

THE POLITICS OF TREFANN COURT: P. 6

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MIDTOWN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER 25¢

AFTER THE SHOOTOUT Taking stock of midtown in the wake of an Annex tragedy.



Sam Levene, an organizer in the local response to the Madison Avenue tragedy.

Madison isn't a den of evil

by Virginia Smith

The shoot-out on Madison Avenue two weeks ago was an aberration from a generally improving social situation in the neighborhood, not a skirmish in a developing pattern of violence, as some local residents seem to fear. Toronto's daily newspapers referred to David Holmes and Walter McVicar, who committed suicide on the third floor of 125 Madison, after Holmes shot a policeman dead earlier in the evening, as speed freaks. The Madison Avenue neighborhood has had a reputation as a centre for hard drug use for about three years. But a *Citizen* investigation of the area revealed that, in 1973, this image is more a myth than a reality.

Residents of the Annex, the district surrounding Madison Avenue, were horrified at the violence and urged City Hall to clean up the neighborhood, implying that Holmes was somehow typical of the local population. Responding to citizen complaints, Ward Five Alderman Ying Hope informed the City Council Committee on Buildings and Development that "this general area, during the past few years, has become the refuge for drug addicts, pushers, and young hoodlums" and blamed absentee landlords who rent "their premises indiscriminately to irregular occupants" for the situation.

But Holmes was not in any sense a typical speed freak. Holmes used speed, according to one of his friends, but was not addicted. Sandra Harnett, who works at a drop-in centre visited by Holmes, says that Holmes "had been doing speed on and off" but that amphetamine use was not the root of his behavior. "If speed was around, he'd be doing it; if it wasn't, he wouldn't."

She also says that she is sick of hearing generalizations about the behavior of drug users. No one can predict a speeder's actions; many different factors can affect his responses. A lot has to do with the personality of the user before he started doing drugs, says Harnett.



photos: Phil Lapidis

Madison Avenue, a handsome Annex street with a diverse population, used to be a hard drug centre, but that scene is almost dead today.

Someone who lived on Madison for about three years reports that hard drug users at one time lived in his house, but that they were quieter than most roomers, too quiet, in fact. They simply sat in their rooms all day enjoying their drug euphoria.

Holmes, then, should probably be considered an anomaly, not a symbol of the local hard drug culture. His activities were not even intimately connected with Madison Avenue, or the two neighboring streets, Huron Street and Spadina Road, named by Hope as trouble centres. Holmes did not live on any of these streets. His friend told a *Citizen* reporter that, if she wanted to contact Holmes' associates, she could find them at Norm's Open Kitchen on Dundas Street. Norm's, which is about two miles southeast of Madison Avenue, has long been a well-known meeting place for Toronto's pimp, pusher and wino society.

If Holmes cannot be considered a representative Madison Avenue junkie, the average junkie, if there is such a thing, can no longer be considered typical of Madison Avenue residents. A *Citizen* reporter spent two days on Madison

Avenue, diligently searching for drugged degenerates, but was told several times that she was searching for a scene that had mostly died out about a year or two ago.

She saw little to disprove this assertion. She met old people living on pensions, immigrants, hard working citizens and lots of long hairs. Some of these freaks were cheerful students; a few seemed to be lost souls who may be using hard drugs, but they form only a small fraction of the total population. She met a 16-year-old boy who, since he came from Winnipeg a year ago, has found neither regular work nor a permanent residence. The day she talked to him, he had slept at the Spadina Road Community Hostel the night before; the next day she found him asleep at the Dupont Street Free Clinic. Despite his experiences, he still thinks that Toronto is "a far out place."

At the moment, Madison Avenue seems to be recovering from an epidemic of hard drug use that two or three years ago threatened to destroy it as a liveable neighborhood. Madison is an attractive street, and, even during its worst days,

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Ward Five Alderman Ying Hope's motion will help clean up houses but ignores the people in them.

A hard look at local response

by Jon Caulfield

Three days after the seige of 125 Madison Avenue, 40 Annex residents gathered to talk about what had happened in their neighborhood. Ward Five's aldermen attended, and, in response to the meeting, each of them is shepherding a motion toward City Council. Alderman Ying Hope's motion will result in immediate, tough enforcement in the Madison area of housing standards by-laws and of a by-law which requires an absentee rooming house owner to have a principle tenant who acts as landlord. Alderman Colin Vaughan's motion will seek decentralization of City activity in such areas as housing and health inspections and may refer to a decentralization of police administration.

Absentee landlords of the sort whose only interest in their property is making money have allowed several Annex houses to fall into terrible states of disrepair at one time or another during the past several years, particularly in the Madison area. An 18-month-old organized Annex effort to get City action on this problem has, according to residents, been largely unsuccessful — because while one house gets special attention, another, not yet identified as a particular problem, deteriorates; because fines have been much cheaper than bringing houses up to standard; because the City bureaucracy, insensitive to local concerns, has brushed off the Annex with vague statements that the job is getting done and that people are fortunate to have such a hard-working housing standards department. Some residents of absentee-owned houses, many of whom have tried to get the City to make their landlords do what the law says landlords should do, have been told by housing inspectors that, if they think their houses are bad, they should see some others the inspectors have visited, much like a cop telling a man who's been mugged not to be too concerned because

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WARD SIX

WARD COUNCIL KICKS OFF WITH WINDLASS

The Ward Six Council was officially launched January 23 at a meeting to discuss the proposed Windlass development in Southeast Spadina, on McCaul Street, south of Dundas. At this meeting, the Council did not concern itself with general questions of its future structure. Des Turner, President of the North Jarvis Community Association, stressed that the meeting was planned as an open forum on a specific Ward issue, with emphasis on individual participation.

The Windlass Development has been a thorn in Southeast Spadina's side for about three years. The houses which once stood on the site where Windlass plans to construct three high rise apartment towers have long since been torn down. To accommodate the development, the last City Council amended Toronto's Official Plan and extended the downtown core density from University Avenue to McCaul Street, effectively amputating a substantial portion of the Southeast Spadina low-rise residential community. At the same time, Council imposed a freeze on development in the rest of the neighborhood, until the completion of a Part II detailed plan for the area.

The new City Council has been

looking into the possibility of rescinding the old Council's approval of the Windlass re-zoning application and recently asked the City Solicitor for a report on the legal implications of repeal. The Ward Six Council discussed the possible impact of the development on the whole neighborhood and unanimously approved a motion calling for the extension of the development freeze to University; for the inclusion of the area between McCaul and University in the Part II planning area; and for the withdrawal of City Council's application to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval of the Windlass rezoning application. The Ward Council decided to send a deputation to a crucial discussion of the Windlass development at the City Council Committee on Buildings and Development January 29.

Ward Five Alderman Ying Hope told the meeting that Windlass is the "showdown case" in Southeast Spadina, and he discussed the City solicitor's report. The solicitor, Hope said, adopted a "neutral position". After studying the issue he simply said that he doesn't know the legal implications of repeal. Because of the fuzziness of the report, "We are back at square one," said Hope.

Snowflake daycare centre seeks LIP expansion funding

At least one Toronto Local Initiatives project, the Snowflake day care centre on McCaul Street, has become economically self-sufficient during the past year and is now ready to expand its initial operation if LIP will offer enough financial support.

The Local Initiatives Program funded four day care centres in midtown Toronto last year. Since then, two have failed, and two — Snowflake and the centre at the West End YMCA are prospering.

Snowflake, which was launched last winter, is now able to care for about 30 children under two without additional government funding. The centre is now supported by parent fees and provincial subsidies to parents who can't afford to pay for day care. Work at the centre can be substituted for fees. Snowflake charges 75¢ an hour; parents are paid \$1.12 hourly for their work. George Brown College is now using Snowflake as a child care training centre, and students provide added help. Most parents who use the centre live or work in the neighborhood, but Snowflake has established no residence requirements.

Snowflake is currently trying to accommodate families who need irregular or part time day care and to keep the centre open on a 24 hour basis. Parents can now count on using Snowflake facilities until 11:00 p.m., and sometimes later.

This year Snowflake has applied to LIP for funds to, first of all, establish a centre for children over two. Many children at the centre are now reaching two. "We'll have to evict one third to one half of the kids in a few months, and there are no alternatives for the par-

ents," says Terry Mcanerin, one of the project co-ordinators at Snowflake. The nearby University Settlement House, for instance, offers day care only on a half day basis.

Vintage Volkswagens

Snowflake has also asked the government for funds to cover the cost of a bus, which would be available to all day centres in the area. "We try to take the kids on as many outings as possible," Mcanerin says, but it's difficult in a few vintage Volkswagens. The centre is planning a LIP funded workshop to construct playground equipment for the various local day care centres.

The government has also been asked to support a "coordinator's co-op". LIP would pay salaries to the directors of several local day care centres during the funding period — Snowflake, the two local settlement houses, the two campus day care centres and the centre at the Church of the Messiah. The centres would then be free to spend available money on their top priority projects. Mcanerin says that the two campus day care centres especially need such a financial boost.

The Snowflake LIP project might be a start toward cooperation among the day care centres scattered in the downtown area. The centre has been negotiating with the government since early November and still has been told nothing definite. The project becomes less substantial the longer the government delays, because LIP plans to end all projects in May, no matter when they start. *Citizen* readers who think that the Snowflake project is a good idea might write or phone in an endorsement to the LIP offices at 185 Bay Street.

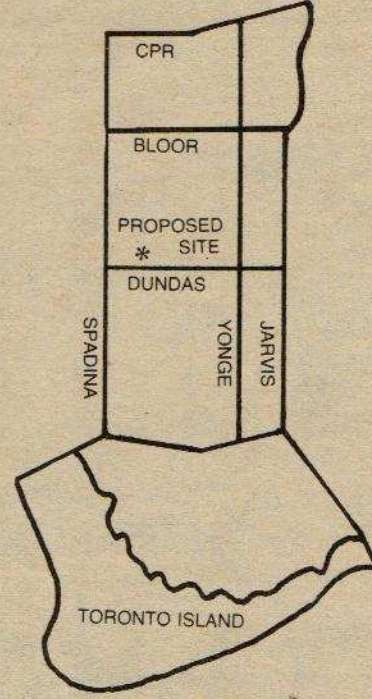
Public talks likely on new 52 Division headquarters site

There is increasing likelihood of public discussion of Metro Police plans to build a stationhouse in a Ward Six residential neighborhood on a site now occupied by several old houses, immediately north-east of the Beverley-Dundas intersection. It is probable there will be open talks about the architectural design of the re-located Division 52 headquarters — now situated on College Street just west of University Avenue — and it will be difficult to avoid the question of site-choice at these talks.

