

May we suggest a New Year's Resolution?

By ULLI DIEMER

This is the time of year when many of us take stock of what we are doing and make resolutions for the new year.

If you are one of those whose thoughts are tending in that direction — or perhaps you wait until

Christmas is past — then we have a slightly impertinent request to make: that you consider giving a little of your time to helping 7 News, your community newspaper.

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP. We really are a community newspaper, always struggling to

survive, and always depending on a lot of community support. One of the most important forms that community support takes is people volunteering to help out with the hundreds of tasks that have to be done in the course of publishing a newspaper every two weeks.

We have some out-of-the-office work that needs to be done, like taking pictures, writing, and delivering papers door-to-door on your street or in your building, and we have many in-office tasks crying for attention as well.

We have been very fortunate recently with people helping out. One woman from up the street came in three mornings a week to help out with bookkeeping. She is now taking a Manpower course, and so we need help with bookkeeping again. Another woman comes down from Scarborough once a week and helps with editing and writing. Another, moved here from Edmonton three weeks ago, came to write and help with ads.

An accountant has started coming in regularly to oversee our finances and prepare financial statements for us. A blind man in St. Jamestown delivers papers in three high-rise buildings. Even a handful of people like these make a tremendous difference to us, and you could too. We aren't look-

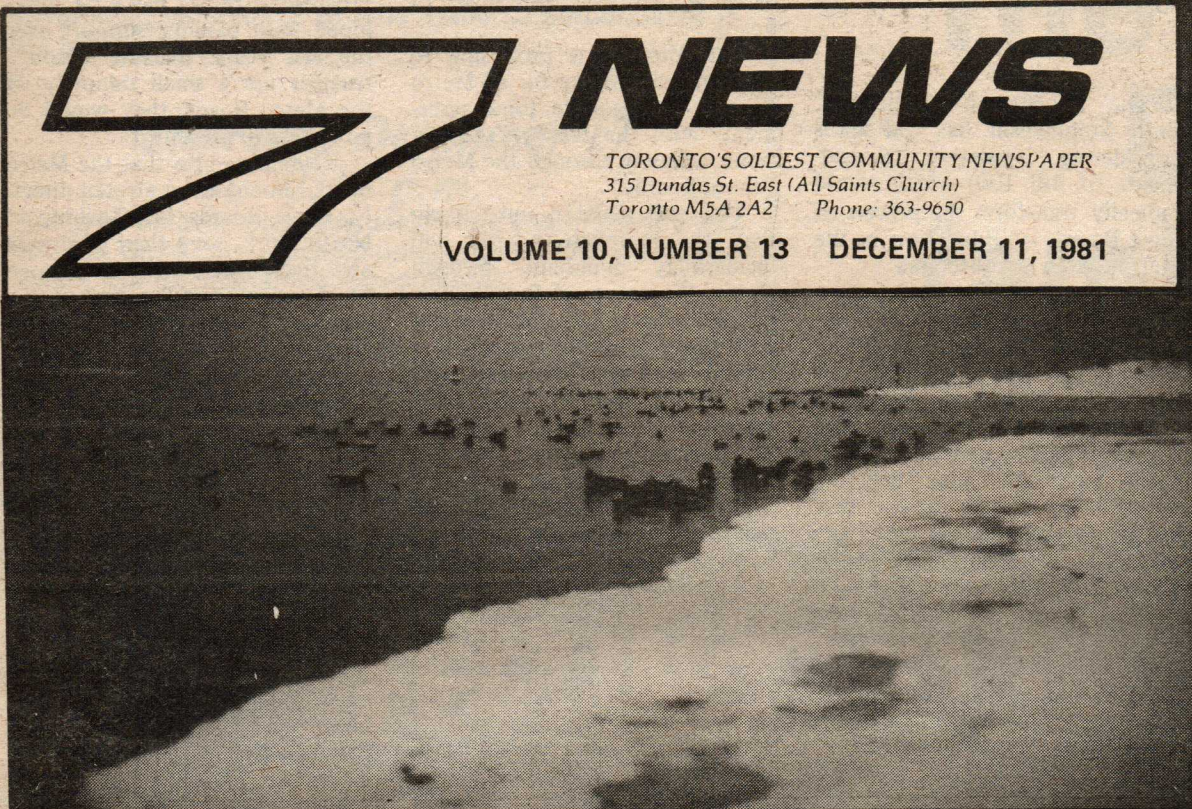
ing for a lot of time from you — something as little as half an hour every two weeks would help us if we could count on you to come in.

Things have been looking up recently at 7 News. We are being virtually flooded by people and groups bringing in articles they want published, and more advertisers than ever are discovering that their ads in 7 News bring them results. The result — naturally enough — is that we have more work than ever, and more need for help than ever.

We aren't the New York Times, but we are active, growing, and friendly. And we would be very happy to see you.

Come and help your community newspaper! Call us at 363-9650, or drop in at the office in All Saints' Church (but phone first — our office hours during the Christmas period will be a bit irregular, since we won't be publishing another issue after this one until January.)

And have a happy New Year!



Winter off Cherry Beach — The geese and ducks stay on throughout the winter. Photo by Ulli Diemer

7 NEWS

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
315 Dundas St. East (All Saints Church)
Toronto M5A 2A2 Phone: 363-9650

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Oak Street site

Co-op Housing chosen

By RHONDA SUSSMAN

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto has been chosen as the developer for a 2.3 acre plot of land owned by the Toronto Board of Education that has been vacant since 1969.

The land, located east of River St. and south of Gerrard St. in Ward 7, was expropriated by the Board in 1969 and 51 houses were demolished to make way for a school that had been proposed

in 1965. However, declining school enrolment made the school unnecessary and the land has been vacant since.

In 1977, the Oak Street Site Proposal Committee, composed of local residents and community workers plus Ward 7 alderpersons and trustees, met to come up with a proposal for the land. They issued a 17-page report which, after being submitted to community approval in a series of

public meetings, was given to the Board of Education. The committee recommended a combination of residential development with on-site commercial and retail facilities. The committee also recommended that community services such as a child-parent centre, health clinic and meeting space be included in any development of the site.

The housing plan proposed was a mixture of townhouses and

apartments, some to be subsidized.

This report was accepted by the Board and was opened to tenders from developers in August 1980. Developers were given 90 days to submit tenders, but none did.

Oak Street Site Proposal Committee chairperson Kari Dehli said it was possible that developers felt the site location was poor, that the land was too expensive (it was recently valued in excess of 1.5 million), and also that developers did not want to work with the community and the Board of Education on the site. She added that "it would be very expensive to do the kinds of things the community wants done."

The committee was then authorized by the Board to act as its agent in finding a developer. One of those approached was the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto, which expressed interest and was chosen by the Board.

Rich Tyssen of the Co-op Housing Federation said that the Federation's task is to come up with a plan for the site, and has appointed architect Bob Mutrie to work with all parties concerned on this proposal.

By January 1982, said Tyssen, they hope to have a proposal which will be open to community input in a series of public meetings.

Ontario Housing tenant activists are continuing their campaign against OHC's "empty nest" policy, which requires parents under 60 to vacate OHC housing when their children leave home or begin working full time.

However, their attempt to enlist the support of St. David MPP Margaret Scrivener hit a bit of a snag last month when they found that Scrivener didn't even know the problem exists.

"She has the most OHC tenants of any riding in Ontario and we had to educate her about the policy," said Morris Saldov, a director of the Metro OHC Tenants' Council. "She thought when kids left home, their parents were just transferred to smaller units."

They asked Scrivener to arrange a meeting with housing minister Claude Bennett, but Bennett has since said that he won't meet with the Tenants' Council.

According to Saldov, "more people than we thought are being affected" by the empty-nest policy.

He mentioned the example of one 57-year-old woman with poor English, who is unable to find a job, and yet is facing eviction from OHC. The woman, says Saldov, is talking about suicide. Another woman was given immediate two-month notice when her baby died of crib death. "This is a cruel policy," Saldov said.

