

# SEVEN NEWS

JANUARY 12, 1984

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FREE

## Inside

Speaking Out .....	3
Close Up .....	5
City Arts .....	7
Calendar .....	8
Classified .....	8

Feb 8/1984



Women involved in the STEP Training Program at Dixon Hall make good use of the 12 brand new microcomputers that arrived there last month. This collection of hardware will be used in a series of computer courses starting next week.

## Day care gets grant

by SUSAN PRENTICE

Months of grass-roots organizing and ward-by-ward lobbying coordinated by the Day Care Coalition of Metro Toronto recently resulted in a significant step toward better funding for day care.

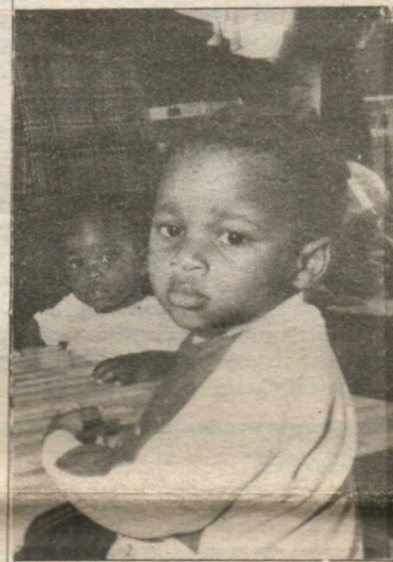
On December 12 Toronto City Council voted 20-2 to establish a City of Toronto Day Care Grant. For 1984, council allocated one million dollars, subject to Budget Review Process, to increase day care workers' salaries and/or reduce parents' fees in non-profit day care centres. City fathers and mothers from across the spectrum supported these recommendations from the Day Care Sub-Committee.

Joanne Campbell, Ward 7 alderperson chaired the group, whose membership included Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Tom Jakobek, Ron Kanter and June Rowlands. At council, Mayer Eggleton and Alderpersons Piccininni, O'Donohue, Boytchuk, Hope, Grys, and Gee joined the "Yeas."

Only Michael Walker of Ward 10 and Tom Clifford of Ward 8 voted against the recommendations that the City intervene in an attempt to alleviate the affordability crisis which affects parents and staff. Alderpersons Shea and Beavis, although present at the meeting, did not vote on this issue.

Although Tom Clifford made virtually no comments, Michael Walker attempted to argue that "... Parents who could not afford to pay \$75 per week for day care for their child's care had their priorities mixed up." His dogged efforts to filibuster by continually questioning peripheral issues related to training and standards for pre-school teachers were squelched by his colleagues on council.

Tom Jakobek reminded Walker that as a School Board Trustee, Walker had voted to increase salaries for teaching assistants who work in kindergartens. When Jakobek pointed out that the average day care teacher is paid at a lower rate than teaching assis-



tants who work with the same four and five-year-old children, Alderman Walker had no retort. Strong commitment from council was evident as the two-hour discussion ended.

continued on p. 2

## Computer courses start at Dixon Hall

by MICHELE YOUNG

Sitting sternly in a row, 12 new microcomputers gaze fixedly at the opposite wall of a comfortable basement room at Dixon Hall.

This array of sophisticated equipment arrived in January and is ready for computer courses to start next week.

The overall program is called Computers in the Community and its designed to upgrade the skills of "those too often forgotten women - "the poor, the single parent, the old, the immigrant and the handicapped," says Terry Dance, co-ordinator of the program.

When word got around that Dixon Hall was planning to hold computer courses the result came as a surprise.

"The response has been overwhelming," says Dance. "There was no advertising, people found out mainly by word of mouth."

Now, with 142 people registered, the courses are full and a Tuesday afternoon computer drop-in centre is booked solid two weeks in advance.

Dance saw a similar demonstration of community interest in computer training last fall. That was through her involvement in STEP an annual eight-month training program in microcomputer and office skills for single parents.

Last October, Dance says, over

100 single mothers applied for the STEP program which only had room for 16 people. The program, which is funded by the Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) is also held at Dixon Hall.

These programs enjoy such popularity partly because Dixon Hall is central to the community and very much involved in it. Dance says most of the applicants are from Regent Park and the surrounding area, and they want to take part in the programs because they are being held in such a familiar place which completely erases the intimidating aura around sophisticated software.

continued on page 2

## No credit unions where credit unions are due

by DAN McARAN

A community credit union would provide a unique service to the residents of Ward 7 but thus far none exist here.

"Yes there is a need," says Bill Phelan of St. Paul's Parish Credit Union located on Sackville St. "There is certainly no better time than now; it would be a service to the community not available through any other source."

Phelan says that St. Paul's has looked at forming a community

credit union, "It is possible for us to do; we know the need, we could form one if we wanted."

St. Paul's Credit Union serves only members of St. Paul's parish, which encompasses the area of Carlton, the Don Valley, Sherbourne and the waterfront. According to Phelan, "It's the oldest continuous parish credit union still in existence in Ontario."

He is fond of reminiscing about the days when credit unions were first being formed in Toronto. "Back in those days there was a credit union in every par-

ish, then came the industrial credit unions. It was all part of the self-help movement after the war," he says.

Credit unions are financial co-operatives owned and controlled by the people who bank there. They lend money to members at a slightly lower rate of interest than commercial banks, but pay slightly lower rates to members who lend it money.

A community credit union is one that can accept as members anyone who lives and works in a specific area like a city or a town. More traditional forms of credit

unions require a person who wishes to join to be an employee of a certain company, member of an occupational group associated with the credit union, or be a member of a specific ethnic group.

For example if you worked at Lever's in the south end of the ward, you could join the Lever's Employee Credit Union. If you were of Estonian descent you could join the Estonian (Toronto) Credit Union on Broadview above the Danforth.

continued on p. 2

## Quick cash costs

by CATHY GREGORIO

In a matter of a few short blocks, low-income individuals in Ward 7 can lose six cents on every dollar at Money Mart, a recently opened cheque-cashing service, and 15 cents on every dollar when they sell their income tax returns at Bentax and H & R Block.

Grocery chains are another option, but they emerge from these stores weighed down with groceries and considerably lighter in their wallets. Banks don't charge for the service of cashing a cheque, but they only extend the courtesy to people with bank accounts. In order to open a bank account, an individual must have a permanent address. A cheque-cashing service for people who don't have bank accounts, according to the banks, would operate at a loss because of the time involved in verify-

continued on p. 6

# Journey into the beyond p. 7.



**Day Care**

*continued from page 1*

Toronto City Council's initiative is significant for a number of reasons. Council's response to the Metro Coalition's proposal for a direct grant to parents (April 1983) is a clear indication that day care is gaining high priority on the political agenda. The support of moderate and conservative alderpersons is evidence that the Coalition's well-organized lobby was highly effective. With feedback from key politicians at the City level, the Coalition had devised a strategy by which the City could build on its well-established commitment to quality non-profit day care.

