



REFORM**M**ETRO  
box 54, STATION F,  
TORONTO



february/march 78

# REFORM**M**ETRO

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\* ReforMetro Annual Convention \*\*  
 \*\* SATURDAY, APRIL 1 \*\*  
 \*\* 10am - 5pm \*\*  
 \*\* INNIS COLLEGE TOWN HALL \*\*  
 \*\* (NW corner of St. George \*\*  
 \*\* & Sussex) \*\*  
 \*\* ALL WELCOME...BOTH MEMBERS \*\*  
 \*\* AND OBSERVERS...bring your \*\*  
 \*\* friends! \*\*  
 \*\* (see article inside...) \*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\* INSIDE THIS ISSUE: \*\*  
 \*\* +Annual Convention \*\*  
 \*\* +York Housing Standards \*\*  
 \*\* +Parkdale fights for beach \*\*  
 \*\* +Public Agenda Reviews \*\*  
 \*\* +TTC forum post mortem \*\*  
 \*\* +Unemployment Help Centre \*\*  
 \*\* +Education news \*\*  
 \*\* +Save the Seven \*\*  
 \*\* +Ballad of the Landlord \*\*  
 \*\* +March Calendar \*\*  
 \*\* +Renew Now! \*\*  
 \*\* +and more... \*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

-----please clip along this line-----

## JOIN NOW!

1978 MEMBERSHIP: Reform Metro

REFORM**M**ETRO  
box 54, STATION F,  
TORONTO

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ city / borough

\_\_\_\_\_ ward

\_\_\_\_\_ postal code

\_\_\_\_\_ home phone

\_\_\_\_\_ work phone

A membership in Reform Metro entitles you to the regular newsletter and voting rights at Delegate Assemblies and candidate selection meetings.

SUPPORT THE REFORM MOVEMENT!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE  
 REGULAR: \$5  
 UNEMPLOYED, STUDENT, PENSIONER: \$2.50  
 Make cheques payable to:  
 Reform Metro

# APRIL 1

annual convention

The ReforMetro Annual Convention is a must for all members. Delegates will approve the Electoral strategy for the upcoming November municipal election, approve constitutional amendments and elect new officers for 1978.

The election strategy will review issues in seven areas of concern: employment & economy, housing, transportation and planning, social services, human rights, education and accountability of politicians. High profile campaigns attracting attention to these seven issue areas will be suggested for North York, Toronto and York. These would include mayoralty and controller races. Strong local campaigns consisting of teams of aldermen and trustees will be run in many wards of most boroughs.

Emphasis will be given to cooperating with other reform groups such as the Labour Council, the NDP and community and tenant groups. ReforMetro will try to provide a leadership role in achieving this cooperation.

Election resources such as technical advice on printing, silk-screening and fundraising will be discussed.

Both pre-election and post-election accountability of candidates will be examined and the process finalized. The process for selecting aldermanic, controller, mayoral and trustee candidates will be determined.

Four constitutional amendments will be debated. These amendments have been provided to the membership in an advance notice.

New officers will be elected to the Co-ordinating Committee for 1978.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 IS AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR ALL REFORM METRO MEMBERS. THE NEXT ELECTION IS JUST 8½ MONTHS AWAY. WE NEED REFORMERS IN BOROUGH AND METRO COUNCILS WHO ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO US. PLAN TO ATTEND.

## PARKDALE RESIDENTS BEACHED

by Bill Zock, Ward 2, City

The Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club is situated on the waterfront near the foot of Dowling Avenue. Its 250 members are from all over Metro. The club is built on city owned land and the lease is due to expire in 1981.

Between the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club and the nearby Boulevard Club is a bathing area known as the Dowling free beach. This small stretch is the only access to the water for almost 20,000 residents of South Parkdale.

A master plan drawn up by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority says they should dredge the lake bottom in the area of the Dowling free beach to provide boat docking facilities for the members of the two clubs. Implementation of the master plan would also transfer ownership of all the waterfront land from the city to the MTRCA.

Since November, a group of concerned citizens and community representatives have been working with Ward 1 alderman David White to retain the beach and recommend that title to the land remain with the City. It also began to discuss whether or not the lease to the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club should be renewed.

If the land goes over to the MTRCA, renewal of the lease will be virtually automatic, the beach area will be renovated to suit the club members, and the residents of South Parkdale will lose out.

At the last meeting of the committee, aldermen Negridge and O'Donohue stacked the place with people like Grand Prix sellout Verrol Whitmore, the Grand Potentate of the Ramses Shrine Temple, the manager of the Seaway Hotel, officers of the Toronto Sailing & Canoe Club and the Boulevard Club, alderman George Ben, and all the rest they could muster.

