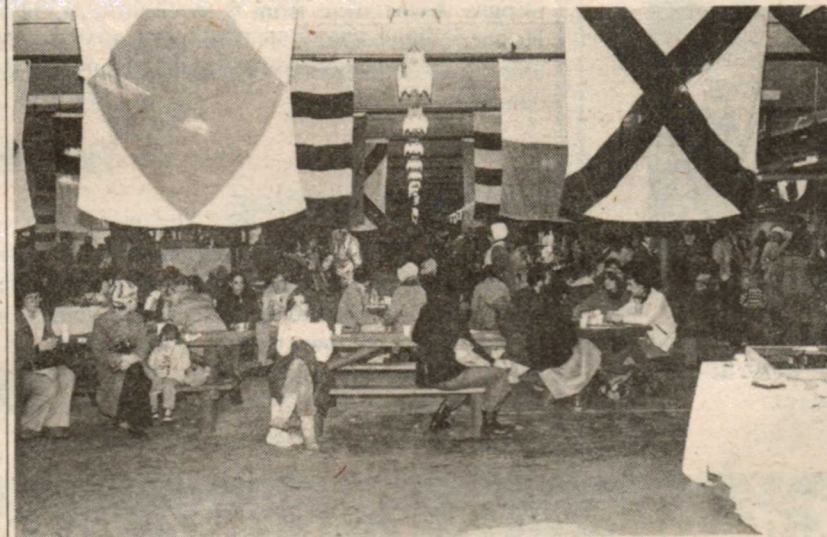
If you are Harbourfront you take another building on the site, paint it, polish it, brighten it up with flags and roll out the carpet; you continue welcoming your visitors.

222 Warehouse, at 222 Queen's Quay West, opened its doors as a new temporary headquarters for Harbourfront programming on January 10. With nearly 42,000 square feet of floor space on the ground floor, 222 Warehouse accommodated hundreds of browsers at the Harbourfront Antique Pickers Market on Sunday, January 14. Families who participated in the weekend arts and crafts program, Kaleidoscope, also enjoyed the new facility.

We're sorry about this temporary dislocation, but when York Quay Centre re-opens for the summer it will be boasting a sculpture court, a pond, a theatre and new food facilities. And summer's not that far away.



222 Warehouse was just a potential before its facelift. The huge, empty space has become the new temporary headquarters for Harbourfront's on-going and special programs while York Quay Centre is being renovated.



Taking a pause... Some of the visitors to the Harbourfront Antique Pickers Market take a few minutes from their browsing to enjoy a coffee under the banners at 222 Warehouse.

continued from Page 1 Shipwright Guild

The Guild offers part-time boatbuilding classes and school and public tours of the site. School tours can be arranged by calling Harbourfront's Marine Department at 364-7127. The Guild welcomes students and teachers any Tuesday or Thursday at 11:30 a.m. (book in advance).

The part-time boatbuilding classes are held on Tuesday evenings. Each class is made up of 20 students who work in groups of four on a boat project. After the simple boat is built from plans it is then sold to one of the students, or a civic group, for the cost of materials only. The registration fee for the course is \$225, with the next course slated to start at the end of January. For more information call the Guild at 363-8336.

From mid-April to October, **The Canadian Shipwright Guild** will be open seven days a week and will provide weekend tours as well as boaters' services.



You can't miss 222 Warehouse on Queen's Quay. It opened its doors to the public on January 10 with 42,000 square feet of programming space on the first floor.



Dealer Elaine Green displays her homemade jewellery at the Harbourfront Antique Pickers Market on Sunday, January 14. The new location of the market at 222 Warehouse meant there was plenty of room for browsing for antique lovers.



Sometimes it's hard to get a grip on things, especially if you are a little kid and the thing you're trying to get hold of is a giant Kaleidoscope banana. The Kaleidoscope family program now operates out of 222 Warehouse every weekend.

Public pressure led to Ontario's rent control

By ROB HUTCHISON

The last issue of 7 News outlined the effects on tenants of proposed Bill 163. The following article supplies a history of rent controls up to and including Bill 163 now before the Ontario legislature.