Though the City has no mandated role in the delivery of day care services, city fathers and mothers realized that something had to be done to salvage the patchwork of day care services that now exists. (The Municipality of Metro Toronto, composed of the city and the five suburban jurisdictions, delivers some directly-operated services and administers the Canada Assistance Plan funding to its own and others programs.)

The Metro Coalition and City politicians who sit on Metro Council are anticipating that the City's lead will impel parents and day care workers in York, North York, Scarborough, East York and Etobicoke to drive home the message at their local councils.

Public education and face-to-face lobbying in the boroughs will put day care on the top of the Metro politicians' agendas by the next civic election in 1985.

The City grant will be adminis-

tered by the City Planning and Development Department in conjunction with management services. As in all other grant programs, applicants will be expected to complete a form which will describe the centre, its funding, enrolment, parents' fees and salary scales.

The Day Care Grant Review Committee, which is likely to be separate from the existing Grant Review Committee, will review each application and award grants in relation to the criteria. To be eligible for a City of Toronto Day Care Grant, a Centre must: 1) be located in the City of Toronto; 2) be chartered as a non-profit organization; 3) have been in operation for a minimum of one year; and 4) be licensed by the province.

The grant is intended to be used as follows: 1) to increase the salary level of the permanent full-time staff where it can be demonstrated that the applicant's existing salary level is below the average among non-profit day care centres within the city, or; 2) to maintain the existing salary level of the permanent full-time staff where it can be demonstrated that without the City of Toronto Day Care Grant assistance, it would be necessary to raise fees in order to meet other expenses.

The Day Care Sub-Committee, will continue to meet in order to refine the criteria and will submit an evaluation report after one year of operation on the program. The Committee will also continue its discussions with Metro and Provincial officials.

The Planning and Development will forward applications to all non-profit centres in the city by mid-February.

**Computers**

*continued from page 1*

Another reason for the great demand is the fact that the courses are affordable. Participants in the STEP program are paid an allowance each month by CEIC, and the Computers in the Community sessions will be free for the unemployed and a minimal \$1 per hour for anyone else.

Dance says there is a real need for modernized accessible and affordable training programs for disadvantaged groups. So far, standard computer and office training programs are expensive and the requirements are high. Typing speeds of 50 words per minute and grade 12 education are standard prerequisites for such courses.

A further "ghettoization" of the unskilled and unemployed is the end result of such limited access to computer training programs.

Although the need in this area is clear to those who are running the Dixon Hall programs, funds are hard to get.

"It's frustrating," says Dance. "You see that people really want it and you want to tell major funders outright to get on the band wagon and give these programs some money."

Money right now is the major concern of Dance, Sylvia Smith, — teacher of all computer related subjects in both the old and new programs — and all others involved including students.

"With the funding we have now we can go until April," Dance says. "If we get no more funding by then we're in deep trouble."

So far they have raised \$50,000. Out of that amount \$40,000, from the federal government, has gone into capital — the computers themselves — and \$10,000 from Laidlaw Foundation is going into operating costs.

According to Dance they need \$70,000 more. "We have the equipment but no money to pay staff, buy supplies and so on."

But if the program does get off the ground it should prove as

a model for similar ones in other Toronto communities.

As the Computers in the Community program proposal explains, the spread of computerization "is not a vision, it is a fact. School children are being introduced to them in most Toronto elementary schools. They are spreading widely and rapidly in employment in the business

world, not only in large and relatively wealthy corporations but also in many smaller establishments."

Whether we're prepared for it or not computer literacy is becoming a basic necessity in the work-a-day world. Access to this new language should be universal, but if it is to become so, there are some hurdles to jump.

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**Credit Unions**

*continued from page 1*

Phelan says that cities are not the same as small towns where community credit unions thrive, "It just doesn't have the family association." He has seen attempts to start community credit unions in Toronto, but "they have all gone down the tubes."

Ward 7 is not alone in its need for this kind of service. The City of Toronto, as a whole, long considered the most progressive of all the cities and the boroughs that make up Metro Toronto, lacks a community credit union to serve the needs of its citizens.

There is only one credit union in Toronto that residents can join without necessarily being a member of a specific ethnic group or being employed by a specific employer. It's Duca Community Credit Union located on Yonge Street, just south of Eglinton.

Duca Credit Union primarily serves the Dutch community in Ontario having several years ago taken over a community credit union, it can now accept membership from the residents of the

cities of Toronto and North York. Mrs. Lynn Ten Bruggenkate of Duca said the majority of their members are of Dutch descent, but they are actively soliciting membership from the general population of the city.

Bread and Roses Credit Union is a relatively new credit union formed in 1978. Bread and Roses is somewhat unique. It calls itself a "Financial co-operative for social change." Created primarily to supply capital and working capital loans to progressive organizations, it now provides loans to individuals for personal use.

Membership is open to anyone or any organization that promotes progressive social change. Bread and Roses now has about 500 members and assets of around \$1 million.

The other credit union that offers services to residents of Toronto is Universities and Colleges Credit Union. Membership is now open to anyone with a full time job. Students, part-time and unemployed workers are not eligible, but those who joined while employed and then laid-off can still remain members.

There are about 920 credit unions in Ontario with assets of \$6 billion and approximately 2 million members. According to Tom Robbins of the Credit Unions Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, credit union assets in Ontario are growing at a rate of 14 to 15 per cent a year while the actual number of members are growing at 3 to 5 per cent a year. He said there have been no new credit unions incorporated in Ontario for several years. Their number has actually decreased from 980 two years ago. Robbins said there had been a "significant self-consolidation" in the industry.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This is my last editorial because I am leaving the ward to go to work in Peterborough. You know, the place with the lift locks.

My months here at Seven News have been among the most educational and rewarding of my whole life. There is a certain excitement about this job. However, I have been blinded by the glamour and bright lights of that place that has the lift locks and I must go.

There won't be a replacement editor. Either no one can replace me, or they're afraid of getting someone like me again. Instead, I leave Seven News in the capable hands of our new editorial assistant, Michele Young.