The months of hard work that the members of the committee had put in was negated in a single evening as speakers were heckled and shouted down. O'Donohue took over the chair and promptly ruled

David White out of order! The clauses concerning the beach and ownership of the land were ripped out of the committee's report. Any discussion of the lease was ruled out of order. Participatory democracy suffered a setback in Parkdale that night.

The issue will go before the City's Parks & Recreation Committee and then on to City Council. GET READY FOR A FIGHT.

## BALLAD OF THE LANDLORD

By Langston Hughes

Landlord, Landlord  
My roof has sprung a leak.  
Don't you 'member I told you about it  
Way last week?

Landlord, landlord  
These steps are broken down.  
When you come up yourself  
It's a wonder you don't fall down.

Ten bucks you say I owe you?  
Ten bucks you say is due?  
Well, that's Ten Tucks more'n I'll pay you  
Till you fix this house up new.

What? You gonna get eviction orders?  
You gonna cut off my heat?  
You gonna take my furniture and  
Throw it in the street?

Um-huh! You talking high and mighty.  
Talk on--til you get through.  
You ain't gonna be able to say a word  
If I land my fist on you.

Police! Police!  
Come and get this man!  
He's trying to ruin the government  
And overturn the land!

Copper's whistle!  
Patrol Bell!  
Arrest.  
Precinct station.  
Iron Cell  
Headlines in press:  
MAN THREATENS LANDLORD  
TENANT HELD; NO BAIL  
JUDGE GIVES NEGRO 30 DAYS IN JAIL

## YORK TENANTS ORGANIZE

In February, ReforMetro joined tenants from the Borough of York, the Tenant Hotline, the Federation of Metro Tenants, in addressing the Council to lobby for a Housing Standards By-law. York is the only borough in Metro without such a bylaw to ensure that tenants are guaranteed proper maintenance inside their buildings.

Wey Robinson of the Tenant Hotline led the fight to organize tenants around getting a bylaw before Council. Although pleased that the Borough had drafted a by-law, tenants were concerned that without the proper enforcement, the provisions would be useless.

After many deputations from tenants' groups in York, and one on the opposing side from the Urban Development Institute represented by Karl Jaffary!, the York Council adopted their by-law without amendment. Meetings will be held with both tenants and the UDI to consider points raised at Council.

Tenants will have to lobby further to get single units (such as over stores or in absentee owned houses) covered under the bylaw. Currently only multiple unit buildings are included. They will have to pressure Council for proper enforcement procedures with notices of work orders going to tenants. They will have to ensure that the Borough will move in to do work of an emergency nature (health & safety items) if a landlord refuses to cooperate. Charges for repairs will be placed on the landlord's tax bill.

YORK TENANTS INTERESTED IN THIS ISSUE SHOULD CONTACT NINO D'APRILE, 653-3278.

## NDP DEBATE

On Wednesday, March 8, the St. George NDP will host a panel on "The Future of Reform Politics". The discussion will take place at 8pm, 519 Church St. Community Centre (just north of Wellesley) Panelists are: Pat O'Neill, North York Alderperson (and ReforMetro member); John Sewell, Ward 7 alderperson; and Dorothy Thomas, former Ward 9 alderperson. All welcome. No admission charge.

## LANGUAGE AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS FORUM

The Education Committee of ReforMetro and the Metro Education Information Centre are interested in organizing a Saturday education forum on language and community rights.

So far, the idea is to deal with the effectiveness of the heritage language programs and the relationship between these programs, French education and other third language instruction. One objective will be to arrive at a comprehensive policy for all second and third language education.

Are you interested? Contact Joan Doiron or Jean Unda at 598-0018.

## **WANTED: reform trustees**

ReforMetro's Education Committee is in the process of building a resource group for community candidates who endorse its program and who will run in the November municipal elections. The search is on for accountable candidates who have been and who are active in reform education issues. Contact Brian Conway (636-2610) or Lorenzo Colle (654-3691) about upcoming meetings and current issue organizing.

The *Education Editor*, published by The Metro Education Information Centre, is for people concerned about equality of educational opportunity in Metro Toronto. If this means YOU, why not subscribe today?

The next issue will carry the first in-depth study of French education in Metro plus a comprehensive summary of each Metro Board of Education.

Send your \$7 subscription (\$2.50 for students) to: Metro Education Information Centre, Suite 210, 455 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

## **SAVING SCHOOLS**

by David White, alderman, Ward 1

(reproduced from The Education Editor)

While the declining birth rate is no doubt a factor in the declining enrolment of neighbourhood schools, it is difficult not to notice that many schools in the developing suburban fringe beyond Metro are overcrowded. Clearly, the number of families with young children, in the newer suburbs is adequate to support community schools.

One approach for ensuring that older suburban and inner-city neighbourhoods will continue to be able to support local schools is to take steps to encourage new families to seek homes there. This means that the more established neighbourhoods of North York, Etobicoke and Scarborough should begin to consider redevelopment that will result in the production of new family housing. Any such redevelopment should add diversity to neighbourhood patterns without disrupting the existing ones.