The pressure for discussion of the site comes from area residents, Ward Six aldermen William Archer and Dan Heap and City planning staff personnel working in the neighborhood. "People want to talk about this," says Heap. Archer's view is that "no-one is able to assess the situation" — of the site — "until material from the Police is made available — material about why they made this decision". City planners and area residents who have been working to develop a detailed plan for the district want to consider any major decision, such as location of Police facilities, in the context of the overall plan.

Planning questions about the site concern whether existing housing stock in the neighborhood should be retained as much as possible because of the City's need for low and moderate income housing, and whether a large Police facility is appropriate for a residential area. Critics of the site-choice point out that there are several nearby vacant properties.

The local view is supported by York Borough Mayor Philip White, recently chosen Metro Council appointee to the Metro Police Commission. He believes that "if residents do feel they need the opportunity to discuss this, they should have it". At Metro Executive January 16, White and Metro Chairman Ab Campbell, who also sits on the Commis-



Metro Police Division 52 includes parts of Wards Five, Six and Ten. The proposed new headquarters site is at Dundas and Beverley.

sion as part of his job as Metro's chief executive, supported the idea of public talks between local residents and the Police architect.

Further impetus

Further impetus for open talks about the new station-house's design is expected to come from a closed meeting between Police and neighborhood representatives to be scheduled quite soon. It is not clear yet whether the neighborhood side at the closed meeting will include citizen members or only politicians and City officials. Nor is it clear in what form the issue of site-choice

will be raised at the meeting. It is very unlikely the neighborhood representatives will be satisfied with discussion strictly limited to design.

The Police resisted efforts to open public discussion of site-choice or design last year when local people, politicians and planners accidentally discovered that a land assembly was underway and began pressing for a line of communication with the Police. More recently Police spokesmen have said they are willing to discuss design but not site.

The explanation given by Police spokesmen for the site choice is a desire to bring Police facilities into residential areas in order to establish better community relations and a neighborhood presence. They have told City officials that much of their work, both simply patrolling and on special call, is within ordinary neighborhoods.

"What they've done is a strange way to establish neighborhood relations," Heap comments, referring to Police spokesmen's stony unwillingness to discuss the site in the face of insistent inquiries.

Some people also feel that the Police are understating the new facility's role in saying it will be "just like any other local headquarters". Division 52 includes not only residential neighborhoods in the Beverley-Dundas district but also the rest of the area between Spadina and Jarvis, from the Lakeshore to the CPR line at Dupont Street. This includes the downtown, the Annex, western Rosedale, the University, part of North Jarvis and several other communities in parts of Wards Five, Six and Ten. While establishing a "neighborhood presence" in southwestern Ward Six, the Police would also be servicing one of the most diverse divisions in Metro.

FUN & GAMES AT METRO PROPERTY

The Metro Property Department is supposedly a public agency which serves the people of Metro. What follows is a partial account of the Department's behavior in the case of numbers 37 and 39 Darcy Street:

Among the houses which the Metro Property Department has assembled for the Police for the Beverley-Dundas site are two houses on Darcy Street, the northern limit of the property the Police want.

Metro Property arranged to purchase the houses in late November of last year. The owner of the houses told one of his tenants that he received the offer to buy the houses on the same day as he got a work order for expensive renovations from the City's Housing Inspection Department.

One clause in the purchase agreement was that the tenants be out by January 1, when Metro Property would assume ownership. A second term, apparently, was that parties to the deal agreed to conceal Metro Property's identity. And so the owner told the tenants, on barely one month's notice, to move out by December

31, probably the most difficult time of the year to find new accommodation. When the tenants protested, he told them they would have to see the new owner but that he couldn't say who that was.

Only after constant harassing of a law firm involved in the transaction did the tenants succeed in getting Metro Property to reveal itself. Metro Property agreed to let tenants stay on — according to Department spokesman Richard Nikolayuk, until February 28 of this year.

The terms which Metro Property offered the tenants were the same rent as charged by the old owner with "no allowance whatsoever in connection with the maintenance, etc." In other words Metro Property wanted to rent for the price set by the previous owner which, presumably, took into account his responsibilities as a landlord but refused to agree to those responsibilities.

On January 15 a *Citizen* reporter contacted Metro Property Rental Supervisor Ray Stinson and asked him why the tenants had to be out on February 28. He said that it

was a question of scheduling of construction. Did this mean construction might begin right away?, he was asked. He said yes. Just before ringing off, the reporter verified the information and asked Stinson again if construction might begin in March. Again, Stinson said yes.

On the same day the reporter asked Nikolayuk the same question. Nikolayuk was quite firm in saying that no construction could begin until fall and that Metro's problem with keeping the tenants beyond February was the outstanding City work orders. Metro couldn't afford to spend a lot of money renovating houses for demolition six months later.

On the following day the issue came up at Metro Executive, and the public learned conclusively that no construction could begin until after August and the City work orders were Metro's rationale for evicting the tenants. Metro is only willing to maintain the houses as places for people to live if it is exempted by the City from its legal obligations as a landlord.

Sussex-Ulster elects new executive

Sussex-Ulster residents restructured their association at a January 22 meeting in the Lord Lansdowne School. Members elected seven new officers who agreed to meet once a month. It was decided that 15 members of the Association would constitute a quorum and that the officers could make no important decisions unless at least eight other group members attended a meeting. Any officer's position will become immediately vacant if he misses two consecutive meetings. The core of the Sussex-Ulster organization had previously been composed of a nine-member executive which met irregularly.

Richard Gilbert was elected Chairman; Kathleen MacDonnell, Secretary; Ann Barrington, Treasurer; Celia Denov, the Association's representative

at the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations; Rose Smith, the alternate CORRA delegate; Joan Doiron, delegate to a planned Ward Six Council; Nancy Tudor, Membership Chairman.

There have been several auto accidents recently in the Sussex-Ulster area, and the Association discussed several solutions to the traffic problem. Gilbert presented a plan for a traffic maze in the district which would involve reserving the direction of several streets for short stretches of their total length. He said that the Department of Public Works has reacted favorably to his scheme and is willing to try it out in the northern half of the area. The maze will be discussed further at a public meeting. The Association also sup-

ported requests for a crosswalk at Borden and Harbord and a traffic light at Borden and College. The meeting reaffirmed the Association's support for a Bathurst Street subway alignment.

A Local Initiatives proposal, submitted to the government several weeks ago, was discussed and approved. The main purpose of the project, if it is funded by LIP, would be to expand the base of the organization, making it truly representative of all communities in Sussex-Ulster. The group has not yet been able to reach the large Portuguese population in the district.

Ward Six Board of Education Trustee Dan Leckie presented his plans for another local LIP project, not yet approved, which would promote community involvement in education.

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Ward 5 opens federation talks

The problem of how to establish a ward-wide base for a Ward Five citizens' federation and the issue of whether a federation would be a "council" or a "forum" dominated discussion among ward residents who met at Bathurst Buddhist Church January 16.

The meeting was called by a steering committee of three residents of the east end of the ward who had been chosen by a December gathering of representatives of citizen groups from that part of the ward. The December meeting had decided there was little purpose in a discussion of the ward federation concept at that time because it would have to

be developed by representatives from across the whole ward, not just the eastern half. The steering committee was selected and directed to initiate ward-wide federation planning.

The 30 people who attended the January 16 meeting, some on behalf of organized groups in the ward and others as individuals, represented a much broader range of ward residents than the December gathering. But the group felt strongly that it still fell far short of covering the range of people and lifestyles within the ward. The middle class, politically sophisticated eastern and northern areas of the ward were well spoken for,

but the working class and "new Canadian" southwestern district wasn't much in evidence. And resident and ratepayer organizations were heavily over-represented, while there were few spokesmen for business or social organizations or for ward residents without formal neighborhood group ties.

Past failure

The east-west split in the part of the ward south of Dupont Street is something with which east-side residents trying to develop ward-wide political roots have experienced before. During the 1972 civic election campaign, east-side citizens wanted to form a ward group which would assess candidates and take a big role in the election process. East of Bathurst Street they found support, but efforts to involve people west of Bathurst failed. The "ethnic" communities in the ward don't have much in common with the other neighborhoods except for a shared political district at the municipal level — at City Hall and the Board of Education.

In spite of this cleavage, some ward residents are not enthusiastic about occasional references to the possible amputation of each area from the other in a projected municipal political reorganization which would create smaller wards. If the eastern and northern middle class communities and the southwestern Italian, West Indian and sundry other communities can be brought together for mutual political work, each will have something to learn from the other, these observers suggest. The unorganized and politically weak groups could learn something about getting and using power in local affairs, and the other side of the ward would get a much deeper working appreciation of varied kinds of Toronto communities.

The problem confronting the nascent ward federation is how to continue expanding its base — where to make contact to find such representatives of the southwest district as there may be, and how to encourage or initiate organization where it doesn't exist. Buoyed by the broader cross-section brought into federation planning at the January meeting, the steering committee, now expanded to seven, will be attempting to further diversify a projected mid-February meeting. The steering committee now includes three members from the eastern side of the ward, two from the northwest and two from the critical southwestern zone.

Communications or power?

Besides expanding the steering committee and stressing the primary importance of a ward-wide base, the January 16 meeting discussed what the function and form of a ward federation might be. Ron Wiehs, of the Ward Five Education Council, seemed to sum up the group's feeling about the function of a federation when he said the key job would be giving people a role in decisions affecting their local areas, and helping them organize to carry out this role where necessary.

But there were two views on the form this role might take. Sandy Sergiades, of East Escarpment Ratepayers, suggested a "forum" concept and emphasized the need for good lines of communication between ward residents and their elected representatives. He said the federation should exist to provide means for communication among people and said he didn't want to see another level of government created at the ward level.

Stuart Coles, of Deer Park South Ratepayers, told the meeting that the federation must be concerned with and have power if it was ever going to amount to anything important. He stressed the "council" idea and said he wanted to see a decentralization of decision-making in the City, at least on local issues like parking regulations, neighborhood policing and the like.

The thrust of the evening tended more toward Coles' view. After the meeting, Sergiades said he could see the possibility of a limited decision-making role for the federation. But the group only tried to refine some ideas about the federation for the present and postponed formal decisions until a broader base was established. Both the "forum" and "council" roles were included in Chairman

Jack Granatstein's summary of the discussion; the strong points in the summary referred to Wiehs' remarks and the issue of involving more and more people.

Structural worries

The issue of the structure of the federation will arise in February although, again, it is unlikely that meeting will try to do more than distill ideas on the subject and press for further broadening of the group's base. One debate about structure which flared up but was dropped January 16 concerned whether federation decisions would be made by delegates of organized groups or by general voting of all people at a meeting. Those who pushed the second system seemed worried that the well-organized northern and eastern communities would dominate a federation, and so the question of structure, too, leads right back to the root issue of the kind of base the federation develops.