In 1975, for most tenants were threatening to rise through the ceiling. Certainly general inflation was pushing up the landlord's costs, but many landlords were also taking advantage of the climate of rising prices and low vacancy rates to cash in on extra profits. As a result, the subject of rents and rent controls became very political. A provincial election was approaching.

At City Hall reform aldermen were also concerned and trying to get the Conservative government to act. Aldermen D'Arcy Goldrick, Janet Howard, Dorothy Thomas, and John Sewell were moved to draw up a proposal for rent controls. City Council passed the proposal as a motion in favour of rent controls and sent it on to the Ontario Government. Still, with their ideological and financial ties to developers and landlords the Tory government was reluctant to act.

Election

The 1975 provincial election saw the NDP punch through as the official opposition under Stephen Lewis. It was Lewis' day by day revelations of rent-gouging throughout the campaign that cost the Conservatives significant numbers of votes and even seats, especially in high-rent areas such as Toronto. (The population of the City of Toronto is 67 per cent tenants.) As Lewis revealed rent increases of 50 per cent, 60 per cent, and even 70 per cent, tenants prepared to vent their anger at the polls. In the end the Conservatives lost their majority.

The resultant minority government left the Conservatives in a tenuous position. The Liberals finally realizing that rents were a

hot political item, and left with only one seat in Metro, decided to follow the NDP's lead on rent control. Reluctantly the Tories brought a bill forward and rent controls after much parliamentary wrangling became law.

Effects

Over the next two years rent controls were a qualified success. Guidelines for rent increases started at 8 per cent, but rents actually increased on average a little over 12 per cent a year. In 1977, with a 6 per cent rent guideline, averaged an increase of 8.6 per cent. In 1978, again with a six per cent guideline, rents averaged an increase of 6.8 per cent.

This downward trend of the increases in rents has undoubtedly been to the relief and advantage of tenants.

However, a (not unexpected) result has been the reaction of rental developers. The building of rental accommodation has been minimal especially the building of units in the range of middle and low-income



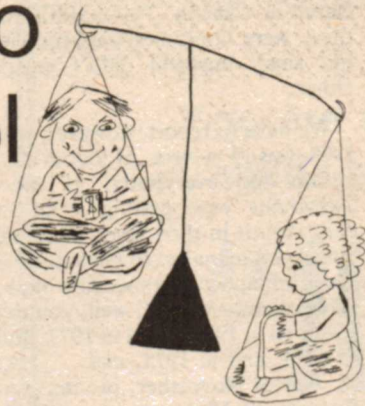
people. The developers claim they cannot make a "worthwhile" rate of profit under rent controls. This is not to say they could not make a profit. Developers' arguments are weakened somewhat by the fact that buildings built since 1976 are exempt from rent controls.

Nevertheless, developers have effected what amounts to an investment strike in Metro Toronto and much of Ontario. Hundreds of millions of dollars have instead been invested by developers in foreign countries. Giant Cadillac-Fairview alone sunk \$250 million into land purchases in California last year.

This lack of vacancy has lowered the Toronto vacancy rate to 0.7 per cent last year. Such a condition would allow landlords to quickly raise rents in the event rent controls were removed. Tenants would have little choice but to stay where they are and pay the rent hike.

Changes?

In 1977, we saw another provincial election as the Conservatives attempted to regain their majority.



They failed, but the Liberals managed to narrowly regain their role as the Opposition from the NDP. Perhaps because they saw the Liberals as another business party, as ideologically closer to themselves the Conservatives decided to try and phase out rent controls. Certainly they were under political pressure from landlords and developers to make large changes.

At any rate, in 1978 a number of Tory ministers floated the idea of letting rent controls die in December 1978 (the legislation had a time limit). Sidney Handelman went so far as to say he no longer wanted to be Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations if rent controls remained.

This little boat wouldn't float. The Liberals and the NDP, tenant groups, and reform aldermen drew their guns and started shooting holes below the waterline. The Conservatives withdrew, if slightly. The position the Conservatives took up is Bill 163. This Bill is now under committee study at the Ontario Legislature.

Ward 7 Alderman Janet Howard is chairman of the Neighbourhood, Fire, Housing, and Legislation Committee at City Council. As such, she decided the views and weight of City Council should be brought to bear at the committee hearings. Howard drew together a summary of City Council's positions on tenant matters with some recommendations of her own. Essentially, City Council passed Howard's summary for presentation on December 18, 1978.