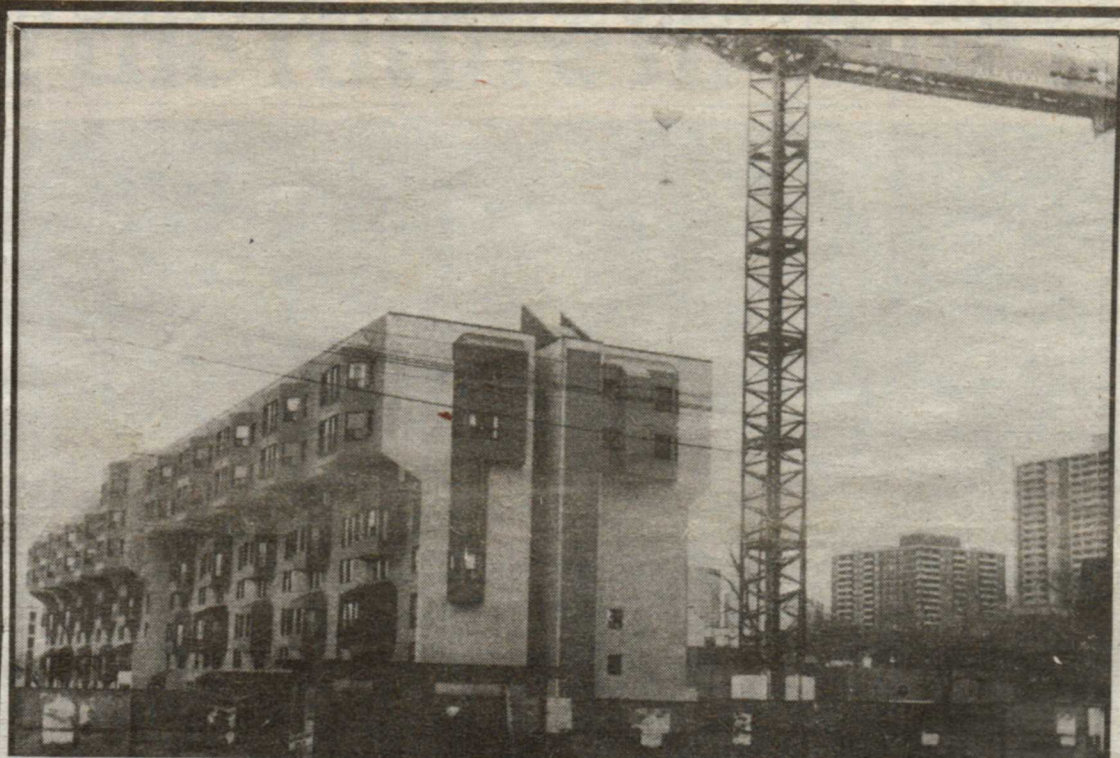
I would like to thank four people without whom my sanity would not have been possible. Doron Rescheff, the finest photographer ever to click his shutter in this ward and a good friend, Anne Dancy, who never turned a hair when I asked her to typeset "just one more thing," Dan Harrison, who you read about last issue, a terrible tease, but an exceptional man to know, and John Campey who is the main reason that there is still a Seven News for you to be reading at this moment.

Also goodbye to special people like Catherine Lang and Shelia at NIP, Barrie Chavel of Alderman David Reville's office who knows more about this ward than anyone but Dan Harrison, and David Blackmore of the Cabagetown Arts Centre who is doing wonderful work, deserves to succeed and has promised to take me gold-digging this summer.

Goodbye to K.L. Brandy, an exceptionally hard-working writer and a great person, to Cindy Weiner who is destined to rock the world of journalism if she ever graduates from Ryerson, to Howard Hugget, to the Observer (pay me \$10,000 or I'll tell everyone who has been writing those nasty things about them) and to Rena Giasberg and Anna Thompson, both of whom I counted on for good pieces and neither of whom I ever actually met!

And lastly, goodbye to the Seven News Board of Directors.

OK, that's it. Goodbye Ward Seven. You have a unique and wonderful community and I have been honoured to have been a part of this newspaper, and this ward. And if any of you are ever in that place with the lift locks . . . . .!



Meridian has been stopped in its tracks. With three highrises to go they say they need extra space for the developments. Now they want to eat up the landscaped open space required by the site specific by-law covering that area. To avoid the appropriate rezoning application the developer tried to get hold of an extra 19,000 square feet under a minor variance rule. They took this request to the Committee of Adjustment which decided in favour of the 50 outraged neighbourhood residents who showed up at the meeting. Never one to give up easily, Meridian appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. Undaunted the neighbourhood residents hired a lawyer and engaged an expert planning witness. With two days to go before the OMB hearing, Meridian quietly withdrew their appeal and made a partial out-of-court settlement on the residents' legal costs. But this idle crane stands as a stark symbol of Meridian's intentions toward the members of the neighbouring Hugh Garner Housing Co-operative.

## VIEWPOINT

by ANN-MARGARET HINES

A few words about the Kellys: the Kellys in this case are, of course, the Brantford couple who recently won the huge prize in Lottery 649. It seems to me that the people of Canada should be very grateful for those two, not so much for the generous way they shared the dollars with others as for the good sense they displayed in coping with sudden wealth. Let us hope that their fellow-Canadians have profited from the Kelly's example.

What Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have pointed out is that \$14,000,000 is far more money than one person or family needs, so the best thing to do with such a sum is to share it with friends and relatives and then with some of the less fortunate. After witnessing the recent public display of lottery fever and its obsession with monetary gain their performance brings in a breath of fresh air.

It is interesting to speculate on what would have happened if the winning ticket had been in the possession of some very rich individual. Certain persons come to mind because they are so well known to the public, but there is no need to mention names. Would any of those tycoons have given half of the money away? Not likely.

That comparison suggests a question: Why are some people more than satisfied with a modest fortune while others go on scrambling for more when they already have acquired vast wealth?

## Canada Health Act still not good enough

by LYNN McDONALD

One of the first and most important matters Parliament will be dealing with in 1984 is the Canada Health Act. The NDP particularly welcomes this Act since it was the NDP and the CCF before us who pioneered medicare in Canada. Tommy Douglas, as CCF premier of Saskatchewan, introduced the first system of standard, universal health care in the country. The NDP's recent proposals for reform of the Act were designed to reaffirm the principles that Douglas stood for.

Unfortunately, the new Act falls down on two points. First, it does something it shouldn't do, and that is, it leaves the way open for provinces to abuse the system of funding penalties. We welcome the penalties as a discouragement to provinces that allow extra billing and user fees. They're an important tool in guaranteeing the universality the early NDP fought to ensure. But there's a loophole.

Provinces that allow extra billing and have their federal funds reduced accordingly can still get those funds back, if they reform within three years. But there is nothing in the Act that says the

provinces must then give that money to the people who paid those extra fees in the first place. The provinces could just as easily use the funds for highways, or advertising campaigns.

But while the funding loophole is a major flaw, there is a more serious problem in the Act, concerning, not something the Act does, but something it doesn't do. It doesn't provide coverage for the vast range of preventive and paramedical health services in which a healthy society depends.

The Canada Health Act was the chance to make some important changes to our present health care system, a system that reinforces a sickness-cure oriented way of thinking. Medicare pays for you to go to a doctor, or a hospital after the fact. Yet what we have learned in the '70s and now into the '80s is that preventive medicine, supported by a range of paramedical services offers us better health, and a far more economical system in the long term.

These services, however, are excluded under Medicare. Nurse practitioners, for example, have been asking for coverage for years. Although their services would in many cases be as competent, and certainly cheaper

than those of a physician, they are still being kept out. Nutritionists, physiotherapists, psychologists . . . All are excluded as the law now stands. Our system continues to encourage people to use the most expensive service available — the medical doctor — because that is the only form of treatment they will get coverage for.

It's true that when you need the skills of a surgeon or specialist there is no substitute. But not every health situation requires a medical doctor. With the reform to the Health Act the NDP have been proposing, our system would be better as well as cheaper, making it practical for people to take advantage of all the health services available to them.