Prior to the February meeting the expanded steering committee will prepare some rough ideas about possible structures for open discussion. One steering committee member summed up his idea of the committee's biggest job, however, when he said he thought the committee should try to put itself out of business as quickly as possible by getting enough groundwork done and a varied enough group of people involved so that a tentative federation executive can be chosen as soon as possible.



photos: Bill Lindsay

Stuart Coles (above) and Sandy Sergiades — a "council" or a "forum"?

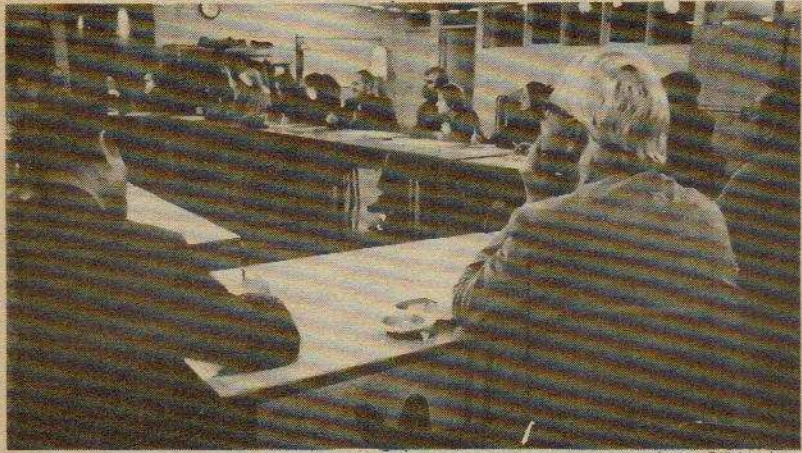


photo: Bill Lindsay

Ward Five's ward council planning session

Vote conspiracy charged

Metro Police are pressing their search for the manager of Erna Koffman's unsuccessful campaign for alderman in Ward Five in last month's municipal elections.

J. J. Richards was one of two men charged last week with unlawfully conspiring to counsel people to, as the court information sheet says, "falsely represent themselves as qualified voters in a municipal election contrary to the Criminal Code."

Richards' whereabouts is unknown but the other man, Ian Arthur Johnson of Gerrard Street East, is free on a \$300 bond. He will appear March 16 for a hearing at the Provincial Court (Criminal Division) on Keele Street. Police identified Johnson as an Australian who came to Canada after living in the United States.

Police began an investigation of possible voting irregularities a day before the December 4 election

after receiving a tip. They say they cleared up the situation before the polls opened.

Police say the operation they were concerned with had lined up people to vote at various polling stations under assumed or false names. The "voters" were to telephone a certain number from time to time to receive instructions where to go next.

Besides Richards and Johnson no other people have been charged in the incident.

Before joining the Koffman campaign, Richards was a disc jockey and newsman with CHUM and covered City Hall for CBLT. He has been out of journalism since 1970 and ran as a Conservative in Riverdale Riding in the 1971 provincial election, finishing a close second to the NDP's James Renwick after a campaign filled with mutual charges of impropriety.

Boswell hearings Jan. 29

The Public Works Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 29, on a plan to close Boswell Avenue to vehicular traffic for a six-month trial period. The hearing will start at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall and anyone who believes his or her interests will be prejudicially affected by the closing is invited to appear.

Residents of Boswell, the fourth east-west street north of Bloor Street west of Avenue Road, petitioned the City to close the street because of the heavy volume of traffic which uses Boswell as a result of a Metro-constructed traffic

light at the street's Avenue Road end.

If approved at Public Works, the closing proposal will go back to City Council for third reading. If it becomes law a barrier will be constructed at the Avenue Road end of Boswell. Two-way traffic will be permitted from the Bedford Road end of the street and all parking will be prohibited.

Permanent closure of the street will be considered in light of the results of the six-month trial and the outcome of an overall study of traffic in the Annex now underway.

Police tower rises again

City Council will be asked January 31 to request the appointment of a provincial task force which will investigate proposed sites for a police communications tower in northern Ward Five. The tower has been a contentious issue for more than three years. The Police Department wants to locate it in Sir Winston Churchill Park but local residents have been fighting to prevent loss of parkland. They want the tower located atop one of several neighboring tall buildings.

The question has been batted back and forth from the Police to the City to the Ontario Municipal Board several times, but in its last decision the O.M.B. approved a

site in a ravine neighboring the park, a site which satisfies no-one. Metro, which is supporting the Police effort to get a site in the park, has appealed this decision to the provincial cabinet.

The request for a task force is sought in a motion by Ward Five Alderman Colin Vaughan who supports the local residents and would like to see a building-top location chosen for the tower. He and Ward Five's other alderman, Ying Hope, believe that the Police arguments for the parksites have been baseless and that, if Queen's Park investigates the issue before making a decision, no park or ravine sites will be allowed.

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WARD ELEVEN

CRIME, LITTER PLAGUE BELT-LINE WEST OF BATHURST, SAYS AREA

Residents of Ward Eleven who live next to the Belt Line Walkway, west of Bathurst Street, are continuing their fight to get City Hall and the Canadian National Railway to sell them the parts of the Line that abut their properties.

Residents of Elm Ridge Drive, Aldburn Road and Shallmar Boulevard believe their case has been fortified by the fact that only a few walkers are using the stretch of the Belt Line west of Bathurst. They also cite an increased crime rate and severe litter problems as other causes for a reversal of the controversial decision made almost three years ago to create a walkway.

The Belt Line is an abandoned stretch of track owned by the CNR south of Eglinton Avenue which runs from the Spadina Expressway ditch east to Mount Pleasant Road.

Fences which enclosed the Line were pulled down in 1970 to provide a walkway. People who live west of Bathurst say that the part of the walkway by their

homes is used sparingly. Last summer, the results of electronic surveillance revealed that the Belt Line west of Bathurst attracts an average of only 23 walkers a month.

The opening of the Belt Line as a park brought with it a variety of problems. The most obvious is loss of privacy — those who own homes adjoining the Line can no longer sit in their backyards removed from the public eye. There is also the aggravation of wanderers using the yards as shortcuts to the street.

No less annoying, west of Bathurst, is the fact that the Belt Line there, because it is vacant and overgrown with weeds, is sometimes used as a garbage dump. The ground is littered with broken concrete, old tires, cans, bottles and assorted footwear.

The most serious problem, according to local residents, is the increase in crime. Since the line was opened to the public house burglaries have gone way

up. In the 20 week period from the end of June, 1970, there were 43 break-ins in the area. Inspector Ernest Smider of 13 Division said last year that, in the ten years before the Belt Line was established, the area had the lowest crime rate in Toronto. But since the park opened the area has one of the highest crime rates for any ten block region in Metro, he said.

Because it is vacant and unpatrolled, the Belt Line walkway is an ideal area for entry and exit to nearby homes. Local residents say that insurance rates have risen and real estate values have dropped since 1970.

The residents who want the Belt Line closed and sold to the adjoining homeowners feel that they have the backing of the community. In a sampling of the area bounded by Bathurst Street and the Expressway site, Eglinton Avenue and Briar Hill, 69% of 315 replies received wanted to see the land sold to the adjoining homeowners. The strongest support came from those who owned land bordering the Belt Line. Only one owner said that he was unwilling to buy the land behind his property.

Usually, when a railway line is abandoned, the company sells the land to the adjoining homeowners for a nominal fee as a matter of course. Such land has little real estate value; it is too narrow to build on, has no services and is not accessible by public road.

As a walking park, the Belt Line links the Spadina Expressway ditch to the Rosedale Parks. If the Line is converted into a public park it will unite the Spadina ditch and the Nordheimer and Cedervale ravines with the network of parks in Toronto's east end. Because of this, many people believe that the Belt Line should not be sold to the adjoining homeowners since this would ruin any chance of joining the two parklands. And sale of the west-of-Bathurst stretch jeopardizes the whole Belt-Line plan. If residents west of Bathurst are allowed to buy the land behind their houses, homeowners east of Bathurst will demand the same right, and the Line might soon disappear.

William McKay, spokesman for the homeowners, submitted a six-point brief to the Planning Department at a public meeting in February, 1972. The brief suggested that, if the Belt Line is not sold to the adjoining homeowners, it should be screened by mature trees, lighted and patrolled. It also asked that the City erect an eight-foot fence along the Line and post a bond ensuring the homeowners that, in the event of a burglary where the Belt Line is used for both

Skating rink proposal sets off neighborhood protest

The City Department of Parks and Recreation is currently considering a proposal to build an outdoor skating rink in the ravine south of Lawrence Avenue, near Lawrence Park Collegiate. Residents of the area oppose this because they feel the ravine is already over-used.

The ravine and the surrounding hills support three large schools — John Ross Robertson Public School, Glenview Senior Public School and Lawrence Park Collegiate. Students from these schools presently use the ravine as a playing field.

The skating rink will be converted into tennis courts for the summer months. A spokesman for the homeowners expressed concern about the extra traffic and people the building would attract throughout the year.

Residents living near the ravine, which already houses four natural skating rinks, say they have no use for another rink and that it is people living north of Lawrence who want the new rink.

Similar attempts to construct a skating rink were made in the Mount Pleasant-Davisville and Mount Pleasant-Lawrence areas. Both times, local residents' groups managed to defeat the proposals.

The recommendation to locate a rink in the Lawrence Park area dates back to the construction of Glenview Senior Public School when the land was given to the Board of Education with the understanding that the Board would relinquish enough land, at a later date, to build a skating rink.

A local task force is being organized to consider the problem and to locate an alternate site.

entry and exit, the City will pay for any loss. The brief also proposed that if the City decides to buy the Belt Line and turn it into a public park, the decision should be binding for all time to prevent later use of the land as a rapid-transit route.

Province rejects North Toronto school project

Planned additions and renovations to two North Toronto public schools may not take place because of a freeze on "non-essential" building construction being enforced by Education Minister Thomas Wells.

Money for construction at Oriole Park P.S. in Ward Eleven had been approved in the 1972 capital budget by both the City and Metro Boards of Education. Such projects in the past have usually been approved by the Department of Education, too, but this project was rejected because it did not involve "acute need" for more classroom space. There is no great need for more classrooms because the population around the school is fairly stable, but the City Board says that the 40-year-old school building is not adequate to carry on the new types of teaching programs recommended by the province which depend on use of a "learning resource centre" (large library). The Board planned to make the old basement gym into the resource centre to replace the small third-floor classroom which is now used as the library and to construct a new general-purpose room and gym, at a cost of about \$600,000.