Tenants are also active. Peter Libman and Shelley Appleby of Riverdale Socio-Legal Services also drew up a brief with their objections to Bill 163. They, with Janet Howard, presented their brief to the Standing Social Development Committee at Queen's Park in December.

In the future, a special meeting will be held for Mayor John Sewell to present Council's views to the committee. Essentially Sewell will be presenting Howard's brief. Howard, with City housing staff will also represent the City at the clause by clause study.

The fate of Bill 163, and tenants, is still hanging.

Future controls

By ROB HUTCHISON

The Conservative Government's Bill 163 threatens to hit tenants right in the pocket.

For the past three years rent controls have given some semblance of stability to rents. However, in Sections 127 (4) 3 of the proposed bill the basis for calculating rents is broadened.

Bill 163 proposes that rents and variations of the rents be similar rental units situated in similar geographical vicinity be taken into account. In other words, the inefficient landlord down the street charges higher rents because of his higher costs, your perhaps more efficient landlord may be allowed to charge higher rents simply because he owns a similar building in the same area.

This proposal opens the door for rents to be charged not on actual costs but on what the market will bear. Adoption of this proposal would seriously undermine rent controls. As the vacancy rate is now less than one per cent, many tenants could be made to bear much higher rents.

Security of Tenure

Bill 163 directly attacks the rights of tenure directly recently gained by tenants in the Landlord and Tenant Act in 1975.

Under the present act the landlord can only evict a tenant for a good reason and this reason must be one of the seven or eight reasons listed in the Act, such as arrears in rent, damaging the premises, overcrowding, etc. Broadly speaking, the proposed Bill affects tenants in three ways.

Firstly, it allows landlords to set up house rules that if broken could lead to eviction.

Secondly, the Bill does not list all the reasons for eviction so that it's not for certain for what reasons a landlord will be granted an eviction order.

Thirdly, the act does not specify the length of notice a tenant has to be given of a landlord's application for eviction nor does the Bill allow a time in which a tenant can correct the situation.

'House rules' that a landlord can institute are supposed to be "reasonable in all circumstances." However, the definition of what is "reasonable" is at least initially left up to the landlord. Only through a lengthy appeal procedure to a Commission can a tenant attempt to change house rules he feels are arbitrary and unjust. Furthermore, there is concern house rules would not be uniform throughout the municipality because the definition of 'reasonableness' is left up to the

landlord and, indirectly, the Commission.

In general, despite some good points, the proposed Act appears to weaken the tenant's position in regard to the landlord's power to dictate living conditions and to evict. The Bill is very vague in a number of areas and would appear to allow the unscrupulous landlord more leeway to manipulate and abuse his tenants.

Other features of Bill 163:

•The landlord would not be required to give notice to a tenant of his intention to apply for an eviction order (as he must now) but only give the tenant a copy of his application at "the earliest reasonable opportunity."

•The Bill lacks a specific procedure for eviction in general.

•Hearings by the Commission are governed by very loose rules, eg., what kind of evidence is admissible.

•Regarding eviction for the purpose of vacant possession: where a complex contains no more than three units eviction would be allowed regardless of reason. (The law now says only the new owner may evict and only for his own use.)

•Section 55 allows a landlord to apply for vacant possession so that he can comply with a work order from a government authority. This request is not as reasonable as it might seem. It works to the favour of landlords who try to force tenants out by deliberately letting the premises deteriorate. Bill 163 would allow such landlords to evict tenants on the grounds that he must fulfill a work order his own neglect of the premises had made necessary. (This is a step backward: as of now, City Council forbids eviction or the raising of rent until work orders are fulfilled.)

•Section 38 (4) (b) suggests that tenants be able to apply to the Commission to evict each other. This proposal is so open to abuse that City Council specifically recommended against it at its meeting of November 7, 1978.

Ward 7 Alderman Janet Howard suggests that instead tenants be given a remedy against any landlord who does not provide reasonable enjoyment of the premises. This keeps the responsibility for general conditions where it actually falls, with the landlord, and does not put the onus on the tenant to deal with tenants whose presence he is not responsible for.

•A good point is that landlords would have to keep a schedule of rents which tenants could examine. This is to prevent the hiking of rents between tenancies. The Bill, however, fails to establish the rent registry listing the legal rents for an apartment which City Council and others have advocated.