The current low densities and the large lots in suburban areas make low-rise infill development very feasible. Infill development can take the form of row-housing, duplexes, triplexes and small two or three storey apartment buildings. It can be achieved with very minimal demolition to existing buildings.

Neighbourhood stability is enhanced if long time residents continue to live in their old communities. Therefore Metro Housing should be encouraged to build small apartment buildings for senior citizens in their own neighbourhoods. If local affordable accommodation is readily available, it will encourage elderly people to move from the large houses which they no longer need when their own families have left home. These houses can then be utilized by young

families.

The inner-city schools that are threatened with closings are mostly located near the downtown business core. Again, the building of family housing is the key. It is even more crucial to ensure that such housing is affordable to young families.

The idea of increasing suburban densities will probably meet some opposition. There is a certain bias in favour of low density development because high density is frequently associated with high-rise apartments or overcrowded "slums". The confusion should be dispelled. What is being urged is a low-rise, high quality but compact urban environment.

Not only neighbourhood schools, but other community services such as transit will become more viable. The result will be more diverse, more convenient, and more self-sufficient neighbourhoods.

## LABOUR OPENS UIC HELP CENTRE

by Krisantha Sri Bhaggiyadatta

The Metro Labour Council's Unemployment Help Centre at 853B Bloor St. West (531-3585) will help you "get as much as is legitimately yours" from UIC and counsels individuals on other problems resulting from being unemployed.

The Help Centre provides information about UIC regulations, helps people fill out forms, write letters and prepare appeals. If the problem involves welfare, Workmen's Compensation, immigration or other problems, the Centre will also help to find a solution.

Keith Oleksiuk, one of the staff at the Centre pointed out that the biggest problem people have with UIC is language and class. The UIC offices do not have adequate linguistic services. In a city that has been built by people of different languages, this amounts to criminality. The bureaucracy thrives on having the 'right words' in the 'right slot'. To be disqualified because you

couldn't make yourself understood--  
whew!

Hopefully, pressure can be brought on UIC to hire enough interpreters. Until then, the Centre provides staff and volunteers who speak Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Polish, Ukrainian and French.

"The UIC likes to see itself as an employer", Oleksiuk explained, "employing the unemployed to seek work. If you don't do a good job-- you get fired."

# halt

The Immigration Department is trying to whisk seven West Indian landed immigrant mothers out of Canada as quickly and as quietly as possible.

The International Committee Against Racism had a firm appointment with Bud Cullen, Minister of Employment and Immigration, for January 10. At the last moment he cancelled the appointment. Now, one by one, the women are receiving their dates for deportation.

These women have been working in Canada for up to seven years and the only error they committed was to fail to name their children on their forms. Their deportations are intended to instill terror in minority workers.

INCAR has held demonstrations in support of the West Indian mothers in front of the Immigration Office on University Avenue and is rallying support from individuals, trade unions, and groups to stop the deportations.

INCAR is calling for a halt to the deportation of the black landed immigrant mothers; a halt to all deportations of landed immigrants; a repeal of the legislation by which landed immigrants can be deported; a publishing of all immigration policies and a repeal of all racist immigration policies. REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT BY CALLING INCAR AT 922-5046.

GET INVOLVED!

The success of ReforMetro will depend on the number of members who are active in its committees. We are gathering new members every day. By working together we can win important issues and elect reform politicians to borough and Metro councils.

How can you get involved?

Volunteer to:

- research voting records
- help on the newsletter
- organize around issues
- work on electoral strategy
- recruit new members
- participate in agenda reviews
- attend assemblies & conventions
- run for office on the Co-ordinating Committee
- help fund raise

MAKE IT HAPPEN. GET INVOLVED NOW!



On Thursday, January 26, ReforMetro held a public forum on the TTC fare increases. Thousands of flyers were circulated but as luck would have it, the forum was held on the night of Toronto's worst storm in decades.

In spite of the weather, 50 people came to listen to a panel consisting of Hugh McKenzie, NDP research; Marilyn Meshberg, North York alderperson, Irene Harris, Labour Council; Janice Marmorek, Energy Probe; Barbara Hamilton, Toronto Islands; and David White, City alderperson. (Hamilton and Meshberg were absent due to the storm.)

About 8,000 people throughout Metro had signed ReforMetro's petition to Metro Council against TTC fare increases. ReforMetro believes these fare increases over the next five years will discourage ridership, penalize working people and those on fixed incomes, encourage automobile travel, promote expressway building, waste energy and

and increase pollution.