We're glad to see that the Conservatives are now supporting the Canada Health Act. They've been slow to come around but we welcome them aboard at last. Unfortunately, they have yet to see the point of making the system more flexible and cost efficient by including paramedical services for coverage. We hope to convince both the Liberals and the Conservatives that this reform would give Canadians the kind of health care system they want and deserve.

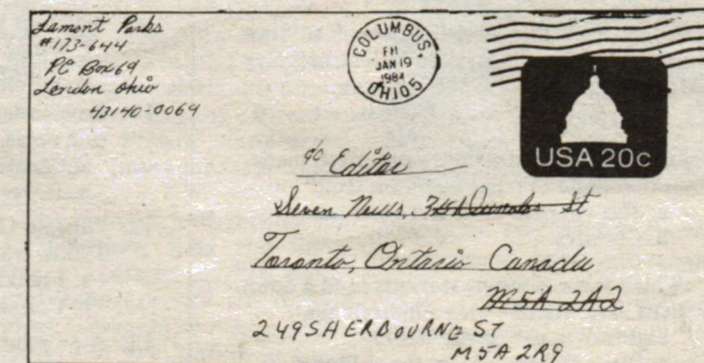
## LETTERS

Dear Editor:

My name is Lamont Parks, I am presently incarcerated here at London Ohio correctional institution.

I have been in now for one year and as a result of my confinement all my immediate family and friends have turned their backs on me. I now find myself extremely lonely.

Its painfully hard on a man in the prime of life, when he finds himself locked away from the real world, entertaining loneliness daily and spending long endless nights with no thoughts



toward his tomorrow, simply because there is no one in that tomorrow.

I am writing this letter to you as an agent of appeal for correspondence and friendship. I write with the fervent hope that

you will be kind enough to publish it for me in your next edition.

Lamont Parks.  
173-644 P.O. Box 69  
London Ohio  
43140-0069

The Editor:  
Since Peter Worthington's announcement of his candidacy means that the Conservative nomination in Broadview-Greenwood will be contested, the undersigned residents of the riding wish it made known that we do NOT want to be card-carrying members of the PC party.

We wish to avoid the involuntary membership to which many of us were subjected during the last PC nomination fight within the riding, and hope that our public declaration to this effect will minimize the effort required by the PC riding association in sifting through thousands of bogus memberships.

Graham Murray  
and 40 others.

## SEVEN NEWS

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This issue would not have been possible without the help of over 150 volunteers.

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Next Deadline: February 18

Next Board Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15  
8:30 p.m.

Next Editorial Collective Meeting  
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# After 37 years Surkos Hardware says sad farewell to Ward Seven

by ROB HUTCHISON

"It's been beautiful. We'll miss it," says Emil and Mary Surkos, owners of Surkos Hardware.

After 37 years of operation in the east end, including 23 years in the same Danforth location, this family business will close its doors for the last time in February.

Although a tall strong man Emil Surkos looks away as he describes the end of a fruitful relationship with the Danforth neighbourhood. With a shy smile he says simply "I loved it."

Married 41 years, the Surkos first met when Emil turned up instead of a friend of his for a date. During the war he worked on the mechanical drafting of aircraft parts. When that became too much of a strain on his eyes, Mary and he decided to go into a hardware partnership with a friend near Pape and Danforth.

When that first partnership could not support two families, the Surkos opened their own store at Greenwood and Gerrard in 1947. Finally they moved to the Danforth in 1960.

In those early days the Danforth was one of the better places to shop in Toronto. Streetcars still brought the public right to the door and there was a fine mix of family shopping.

But the city was changing. The subway opening cut heavily into the Danforth's shopping traffic.



Emil Surkos (right) has provided friendly service for 23 years to customers on the Danforth. This month he's closing the doors of his store for good. Like many other small merchants in the area, Surkos has had a tough time competing with big downtown chain operations.

Luckily, at the same time, many Italians were moving into the traditionally Anglo neighbourhood. Their renovating needs helped sustain the hardware throughout the Sixties.

Later the Greek population began to grow as the Italians moved out to the suburbs. It

took time for these immigrant groups to learn to trust someone outside their own culture. "They came to learn that in this store there was not one price for them and a lower one for someone else," says Emil.

These days the Danforth tends more to specialty stores and tav-

erns. Rents and taxes are rising and are major reasons for the Surkos deciding to close up.

"Taverns and stores catering to the carriage trade measure their profits in dollars," explains Emil. "They can afford higher rents. We measure our profits in nickels and dimes," he adds rue-

fully, with a wave of his hand towards the trays of nuts and bolts.

At Surkos hardware, Mary is the pleasant bespectacled woman at the cash. Working full-time from the beginning, she also managed to raise two children. Her mother looked after the kids when they were young.

"I don't know what I'll do with six days a week," she laughs, adding quickly "I'll still have my work at home to do."

Both Surkos agree that the hardware business has changed. The chain grocery stores, for example, took away the once profitable pots and pans business. Now small specialities are their stock and trade. Also many more women do their own hardware shopping than ever before.

Friendly service is a byword for the Surkos. Today "people are more abrupt," says Emil. He feels it is a result of living in a large city. Often he says with a smile, service "is a matter of knowing when not to butt in."

The Surkos have many memories, but mostly they remember the neighbourliness of the Danforth, the street changes and the people, "seeing the kids grow up, then come back with their kids."

When the Surkos speak there's a sadness in their voices, but also a pride and satisfaction about how they've done business. Unknowingly, Mary Surkos echoes her husband, "I've loved it." And when she turns to smile at him, he smiles back.

## Valentine's Day Quiz

Or, who was St. Valentine anyway?



Although many of us celebrate Valentine's Day by sending cards, flowers and heart-shaped delicacies to our loved ones, how much do we really know about this day?

Here are 14 questions to test your knowledge of love

- The Saint after whom Valentine's Day was named was:
  - French
  - Italian
  - Spanish
  - American
- Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14 because that is the day St. Valentine was:
  - Born
  - Engaged
  - Married
  - Martyred
- According to ancient tradition, February 14 is the day when:
  - The bears start to hibernate
  - The turtles lay their eggs
  - The birds choose their mates
  - The groundhog sees his shadow
- In which country was it a custom to draw names for sweethearts on Valentine's Day?
  - England
  - Denmark
  - Sweden
  - Russia
- In the 1980s, valentines were often made in the shape of what common fruit?
  - Strawberries
  - Cherries
  - Tomatoes
  - Pears
- Which famous movie star was such a confident lover that he called himself the "Eighth Wonder of the World"?
  - Clark Gable
  - Cary Grant
  - Errol Flynn
  - Charlie Chaplin
- Valentines are made in the shape of hearts because:
  - St. Valentine was shot through the heart with an arrow
  - The heart is considered the seat of love and affection