The Tenants' Council is circulating a petition asking that parents be allowed to stay in the same unit for at least 3 to 6 months following the departure of their last child. They point out that children who leave home for the first time still need the opportunity to return home if the attempt fails. They also ask that after that, the parents be transferred to a smaller unit in OHC, rather than being evicted entirely.

Centre for moms and tots loses funding, closes

By BILL BALLARD

Finger paintings and paper pumpkins left over from Halloween decorate the walls of the River-Oak Parent-Child centre in the basement of Park Public School, 440 Shuter St. Toys are scattered everywhere.

Young moms play on the floor with the children. Others sip instant coffee and talk about what they are going to do when the centre is forced to close.

"What's going to happen to us moms?" asks Chris, a young mother who first started coming to the centre when her son, now six, was a toddler. "We are being put back in the position we were in before — no one to talk to and no place to go."

The drop-in centre for "moms and kids" is a victim of cutbacks, according to Kay Avery who works there. The centre's funding ran out November 30th and the Department of Social Services won't extend it because they see the centre as a demonstration project which has served its purpose.

"It's a crime really not to allow it to continue. I don't know where these people are going to go," Avery said.

Avery said the centre started more than four years ago as a child abuse centre, but now is a place for mothers to bring their children, chat and unwind over coffee. They can talk over what's going on in their lives with staff or other mothers and get help with any problems.

They work on a one-to-one basis

A public health nurse drops in regularly and there are two outreach workers who work on a "one to one" basis with isolated mothers.

Chris said the centre has been a help to her and other young mothers, many of them single parents. "It is lonely sitting in an apartment with no one to talk to. You sit in your own apartment thinking where am I going to go, what am I going to do. The centre gives us the push to keep on going."

She said if it hadn't been for the centre she might have abused her children. "At home you don't have time to get ahead. At the centre moms can share the responsibilities of looking after their kids, get advice and encouragement."

There are no other places in the area for young mothers to go, Chris said. It is the young mothers who have new children who will really feel the crunch.

The centre is not going down without a fight. It has tried to find new sources of funding. We need \$150,000 to run for a year, so far we have managed to round up about \$6,000 in corporate donations, Avery said.

The centre was located at River and Oak St. until last year when it was burnt out. It took them four weeks to find the present location and put a new centre together.

The centre has a core group of 50 families, most of them from Regent Park, Avery said.

The centre, open three days a week, is run by a volunteer board of directors and holds board meetings every two weeks.

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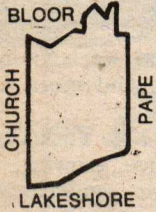
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Proposed legislation

Board of Ed's powers could be slashed

By **DAVID CLANDFIELD**
 Trustee, Ward 7
 (Prepared for E.A.S.T. meeting of October 26th.)

The Minister of Education, Bette Stephenson, has said she is considering legislation (amendments to Bill 100) which would radically transform the powers of local Boards of Education in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

At present, the various area Boards (Toronto, East York, York, North York, Scarborough, Etobicoke) may negotiate jointly, or separately, with their respective teachers' federations. Usually, the negotiations are conducted separately but at the same time (i.e. concurrently). This means that important differences occur from one board to another: e.g. the City of Toronto includes School Staffing Committees in its collective agreements (other Boards don't have them); the York board includes maximum class sizes in its collective agreements (other Boards don't). In these collective

agreements are included also the formulae for allocating teachers at the local board level. As most of us know, these vary from board to board.

The Minister is proposing to make it compulsory for all Metro Boards to negotiate joint agreements with the teachers' federations uniquely through the Metro School Board.

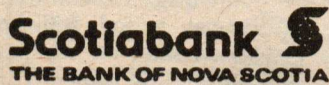
This will make it most likely that the borough boards will increasingly dominate, through Metro, the nature of these collective agreements. In other words, it is likely that such reforms as School Staffing Committees will be written out of subsequent agreements, and that the formulae for allocating teachers will be standardized according to priorities such as financial restraint rather than meeting children's needs in school.

It should also be recalled that the legislation in question permits "open-scope bargaining", which means that anything under the sun (as long as it is legal) can be put into a collective agreement. So the Metro Board could nego-

tiate clauses which would remove from the powers of the Toronto Board, for example, any of the progressive things we have developed with parents' support over the last years. Because Toronto trustees are a small minority of the Metro Board, they would be powerless to prevent it.

Remember also that the Metro School Board is not elected directly. Large Boards, like Toronto or North York, send their Chairman and five others, who are chosen by a majority of Trustees at the inaugural meeting in their term. There is no direct link of responsibility binding these trustees to their electorate.

The Trustees of the Toronto Board of Education are unanimously opposed to this move to centralize power without accountability. At our most recent Board meeting, all Trustees voted in favour of a letter by the Chairman expressing our opposition to this proposal. Should the amendments to the Bill 100 ever reach the floor of the Ontario Legislature, we hope that our constituents will join in the common effort to defeat it, or otherwise have it removed from consideration.



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News Round-up

Municipal Affairs Minister Claude Bennett has introduced a bill in the Legislature that would increase the terms of office of civic politicians from two-years to three years. Some civic politicians have said they welcome the move, feeling it gives more time to carry programs through. Others, however, fear that the longer term of office will make politicians less accountable. Three-year terms were in effect until 1972, when two-year terms were brought in.

Class Matters Most

Parents' occupation exerts a stronger influence on a student's choice of secondary school program than does race or ethnic background, according to a Toron-

to Board of Education survey of 7,065 Grade 9 students. Responses to a questionnaire circulated last fall indicated that the higher the parent's occupation in terms of prestige and earnings, the more likely a student is to be in levels 5 and 6 (the higher levels). The survey also found that females are more likely to be in levels 5 and 6, while students from single-parent families are less likely. Students who speak English and/or French as a mother tongue are more likely to be in advanced and enriched courses than those who don't. Copies of the report are available from the Board of Education's Information and Publications Department, 598-4931, ext. 420.

Shortage of wood supplies means MNR policy change

For most of Ontario's Crown land, "multiple-use" is supposed to be the watchword for forest managers. According to the glowing rhetoric from the foresters and industry representatives, multiple-use means that wildlife, fisheries, canoeing, boating, trapping, tourism and other such "secondary" features of the landscape can co-exist with logging or mining. However, a recent policy shift by the Ministry of Natural Resources confirms that the multiple-use philosophy, while always questionable, is now an empty shell, designed only to provide a convenient public relations front for the forest industry.

Half-a-million acres of northern Ontario are harvested each year,

mostly in large clearcuts. Traditionally, cutting plans specified "reserves" along roadsides, lake-shores, streams, and swamps, providing a buffer of at least a few hundred feet from the effects of

The new MNR policy declares that these protection reserves should not be considered "untouchable timber preserves". (In other words, they should be cut). On small lakes and most streams, reserves will be abolished altogether. Beside major highways or large lakes, the trees may be cut in blocks or patches over a few years, to aid in the regeneration of cut areas. However, it is clear from the tone of the policy that very few buffer strips will be left intact, and that even the minimal attempts of the past to encourage more than one use of an area under timber license have been abandoned.

Reserves protect the most important wildlife habitats in the boreal forest

logging. These reserves screen some of the aesthetic impact of clear-cutting from canoe routes or roadsides, and help to filter out eroded sediments which could damage the fisheries of adjacent streams. More importantly, reserves protect the most important wildlife habitats in the boreal forest, for it is at the edge of watercourses that most wildlife abound, whether mink or moose, weasel or wolf, beaver or bullfrog.

The reason given for this change in policy is the shortage of wood supplies, a direct result of poor harvesting practices and failure to regenerate cutover areas. The penalty for this past mismanagement should lie with the industry and the governments that produced it. Instead, through the cutting of protection reserves, it is the wildlife and the other users of the northern forest who will pay the price.

A better deal for Day Care

Coalition seeks funding

Day care supporters and activists are currently engaged in an intensive lobbying campaign to push for increased funding for day care.

The Day Care Coalition of Metropolitan Toronto, an umbrella organization formed last May by a number of organizations, including the Metro Labour Council, is seeking a better deal for day care, and has been lobbying all Metro MPP's this week and last to put their case.