Board Chairman Judy Jordan, who is also a trustee for Ward Eleven, sees the province's encouragement of the use of resource centres as contradictory to its current refusal of funds to construct them. Margot Macdel, president of the school's parent-teacher group, says that they will work through their MPP Leonard Reilly to appeal the decision to the Minister. The Toronto Board is supporting this appeal and plans to include the project in its budget for 1973 construction if it is not successful. Meanwhile, the Metro Board is asking the Minister to honour the previous tentative commitment it gave to all projects of this type last year.

A parent-teacher group in another North Toronto school, Bedford Park in Ward Ten, has gained Board approval for a project similar to Oriole Park's, but it can probably anticipate a provincial veto unless the present policy changes. Besides a resource centre and general purpose room, the Bedford Park group wants a small learner swimming pool which they are asking the City to fund under new provincial legislation that makes possible cost-sharing between the City and the Board for "community facilities". The pool and general purpose room will be built in a wing separate from the rest of the school and will probably be open for neighborhood use even at times when the rest of the building isn't. The Board had originally voted to replace the whole school, but later found that neither the school's parent-teacher group nor the Metro Board felt that a totally new school was necessary. The new plan was proposed by a building committee of the parent-teacher group.

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At the Board

by Ellen Murray

Not much has changed

The 25-man Toronto Board of Education has twelve new members since the election — nine public trustees and three new Separate School representatives. Will the turnover make much change in what the Board does? It's a bit early to tell, but indications are that it won't. There have been no major policy initiatives at the new Board — unlike at the new City Council — with the possible exception of the establishment of the inner-city school committee at the suggestion of old trustee Gord Cressy (Ward Seven) and new trustee Dan Leckie (Ward Six). There have been no major votes, either, but a couple of minor ones taken at the January 18 meeting suggest that this new group isn't likely to be especially sensitive or thoughtful in re-evaluating the way things have always been done around the Board.

An \$1,100 banquet

The first item involved expenditures of \$1,100 for a banquet for departing trustees and citizen members of the advisory vocational committee and \$200 for a present for last year's Board chairman, Bill Charlton. The banquet seems to be traditional, and it was said that the cost had been reduced from previous years. Still, some trustees felt that public money shouldn't be spent on the party

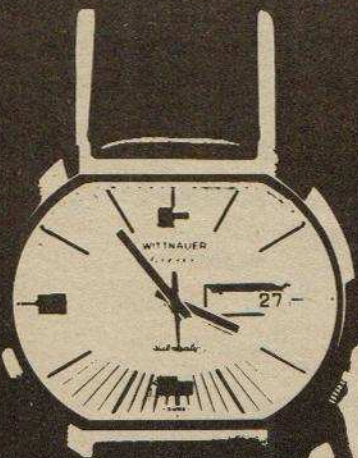
in a year when the Board would probably have to justify a cutback in its educational program to the people of the City.

Bob Orr (Ward Three), however, felt that a "letter or handshake" wouldn't substitute for a more elaborate thank-you. Cressy said that the Board spent too much time "honouring the past" and not enough working on educational problems which exist now. If trustees really felt strongly that their retiring colleagues needed an expensive dinner as a going-away present, he said, they should be willing to contribute towards it out of their own pockets. He suggested an allotment of \$300 for the dinner and \$100 for the chairman's gift.

The gift cost was pared down, but the dinner budget remained intact with support from: Fiona Nelson (Ward Five), James Bonham and Gary Hunt (One), Richard Frost and Irene Atkinson (Two), Bob Orr and Roy Johnston (Three), K. Dock Yip (Six), Ted Matthews and Arnold Hancock (Eight), and Vern Copeland and Judy Jordan (Eleven). Voting with Cressy were Bernard Midanik (Four), Sheila Meagher (Nine), Charlotte Maher (Ten), Dan Leckie (Six), Doug Barr (Seven), and Separate School representatives Sam Marafioti and Dom Frasca.

Later in the evening Sheila Meagher tried to get the Board to consider a motion endorsing in principle the International Demonstration against the Vietnam war, which took place last Saturday. The demonstration called for a permanent end to the bombing, an immediate withdrawal of foreign troops and materials, and an embargo on Canadian exports for war use. A loud debate on the question had been expected but never materialized, because the Board refused to talk about the matter at all. Meagher, a new trustee, had made a small procedural gaffe which necessitated her getting a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules so that her motion could be discussed. She didn't get it, however, because Yip, Bonham, Midanik and Jordan voted against discussion. Ted Matthews saved himself from going on record about the matter by refusing to come into the Board chambers for the vote.

Absent from the meeting were Maurice Lister (Ten), David Shanoff (Four) and William Ross (Nine). Bill Charlton (Five) did not attend the Board because the results of a recount on the December race between him and challenger Judith Major were not known then.



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Metro residents will be giving the downtown hotel and restaurant industry a \$20 million gift if Metro Council proceeds any further with plans to build a downtown Convention Centre.

Conversations with over 60 hotel managers and executives, industry consultants, and show and convention organizers indicate that the need for such a centre is unproven, the benefits questionable and the proposed financing inequitable.

Downtown hotels, beginning to feel the unpleasant effects of last year's splurge of hotel-building, stand to be the biggest beneficiaries and are eager to see construction start, as are the project's other backers — the Convention and Tourist Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto, the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto and the Toronto Hotel Association.

Though preliminary architectural designs commissioned by the last Metro Council are being drawn up at a cost of \$10,000, the decision to proceed or not with actual construction will be made by the new Metro Council.

The initial Metro Council funding for the preliminary plans was prompted by a Board of Trade *Convention Centre Report* presented to the Council in March, 1971. The submission was supported by a confidential feasibility study undertaken by the management consulting firm of Laventhol, Krekstein, Horwath and Horwath (LKH&H).

The consultant's study says that Toronto needs a convention centre because of "the recognized need to create a modern, saleable first-class facility in a location that would satisfy the strong preference of the users."

But rather than suggest an upgrading of existing facilities at Exhibition Park, the consultants recommend building an entirely new centre downtown which, they assert, would be easier to "sell" because it would be new and downtown.

One key element in this rationale is an LKH&H-conducted poll of convention and trade show organizers which showed respondents thought it "essential" that exhibit and meeting areas be "within walking distance of hotels."

If walking distance refers to accessibility in general, it is arguable that the planned rapid transit between Exhibition Park and downtown would dissolve any hesitation about coming to Toronto to use the CNE facilities because of their location.

And organizers of large trade shows say that the CNE's location poses no problem in attracting shows. Indeed, visitors to trade shows — who arrive mostly by car — prefer the CNE, with its cheap, plentiful parking, to the congested downtown.

A rehabilitation plan for Exhibition Park already exists. The part which the CNE hopes to implement this year includes an eight-acre trade show building; scheduled next are the transit lines to the downtown.

"The general feeling is that Exhibition Park has the finest potential plant for trade and public shows in North America," says Lloyd Haines, past president of the Association of Trade and Consumer Exhibitions, and show organizer in Maclean-Hunter's industrial and trade show division.

The multiplier effect

Metro Council members were no doubt impressed by the Board of Trade Report's claim that the city "lost" \$240 million over the five-year period 1966-1970 because of "inadequate" convention facilities.

How did the Board arrive at that figure?

It wasn't easy. First, they listed 26 conventions which didn't choose Toronto because of the lack of an adequate convention centre. They then calculated a \$40 million loss in direct delegate expenditures. To compute so-called "indirect" expendi-

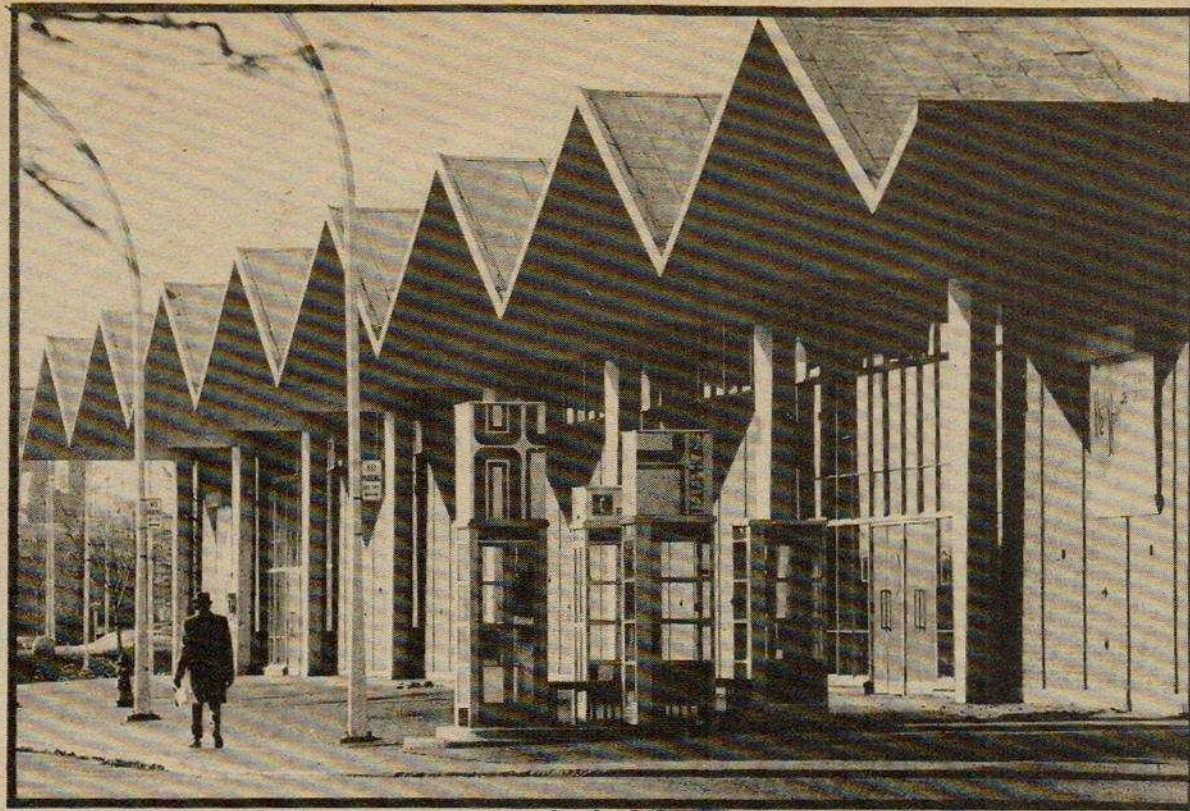


photo: Phil Lapides

Exhibition Park at Bathurst and Lakeshore is the finest potential convention and exhibit plant in North America, according to a major Canadian organizer of trade shows and public exhibits. But downtown hotel interests want the Exhibition Park refurbishing proposal scrapped and want the taxpayers to build a shiny new convention centre downtown.