- Hearts are easy for schoolchildren to cut out
  - Hearts are prettier than clubs, spades or diamonds
- With whom did Cupid fall madly in love?
    - Venus
    - Psyche
    - Proserpine
    - Juno
  - According to history, the greatest lover of all time was:
    - Clark Gable
    - Don Juan
    - Rudolph Valentino
    - Casanova
  - Which of the following does not belong?
    - Wings
    - Blindfold
    - Horse
    - Bow and arrow
  - Lovebirds, which appear on many valentine cards, are really:
    - Canaries
    - Doves
    - Parrots
    - Hummingbirds
  - "Stupid Cupid," the pop song of the early 1960s, was made famous by:
    - Frankie Avalon
    - Connie Francis
    - Neil Sedaka
    - Brenda Lee
  - A popular valentine gift in Britain during the 19th century was:
    - Candy
    - Flowers
    - Gloves
    - Handkerchiefs
  - Last year, the total number of valentines sold in the United States was approximately:
    - 7 million
    - 50 million
    - 350 million
    - 800 million

### Your Community Representatives

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>JOANNE CAMPBELL</b><br>Alderman, Ward 7              | Toronto City Hall<br>Tel: 947-7914  |
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| <b>FRAN ENDICOTT</b><br>Trustee, Ward 7                 | Board of Education<br>Tel: 598-4931   |
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| <b>JIM RENWICK, M.P.P.</b><br>(NDP) Riverdale           | Queen's Park Office<br>Tel: 965-5928<br>Constituency Office<br>1204 Gerrard St. East<br>Tel: 461-0223 |
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(Advertisement)



## Finding the future in your hand

by ANNE-MARGARET HINES

When I walked into Future Past (194 Carlton Street) for a Tarot card reading I expected... well, you know, wild gypsy music, dim lighting, the smell of incense, that sort of thing. I expected, too, to be greeted by a Madame Rowinda who doesn't wash properly and wears large amounts of gold jewelry.

Needless to say, I was a bit put out by what I found at Future Past. The large stuffed couch, bright lighting and white poodle all look like they belonged in Yorkville. And so does Heather, the psychic proprietress of Future Past, who did my reading. How are you supposed to get a decent fortune-telling in this place?

Well, after spending about an hour with Heather and Prissy (the dog, but more on her later), I have come to the conclusion that gypsies, incense and poor hygiene do not a great Tarot Reading make. As Heather explains it, "The psychic energy of the person being read is what determines the reading, not the lighting or atmosphere. I want people to feel comfortable when they come to be read here, so I don't go in for shawls and candles and gimmicks like that."

This attitude sums up Heather's whole approach to the ancient art of Tarot card reading — that the practice has survived because it isn't just part of the past, it speaks to our generation as clearly as it did to those in centuries gone by. "Everyone has times when they need help to get a clearer picture of what is happening in their lives and what they can do about it," explains Heather, "Some people go to an analyst. Some have a psychic reading done. Either way they're looking for the same thing."

The actual recorded history of Tarot cards goes back to the thirteen hundreds in Europe, although there is some evidence of similar forms of fortune-telling cards and stones being used centuries before in Egypt, China and India. In the fourteenth century the daughter of a famous Italian Court is known to have told for-



Heather, the psychic proprietress of Future Past reads the Tarot cards of her poodle Prissy.

tunes with cards which she made by hand. At the same time, gypsies wandered throughout Europe using the cards to tell fortunes for money. Charles VI of France was known to consult a gypsy reader regularly on affairs of state.

Today, there are several different forms of Tarot cards avail-

able. Our own deck of playing cards is a direct descendant of these, which is part of the reason that card playing was thought, in the Christian faith, to be an evil form of recreation. The usual Tarot deck used today contains 78 cards, 22 of which are called the Major Arcana cards and bare specific pic-

tures representing health, love, death et cetera. Most fortune-tellers use only these cards for their readings.

When I asked who her clients generally were, she smiled, "Everyone and anyone. Professional people, artists, you name it. Sometimes they come regularly to work out a problem over a

period of time, or just to stay in touch with the psychic side of their lives. Sometimes they just come once out of curiosity."

Heather also reads dogs. There is a similar deck of cards to the Tarot deck, but the pictures are of dogs and it is used for telling canine fortunes. The dog taps the deck to infuse it with its psychic energy and Heather can then use them to determine the dog's personality (dogonality?), present state of mind, major concerns etc. "I can tell whether the dog or master is boss of the house, how he feels about his owner, whether or not he'd do well in obedience school, all sorts of things," she explains.

If you're not into the Tarot, Heather also does readings from palms and Runes.

Palmistry is thought to be the most ancient of the divining arts. Unlike the Tarot or Runes, though it does not give a very detailed interpretation or forecast and, for my money, it really isn't as good a show.

Runes are small stones with slavic symbols on them. They are not used so much as fortune-telling aids, but rather are intended to point out hidden fears and forces which might be shaping your future without your knowledge. The Vikings used the Runes to determine 'right action' or the course of action which was intune with their higher selves.

Her poodle Prissy agreed to sit for a demonstration reading and was diagnosed as being "A bit insecure today, she misses her daddy who's away. And she's angry at me for not giving her more attention." Useful information to have on your pet.

The final verdict — it was fun. And I must admit that Heather's reading was so accurate that it's hard not to be a believer. Certainly at \$20 an hour its a lot less expensive than many psychiatrists, and they can't even predict the future.

## Ongoing community winter events Old fashioned fun at Riverdale Farm

by GEORGE HARLAN

Come celebrate an old-fashioned rural winter of fun and games right in the heart of downtown Toronto.

It's all happening at the annual Riverdale Farm Winter Frolic February 11 between noon and 3 p.m. The Riverdale Farm is at the end of Winchester Street in Cabbagetown.

Major events and competitions at the Frolic will be: 1) log-sawing contest; 2) spike-driving contest; and 3) an open tug-of-war. And for all those who bring their own toboggans (including former participants in the Riverdale Farm Fall Festival wheelbarrow race) the round-the-farm toboggan race.

Other events will include the annual Snow King and Snow Queen Lottery, the best-decorated toboggan and the longest toque competition. And much more. But you have to be there to make it all happen.

And if you want to warm yourself after all your exertions go and talk to the animals. You and the animals will enjoy it. The animals don't have central heating in their barns because the animals provide their own central heating with their own body



Youngsters at Riverdale Farm have plenty to squawk about. Chickens and other farm yard animals give young and old a pleasant refuge from the city bustle.

heat. And they keep the thermostat way up.

You can also fortify yourself with a robust old-time farm feast. It will include ploughboy soup and buttered bread; potatoes baked outside over an open wood fire and cider mulled over the open fire.

Another attraction (we hope) will be Dottie the spotted Sow

who is expecting a blessed event two days before the Winter Frolic. Dottie is considered a nervous mother. But during the laying-in this year Dottie will have the benefit of the very latest in porcine maternity care: an all-wood farrowing pen. And if all goes well Dottie and her piglets will be on (quiet) view at this's Winter Frolic.