The Coalition says that there are serious problems with day care,

including major gaps in service, lack of affordable quality spaces, and a "general frustration with the whole day care system".

The Coalition is working to achieve three short term, immediate measures:

- A direct grant of \$5 per day for every child in a non-profit day care centre;
- An immediate provision of 10,000 subsidized spaces to meet pressing provincial needs;

• A provincial government task force to investigate ways of making day care a universally accessible service to all children in Ontario.

The Coalition is looking for help from individuals, and other groups. It is asking people who support more day care to have their organization endorse the lobby, and have their organization join the Coalition.

If you want more information about the Coalition, you can reach them at 445-5819.

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Supermarket price war continues

We have now had several weeks of the great supermarket price war. It was launched one day without warning — no ultimatum or other communication — by Miracle-Mart with what seems to have been an unprovoked attack on the other food chains. How long the hostilities will last is anybody's guess, but there will probably not be any declaration of peace. It is most likely that the fighting will just die away, and if there is a peace treaty the terms will be secret. Prices will probably creep up again without, of course, any announcements.

It is interesting to recall that when Miracle Mart first announced the price cuts the other major chains declared that same day that they were matching the reductions right down the line, before they had a chance to learn the details. This suggests that all supermarkets enjoy a healthy margin of profit that allows them to make substantial price cuts on a large number of items and still make money, or else that they are able to quietly increase the markup on other products to compensate. Whichever it is, what is significant is that the big chains enjoy such control over the market that they can manipulate the price system at will. If they can so easily reduce prices, can they not also increase them as readily?

In the meantime shoppers are out there looking for the bargains, and they might as well take advantage of the situation while it lasts. They should also be on the alert to

Shoppers are out looking for bargains

notice when prices start up again, so they can let the store management know that they don't like it. When it comes to checking on prices there is nothing like having the sticker right on the article in your hand, and shoppers should take the trouble to let the store know how important those stickers are to them. Shelf cards are often hard to read, particularly for the elderly and handicapped, and they are no help when you are at the check-out station and wondering if the cashier is punching the right amount.

Price Stickers

There is another good reason for insisting on the importance of price stickers. The food chains are beginning to introduce electronic scanners into their stores. Once these machines are installed the current prices of the various items can be punched into the computer, where the scanners can match each price with the corresponding article as it identifies the object by its product label. Under this system the price stickers will be of no value to the store, and there will be a strong incentive to stop using them and save labour costs.

As an example of how the use of electronic scanners can save money for food chains, here is evidence from a report in the financial pages of the *Globe & Mail* of October 23rd, 1980. At that time the Canadian Federation of Canadian Grocers was meeting in this city and they were

addressed by the president of Shiloh Supermarket of Dayton, Ohio. He informed the conference that his company had been able to put its payroll from 9.4 percent of total gross sales to 8.2 percent after just one month's operations.

Scanning systems are very expensive. This conference was informed by the head of modernization for Dominion Stores that whereas a key entry system, in which the cashier punches each item into a cash register, costs \$20,000 to \$30,000, a scanning system is likely to cost \$200,000 or \$300,000, and is expensive to maintain. Obviously, when supermarkets lay out that amount of money they expect to get it back with interest. One of the ways to do that is to cut operating expenses, like price sticking.

At the present time there are only a few chain stores in the Toronto area that use electronic scanners and the nearest one to Ward Seven is Miracle Mart in Gerrard Square. These outlets are still pricing most items, and there is a reason for that. Last year a survey of Ontario consumers indicated that most of them wanted the stickers to stay, and the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations arrived at an agreement with the retail food industry, committing them to a prices-on policy. However, this agreement does not include such items as fresh produce and certain high volume items which have never been individually marked. It is in this area that shoppers will have to be

vigilant, not only to see that the chains keep to their present practice, but also that the chains keep to their present practice, but also to put pressure upon them to put prices upon articles that do not carry them now. For instance, cartons of milk and eggs are unmarked, although the prices of these items are remarkably constant.

Some months ago I had occasion to telephone the head office Dominion Stores to inquire about their pricing policy. When I mentioned to their representative how important price stickers were to shoppers he replied emphatically:

"Those prices are coming off." This response impelled me to answer him, just as emphatically: "Not if we have anything to say about it."

Last spring I wrote to Margaret Scrivener, M. P. P. for St. David, about this matter of pricing and this action produced a letter from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations addressed to Mrs. Scrivener and passed on to me.

Here is an excerpt from that communication: "... consumers can play an important role by demanding that mistakes and omissions be corrected by the store manager and drawing these to the attention of this Ministry."

So we had better have something to say about it.

Pathways College is all set for 1982

By FRED MANSON
Principal, Pathways College

Steady growth in enrolment, emphasis on quality education in a range of fifteen subjects, improved learning facilities and expansion in classroom space are the highlights of Margaret Pollard's year-end report at Pathways College.

As Dean of Student and Community Resources, Miss Pollard noted that many parents and students have found the college location on Parliament at Wellesley a convenience in their own neighbourhood with close proximity to libraries and central, downtown student facilities. She praised the increasing number of students who participate in career counselling sessions, the weekly sports and fitness program, and field trips to points of interest in and out of the city. Students' activities help to enrich the curriculum and their lives. They are encouraged to take advantage of the many cultural and recreational opportunities in Metropolitan Toronto.

Entering its third year of academic operations as a private alternative school at the secondary level, Pathways is inspected regularly by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Professionally skilled, qualified and concerned teachers guide students in small classes (four to fifteen students) from basic principles in the curriculum to the most advanced topics. English is recognized as the most important subject in one's education, particularly if one wishes to pursue post-secondary training. The school has graduated some fifty students with the Grade 13 diploma.

Students from more than a dozen countries have been attracted to this small college that offers a friendly learning environment. The program of studies for the Spring semester was announced this week. New classes begin January 11.

Students are invited to register for full-time or part-time studies to complete course credits for Grades 11, 12, and 13. The school invites inquiries and free academic counselling at 967-4668.

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The State has no business in the bedrooms of the nation.

In 1969 Parliament acted upon the principle that "the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation." The Criminal Code was amended to decriminalize sexual acts between consenting adults in private.

In 1981 the clear intent of Parliament is being flagrantly disregarded. Police are violating individual privacy by raiding homes, bars, baths and private clubs. Massive raids, justified as enforcement of the bawdy house laws, have led to the arrest of nearly 400 gay men in Toronto and hundreds of other people in Montreal, Ottawa, Edmonton, Hamilton-Wentworth and other cities.

According to the Criminal Code, Section 179(1), a common bawdy house is any "place that is kept, or occupied, or resorted to by one or more persons for the purpose of prostitution or the practice of acts of indecency." Anyone who is found in, an inmate of, or a keeper of such a place is guilty of a criminal offence.

This vague and archaic law threatens the right to privacy of all Canadians. It allows police to portray sexual acts in private as indecent and makes every home a potential bawdy house. It has led to open abuse against sexual minorities and criminalizes private sexual activity between consenting adults.

To end the renewed harassment of gay men and lesbians and to reaffirm its intent to protect the right to privacy of all consenting adults, we urge Parliament to repeal the bawdy house provisions as part of its present reform of the Criminal Code.

This advertisement was paid for by the signatories and placed by the **Right To Privacy Committee** (Toronto) with help from gay and progressive organizations across Canada. Affiliations are given for the purpose of identification only. If you wish to help with the costs of the legal defence, donations can be sent to: (Toronto) Harriet Sachs in trust for RTPC, 730 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2R4. (Edmonton) Privacy Defence Committee of Edmonton, Box 1852, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2P2. (Montréal) Comité de soutien aux accusés de Truux, a/s 1217 rue Crescent, Montréal, Québec, H3G 2B1.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

● **Actor's Lab** presentation of **MOMO** has been held over. There will be an 8.30 performance tonight, \$7.50 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. MOMO is the story of French playwright and poet Antonin Artaud's internment at the Rodez insane asylum, written by Micheal Macina and Richard Neioczym. For more information contact Stephen Dale at 363-2853.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

● Santa's little elves will spend the day making decorations for the **Christmas tree at Harbourfront's York Quay Centre** between 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Free.