Don't look now, but there's a hand in your pocket.

Hotel interests promoting a convention centre Toronto doesn't need.

by Gary Weiss

tures this figure was multiplied by five, becoming \$200 million; the original figure was added for a grand total of \$240 million in direct and "indirect" benefits allegedly lost to the community.

This "multiplier effect" is a handy device for arriving at "this sort of mythical calculation," says Andrew Jacob, an economist with Canadian Real Estate Research Corporation. The convention feasibility study for Calgary's convention centre uses an economic multiplier of .44, about one-tenth of the Toronto Board of Trade's multiplier, notes Jacob. Some economists question the whole concept of a "multiplier." A loss of \$200 million of "indirect" benefits is, at best, a dubious calculation.

The \$40 million figure for direct losses is similarly doubtful. The Board says its source for this tabulation of lost conventions is the Convention and Tourist Bureau of Metropolitan Toronto.

But Andrea Thorp, the Bureau's public relations director, declares such a list would be "highly inaccurate." "No one tells us why they didn't choose Toronto. I don't know how you can say you lost out because of this or that factor. There are many factors involved. To be really silly about it, you could say that all conventions that considered Toronto and didn't select us were lost because of the lack of a convention centre."

Out the window

A new convention centre, says LKH&H, would lure conventions and shows now unwilling or unable to come here, generally because of lack of a large enough building.

The consultant's study notes that although, in 1966 for instance, "groups of 7,000 people and over accounted for only 3.3% of the number of conventions held, their expenditures accounted for 29.3% of total expenditure." Furnished with another downtown exhibit and meeting centre, Toronto would get a larger share of this rich market, says LKH&H.

The problem with this reasoning is two-fold:

(1) There are few of these large events (7,000 plus) held per year. In 1969-1970, 83% of Canadian conven-

tion window."

(2) Rivalry with other cities is intense. Formidable competition must be expected from new centres in Calgary, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Niagara Falls, New York. And Toronto cannot duplicate the positive features of cities three, four and five times its size nor match the facilities there. Compete with Chicago's \$107 million McCormick Place? Or the upcoming \$100 million New York City Convention Centre scheduled to be the world's largest?

Not needed or desired

The centre proposed by LKH&H and the Board of Trade focuses on a 200,000 square feet exhibit hall. Yet existing display, meeting and banquet space in Toronto can comfortably accommodate all but a handful of exceptional gatherings, like major Party leadership conventions which tax even the huge Maple Leaf Gardens.

Exhibition Park offers 750,000 square feet of heated useable indoor exhibit space, including the 192,000 square feet Automotive Building, the Coliseum and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, site of last summer's People's Republic of China show which accommodated 2.75 million people during its 20-day run.

The Toronto International Centre of Commerce near the airport at Malton will soon have more than 300,000 square feet of exhibit space available. Total capacity of the 34-acre site is over 700,000 square feet. High-capacity banquet and exhibit areas are provided at many airport-region hotels.

In addition, the first-class exhibit space proposed for the new downtown centre is neither needed nor desired by many trade show exhibitors seeking only functional and inexpensive space. Construction costs for the type of elaborate space proposed run three to four times that of plain industrial space.

A costly edifice

In 1970 the consultants estimated capital costs for the proposed centre between \$15.5 million and \$17 million.

PRIVATE INTERESTS RUN

A PUBLIC BUREAU

During the sixties the Convention and Tourist Bureau of Metro Toronto steadily built a reputation for itself — a reputation for incompetence.

Newspaper records show a series of confusing and fantastic statements from the Bureau. In 1968 the Ontario Department of Tourism publicly questioned the Bureau's estimate of convention visitor spending. The Bureau was at one time kicked out of the International Association of Convention Bureaus. Estimated tourist expenditures were then regularly multiplied by six — sometimes by ten — to get a suitably impressive sum which the Bureau could claim credit for attracting.

The Bureau has since been readmitted to the international body; the current staff is better regarded — professional and honest. Maybe too honest. Last month, on the next business day after an unfavourable article on the convention centre appeared in the press, the Bureau

decided on a new policy: public relations people at the Bureau were forbidden to speak to newspapermen. David Smart, the Bureau's convention sales director, was also muzzled. "I'd love to speak to you but ... well ... ah, we have a new policy as of this morning."

The only people now speaking for the Bureau are W. H. Luke, the director, and Dalton Waller, the Bureau's president. Waller, president of Dalmar Foods, heads a 45 man Board of Directors whose most active members are people in the restaurant, hotel and entertainment industry.

Since 75% of the Bureau's \$568,000 budget last year came from the taxpayers of Metro, one wonders if they are not entitled to know a little more about the Bureau than is deemed printable by the industry interests who run it. What, in fact, are industry people doing running the publicly funded Bureau in the first place?

exclusive of site acquisition expenses. Based on increases through September 1972 in the Statistics Canada cost index on non-residential "buildings in place", by the end of 1973 these capital estimates should be upped to between \$18.7 million and \$20.5 million.

The completion cost of the controversial Winnipeg Convention Centre has risen 40% over original estimates; the centre at Niagara Falls, New York, is reportedly running at six times initially proposed costs. Anticipating a similar miscalculation in Board of Trade estimates, the proposed Toronto Convention Centre should be expected to bear a final price tag in excess of \$30 million, perhaps as high as \$125 million.

The confidential study says that this costly edifice would lose \$24,000 in its first year of operations — a figure thoughtfully omitted from the Board of Trade's Convention Centre Report presented to Metro Council. As this estimate is predicated on doubtful utilization projections, higher operating losses are foreseeable as attendance fails to meet inflated expectations.

Because of surplus of convention space and competition between cities, only 25% of U.S. convention centres are even meeting operating expenses, let alone capital costs.

The first year's projected net operating loss does not include interest and depreciation. At ten per cent, interest on the building costs alone would be over \$3 million a year. The centre is also to be exempt from municipal taxes. Consequently, total real costs to the public will be greater than the price of merely satisfying deficits in the operating budget.

And that portion of income attributable to simply a transfer of activities from other Toronto facilities effects no net benefit to the total community.

An accurate analysis should also take into account indirect costs, such as provision of new street and sewage facilities and intangible costs such as traffic congestion and an increase in crowd-related crimes. LKH&H does not consider these factors in its Convention Centre Report.

Special interests

Nonetheless, the construction of an expensive and unprofitable convention centre would be welcomed by some special interests.

The building trades would benefit, and the downtown entertainment industry would be aided in its competition with the airport region which has the use of a privately developed centre. Even a handful of additional meetings attracted by the novelty of a new centre would boost restaurant income and help relieve hotels hit by the room surplus.

"You can't bring in 3,000 new rooms all at once and expect to fill them," explains Royal York general manager A. Gordon Cardy, describing Toronto hotel-space growth. "A convention centre would be a great help."

"But do you build a whole new facility out of public funds so hotels in a particular area can reap the benefits?" asks Robert Zavislaka, vice-president of Canadian Real Estate Research. "If the centre will be so good for specific industries, those industries should build it. Let them, for instance, put a private tax on meal and room tabs to finance the centre. But they won't do this. They prefer to have the many who won't benefit pay for the few who will."

"We should ask, one, 'Who is to pay?' and, two, 'Who is to benefit?'" This analysis, says Zavislaka, would show that, while the public will foot the bill, the downtown entertainment industry will directly benefit.

Zavislaka goes on to compare the proposed centre with the new Metro Zoo. The zoo, he says, "will have a very beneficial impact on hotel occupancy and the convention market. Yet this is something which also benefits directly the public at large."

"The proposed centre is, in simple economics, a losing proposition," concludes Jacob. "If this is what the public wants, okay. But they should be provided with the real costs and benefits, not with flamboyant statements that tend to mislead rather than inform."

Pressure groups favoring a convention centre are being heard loud and clear. Their interest is intense; their benefit obvious. Unless it displays a similar self-interest, the taxpaying public will be soon touched for a handout to Toronto's construction and downtown entertainment industries.

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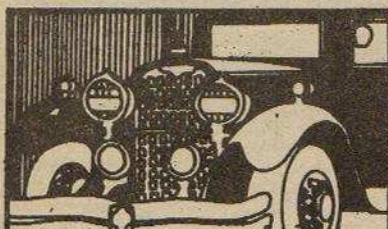
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Graham Fraser's Fighting Back, published by Hakkert in December, is a history of urban renewal planning in Trefann Court, a tiny neighborhood in southern Ward Seven, the last remnant of Toronto's original Cabbagetown district. Trefann, separated from the rest of Cabbagetown by Shuter Street, was spared when the rest of the area was razed in the forties and fifties to make way for the Regent Park housing project. Trefann's new plan, approved by the City, provincial and federal governments last year, is a threshold in Toronto politics because it is the City's first real experience with citizen-controlled planning.

In the excerpt from the book which follows, Fraser discusses the kind of power Trefann people had over their plan — their relationship with City Hall — and why it was only a primitive form of local control. Still, he writes, it was in some sense real citizen participation, a phrase which is often applied where it doesn't fit. The excerpt goes on to discuss the role of the Trefann Working Committee and the real lesson of the Trefann plan.

The community in Trefann Court is working and lower class. While the people who played important roles in December's reform election victory were largely from the City's middle and upper class communities, it is Trefann Court which has proved that neighborhood control, one of the main points of reform ideology, is a sound way of solving problems in Toronto local government. It's not too surprising that it turned out to be a working and lower class community which sought a new tool for dealing with City Hall because these communities have traditionally had the hardest time getting responsive civic government.

One interesting aspect of Fraser's discussion is the role which professionals played in Trefann — using their expertise to accomplish what the residents wanted. In this month's Maclean's, the director of a Canadian urban research centre writes, "Citizen power . . . has its limitations . . . Neighborhood planning works when a community is trying to preserve something, not when it is trying to create something new." Trefann's experience belies this experts' truism while making clear the important role that experts can play in reform politics.

Fraser's book is essential reading for anyone curious about politics in a working and lower class community and about local control. As a precedent for working committees and task forces elsewhere in Toronto, what occurred in Trefann is a turning point, and Fraser provides historical material, detail and insight about the event.