Short-term and long-term solutions to the TTC fiasco were presented. Short-term solutions included:

- roll back TTC fares to increase riders
- stop cutbacks to bus and streetcar routes
- cancel expressway programs
- increase Provincial operating subsidies
- transfer Provincial capital subsidies to lower fares
- enact a levy on commercial properties
- elect reform politicians to Metro
- appoint TTC Commissioners who reflect these views.

Long-term solutions included:

- implement policies that strengthen the TTC's role as a local service
- curtail capital spending on routes not justified by passengers
- implement planning policies to encourage more compact urban development
- decentralize office development so people can work near their homes
- give public transit and non-polluting forms of transportation such as bicycles emphasis in planning
- end land speculation.

Voting records from North York Council, Toronto City Council and Metro Council were distributed. On a motion at Metro Council to hold the line on TTC fares the vote went like this:

YEAS: Bosley, Crombie, Eayrs, Eggleton, Heap, Hope, O'Donohue, Sewell, Sheppard (9)

NAYS: Beavis, Chapley, Clarke, Cosgrove, Farrow, Flynn, Greene, Harris, Harrison, Lastman, Morrish, Powall, Redway, Risk, Ruddell, Shiner, Sinclair, D.Smith, M. Smith, Stockwell, Summers, Tonks, Trimmer, P.White, Yuill (25).

JUST SHOWS THAT THERE'S LOTS OF WORK TO BE DONE.

DON'T FORGET  
APRIL 7!

A MESSAGE FROM THOSE WHO KNOW THEY CAN CHEAT YOU

# “I got caught with my hand in your pocket.”

What a shame!

I'm Bell Canada, and my hand is going to stay right there.

We play a little game every year. We announce higher rates. The CRTC announces a hearing — we get higher rates.

We always say we don't have any money. This time we want \$398 million because we don't have any money.

The reason why we don't have any money is because we always give it away.

To our share holders that is, and they are all widows and orphans.

Don't you wish you were a widow and orphan?

We're going to raise our rates 20%, and charge more for special services like having an unlisted number. As a matter of fact we're working on a rate for people who don't even have telephones because of the millions of dollars in lost potential business they cost us each year.

So how do we get away with 20% while you're stuck with 6% wage ceilings?



Well, we have friends. Like Pierre and Joe who lead the widows and orphans parties respectively.

They like multinationals.

They like private ownership of public services and resources like us.

They like my hand in your pocket...

**M**

Multinationals  
and their friends.

Laying off people who  
want to work

# coordinating committee

- Chairperson: LIZ WHITE
- Vice-Chairperson: KERRY MC QUAG
- Secretary/Treasurer: SUSAN ATKINSON
- Education (separate): LORENZO COLLE  
(public): BRIAN CONWAY
- Liaison: NINO D'APRILE
- Etabicoke rep: BILL LONGRIDGE
- York rep: NINO D'APRILE
- Toronto rep: JOHN ARGUE
- North York rep: PHIL LIBMAN
- Scarborough rep: BARBARA HURD
- East York rep: GORDON CRANN
- Membership/newsletter: SUSAN SPARROW
- Ex-officio aldermen: PAT O'NEILL  
(boroughs)  
ALLAN SPARROW  
(city)

For information call: Liz White, 367-7903.

## PAID YET?

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1978 MEMBERSHIP YET? Each newsletter mailing costs the organization about \$100. Flyers to organize people around issues cost money. The upcoming election will require some central funding.

Membership fees are: \$5 regular and \$2.50 for seniors, unemployed and students. Cheques should be made payable to ReformMetro and sent to Box 54, Station F, Toronto M4V 2L4. Additional contributions gratefully received.

# march dates

March 6: ORGANIZING COMMITTEE  
6pm (all welcome)  
Toronto City Hall  
Alderman's Lounge, 2nd floor

7pm CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE  
Toronto City Hall  
Alderman's Lounge, 2nd floor

March 9: PUBLIC AGENDA REVIEW  
8pm (discuss items on the  
next City Council agenda)  
All Welcome  
Toronto City Hall  
Committee Room 1

March 14: ELECTION STRATEGY  
8pm Borough of York Offices  
2700 Eglinton Ave. West  
(at Keele St.)  
Committee Room A

March 20: ORGANIZING COMMITTEE  
6pm Toronto City Hall  
Alderman's Lounge, 2nd floor

7pm CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE  
Toronto City Hall  
Alderman's Lounge, 2nd floor

March 23: PUBLIC AGENDA REVIEW  
8pm Toronto City Hall  
Committee Room 1

APRIL 1 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
10 am to Innis College Town Hall  
5pm (corner of St. George &  
Sussex)  
ALL MEMBERS AND VISITORS

\*\*\*\*\* WELCOME. \*\*\*\*\*

THE ReformMetro newsletter is published every two months for its membership. Items for the newsletter should be sent to Editor: Susan Sparrow, Box 54, Station F, Toronto, M4V 2L4.

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