● A special programme of Christmas music performed by Toronto's renowned chamber music ensemble **Camerata** with guest pianist John York at 8 p.m. \$7 at the York Quay Centre.

● The Toronto-Central Branch of the **Canadian Red Cross Society** will be holding a **first aid course** today and tomorrow between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The cost will be \$30 at 460 Jarvis St. For more information call 923-6692.

● This is the last night to see **Actor's Lab's** production of **MOMO**. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. For further information call Stephen Dale at 363-2853.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

● Every Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., the **Free Times Cafe** will serve brunch and several specials while local poets read for 15 minutes each hour. For more information on the Reading Services, phone Jim Smith at 925-6854. For further inquiries and reservations phone the Free Times Cafe at 967-1078. Located at 320 College St., 2 blocks west of Spadina.

● **Christmas shoppers** revel in the wide selection of wonderful, timeless gifts at **Harbourfront's Antique Market**. Free from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 222 Queen's Quay West.

● The Toronto Field Naturalists are sponsoring an outing to look at birds on the Leslie Street Spit. Meet at 10 a.m. at the foot of Leslie Street and dress warmly.

● **The Magic Toy:** Antique toy trains and boats, dolls and doll houses, early and rare mechanical tin toys, toy soldiers and a special display of teddy bears all from private collections at the exhibition guaranteed to bring out the child in everyone. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 50¢ per person, \$1.50 per family at the York Quay Centre.

● **Simpson Ave. United Church** will be holding a **Christmas Fest** tonight at 6:00. The ticket price of \$8 will include a full course turkey dinner and a concert to follow. For reservations call 466-4752 or 463-5885.

● The **Toronto Elizabeth Fry Society** is holding its annual **holiday party** for clients, former clients and their families. The party will be at the Agency's half-way house residence and will be complete with Santa Clause, presents and entertainment for the children.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

● **Rendezvous for Seniors:** Seniors swing their partners at square dancing sessions from 10:30 a.m. to noon (intermediates) and 1:30 to 3 p.m. (Beginners). From noon to 12:30 p.m. there is round dancing for everyone. Supported by New Horizons. York Quay Centre.

● The **Toronto Public Library** will open a special collection of materials for the disabled in honour of the **International Year of the Disabled Persons**. The official opening will be held between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. at Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Library. The collection is a joint project of the library and the Canadian Paraplegic Association, made possible through a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

● The **School of the Toronto Dance Theatre** will introduce a day care program for children 4 years and older at the studios of the Toronto Dance Theatre, 80 Winchester St., from December 14-18, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Featured events will be arts and crafts, music and children's shows. \$2.75 per hr., \$10 per day or \$48 per wk. For information call 967-6887.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

● **Frankland Community Centre**, 816 Logan Avenue, invites you to its **"Christmas Delight Special"** being held tonight between 7:30 and 9:00. There will be an entertain-

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

● The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will hold a **Blood Donor Clinic** today at Wellesley Hospital, at 160 Wellesley St. E. between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. For further information call 923-6692.

● **Sprucecourt School**, 70 Spruce St., will hold its annual Christmas concert today at 7:30 p.m. Beside skits and songs of students, there will be a visit by St. Peter's Choir School under the direction of Eric Hanbury.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

● The **Christian Resource Centre** is having a Christmas party at 7:30 at 40 Oak St. Friends of the CRC and people in the community are invited.

● **Film evening** at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre, 7:30 p.m., 126 Pape Ave., Toronto.

Bottle Babies: A potent film dealing with baby food in the third world and its consequences. Looks at the vicious cycle of malnutrition and disease caused by Western style bottle feeding replacing mother's breast milk. Exposes the hard sell advertising techniques of multinational corporations in the food industry. A discussion of what is happening about these issues in Toronto will follow the film.

● The **Toronto-Central Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society** will be holding a **first aid course** today and tomorrow between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The cost will be \$30 at 460 Jarvis. For more information call 923-6692.

● Members of the **Canadian Opera Company Ensemble** launch an intriguing three-part series **Opera Showcase** today at Harbourfront. Enjoy complimentary refreshments as host Stuart Hamilton leads an informal exploration of Strauss' operetta **Die Fledermaus** (the full production opens Jan. 15 at the O'Keefe Centre). Don't expect ornate costumes or sets at this Showcase. Instead, the historical, cultural, literary and musical contexts of the operetta will be discussed, complemented with live performances of highlights. Showcase begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and students. A Showcase subscription of \$13 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors is available for all three presentations at the York Quay Centre.

● **Night Vision**, a poetry reading and film, with poets Lillian Allen and himmani Banerji, Marlene Philip, Krisantha Sri Bhaggiyadatta. The movie is **Dread, Beat, 'm Blood**, which is about Linton Kwesi Johnson. At the Trojan Horse Cafe, 179 Danforth Ave., at 7:30 p.m. For daycare call 461-9857.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

● The **School of the Toronto Dance Theatre** cordially invites the public to attend its first annual **Christmas Dance** tonight from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The party will be held at the studios of the Toronto Dance Theatre, 80 Winchester St. The evening will feature dancing, music, entertainment, surprises, cash bar, and lots of Christmas cheer. Admission \$4.00 For information call Christel Wallin 967-6887.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

● The **Axle-Tree coffeehouse** at the Church of the Holy Trinity, behind the Eaton Centre, presents an evening of **poetry and music**. Open sets and refreshments. Featured will be Toronto poets Carolyn Smart and Shaunt Basmajian and Montreal singer/guitarist Noah Zacharin. For more information call 222-4690.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

● The **School of the Toronto Dance Theatre** will introduce a **day care program** for children 4 years and older at its studios at 80 Winchester St., today until December 23 from noon to 6 p.m. Featured events will be arts and crafts, music and a Christmas party led by teachers and dancers from the School on Wednesday. Reservations have to be made in advance. \$2.75/hr., \$14/day or \$40 for 3 days.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

● There will be a **Mariposa Winter Solstice Party** today at Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, 106 Trinity Street. A holiday get-together for members, friends, and revellers all. Songs and folklore for yuletide and the dark of the year by Caroline and David Parry. Family dancing led by Kathy Reid with the Toronto Country Dance Band. Potluck supper; cash bar; surprises. Members \$2, other folk \$3. For reservations call 363-4698.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

● **Smoking Withdrawal Clinic** - sponsored by the York-Toronto Lung Association at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre. The clinic will be held Monday evenings at 7:30 for six weeks. Cost is \$25.00. For more information or to register, call the Lung Association at 226-1454.

ONGOING

● The **National Tap Dance Company of Canada** presents the world premiere of **"Oliver Button is a Sissy"**. It begins at 8 p.m. at the St. Lawrence Centre. Adults \$6, \$8, \$10, Children \$4, \$5, \$6. The show continues from December 17 through to December 30.

● **Frankland Community Centre** will be offering a **Holiday Program** for children beginning December 23 to January 3. This features Christmas Crafts, Santa's Sock Hop, a Winter Hayride and a Skating Party to City Hall.

● In **Tom Stoppard's Night and Day**, the only thing black and white is that which is "read" all over. A newspaper. The rest has as many shades and subtleties as the Kent Report. A beautiful, bored woman, played by Fiona Reid, preys on three news-hungry journalists entangled in their own web of fact and fiction in a small, revolution-racked African nation. **Toronto Free Theatre's** production of **Night and Day** previews from January 7 and opens January 13. Tickets range from \$6.50 to \$9 with discounts for seniors and students and group bookings. Advance reservations are now being accepted at Toronto Free Theatre's box office 368-2856.

● **Cribbage Tournament** players, Moss Park Senior Citizens, starting the second Friday after New Year's at 6:30 p.m. at 285 Penthouse. Anyone interested in crib-

bage or darts please contact Ruth McGuin at 868-0866. General meeting to be held second Wednesday after New Years to pick executive.