If you have never visited the Riverdale Farm, this Winter Frolic at the Farm is an excellent opportunity to see it. You'll be glad you did. The Farm is not just unique to Toronto. There is simply nothing like it any major city in all of the North America!

It will be a grand event for anyone who is still very young in spirit. So come one, come all.

### ANSWERS

- 1) b. Italian. Valentine was a Roman priest imprisoned for helping persecute Christians.
- 2) d. Martyred. He was put to death on February 14, 269 A.D. even though he had miraculously cured his jailer's daughter of her blindness. Legend has it that on the day he was executed, he sent her a farewell note signed "from your Valentine."
- 3) c. The birds choose their mates for the year.
- 4) a. England.
- 5) c. tomatoes, which were also known as love apples.
- 6) d. Charlie Chaplin.
- 7) b. The heart is the seat of love and affection.
- 8) b. The maiden Psyche, who was forbidden to look at him because she was a mortal. (Venus was Cupid's mother.)
- 9) d. Casanova.
- 10) c. Horse. All the others are attributes of Cupid, the god of love.
- 11) c. Gray or green parrots, reputed to show great affection for their mates.
- 12) b. Connie Francis.
- 13) c. gloves, apparently because a man proposed by asking a woman for her hand.
- 14) d. According to industry estimates, 800 million.





Money Mart on Parliament Street will cash cheques for a six per cent service charge. People who use this service have a pressing need for cash. Many have low incomes and no fixed addresses. Banks won't cash their government assistance cheques, so they go to Money Mart. A person receiving \$400 a month in government assistance pays \$24 in service charges to cash their cheques at Money Mart.

**Cash**  
continued from page 1

ing cheques and making good on forged ones.

Donald B. stood in line at 15 different banks in the downtown area but couldn't find one that would cash his cheque unless he produced a bank book along with a wallet full of identification.

Loblaws would cash his cheque if he spent 25 per cent of it on groceries. Since, like many residents in Ward 7, he is alone and can only afford a room, there is no need for him to buy a large supply of groceries.

Donald B. went to Money Mart which cashes cheques, no questions asked, but at a cost of six per cent of the value of the cheque.

Long lines in front of Money Mart cashiers testify to the fact that Donald B. is not unique.

Many others in similar positions are turned away from banks and must resort to less formal means of cashing cheques — but at a cost.

As Donald put it, "Money Mart is all right. It's the only way for me to cash a cheque right now."

The key words are "right now." But the Donald B.'s have limited choices. They were overlooked by the banks in their rush to provide customers with efficient and easy access to their money "right now."

Organizations such as Money Mart introduced their own version of "high-tech" banking, complete with electronic surveillance equipment and identification cards complete with instant pictures.

The paper Money Mart card is the closest many people in Ward 7 will come to an instant teller card. It allows them quick access to their money, but at a price.

Money Mart's six per cent service charge is too much for most of the people who use the service. Most of the cheques are issued by Metro, the Province or the Federal Government. The amounts are such that there is nothing to save by the time low-income individuals pay for overpriced accommodation and buy food.

Right now the Donald B.'s have limited choices and an urgent need for money that's theirs to begin with. With nothing to save they feel they have nothing to lose for the privilege of having their cheques cashed. The lines at Money Mart continue to get longer.

They resort to these organizations out of necessity, not choice. There's a pressing need to cash government assistant cheques as quickly as possible to pay for food, accommodation and other basic needs.

\*\*\*

# Social Lites

by MEG FLOYD

Soothing rings may soon appear at Toronto City Hall. No, no. Not to calm the nerves of war-weary councillors, for whom the debate over domed stadiums and zoning by-laws seems endless.

Joanne Campbell, senior alderman for Ward 7, is expecting a baby. She and husband Gordon Cressy, who is chairman of the United Way for greater Metropolitan Toronto, just celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Sunday, January 29. The baby is due in early July — a bumper crop from the Cabbagetown patch.

How about a Name-the-baby contest? Several names spring to mind. Daddy no doubt would favour "Charity," perhaps Charity Joanne Cressy. The politically astute mother-to-be might prefer Margaret Campbell Cressy. Send us your suggestions.

\*\*\*

Ward 7 lawyer Barb Hall and Jim MacKenzie, an associate professor at Carleton University, recently returned from a two-week vacation in Paris. Coincidentally, the couple was passing through the Paris airport at about the same time as British rock star Boy George (lead singer in the band Culture Club) was being detained while French customs officials determined if he was in fact the male his passport claimed he was. Seems George and an unidentified companion had donned geisha-girl duds for the flight to France.

Now, Ms. Hall claims to have purchased a new wardrobe abroad, none of which any one on this side of the Atlantic has yet seen. (Hall insists that the fine French cuisine has tempor-

arily extended her waistline, and thus the new purchases remain closeted.) Is that all that remains closeted, Barb? Who was that masked geisha girl, anyway?

\*\*\*

After 14 years at City Hall, John Sewell officially resigned his seat on Tuesday, February 7. After receiving a standing ovation and an appreciation plaque from City Council, Sewell made his way down to Harbourfront where friends and well-wishers held a \$3-a-head party.

Sewell is scheduled to begin writing a municipal affairs column for The Globe and Mail in early March. Although in early times, the rebel alderman reportedly dismissed newspapers as irrelevant, his new slogan, we've heard on good authority, is "The Media is the message."

Rumour has it that Sewell has his own unique plan for a domed stadium. Apparently block-buster John's proposal... should I really be stealing his thunder before his first column has even gone to press? ... And anyway, does he really think that he can pressure City Council into leveling St. Jamestown, just so as to appease metro's Argo fans? (One can almost detect Premier Bill Davis — perhaps the province's most famous football fan — screaming in the background, "Kick that convert," as his steel-toed boys in blue scramble about muttering, "which one? which one?")



# Toronto then and now

by HOWARD HUGGET

Since we are now in 1984, the year of Toronto's 150th birthday, it won't be long before the sesquicentennial celebrations begin. This seems like an opportune time to start thinking about what this city was like in those early days, and how the times — and we ourselves — have changed. As somebody once said: "If you don't know where you have come from how can you tell where you are going?"

One thing that has certainly changed over the years, and that is our preference in food. Back in those days squirrels were often eaten, and Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, the wife of the first lieutenant-governor of this province in the 1790s wrote of a dinner served to her, the main course of which was a delicious boiled black squirrel! In case you think that Canadian pioneers might have turned up their noses at squirrel-meat by 1834, the date that Toronto became a city, the Canadian Settler's Guide recommended in 1854 that these little creatures be used when other meat was scarce. Today we not only give the nimble animals the freedom of the street, but the squirrel has been honoured by being chosen as the sesquicentennial mascot.