Although a full assessment of the urban renewal process in Trefann Court will obviously have to wait until the scheme is fully implemented, in planning terms alone, the formulation and approval of *The Trefann Court Urban Renewal Scheme* was itself a considerable achievement on the part of all involved: the members of the Working Committee, the Trefann residents who came to the informal meetings, and the city staff who co-operated with the Working Committee. With the completion and adoption of the scheme, people in Trefann Court had succeeded not only in stopping a destructive public project — which, as the fight to stop the Spadina Expressway in Toronto had shown, was a positive achievement — but had also managed, through the Working Committee, to propose an alternative.

It is a developers' and politicians' cliché that citizen groups are only negative and never positive. But the success of the Working Committee showed that Trefann resident Edna Dixon was right when she wrote in 1968 "Let people participate in planning . . . [and] miraculously you would see that the same people who now resist urban renewal with all their might would then eagerly co-operate with urban renewal efforts." The Working Committee managed to prove that "citizen participation" — itself an overworked cliché — not only can work in the planning process, but is able to produce complex solutions to difficult problems. The 1972 scheme was not only a more democratically produced plan that was more responsive to the people in the area than the 1966 scheme it replaced, but was obviously a more comprehensive, more sophisticated, better thought-out piece of work.

In showing that the Working Committee process could produce a more effective plan by involving Trefann people in the decision-making, the urban renewal planning process in Trefann implicitly attacked the idea that planning is an absolute discipline or an exact science, whose practitioners are trained to decide what is best for a given situation, and showed that planning could be more simply a set of tools to achieve the aims of those people concerned — in this case, the aims of the people in Trefann expressed in the 15 points, at the Working Committee and in informal meetings.

The power of blackmail

However, as former Alderman David Rotenberg took great pains to point out, whatever power had been won by the Working Committee was indirect, advisory power; despite whatever access to the planning process had been conceded to the residents through the Working Committee, all final decisions rested with City Council and the provincial and federal governments. The only power which the Working Committee had to enforce its own decisions was the power of blackmail: at the last resort, the Working Committee — or any group on the committee — could abandon the process and protest.

Since the experience in Trefann Court represents a greater intrusion into the traditional power of civil servants and politicians, there has been little discussion of these severe limitations on its ability to make decisions. This is not surprising; "citizen participation" in Canada has rarely been interpreted as having anything to do with power. Pierre Trudeau's assumption that it refers only to improved communication is shared by such writers as James Draper, who, in an introduction to a book about citizen participation, defined it this way: ". . . Citizen participation doesn't imply simply more people attending more meetings. It means the involvement of more people in dialogue . . . Communication is not a one-way process; to achieve dialogue, government must build into its structure channels for the citizen to react and express opinions."

Nowhere in his comments about citizen participation does Draper approach the idea or deal with the concept of power. The vacuous, fraudulent jargon about "dialogue," two-way "communication" and "channels for the citizen to react and express his opinions" generally mean, in reality, that a highly paid consultant organizes the welfare agencies and caretaker organizations so that they can present a united tutelary front against the people they claim to serve.

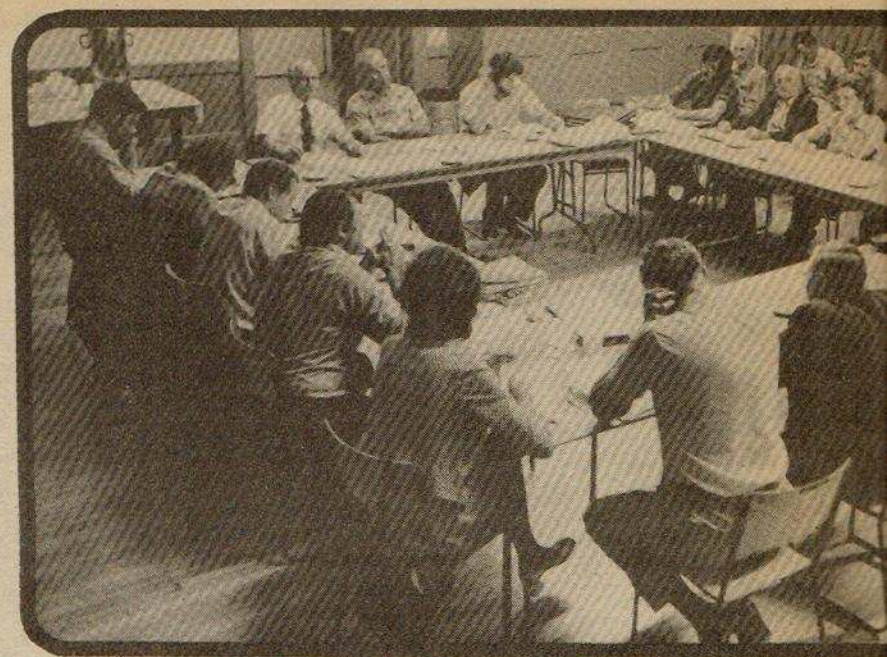
Thus, in the same book, in an article on a "community school," Dale E. Shuttleworth recounts how municipal services, educational services and various service clubs were organized and co-ordinated to produce "activities." Citizen participation has become a fashionable part of the rhetoric of any public official, and people in areas like Trefann smile to watch the jargon being picked up by caretaker agency bureaucrats and officials of every stripe.

Participation is power

In one of the few attempts made to evaluate degrees of citizen participation, Sherry Arnstein defined the concept itself clearly and precisely: "Citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power. It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. It is the strategy whereby the have-nots join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated, and benefits like contracts and patronage are parcelled out."

In her analysis, Arnstein presents eight levels of citizen participation: two levels which she describes as "non-participation," three which she calls "degrees of tokenism," and three top levels: "degrees of citizen power": partnership, delegated power and citizen control. The typology is a very useful one to hold up against situations which are hailed as triumphs of "citizen participation"; under the light of that kind of analysis, many of them begin to wilt as the limitations and restraints; the tokenism and rhetoric all become clearer.

As the Trefann Working Committee experience made very clear, the question of power is absolutely crucial to any

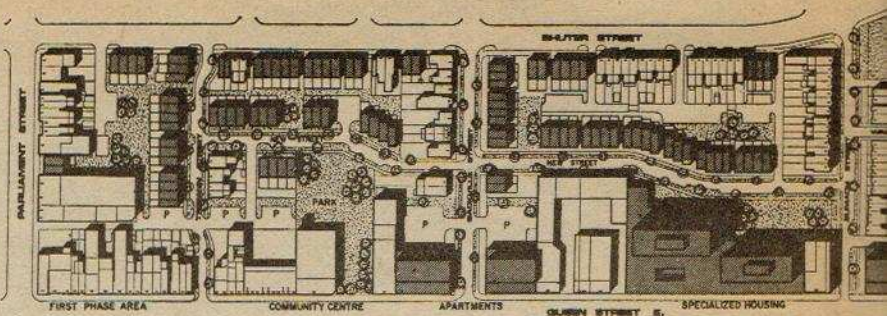


The Trefann Court Working Committee

Citizen politics Trefann Court

Neighborhood participation does mean communication or feedback or pressure; it means the power to make decisions at a local level

by Graham Fraser
photos: Michael Mitchell



tc

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The Trefann Court urban renewal plan, writes Fraser, "is unusual in its that the people actually living in Trefann Court rather than the anonymous, retains many existing buildings and preserves much of the present pattern. Some new parks and buildings are added, and a new street, the most will run through the centre of Trefann. The street is intended to provide and help unify to community physically.

discussion of citizen participation. The phrase only has meaning when a central bureaucracy or decision-making body gives up some of its power to a community. If a community like Trefann Court has some power in deciding how urban renewal will take place, it means that a public official like Graham Emslie, who as Development Commissioner is responsible for the administration of urban renewal, or a politician like Paul Pickett, who as the former Executive Committee member of the Urban Renewal Committee would try to shape policy, has less power.

As the fights over 438-440 Queen Street and the question of the selection of the implementation staff — two critical issues in Trefann's planning process — showed, power was the one crucial question under discussion. Obviously, citizen participation meant more than the condescending jargon about "meaningful dialogue" and communication as a two-way street would suggest. Either Emslie and Pickett kept the power they had, or they lost some of it to the Work-

ing Committee.

Token participation

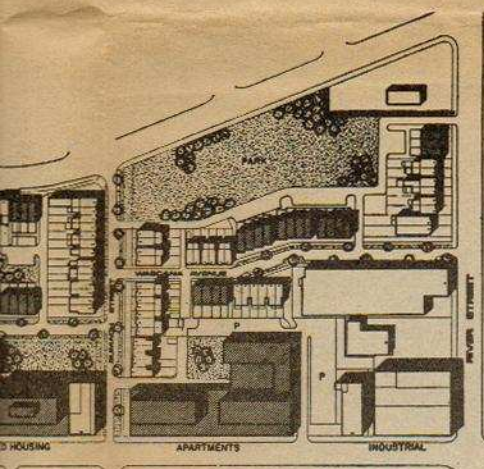
A certain amount of token participation has always been possible in the municipal structure in Ontario. In contrast with Quebec, all municipal council meetings are held in public, and at various stages in the decision-making process, deputations may be heard. One of the basic requirements of the Planning Act is that municipal planning agencies shall ". . . hold public meetings and publish information for the purpose of obtaining the participation and co-operation of the inhabitants of the planning area in determining the solution of problems or matters affecting the development of the planning area."

Thus, there were public meetings held in Trefann Court by the Planning Board in 1966 to explain the nature of the urban renewal scheme, and the scheme, like any other development in Toronto, public or private, required approval by the Planning Board, Board of Control (now the Executive Committee) and City Council (now, in addition, there is a



Committee

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TREFANN COURT
SKETCH PLAN

TREFANN COURT WORKING COMMITTEE
CITY OF TORONTO PLANNING BOARD

usual in its firm commitment to serve anonymous, transient 'poor'. The plan present pattern of the neighborhood. et, the most noted feature of the plan, ed to provide a new focus for the area

committee which deals with urban renewal); at Committee levels, deputations can be heard before the matter proceeds to City Council. In the normal course of events, the scheme would have gone to the Ontario Municipal Board, where it would have been possible for objectors to the scheme to demand a hearing and appear before the Board. Had the Board ruled in favour of the project, as it ruled in favour of completion of the Spadina Expressway, it would have been possible to appeal to the Provincial Cabinet.

This was the process which the debate concerning the completion of the Spadina Expressway went through. After months of public hearings, protests, re-evaluations and public lobbying, the decision was made by Ontario Premier William Davis to halt the expressway in the spring of 1971. The battle placed a degree of public scrutiny upon the actions and decisions of politicians and civil servants which they had rarely felt before, and many civil servants, unused to public attack, found

it a threatening and unsettling experience.