● For all older adults and live-aloners there is still room for you at the **weekly meals program**. A hot meal is served at 5 p.m. each Wednesday in the 200 Rec Room and at 12 noon each Friday in the 325 Rec Room. Any older or live-alone St. Jamestown OHC tenant is welcome. The cost is \$1.50 per meal. If you wish to attend call the "Y" office at 923-4402. Cups and beverages are provided, but it is requested that you supply your own plates, knife, fork and spoon. In order to keep the costs down we have to know how many to expect for each meal so please advise the "Y" office no later than Tuesday noon for the Wednesday meal and Thursday noon for the Friday Meal.

● **Neighbourhood Information Post's** volunteers will be selling **fresh holly** door to door, to raise funds for the community centre at 265 Gerrard St. E. The holly will be sold in bags for \$2 each, with each bag containing instructions on how to keep the holly fresh. The volunteers will be canvassing the east downtown core of Metro, where NIP is located, to December 18th. Holly will also be on sale at NIP's office in Library House next door to the Parliament Library until then. For further information please call the Neighbourhood Information Post at 924-2543.

Seven News gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of Lever Detergents Ltd. in bringing you this issue's Community Calendar.

DATE OF EVENT
 DETAILS OF EVENT (include time, place, & what the event is, in 2-3 sentences)

Master planning axed

By RON REID

Did you know that Ontario provincial parks cover an area almost as large as Scotland? While much of that area is in the far north, the management of such a land base, and of the ten million visitors to Ontario parks every year, is a complex process. A few weeks ago, the heart of that process was scrapped, with the decision that all work on park master planning will be stopped.

Don't expect an official announcement on this major change in direction. The decision to terminate parks planning was made internally in the Ministry of Natural Resources, without any kind of public or even Ministerial review, and the officials involved are unlikely to advertise their unpopular stance. In fact, the axing of the master plan program became public only when an internal memo from Bill Foster, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, somehow found its way into the hands of conservation groups.

Preparation of master plans to protect fragile natural areas and wildlife and to guide recreational development in all 131 Ontario

parks had long been a priority of the Ministry. As recently as last October, the Minister publicly committed to complete master planning by 1983. But now with only 29 master plans approved and 36 more in various stages of preparation, Bill Foster's internal decree will contradict his Minister's promise.

Foster's rationale was reportedly to free up funds for hard-pressed operating and maintenance budgets, but so far there is no evidence to suggest that park managers will see extra money. Instead, the park planning staff have been instructed to work on other planning duties.

Without master planning, we can expect to see the level of conflict over the use of parks escalate. We can expect more blunders, such as the building of a park road over rare plants in Ipperwash, or the bulldozing of the sand dunes in the Pinery. And we can expect a slow-down in development of new picnic areas and campsites because the necessary plans are not available. By cancelling the master planning program, Mr. Foster has done a disservice to anyone in Ontario who cares about the outdoors.

4-U Temporary Help Centre there to help

When you are down and out, busted flat and looking for work it's nice to know the 4-U Temporary Help Centre is there to help you. The centre located in a sandblasted building at 244 Gerrard Street East is a far cry from the other temporary help agencies in the area. Inside it looks more like a lawyers office with its grey carpet and efficient office furniture than it does the other agencies with their overflowing ashtrays and seedy decor.

And unlike the other agencies 4-U is non profit and has worker representation. It is managed by a volunteer board of directors elected yearly by the membership of the centre. Currently there are three workers on the board.

The centre was started in 1972.

There are only two other centres like it in Canada, Rittich says, one in Vancouver and one in Winnipeg, and she is not sure if the one in Winnipeg is still operating.

Rittich says the centre began as a response to the debilitating "exploitive" aspects of the temporary job scene which feeds off of the street people in the Toronto downtown core.

Lack Skills

Many of these people lack job skills and don't know how to go about looking for a job, she says. "My feeling is a lot of them come from smaller towns. They come to Toronto looking for work and end up in the downtown core."

Most of them are turned off Canada Manpower Centres. If

they go at all they go to check the board, she says.

And, she adds, "When you live in a hostel it's hard to be well turned out."

Most of these people would prefer full time jobs but are forced to take whatever they can find. "When you are hard up for a job you take anything you can get," she says.

Unlike other agencies in the area which take advantage of this, 4-U encourages employers to hire workers full time, Rittich says. She says the other agencies don't like to do that because they lose a good worker who they are making money from and may also lose an employer contract.

Most of these contracts stipulating an employer, must wait

between 30 to 60 days before hiring a worker full time, she says. "We say feel free to hire a worker at any time."

The 4-U Centre is technically the worker's employer. This means if a worker works for 20 weeks he is eligible for unemployment benefits, Rittich says. 4-U also pays Workmens Compensation, issues separation papers and gives references.

Weekly Basis

The centre pays vacation pay on a weekly basis instead of once a year as required by law. That way the worker is much likelier to collect it, Rittich says. The centre pays workers weekly but issues a daily advance of \$2.00 an hour for each hour worked if the worker

needs it.

They will also advance a worker enough to "buy lunch and a couple of packs of smokes," before he goes to a job, if he really needs it.

The centre caters mostly to men because most of the jobs are heavy labor. But women are free to use the centre if they want to, Rittich says. Students or people who prefer the freedom of temporary work are also invited to come in. Jobs are available from 6:00 am on and are given out on a first come first serve basis, she says.

Rittich says the centre has been a success. To date it has employed 7,200 workers. It has also helped more than 1000 people find full time jobs.

Rent control issue raises lively debate

By HOWARD HUGGETT

Anyone who has attended the panel discussions at the St. Lawrence Centre knows that these meetings are almost always lively and interesting. The panelists are articulate and well informed, the topics timely and the audiences responsive. When question time comes there are plenty of people on the floor who can speak for five minutes and the moderator has to be good to silence the orators, extract the questions, and close the meeting at the required hour of ten. Let's put it this way, it's never dull.

On Wednesday, November 25, the subject was RENT CONTROL: YES OR NO? The panelists were Diana Hunt, a lawyer for Parkdale Community Legal Services, Dale Martin, Economist and Consultant to the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, Jan Schwartz, President of Multiple Standards Association, and Ed. Sorbara, President of the Urban Development Institute. As you can see, two for the tenants and two for the other side.

It was about the liveliest meeting I have attended for a long time. Before the four speakers had given their first talk the interruptions from the floor began and they continued throughout the evening. Until question time came nobody bothered with the microphones, they just shouted. What made this performance so dramatic was the composition of the audience. Although the majority of them by their applause were supporting the cause of tenants there was quite a scattering of people who were pro-landlord. It was this latter group that was the most vocal; they spoke if their problems with tenants and rental boards, and they were angry, very angry. Of course the two panelists who took the side of

the property owners welcomed these remarks and made full use of them for their own purposes, but it was quite evident that these emotional remarks from the floor came from owners of small properties. Representatives of Bramalea or Cadillac Fairview they certainly were not, and they would not have the legal assistance, the finances or the influence that the big companies enjoy. I have no doubt that at least some of them were not getting a fair deal; they were caught in the middle of the main struggle between the tenants on the one side and the big developers and their friends in government on the other.

What was important about the presence of these landlords at the gathering was the fact that they dramatized the conflict that occurs over this question. As with so many other problems in our society, rent control has to do with the struggle between human rights and property rights. However, instead of a battle between ordinary tenants and large and powerful, but faceless companies, the drama on the floor featured average human beings on both sides.

In spite of the boisterous nature of this meeting, it was a very useful and informative one. There was not much disagreement between the two sides as to the facts of the housing situation, the arguments arose because of two different approaches to the problem. For instance, Diana Hunt and Dale Martin repeatedly made

the point that with a vacancy rate of three-tenths of one percent (three apartments out of one thousand), tenants were in no position to shop around for cheaper rent. The two spokesmen for the landlords did not challenge that figure, but when a tenant complained of having to pay a high rental to a landlord who was still operating on a low mortgage rate of 6½%, Ed Sorbara admitted that he was getting a raw deal and advised him to move!

When both Hunt and Martin stated that private enterprise could not provide affordable housing, that government subsidized and co-operative housing was needed, the other two panelists insisted that private capital could do the job. However, Mr. Sorbara declared at another time that under present conditions a developer could not, without government assistance, build apartments and make a suitable profit unless he charged rents of \$900-\$1,000 per month. That is certainly not affordable housing. After the meeting I checked with Mr. Sorbara to make sure of the figure, and he confirmed it. His comment was: It's not our problem, it's the government's problem." My com-

ment would be that it is everybody's problem.