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tics Canada (up to October 1978) show that even with pay packets 5.6 per cent higher than a year before, workers' real wages dropped by 3 per cent. In other words, because of inflation, even after a pay increase, most people can't afford to buy what they could the year before.

As for people on fixed incomes, pensions, etc. and people on welfare (almost a fixed income), they had their purchasing power cut by the full 8-1/2 to 9 per cent that was Canada's inflation rate last year.

This drop in real incomes didn't just mean that people put off buying new things for the house, it meant that a lot of people were put in desperate financial situations. By the end of last November almost 20,000 bankruptcies had been de-

clared in Canada. The majority of these were consumer bankruptcies but small business didn't escape either.

We have to report, however, that 1978 wasn't a year of doom and gloom for everybody. If most Canadians were getting a lot of dark clouds in their lives, there are a few who managed to pocket those silver linings. If you owned a bank, cable company, or oil well, you did very well in 1978. (And in 1977, and in 1976, and in 1975, and . . .) At the end of November, pre-tax profits were up 17 per cent from 1977, to a monumental 26-1/4 billion.

A number that one should ponder over a hot helping of macaroni and cheese (easy on the cheese at \$2.39 a pound). It means that

Canadian corporations managed to rake in more than \$1,000 profit from each man, woman, and child in the country. In other words, the average Canadian family would be about \$4,000 richer if they weren't devoting, in the majority of cases, a larger proportion of their budget to profits than they do to either rent or food.

Clearly this state of affairs is unsatisfactory for most of us.

What to do about it? We're sure that many people have interesting solutions to offer. We would suggest that both political and economic action is necessary:

If you don't have a union at work, form one. If you have one make sure that you and your fellow

workers are prepared to use your collective power to obtain what's rightfully yours.

Those who receive social assistance have to look for ways to lean on the various levels of government to force them to dip a little more deeply into that 26-1/4 billion than they usually care to do, to provide a standard of living, not bare existence.

Small business should make sure that they push to shift the tax burden in the corporate sector from themselves to the big businesses that can obviously afford it.

And everyone should push for policies to provide full employment, to make life a bit more pleasant for the million or so of us out of work.

By PETER TABUNS

1978 was a bad year for working and poor people as well as for small business.

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Bain rents up

By PETER TABUNS

The 1979 budget for the Bain Apartments Co-operative goes into effect on February 1, 1979 with an average rent increase of 7 per cent. Smaller units are having a lower increase (5.8 per cent) and larger units a higher increase (8.1 per cent).

Main items pushing the budget up were increasing service by increasing the number of staff, utility costs, and a scheduled drop in the provincial grant.

Discussions of the budget through the fall were extensive and drew in a larger number of co-op residents.

One of the most contentious issues was the matter of staff salaries. Staff asked for a 10 per cent increase to cover the cost of inflation. This debate was affected by the generally low wage increases most people have been forced to accept, in the 5 per cent to 6 per cent range. However, the request was eventually accepted.

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Trouble for pensioners



By HOWARD HUGGETT

The month of January is named after the Roman god, Janus, who was always shown as having two faces. One visage looked forward and the other back, so January is a favorite time for glancing over our shoulder to think about what happened in the past. However, it is also a good time to look ahead to see what's coming.

For pensioners there could be difficult times ahead, as indeed there could be for non-pensioners. The economy is stagnant, and no one is forecasting much improvement for the immediate future. Money is tight and getting tighter, and governments are cutting back on services all over the place. Even trade-union workers are having to fight hard to maintain their living standards. Senior citizens and other pensioners have no organization to negotiate for them, and very little means of putting pressure on their paymasters, the federal and provincial governments.

There are about two million old-age pensioners, and that is a lot of voters, but they are mostly isolated from one another and have no means of organizing their votes to become a force at election time.

There are a large number of pensioners' associations, but most of them are local in scope. They are based on membership in a church, residence in a senior citizens' home or some similar kind of neighbourhood framework. These groups devote most of their time to recreation of one kind or another, such as dances, bingos, bus trips, etc. That is fine as far as it goes, because seniors have a right to enjoyment in their later years, but it does very little to build an organization that will inform pensioners of their rights and help them to defend their living standards.