To get an idea of what life was like in this city in early times, here is a short excerpt from Toronto in 1810 by Eric Hounscome:

"The people of Toronto heard the sounds of nature every day. They caught the chirping of crickets and the sustained beep of toads under their front stoop. In summer they were plagued with the buzzing of flies and mosquitoes, which bred in the dead and motionless waters at the mouth of the Don River. It was often necessary to make great bonfires in front of the houses so that the smoke would prevent their entrance. From their houses and gardens they heard the barking of dogs

and the mewing of cats at the front door

We are told that raccoons became scarce after that, but they are back now. You could argue that coons have adjusted to city life better than a lot of humans do. When there are no handy trees to climb a high-rise building will do nicely. Do you recall the animal who performed that trick in the centre of the city about a year ago? It's only a question of time until one of them attempts the CN Tower.



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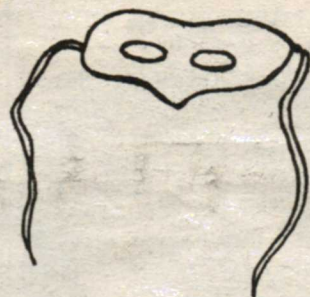


# New poems from the poet cop

Hans Jewinski is a police constable in Toronto. He has written poetry for more than 30 years and in 1975 published a collection of his work entitled Poet Cop. The poems below are part of a new book soon to be published.

### Genesis — The Death of Love

lovers, like philosophers, confess all,  
yes all, to anyone who will listen  
: this is the basis of love, the basis  
of human interaction. and after  
the final confession, after the last  
proposition, they use all they have heard  
and every little thing they have deduced  
to destroy love and its philosophy.  
they seek to be, they must become a crowd;  
even if only by making themselves  
new masks and multiplying their faces  
to resemble first this, then that, lover  
or philosopher, then every, all,  
in their braided philosophy of love.



### On the Death of Herbert Marcuse

they are certainly right about one thing  
: you were not much read. most of your ideas  
were handed down and passed along the way  
like folk albums and well-thumbed editions  
of camus and sartre. underlined ideas  
were read and reread and much was never  
puzzled out at all. for we yearned to see  
a final guilt assigned and acknowledged.

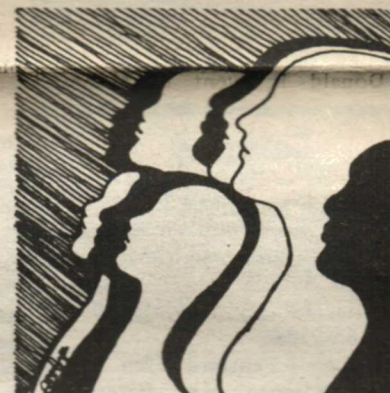
slowly your role was questioned in hallways  
from nuremberg to berkeley. you were borne  
about in a chair like a fallen pope.  
you were paid professorally to write  
about people and the revolution.  
your ideas were shouted down. you were dead.

\* \* \*

### Who Was That Masked Man?

is the best way to be anonymous  
to know yourself only by name, by name?  
how many times have i tried to look at  
myself from the outside, absolutely  
through unsympathetic eyes: unknowing,  
uncaring, unbiased. to blind myself  
— have i really tried to look at myself?

as i plumb the necessity to write  
and make my way to sanctity, i fear  
the irruption of the confessional  
: each life has its own ration of solitude,  
its own ethics — and the rule of spying  
on oneself is lonely, oh so lonely.



February  
is heart  
month

Give...  
THE  
HEART  
FUND

YOU'RE WHISTLING  
IN THE  
DARK...

IF YOU  
THINK THAT  
HEART ATTACK  
AND STROKE  
HIT ONLY THE  
OTHER FELLOW'S  
FAMILY.

Help your  
Heart...  
Help your  
Heart Fund

## Market Gallery displays city Sesqui art treasures

by GEORGE FULFORD

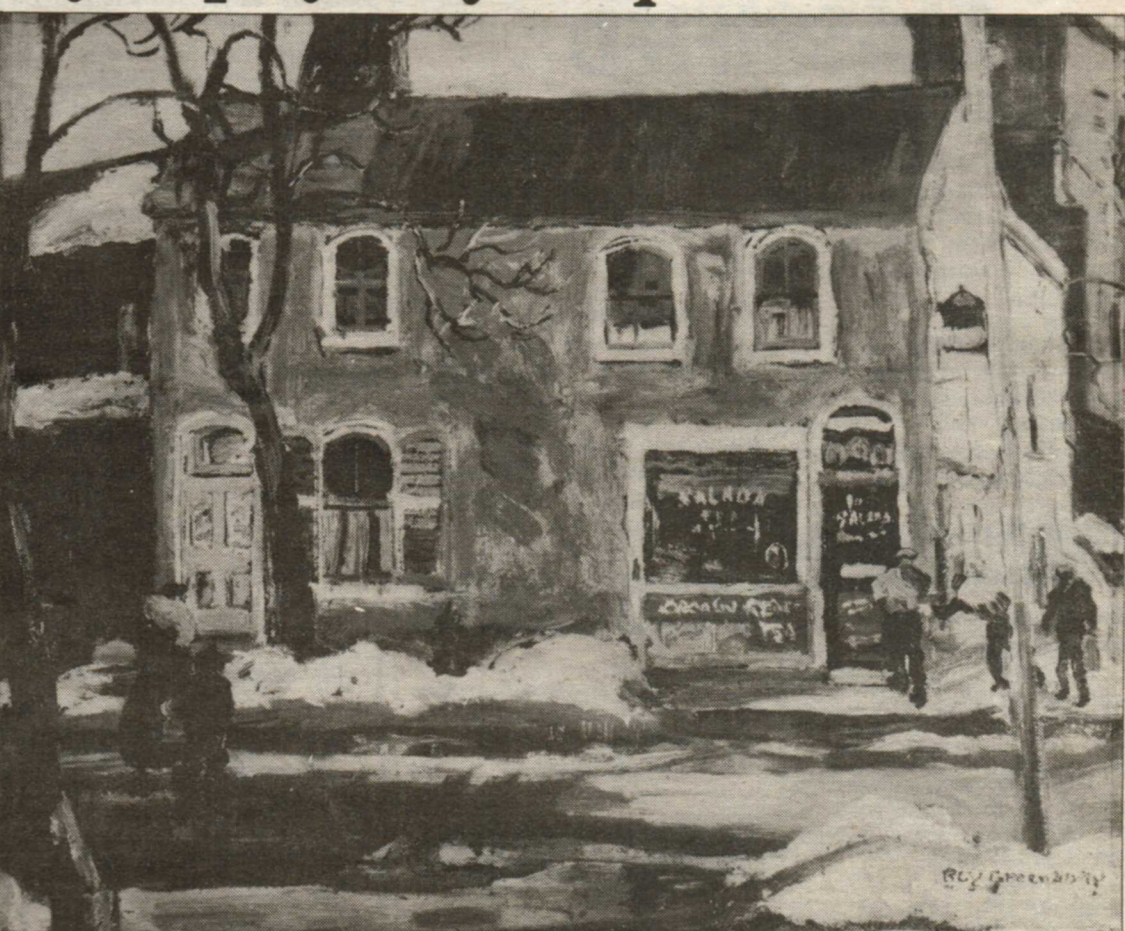
Happy birthday Toronto! As the City gears up for its sesquicentennial the Market Gallery on Front Street is preparing a special exhibition of nearly 50 sketches, prints and paintings to highlight the event.