Another statistic that was supplied by the representatives of the tenants was that only 5% of landlords take their case before the rental boards. That was not challenged by the other side, although it certainly indicates that most landlords are doing alright. A figure that was questioned from the floor was given out by Ed Sorbara, who stated that the average percentage of income spent upon rent was 17%. During the question period an old age pensioner stood up and wanted to know where she could get accommodation at 17% of her income. She told us that at

present she was paying over 30%. I wonder how many tenants in Ward Seven who are renting from private owners are paying only 17% of their income?

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CHRISTMAS WEEK
Sunday, December 20
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Service of carols and nine lessons
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Thursday, December 24
11:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Sung Communion
with St. Peter's Choir School

Friday, December 25
10 a.m.
Read Communion



Organizing for action on the housing crisis

By MORRIS SALDOV

On November 7th and 21st, housing activists from the Metro Toronto OHC Tenants' Council, the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations, Cityhome tenants organizations, the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto, the Labour Council Development Foundation, as well as individual tenants and tenant organizations, organized by Ward 7 Alderman David Reville's office and the People's Housing Coalition passed several important resolutions aimed at easing the housing crisis for low to moderate income renters in Toronto. These resolutions were passed by more than 400 people and are to be

brought to the attention of City Council and other levels of government for their information and action.

As the demand for affordable rental housing increases and the supply decreases, both public and private housing tenants under a Conservative majority government are having their rights to continuous and affordable housing taken away from them. Landlords under a rent control program which allows them generous exemptions from rent controls, are able to increase rents well beyond the 6% level. Publicly, OHC is getting tough through its security guards, managers, and community Relations Workers, intimidating tenants by telling them that there are plenty more tenants on the waiting list who want their units.

The People's Housing Coalition is now being formed to see that Government acts on the housing crisis. Your help is needed to keep the momentum going. Here is what to do.

1. If you are with an agency or tenants' organization and wish to be represented in the Coalition contact me at 654-9345 or write People's Housing Coalition c/o P.O. Box 54, Station F, Toronto, M4Y 2L4.

2. If you or your agency is able to donate time, money, office space and office furnishings also contact me.

3. Any further ideas on the development of the Coalition are welcome.

FURTHER NEWS ITEMS

A Steering Committee on Homelessness and Youth has been formed. Anyone or any agency serving youth having information on the numbers and conditions of young people who are homeless in your area should get in touch with the Inner City Youth Project at 598-8116.

Having legal problems with your landlord? Get in touch with Neighbourhood Legal Services at 961-2625, or, drop in at 238 Carlton St., at Parliament. N.I.S. is a free and independent community legal clinic for lower income households.

Are you an Empty Nester in OHC (Metro Housing)? If you are under 60, not disabled, nor retarded, and without financially dependent children, or your children will soon be leaving home, get in touch with the Metro OHC Tenants Council at 654-0345. This may be your last chance to save your housing.

On November 26th, the Metro Social Services and Housing Committee, led by Alderman Gordon Cressy, voted to increase All Saints Church's budget to allow them to remain open 7 nights a week to accommodate the homeless.

Morris Saldov is a Director of the OHC Tenants' Council and of the People's Housing Coalition.



**"Merry Christmas"
and
"Happy New Year"**
Shirley & David Crombie

Avoid Turkey Foot this Christmas

A hospital in a small community in southeastern Ontario reports that every Thanksgiving and Christmas they have at least two or three people come into emergency with foot injuries. What they've done is drop a slippery, frozen turkey.

Bob Graves, of St. John Ambulance, tells that story to indicate that it's worth using some caution in the kitchen because it can be dangerous place. And it is worth knowing what to do if an accident does happen.

Graves points out that all the long standing kitchen hazards are there, and they now combine with some new ones, that can make a busy kitchen a menace, especially

when hungry people and animals get underfoot at meal times.

For instance, food processors have motors strong enough and blades sharp enough to zap chunks of food into shreds in seconds. Right? Used incautiously, they will do as much for fingers. Read the directions before you use one for the first time.

And take a St. John Ambulance safety oriented first aid course, you can use it anywhere. For information, contact the St. John Ambulance Branch listed in your phone book, or the provincial office at 46 Wellesley St. East, Toronto, M4Y 1G5



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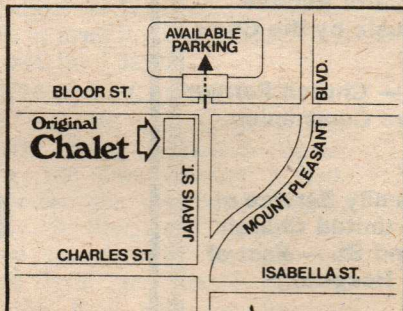
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Marty's Cabbagetown Experience

It's nothing ordinary

By JOHN CLEMENT

A visit to Marty's Cabbagetown Extension is a unique and pleasing experience. Driving north on Broadview between Queen and Dundas Streets, this tiny, slow-food paradise risks going unnoticed, overshadowed by clustering buildings.

Marty's menu includes quality burgers which are certainly worth the extra cost over the ubiquitous MacDonalds assembly-line productions. And his regular customers seem to appreciate this. As proof, Marty is proud to boast that he now welcomes several dozens of established patrons each week. Obviously there is something that draws people to Marty's Cabbagetown Extension on a regular basis, and since there are no alcoholic beverages on the premises, it must be the food, friendly atmosphere, and perhaps the 50's decor.

From the street, Marty's Cabbagetown Extension could easily be written off as nothing more than another "greasy spoon". Don't be fooled. A clue as to what to expect inside is hanging in the

window — a nostalgic school photo of an eight-year-old Marty, freckled and grinning, and minus a front tooth. It's like a welcome mat; an open invitation to everyone.

Marty's is small. There are only seven stools at the counter, behind which Marty calmly performs in his compact, open kitchen. But one gets the impression that Marty's Cabbagetown Extension is intimate rather than under-sized.

Converses Freely

As giant cheeseburgers sizzle on the grill, Marty pours fresh coffee, serves teas, Perrier, and concocts a peach yogourt shake. All the while he converses freely, as though he were preparing dinner for his friends.

I leave my stool to make a few selections on the space-age AMI jukebox which sits in a corner, always playing. Exactly twenty-five years old, the machine works beautifully, and is stocked with a wide assortment of records. It is

one of the few bargains left in the world today. It's free.

"When I opened Marty's Cabbagetown Extension," he continues, "I started out with the idea of opening a crazy little place which would become a hangout, serving mediocre food."

There is nothing ordinary about Marty's fare anymore. His hamburgers are pure beef with only spices added, and no filler. According to Marty, "My burgers caught on with the public, but my chile is a very close second."

Other available items include: various types of tea, shakes, malts, floats, juices, soft drinks, hot chocolate, home-baked desserts, and eggnog. Like the burgers and chile, the eggnog is a specialty, and is one of Marty's inventions. He actually calls it an "orange-nog".

(Marty's Cabbagetown Extension — 231 Broadview Avenue, 463-1645. Winter hours: Closed Tuesdays. Open from 7:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m. other days except Sunday, when the lights go out at 2:00 a.m.)

Sher-E-Punjab an old favourite

By PHYLLIS JENSEN

The Sher-E-Punjab on the Danforth near Hampton is an old favorite of mine. Two of us trooped over there the other night for our regular hit-of-curry. Before the meal was brought we were given a small dish of melon pieces and apple dusted with a mild curry powder to whet our appetites. We started with an order of Pakora which consists of slices of onion and green vegetables dipped in a batter and deep fried. It comes with a saucer of hot sauce to dip the crunchy pieces. My friend always orders the Pork Vindaloo not so much out of habit but because it is so good that the

desire to try something else is not there. It is bite sized pieces of pork cooked in a very hot tomato and curry mixture with chillies floating in top. It is just too hot for me but my friend finds it perfect and usually orders a dish of yogurt to cool the mouth in case it is too much for her. I safely chose the chicken curry which was cooked in a thick tomato sauce that is delicious by the spoonful. We shared a dish of Saag, a puree of spinach and broccoli with a hint of curry and a bowl of mixed vegetables. It contained pieces of green pepper, eggplant and potatoes in a piquant sauce. The meat dishes were accompanied by our choices

of chapati, a type of pancake bread made from wheat flour and cooked on top of the stove and a bowl of fluffy rice cooked with spices. There are a number of delicious extras to select, such as chutney sauce which for some people is a real must with curry.