There are a couple of organizations that are trying to fight the battles of senior citizens. Canadian Pensioners Concerned is a national body that has a number of chapters in several provinces. Over the past ten years it has done a good job of speaking up for pensioners, and has been able to win some concessions on their behalf. But their total membership forms only a tiny fraction of the two million senior citizens in Canada, and because of this their ability to do the job that needs to be done is severely limited. What Canadian Pensioners Concerned needs is thousands and thousands of active, informed and dedicated members to give it more power.

I am afraid that most senior citizens are complacent; they are content to enjoy their leisure, to take advantage of their benefits, their cheaper transportation and half-price admissions. Our various governments would be happy to have them go on doing this and not cause any trouble. But the day may be coming when pensioners will have to become troublesome if they are to defend themselves. We are entering a period of serious retrenchment, and if this continues for any length of time there will be some move to have seniors make some

sacrifices. After all, they do not have the organization to fight back, as I have already pointed out.

What can they ask pensioners to give up, did you ask? Already there have been one or two trial balloons released on the subject of a means test for pensioners. You know how it is, there is a press release, usually from some unnamed source, just to see what the reaction is. In this case there was no response that I saw, so whoever sent up the first balloon will be encouraged to try another sometime. Perhaps that will be after the next federal election is safely over.

An argument of sorts can be made for a means test, you know. The Old Age Security Pension is paid to everyone who reaches the age of 65, no matter how rich they are. No doubt E.P. Taylor gets it, and so do many others to whom it could only be pocket money. Those people have too much money now; it seems ridiculous to pay them anything in the way of a government pension. But where do you draw the line? At \$25,000, \$15,000, \$10,000?

There are alternatives to a means test, of course. Perhaps the simplest and fairest way is to use the income tax form to tax back the whole pension from those who enjoy a high income. But pensioners' organizations should start thinking about the problem and be ready to propose some alternative when and if governments begin to get serious about a means test.

And it would be a good idea to do something about the present isolation of old-age pensioners. In every neighbourhood there is a great need for volunteers to perform all kinds of services, and seniors have a lot of spare time, more than anyone else. Already many pensioners are filling this need; you can see them doing volunteer work in hospitals, for instance. More seniors should become active in this way, not only for the satisfaction of being more useful in society, but also with the idea of forming links in their communities so that they will have allies who can assist them in the struggles that lie ahead. They are going to need them.