Pressure vs. participation

However, despite its effectiveness in stopping the expressway, the Stop Spadina movement was not an example of "citizen participation," but rather of citizen pressure. As events since the Davis decision to stop the expressway have shown, there has been no follow-through, no alternative proposed, and no effort made to involve citizens in proposing an alternative. Similarly, the Stop Spadina movement did not diminish the power of those who presently have it and redistribute that power in some way. On the contrary, Davis reaffirmed his own strength as a decision-maker, entering a provincial election campaign with a new image. Conservative party strategists considered the Spadina decision the most important aspect in changing the Davis image from one of passive indecisiveness to that of a new, fresh leader and a man of decision.

In comparison with the citizens fighting the Spadina Expressway, the people in Trefann not only stopped a destructive public project — the original urban renewal scheme — but were able to win a considerable amount of influence in controlling the decision-making in the planning process. This was a situation which fits Arnstein's description of "partnership" — level six — when: "Power is in fact redistributed through negotiation between citizens and power-holders. They agree to share planning and decision-making responsibilities through such structures as joint policy boards, planning committees and mechanisms for resolving disputes. After the ground rules have been established through some form of give-and-take, they are not subject to unilateral change.

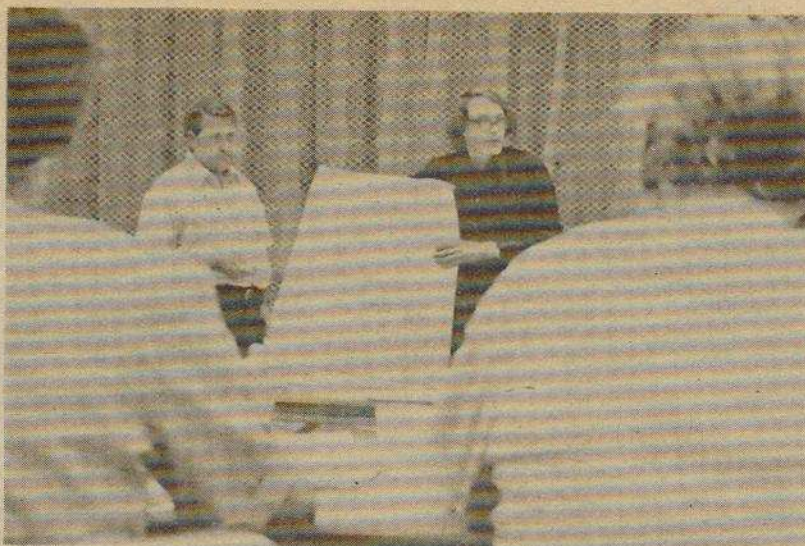
"Partnership can work most effectively when there is an organized power-base in the community to which the citizen leaders are accountable; when the citizens' group has the financial resources to pay its leaders reasonable honoraria for their time-consuming efforts; and when the group has the resources to hire (and fire) its own technicians, lawyers and community organizers. With these ingredients, citizens have some genuine influence over the outcome of the plan (as long as both parties find it useful to maintain the partnership). One community leader described it [as] "like coming to City Hall with hat on head instead of in hand."

Clearly, the Working Committee was a partnership — but a partnership whose basis became tenuous and uncertain whenever the parameters of its responsibility were tested. Thus, the key question of the power to hire and fire the Site Office staff, which would ensure that the staff would be accountable to the Working Committee, revealed that the committee's control was very limited, and that the Development Department was not prepared to accept the direction of the Working Committee, unless compelled to do so by City Council.

Dependent on City Council

In a formal sense, the Working Committee had no independence from City Council, and thus no real power. In terms of the structure of decision-making, whereby decisions went from the committee to Council and on to the senior levels of government, it is clear that institutionally the Working Committee had influence, but no formal power. Yet, while in formal and institutional terms the committee had no power, since it had no independence from Council and could take no sanctions against the City, on key decisions where its influence was insufficient to shape their outcome, it was able to resort to the threat of boycotting the urban renewal process.

This power, in effect, was the threat of blackmail, with the federally and provincially funded urban renewal scheme as a kind of hostage. If City Council overruled the Working Committee on a decision (as it came close to doing on the question of acquiring 438-440 Queen Street), it ran the risk of seeing the coalition of groups on the Working Committee collapse and having the whole urban renewal process go down the drain. Everyone knew, as David Crombie had put it to the Residents Association when it was hesitating about appointing representatives to the committee, that the Working Committee was the "last best hope in Trefann." If it



John Sewell with a draft plan at a Working Committee meeting.

collapsed, that would be the end of urban renewal in Toronto. Similarly, the committee had a potential sanction against the City, albeit informally, in the fact that both the federal and provincial governments had indicated their support of that form of citizen participation; had there been serious indications that the City was acting in defiance of the wishes of people in Trefann, as had been the case from 1966 until 1970, the committee — or individuals or groups in Trefann — would have been able to appeal to the other levels of government to prevent any City action in Trefann from being financed through cost-sharing agreements.

The fact that this absolute form of sanction was the only source of power at the disposal of the Working Committee is proof enough that it was limited, and not officially recognized. Its authority was something which had to be fought for, and when conceded, it was won on specific issues and never as a general principle.

Resolving disagreement

Although the conflicts over 438-440 Queen Street and the selection of the implementation staff served to show both the extent and the limitations of the power of the Working Committee, its major influence lay in its success at resolving disagreement and establishing a consensus on the plan itself. Aldermen who associated Trefann with angry shouting matches at Board of Control meetings between members of two rival resident associations saw only a succession of minutes from the Working Committee, blandly stating the decisions which had been reached. The fact that the groups themselves remained committed to the Working Committee process as the forum for ironing out disagreements meant that Urban Renewal Committee, and City Council became almost a rubber stamp for Working Committee decisions.

The very presence on the committee of conservative politicians like Paul Pickett and Joe Piccininni served to pacify the rest of council, at least to the extent that their association with the committee gave it a credibility that it would not have had if the only civic representatives had been the "reformers" from Ward Seven, Sewell and Jaffary. Although Pickett had strong reservations about the implications of neighbourhood government in the Trefann process, he was, in the final analysis, unwilling to jeopardize the whole project by trying to override the committee. Thus, when he realized that by persuading City Council to reject the Working Committee's unanimous decision about 438-440 Queen Street he would cause the Residents Association to leave the commit-

tee, he reversed his position completely.

However, the aldermen on the Working Committee and the City staff who attended meetings did more than merely make the committee legitimate in the eyes of City Council. In many cases, they played a crucial role in articulating the concerns of the Trefann people on the Working Committee, and expressing them in the form of motions.

As middle-class professionals, Howard Cohen and the three lawyers on the Working Committee, Karl Jaffary, John Sewell and Paul Pickett, all had "the power to conceptualize." Sewell and Jaffary were often called upon to formulate the motions passed by the Working Committee, and most of the compromise solutions to thorny questions on the Working Committee were proposed by them. It was not a manipulative process, necessarily, but simply a matter of roles. The people from the community would raise problems that had to be solved, worries that they had, or objections to previous decisions, and for the most part Cohen or one of the lawyer aldermen would propose possible solutions. Edna Dixon summed up the pattern which existed when, after suggesting a solution to a problem and being asked if she wanted to make that a motion, said, "I don't know the right words; you find the words for it, and I'll tell you if it's all right."

Precarious control

Thus, it was clear that although the Trefann people on the Working Committee had the power of approval or rejection of an idea at the committee level and used that power on every decision, often deferring decisions until a consensus could be reached, the actual initiation of ideas came from the middle-class professionals.

Given the precarious nature of the control achieved by the people in Trefann, one has to ask the question, "Was it all worth it?" For the Residents Association, six years of eternal vigilance was the price, not of liberty, but of survival. They never relaxed their guard. Ray Tomlinson remained as suspicious and wary about the future of the land in front of his house as he had been about the possibility of being expropriated six years earlier; John Wawrin and John Malinowski were as uneasy as ever about the fate of Trefann Street.

Since their position had been a constant one, it was difficult for them to get wildly excited about the fact that what they had been demanding for six years was finally being done. And, although a vindication of six years of fear and worry and work, the spectacle of self-congratulation on the part of the various government agencies at their farsighted wisdom in agreeing with the



Trefann planner Howard Cohen at the Trefann Court site office.

ideas in the Trefann Court Urban Renewal Scheme was not one which Trefann people found particularly edifying. For example, when the First Phase Scheme was presented to the City of Toronto Planning Board on June 8, 1971, the plan had been applauded by the Planning Board and approved unanimously with very little comment. Edna Dixon was smiling but sardonic after that meeting. "It made me mad to see them applauding when we presented it, because I knew that they wouldn't have listened to it for a minute five years ago — and it is exactly what we've been asking for for five years."

The years of fighting the City took their toll. It was impossible for the homeowners' association to maintain the same level of involvement among its members after a six-year fight. As members of the executive admitted, there were many people who were simply tired of going to meetings unless their particular block was being affected. Once it became clear that they were not under the same kind of constant, day-to-day threat, many people withdrew from intensive participation.

Similarly, for tenants, the prospect of new or renovated housing was encouraging, but not something to be excited about until the houses were actually ready. Many had been disappointed too often by promises to be prematurely enthusiastic. For businessmen, the scheme represented an opportunity to stay in the area if they wished and if their businesses were compatible with housing; however, except for the three members of the Working Committee, most of the businessmen remained separate from the planning process once they found out about their own status in the scheme

Lessons from Trefann

Already, elements of the Trefann Court experience are being examined and evaluated as a possible model for planning and redevelopment. It is worth asking what kind of lessons should be drawn from Trefann and applied elsewhere. The problem with stating even the obvious — that public officials have to learn to treat people as equals; honestly, openly and without condescension — is that this can immediately be interpreted as meaning that a civil servant need only appear to be treating people as equals, appear to be being honest and open, while attempting to hide the political realities of his own situation. Activists in the community schools movement in Toronto have watched with cynical amusement as veteran administrators and ambitious young consultants have adopted the rhetoric — and no more — of citizen participation.

However, the most profitable lesson to be drawn is that conflicting interest groups in a community can reach a consensus on planning goals, and that ordinary people can contribute usefully to replanning their neighbourhood and can work extremely hard on points of incredible detail to achieve a solution which will, in fact, be better than one reached by any planner, no matter how sophisticated, working alone.

The great danger is that officials will draw the wrong lessons from Trefann Court. What is alarmingly likely is that the Trefann Court Urban Renewal Scheme will become mandatory reading for planners, housing experts and urban renewal officials across Canada, and that the physical solutions suggested to the Trefann problems will suddenly be fashionable, whether they best suit the needs of the community or not: a new central street to give the community a geographic, unifying focus; a system of lit, drained and paved lanes; a mix of housing for rent and for sale; an abandonment of the "super-block" concept in favour of houses on streets; the retention of existing streets; and the rehabilitation of existing houses. All these and more may be seized upon as "the new urban renewal" without any understanding of the process that was gone through to reach those specific physical solutions to Trefann's specific problems.