To drink there is a small list of wine and beer. The dry white is Colli-albani and the dry red is Szekszardi for \$2.00 a glass. Domestic beer is \$1.20. There are other things to drink such as mango shakes and lassi, a yogurt mixture as well as tea and coffee.

Like the appetizer, there is a free dessert of rice pudding, a smooth mixture flavoured with coriander. The total bill for food was \$16.00 for the two of us but slightly higher with the glasses of wine.

On an earlier visit to the Sher-E-Punjab a friend of mine who has spent time in India and Nepal claimed that the food here was as good, if not better than anything he ever had in India. That is primarily because the cook is excellent. To maintain such a high quality given the quantity that is produced is sheer talent.

City forces developer to stick to agreement

The City has succeeded in forcing a developer to stick to an agreement to provide subsidized units in a building at 27 Wellesley St. East.

The developer, Quotone Investments Ltd., received permission to put up the building only on condition that 12 of the 62 units in the building be set aside for subsidized, low-income units. Once the building was up, however, the developer tried to back out of the agreement, and for a year succeeded in holding up implementation while collecting full market rents on all the units.

A city negotiating committee, backed by a City Council decision to evict everyone in the building if necessary, finally got Quotone to agree to lower rents by \$200 a month on 12 units in the building.

According to Ward 7 Alderman Gordon Cressy, who took part in the negotiations, the agreement "sets a major precedent" for the city in its drive to provide affordable housing in the downtown core. "The message to developers is that we're willing to play tough with them to make them live up to their promises," said Cressy.

Children's Aid changes teen policy

The Metro Children's Aid Society is adopting a new policy on taking teenagers into its care, designed to reduce the circumstances under which it takes custody of teenagers.

The new policy comes out of a recognition, says the C.A.S., "that admitting youngsters in this age group (13-15) into care, except in the most critical cases, is not usually an effective way of dealing with their problems."

At the same time the C.A.S. stresses that all children referred to it will continue to receive some form of help from the agency, including counselling, alternate care programs, and other alternatives to admission to its direct care.

"We are proposing to institute the new policy because we've found over the years that, except in cases of obvious danger to the child it is better to work with the

teenager and family in other ways than admitting to care," says Doug Barr, the former Ward 7 school trustee who is now Executive Director of Metro C.A.S.

In recent years, the number of 13 to 15-year olds coming to the attention of child welfare agencies has risen dramatically in Metro Toronto. In 1980 teen admissions constituted 32 percent of the total admissions to care of Metro C.A.S.

In future, however, teens will only be taken into custody under stricter criteria: sexual abuse/incest; physical abuse; abandonment; orphaned without parental substitute; parent refusing treatment for teen; mental health problems; and found delinquent by a court.

Action Volunteers for animals

ACTION VOLUNTEERS for ANIMALS (AVA for short) held its annual Bazaar in October at the Church Street Community Centre. We want all of our Ward 7 friends to know that we did even better than last year, and that was a biggie too! This year we topped

the six thousand dollar mark! All for the welfare of animals.

We thank old and new friends for their contributions, donations and help.

If you wish to help in our animal work, call 461-1636 or drop us a line at 338 Jarvis.

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That's it for 1981, folks. The next issue of 7 News comes out Friday, January 15; deadline is Monday, January 11. May the new year find you healthy, happy, and doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Seasons Greetings

Susan Fish

**YOUR MPP
AT
QUEEN'S PARK**

THE ADVENT SEASON AT SAINT LUKE'S

ADVENT III
December 13
10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship
Lighting Advent Candle
Family Christmas in Gymnasium

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service
Christmas Music by the Choir

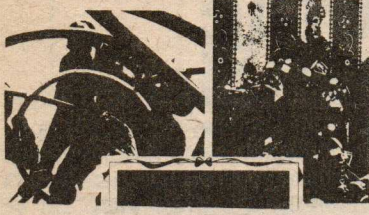
CHRISTMAS EVE
10:00 p.m. Coffee Hour — Church Parlour
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion

ADVENT IV
December 20
10:30 a.m.

White Gift Family Service
Lighting Advent Candle
Paget — The Innkeeper's Story

CHRISTMAS DAY
11:00 a.m. Christmas Family Service at Metropolitan United Church. (Queen & Bond St. — East of St. Michael's Hospital.)

During Advent Rev. Douglas Muir or Rev. Malcolm Finlay will be glad to bring communion to persons sick or shut in. Please contact the Church Office, 924-9619.



Ten years ago in 7 News, Duke of York parents were protesting reductions in the number of supply teachers; the St. David's NDP was analyzing its recent election defeat at the hands of the Conservatives; and a community variety show

was being put on at the Don Vale Community Centre, featuring the Regent Park Senior Citizens band, the Winchester School choir, a skit on South of St. James Town, and more. Probably the most striking item in the paper was a continuing

blow-by-blow (literally) description of Dave Starbuck's attempts to avoid being evicted from his Bleecker Street flat. In the course of events, Starbuck's door was kicked in, his borrowed TV thrown out a second-floor window, and he was beaten up, as was a woman who tried to come to his aid. Residents and (finally) police came to the rescue, and by the next day some 35 to 50 people had joined Starbuck in turning 135 Bleecker into an eviction-proof fortress. The developer and his thugs lost this battle, but continued to win the war; a week later, Meridian gets the right, in court, to evict tenants from three other buildings. And Seven News' front page wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Five years ago in 7 News, elections dominated the news,

with John Sewell and Janet Howard winning re-election as aldermen, and Doug Barr and Shiela Holmes gaining office as school trustees. (Barr also clinched the School Board's Chairman's job in a post-election meeting.) The Don Vale Association of Homeowners and Residents was lapsing into extinction, unable to attract a quorum to its meetings.

Frankland School on Logan was condemned as a fire hazard in an architects' study. And Seven News' Distributor-of-the-Week was Steve Ballantyne, whose car caught fire while he was delivering several hundred copies of 7 News. The car was apparently a write-off but the papers were saved: Steve sent them back to the 7 News office in a cab, and then borrowed a car to finish his deliveries!

Putting birds on the map is the work of volunteer birders

Ontario is now part of a world-wide scheme to map bird distribution. By 1987 we will have a complete, up-to-date picture of the breeding range of each of the approximately 275 species of birds which breed in the province. The final product will be the result of the work of volunteer birders who participate in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas.

The technique used in Ontario was borrowed from the British and the other 50 countries and states which are presently working on similar projects. For Atlas purposes the province is divided into 10 kilometer squares using a grid system found on topographic maps. Birders choose a square and

visit it over the breeding season (March-August), hopefully accumulating the minimum 16 hours needed to cover a square adequately.

While in the square, atlasers record breeding evidence, such as defence of a territory or newly fledged young, for every species observed, on an Atlas data card. This can be quite challenging, as up to 128 species have been found in one square.

At the end of the summer the results go in to one of 41 Regional Co-ordinators spread across the province, who check and duplicate the data cards before sending them in to the central office. The information is then stored in a compu-

ter which will eventually produce the distribution maps.

Field work began in 1981 and will continue through 1985. 1986 will be devoted to producing the maps, and printing the Atlas which will be useful to a variety of groups, including birders, biologists, planners and conservationists.

Roughly 500 atlasers took to the field in 1981 and enjoyed the challenge, the fresh air, and the knowledge that they are contributing to a useful project. If you have some birding experience and would like to participate, contact the Atlas office at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont., M3B 2W8, 416-444-8419.