The exhibition is part of an extensive collection of artwork owned by the City. It documents Toronto's growth and captures the feisty decorum of many politicians and self-made people.

City Council has been a major patron of the arts in Toronto since 1847.

Since 1974 the City Archives has been official custodian of Toronto's art collection. Paintings which had been deteriorating in musty offices were painstakingly restored and, in 1977, given a home in the Market Gallery.

The exhibition at Market Gallery, located in the second floor of the South St. Lawrence Market building, is fine record of the development of visual arts in Toronto and a fitting tribute to the City's 150th birthday. It will be on display from March 3 to May 13.



Corner Store with Green Shutters by Roy Greenaway (c. 1950) will be on display in the upcoming exhibition at the Market Gallery. Greenaway used an impressionistic style to capture Toronto street scenes in the 1940s and '50s. Forty-one oil paintings, including this one, were donated to the City from the artist's estate in 1975.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wednesday

February 8

The Central American crisis is the focus of a public forum at 8 p.m. at the St. Lawrence Market, 27 Front Street East.

The keynote speaker is Father Marchetti. Father Marchetti is an American Jesuit, working as an advisor to the Nicaraguan agricultural ministry, and with peasant organizations. He is fluent in Spanish, has worked throughout Latin America on land reform and holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Yale. As well as agricultural development, Father Marchetti will speak about the church as a revolutionary force, and the unprecedented changes that have transformed the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America over the past 20 years.

Admission is free. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information call 362-7041.

## Thursday

February 9

Teens and Drugs a presentation by Norm Panzica, author of *Your Teens and Drugs - a Parents Handbook on Drug Abuse*. Parents and interested members welcome. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Eastern High School of Commerce, 16 Phin Avenue.

## Saturday

February 11

Children's book sale today from 10 to 3 p.m. at the Queen-Saulter Library, 765 Queen St. E. 465-2156.

February's Fantastic Film Hour for children, 2 p.m. Riverdale Library 370 Broadview Ave.

Valentine Sale at Simpson Ave. United Church 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts, bake goods and more. Everyone welcome. 115 Simpson Ave.

Stories for Children ages three and up at 2 p.m. Also: a puppet show version of the Frog Prince at 2:30 p.m. Parliament Street Library, 269 Gerrard Street E.

## Sunday

February 12

A Women's Coffee House at the 519 Church Street Community Centre at 8 p.m. This is an evening of Solidarity with free admission. Free child care and the best live entertainment! For information call Nicole Casseres at 923-2778.

Royal Conservatory of Music Concerts: the Scholarship Fund Concert Series continues with its second concert of the 1983-84 season featuring Elizabeth Keehan, Harpsichord. The concert takes place at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall, Royal Conservatory of Music and will include works by Bach, Byrd and Couperin. Tickets are \$5 and \$3.

## Wednesday

February 15

Nursery School Time: Films and Stories for local day care and nursery groups. Please call ahead to confirm space. 10 a.m. at the Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Ave.

Research on Animals: Responsible science or senseless cruelty? Do we have the right to use animals for research; is animal research responsible science or senseless cruelty? Panelists will discuss the issue at CentreStage Forum at 8 p.m. in the St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front Street

Centre, 27 Front Street

## Thursday

February 16

Downtown Alternative School invites interested parents to an Open House. Drop in anytime between 4:30 and 7 p.m. Downtown Alternative School is a Toronto Board of Education school located at 20 Brant St. in the Spadina and Adelaide area.

The Downtown Interaction Group (DIG) is a networking group bringing together community organizations/agencies to exchange ideas and information and to collectively work on community issues in the downtown area. DIG meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 12 to 2 p.m. at All Saints Church (Dundas and Sherbourne).

## Friday

February 17

Arts and Crafts at the Queen-Saulter Library. Make letter holders from 10 to 3 p.m. 765 Queen Street E.

## Saturday

February 18

Old Fashioned Candle-Making for ages seven and up. Please sign up at the front desk. Riverdale Library at 2 p.m. 370 Broadview Ave. 466-2197.

## Tuesday

February 21

Free Tai-Chi Demonstration at 7 p.m. by the Toronto Tai-Chi Association. Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Ave.

There will be a Red Cross blood donor clinic today Tuesday and Wednesday at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute from 10 to 4 p.m. Jorgenson Hall, 380 Victoria Street (at Gerrard).

## ONGOING

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National Film Board documentary about the Toronto Art Scene and the survival of the artist in the marketplace. 12:15 p.m. NFB Theatre, 1 Lombard Street (at Victoria, between Adelaide and Richmond Streets) free admission. 369-4094.

Harbourfront Rocks with Saturday Night Video Dancing: It's a musical revolution! Put on your dancing shoes, bring your skates along and join Harbourfront as it fires up for a new and lively program of Saturday Night Videos. Dance, drink, date and skate, all while seeing the latest in rock music videos, every Saturday night at 9 p.m. It's free!

Stars such as Michael Jackson, Billy Joel, Talking heads, David Bowie and Duran Duran will be reeling and rocking across the big screen. Harbourfront's Amsterdam Cafe, York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West.

NIP Income Tax Clinic is underway. The annual free income tax clinic sponsored by the Neighbourhood Information Post began February 7 at 265 Gerrard Street E. The free clinic, which offers help to people of limited income in filling out their tax forms, will be held every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and some afternoons until May. Appointments are necessary. If you would like to make an appointment or find out if you qualify for the service call NIP at 924-2543.

Musically inclined? Book our piano for individual use during library hours. Ask at desk or call the branch. Parliament Street Library, 269 Gerrard Street E. 924-7122.

Want to Write? In the beginning of March, Dixon Hall will be sponsoring a couple of Creative Writers' Workshops. These workshops are open to the residents of the area and will allow each participant the opportunity to explore his/her own talents as well as share these talents with others in the group. One workshop will provide resources and encouragement to sole support mothers. The other workshop is open to one and all. Lillian Allen, popular dub poet, has been approached to provide her skills to the sole support mothers' writing group. Allan Sutterfield of Gallery No will serve as resource to the other group.

As part of each groups' efforts there will be the chance of seeing one's work in print as part of the Workshops' Newsletter. Performances and readings are also anticipated in order to give each participant the opportunity to present their work to a wider audience.

So now that you're interested, what must you do? Call Charles Smith at Dixon Hall 863-0498, for more information. Registration is currently underway. Join the writing explosion!

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Nova Dating Service for all ages. Call 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. or leave a message on machine. 968-1456.

Volunteer reading teacher for literacy program. Call Gwen Heffernan at the Don Jail 763-2880.

### Help Wanted

Wanted: 50 overweight people who want to lose pounds in a safe, easy and guaranteed way! Call Gail at 469-0653

### Misc.

Responsible 25-year-old male seeks permanent accommodation in shared house in Cabbagetown area. Please call 924-2337.