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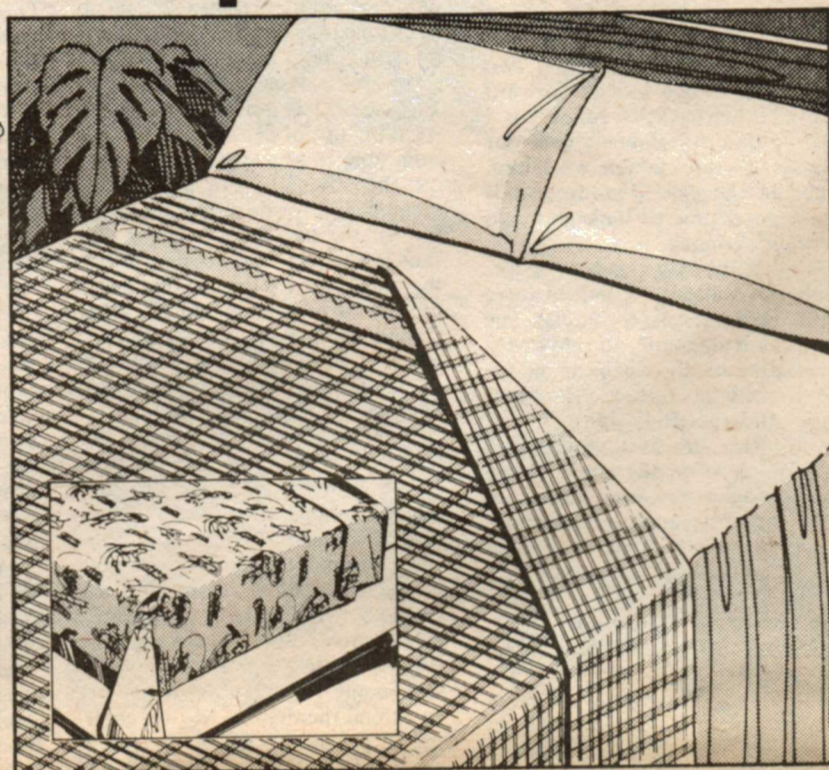
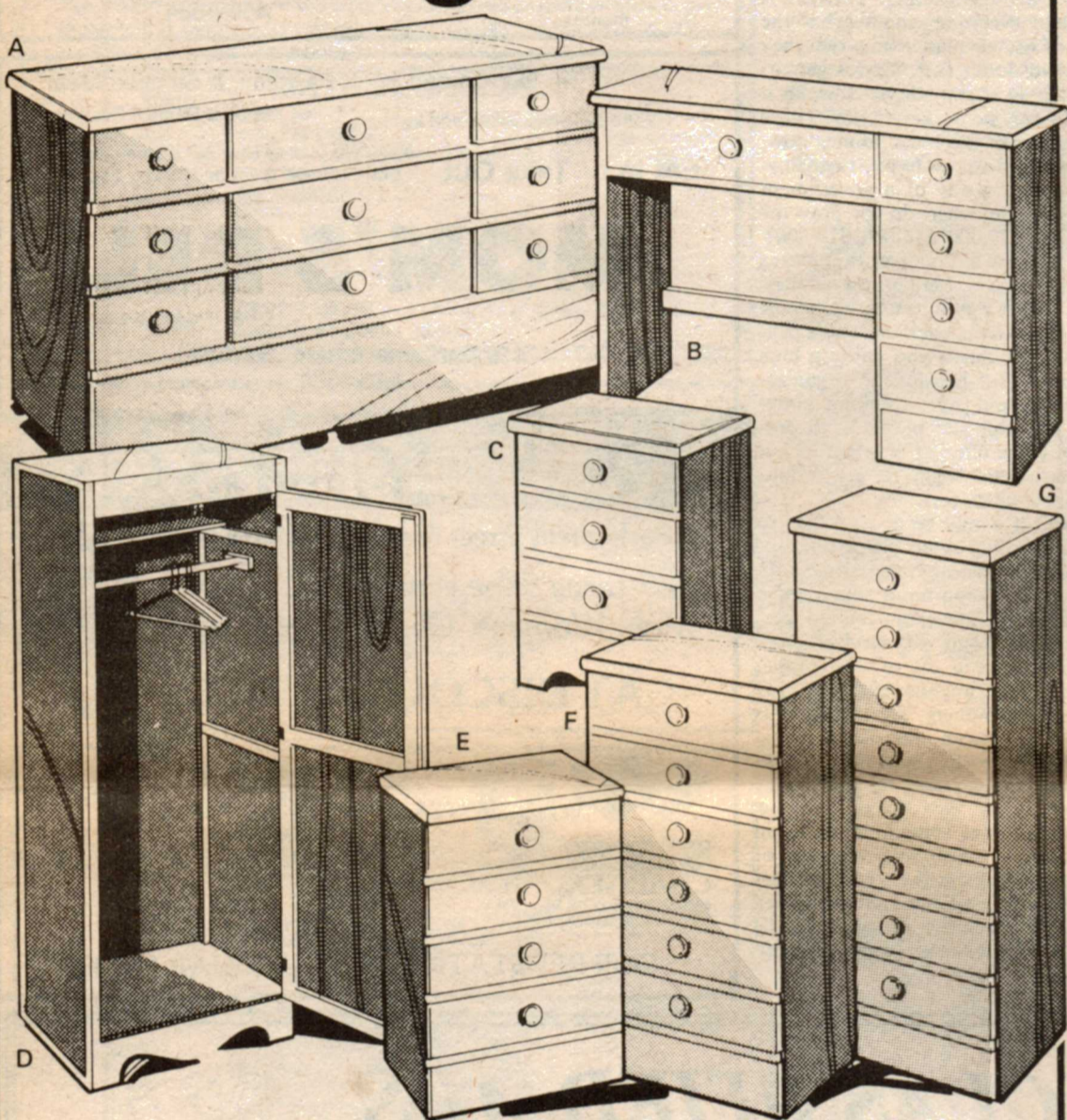
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