Ring Billed Gull doesn't deserve such bad publicity

By ROGER POWLEY

Recently the Ring Billed Gull has been getting all kinds of bad publicity. It seems that someone is really upset over all the birds hanging around City Hall.

I would like to say something in defense of these birds as no one else is sticking up for them. First of all, I think we are very fortunate to have these birds in Toronto. This city has the only gull colony on the Great Lakes where the populations of Ring Bills is increasing. If it were not for the Leslie Street Landfill Spit nesting colonies this bird would be in grave danger. First year birds have a very high mortality rate and are migratory so they are only abundant for a few months at the end of the breeding season after the immature birds can fly.

Evil Individuals

Secondly, the gulls only come to City Hall because some people enjoy feeding them. The problem is not a biological one but a human one. If you really think the problem is that drastic maybe we should start beating up old women who throw the birds popcorn. They are such evil individuals.

Next the media tries to scare

the public with hints of health hazards and disease from the birds droppings. They don't mention the fact that humans have created a health hazard in the Ring Bills' habitat, Lake Ontario. As humans, we have polluted the birds' feeding grounds so badly no one will swim in the water. We won't even eat more than a few fish a week out of the lake. This is the Ring Bills' main food source.

Remember too, if the gulls were not around to clean up all the food that we throw around, we would probably have a big increase in the number of Norway Rats running about. Which would you rather have around, rats or birds?

At the present time we have a very large colony of birds breeding on the spit. This colony will eventually dwindle as more and more predators make their homes on the spit. If we leave the spit alone the forest will grow and provide habitat for raccoons and foxes. They will keep the bird populations in check naturally.

I keep wondering why the gulls are getting such bad coverage in the media. Is it possible the gulls gave a media person some coverage? It is also possible that after all the whitewashing we get from our elected representatives the birds returned the favour. I think we should be thankful we don't have that many Great Blue Herons hanging around town.

the
Willow

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Disabled workers still help

Metro Toronto has thousands of eager, reliable and conscientious people looking for work.

The problem is employers don't recognize this potential.

This is the plight of Metro's disabled population, a group statistics show are good workers ... if given the chance.

A special International Year of Disabled Persons project, sponsored by the Ontario March of Dimes, is helping employers tap this resource. Called Access to Employment, the project uses an audio-visual presentation to introduce employers to the employability of disabled men and women.

The presentation is also available to businessmen's associations, unions, service clubs and community groups in Metropolitan Toronto.

For further information on these free services, contact Naomi Overend, Public Relations Officer.

Do you require rent review? Recent success: 34%. Call Eglinton Landlord & Tenant Consultants. 487-5617

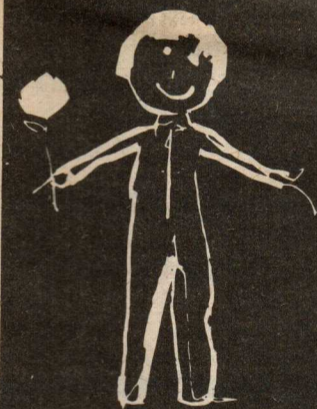
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It's not Creeds but it's special for some

By KEITH D. ELLIS

When Fred Brigden, the late Toronto artist, endowed the gymnasium at All Saints' Anglican Church, little did he anticipate its basement housing a clothing store. Yet, for almost five years Edith Sinclair has been proprietress of such an operation. But, Creeds, it is not.

Before a fire in 1977 destroyed the original clothing store at All Saints' and it was moved to its present location, Sinclair had run a similar shop on Gerrard Street. Sponsored by the United Church, it operated on a voucher system. After it closed, All Saints' offered space for the continuation of the store.

The All Saints' Clothing Store

survives on donations from individuals and church groups. With the store's success, the Downtown Churchworkers' Association no longer serves as a clothing depot. However, the D.C.A., as well as Dixon Hall, still direct clothing donations to All Saints'.

A Pressing Need

Sinclair defines the purpose of the store by saying: "I felt that it was doing something to help the Church, which it has done. There is a pressing need. Without this, some people would have nothing to wear." She tells of women who come to her store in the middle of winter wearing only stockings and no shoes. Or the man who appeared one cold day, barefoot and wrap-

ped in a blanket, because his clothes had been stolen. Sinclair also counsels people here and helps with their income tax returns and rebates.

Clothing prices are all barbains in keeping with its basement location. "There is no place cheaper than this," says Sinclair. Men's and women's winter coats and men's suits cost a dollar. Shirts, blouses, dresses, sweaters, sports jackets are only 25 cents. Shoes sell for 50 cents. Every class of people shop at the clothing store. No distinction is made as to the clientele.

Now that winter is almost here, there is an acute shortage of men's clothing, in particular. Winter boots, socks, underwear, hats and

heavy sweaters are a desperate need. In fact, at present, there are no men's mitts among her large stock. Women's boots, sweaters and slacks are also in short supply. Kitchen utensils, such as pots and pans, are also required.

The All Saints' Clothing Store is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Donations, especially of winter clothing, are always gratefully accepted. They can be left in the Church when the store is closed.

Make Christmas a safe holiday

As the festive season approaches the Canada Safety Council offers some useful information to Canadians celebrating Christmas.

It is a time when families gather together, and that often means travelling. Sometimes long distance travelling. Before starting out, the Council suggests that vehicles should be thoroughly checked, since few service stations operate during the holiday period, and spare parts may be difficult to obtain in an emergency.

Drivers should be well-rested before starting a long journey, and should eat and drink carefully to help avoid fatigue. Meat and vegetables with milk or coffee are preferable to a greasy hamburger with a couple of beers.

Sufficient time should be allowed for the journey, with con-

sideration given to weather and road conditions. After a heavy meal, it would be wiser to stay overnight and return, wide awake, next day. One night in a hotel or with friends is preferable to a week in hospital or worse.

On-The-Job Christmas lunches or parties are inevitable. The Safety Council suggests moderation be the key word. Eat before drinking, and if possible, arrange car pools with non-drinking drivers. Otherwise, use a bus or taxi to get home or back to the office.

In the home, fire safety is most important at this time of year.

This is also a good time of the year to check the operation of all smoke detection devices in the home.

A safe Christmas is a happier Christmas!

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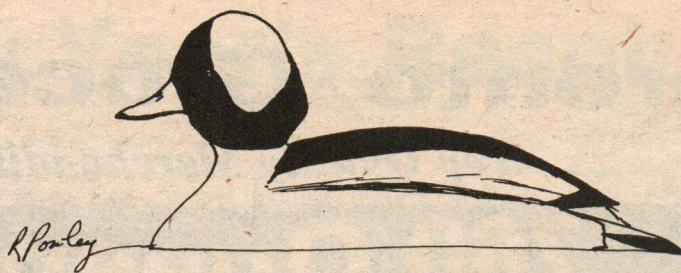
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South Riverdale Community Health Centre
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461-2493



The Bufflehead Duck is a familiar sight

By ROGER POWLEY

During the winter months the open waters of Lake Ontario attract many arctic diving ducks to Toronto waters. The smallest of these divers is called the

"Bufflehead" (Bucephala Albeola). The name "Bufflehead" is a shortened version of "Buffalo Head" because like the American Bison's, the head is very large in comparison to the body. Unlike

most other diving ducks, the Bufflehead can take to the air from a sitting position in the water and has been seen to surface from a dive and instantly become airborne when frightened. They also differ from the Scaup and Oldsquaws in the fact that they only stay in small groups of less than a dozen or so. The handsome drake appears snow white and jet black but at close range the head feathers actually shine green and purple. For camouflage the female is less striking and is more brown with a small white cheek patch.

Underwater

I find it quite humorous watching the drake court his favourite lady. He will go through a whole ritual of tail wagging, wing flapping, head shaking, and feather fluffing while she looks on. After a lot of this displaying he will dive under the water and try to pop up beside the female. She is well prepared and usually moves as soon as the drake is submerged. When the male surfaces he looks about with a puzzled expression as if to say "Where did she go?"

This beautiful little duck can be seen all winter long just about anywhere in our protected bays of the lake, including off Cherry Beach, the Eastern Gap, and the Leslie Spit, it is well worth a visit to the waterfront to see them.

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