As the story of the urban renewal fight in Trefann Court shows, "citizen participation," or the broadening of decision-making so that citizens can participate in planning, is not a power that is easily won or easily exercised. It is a process which is difficult, time-consuming, tiring, and often emotionally draining. It is a demand for power which is not casually conceded by those who now have it. However, the fight is a crucial one.

it looked better than just liveable. It is lined with huge old homes, most of which have been divided up into rentable rooms. Trees are abundant, and the avenue is seductively green in summer. During the fifties, the street was "like Rosedale", according to two widows who have lived on Madison for 22 years. "The homes were owned by families with chauffeurs and servants. But in the last ten years, it's gone down flat." The process of degeneration, as they see it, began as old people died and some homes were converted to rooming houses.

Drastic change

Then, in the late sixties, two events drastically altered the character of the street. The first occurred when successors to the gentle flower children living there began carrying weapons and shooting heroin. By 1969, Rochdale, the high rise experiment in communal living, on Bloor Street one block from Madison Avenue, had become what the latest Rochdale Catalog describes as an "urban wilderness."

At that point, the Rochdale Council decided that the time had come to clean house. The Catalog describes the process: "A resolution was passed to ban hard drugs from the building. 'Hard drugs' included cocaine, heroin, opium and all forms of amphetamine (or 'speed' which at that time was legal throughout the rest of Canada). The first mass eviction of 40 speed freaks and amphetamine dealers took place in late June."

The speeders apparently moved just down the street to Madison Avenue. Peter Brown, an engineer who lived on Madison for several years, says that the situation was quiet when he first lived there in 1968, but by 1969 drug users and pushers were prominent among the street's inhabitants.

Jay Boldizar, a member of Rochdale's Education and Governing Councils, thinks that the College had to rid itself of the speed freaks, and "it's not our fault if they moved to Madison Avenue." Rochdale did not take the social worker route with its addicts; there were no warnings or attempts at rehabilitation. "They're like people with a terminal illness," says Boldizar.

Around the same time as the Rochdale evictions, speculators began planning to cash in on the Spadina Expressway, which was to run right alongside of Madison Avenue. If the Spadina had gone through, Madison would have become valuable commercial property.

As property values in the area started shooting up, some of the block's live-in landlords sold out and moved on. Before the Expressway plan was killed, absentee landlords, who are never as careful as owner-occupiers, took over many houses on the block.

A notorious street

Since 1969, Madison Avenue has become a notorious street. During that year, *Time* magazine reported that the street had become the centre of the hard drug trade in North America. One eminently respectable resident admitted to the *Citizen* that she is sometimes afraid to reveal her address because of what people may think. But many inhabitants of the avenue feel that Madison's wildest days have now passed, and they offer varying reasons for the change. Brown thinks that heavy drug use peaked during the summer of 1971 and is now on a downward curve. Another resident of the street says that "three years ago this was junkie row, but it's calmed down a lot now."

Willie Koehler, who cares for four houses at the north end of the street, close to Dupont, says that "since the police started patrolling the place last year, the bums have moved out." Workers in the Free Clinic on Dupont Street think that the speed freaks have either moved away or broken their habit. A lot have dried out in jail, and a lot have gone straight and moved to the City's east or west ends. A few have gone back to northern Ontario towns, according to Richard Stafford, one of the clinic's staff. One resident of the Parliament Street area thinks that the Madison Avenue speeders have now moved to Parliament and Winchester.

"Not much goes on around here anymore. There are only a couple of winos around," Stafford says. He and another clinic worker feel that activity has drifted off during the past two years, and that the biggest change has occurred over the past year. The Clinic is, in fact,



photo: Phil Lapides

Pat and Greta Brown are "principle tenants" in an Annex rooming house.

Madison Avenue: The worst drug days are over

planning to close this April. "The need isn't here anymore. There's always a need for medical help, but people don't need us."

No-one approached by the *Citizen* feared violence on the street until two weeks ago. Joan Bulger, who lives at 20 Madison, and works at the University of Toronto, reported that the only harassment she has experienced has been from "kids occasionally asking for quarters." Any heavy drug users on the avenue "don't represent the neighbourhood at all." An older woman who lives at 64 Madison says that she wouldn't go out on the street after dark, but the only form of local violence she could report was noise. "At night, it gets pretty hectic, and pretty noisy. There's a lot of swearing, and talking about prostitutes and pimps."

Isolated event

The Holmes episode was apparently an isolated event. Madison Avenue is not, admittedly, like Rosedale anymore. There are few families and lots of hippies — a term which by now applies only to a way of dressing, not a mode of behavior. Activity on the street runs in cycles, and winter is a quiet season. The flood of summer transients into Toronto brings more noise, more homeless freaks and more trouble to Madison.

Annex residents who voiced their complaints about the neighborhood at City Hall last week thought that local absentee landlords were at least partially responsible for what they perceived as the serious social problems on the street. Sam Levene of Huron Street said that pressure should be put on landlords to clean up the drug houses in the area. Mrs. Gibson of Madison Avenue complained that in some rooming houses, no one was running the place; no one was in charge.

Nadine Nowlan of Admiral Road, citing a proven example on her street, suggested that renting to drug addicts might be a form of block busting. If a landlord

fills his house with speed freaks and lets his properties deteriorate, he will later have a strong justification for tearing them down. The Committee on Buildings and Development responded to these complaints by approving a motion calling for an investigation of rooming houses on Madison Avenue, Spadina Road and Huron Street and stricter enforcement of zoning and housing standards by-laws.

The *Citizen* found that 125 Madison, the house where the shoot-out occurred, was indeed a wreck. Harry Press, who owns the house, claims that a caretaker was living in the house at the time. He says that he visited frequently, "and never saw anything unusual in the house." He stresses that "those people were visiting at the time." He now plans to sell 125 Madison. "My business is buying and selling houses."

A poor housekeeper

Press must be a poor housekeeper if he saw nothing unusual about his house. One week after the shooting, most of the residents had moved out, leaving furniture and possessions in a state of total uproar. The house looked a filthy mess, but it was hard to distinguish if all of it was "before" or "after" squalor. Someone who visited the house a few months ago reported that at that time the house was a wreck.

Nowhere else on Madison did the *Citizen* discover conditions comparable to those at 125. At each of the 13 or 14 houses checked, the *Citizen* reporter found an owner-occupier or a main lessee responsible to the landlord. A cursory inspection revealed a few houses that were rigorously maintained; others appeared shabby but serviceable. None were deteriorating slums.

Superintendents in several houses reported that they had had to "clean up" the premises sometime during the past year — move out the speed freaks and set their houses in order. When Pat and



photo: Phil Lapides

Workmen began badly-needed repairs at 125 Madison a couple of days after the shoot-out.

Greta Brown took over 49 Madison a few months ago, they found that the situation in the house was deteriorating rapidly. The previous main lessee had apparently been the chief source of trouble in the house, and had taken to shooting at the walls with a .22 rifle.

When the Browns assumed control, they painted and fixed up the house, moved out the trouble makers and established strict rules about drugs. They think that they have set a tone that will eliminate the possibility of future difficulties. "Speed freaks would be turned off by this house, by the atmosphere," says Greta. The superintendent at 189 Madison says that "when I came here, I had to get that element out. It took about two and a half weeks and I nearly had to call the police."

Several houses on the street have been renovated during the past year. One stretch of apartment houses, 93 to 99, used to be notorious as speed row. One former resident, who lived there a couple of years ago, says that he stayed only a few weeks because he couldn't stand sitting in the kitchen, watching his fellow roomers shoot speed. Last September, the apartment block was completely renovated and the speeders moved out.

Straighter people

Sixty-two Madison was also recently done over. The representative of Markham and Associates, which owns the house, says that "all tenants are now on leases; they've got to take the place for 12 months. The only way to make the rental situation work is to make the accommodation more complete. The tenant is happier, and it cuts down on turnover." A worker at the Free Clinic says that a lot of houses on Madison "have changed hands during the past year. They've been renovated and rented at higher prices to straighter people."

A few companies own more than one house on Madison Avenue. When she spoke to the Committee on Buildings and Development, Nowlan suggested that these companies might be developers who were deliberately renting to speed freaks and running down their houses. A *Citizen* check of three houses owned by one of these companies revealed only that they were about the best maintained rooming houses on the street.

The most frequent complaint about housing maintenance on Madison seemed to be that garbage was often strewn around the street and on front lawns. A superintendent at the 93-99 apartment house complained that residents of the house next door throw garbage in the yard. "You'd think it was Queen and Sherbourne." Another caretaker blamed non-resident strollers for the papers he had to sweep up every day.

A check of four houses on Spadina Road showed that some houses on the street are more run down than Madison Avenue rooming houses. A superintendent was in charge of each of the houses visited. A caretaker at one house said that he had been at his job for three or four months and has had to kick out a couple of speed freaks. "But they don't and won't use speed if I catch them."

At a second house, the caretaker reported that "we've thrown out all the speed freaks over the past few months, but the cops keep dropping in once every two weeks." The house is still classified as an open house, he said, explaining that, once a house has been raided, the police may continue to check it regularly. The landlady for another property, which appeared extremely well maintained, looked insulted at the suggestion of speed and replied haughtily, "I don't think I've ever had any in the house."

Bohemian

The tone of the Madison area is definitely bohemian, but it doesn't appear to be a refuge for hoodlums or a potential slum. But even if addicts were sprouting in every front yard, should the Annex and City Council attempt to solve the problem by cleaning up the neighborhood and throwing the troublemakers out? At a neighborhood meeting after the shooting, Ward Five Alderman Colin Vaughan warned residents that they were dealing with a complex situation for which there are no easy answers.

If misfits are pushed out of one area, they simply move on to another district. A few developers on Yorkville, which is now far too expensive a street for

panhandlers and transients, managed to move the hippies out of their area, but a group similar to the old Yorkville crowd has now turned up at the corner of Wellesley and Yonge. The Yonge Street businessmen have started to complain, and yet another expulsion may be in the works.

A more socially responsible solution might be to acknowledge addicts and transients as part of the whole community, and to establish local treatment facilities and community centres. The social work approach to drug addiction is, admittedly, a trifle naive; Richard Stafford at the Free Clinic says that "getting off speed is a completely personal decision; drop in centres won't do it." Community workers can encourage them, but only speeders can change their own lives, he says. Speed freaks may seem like people with a terminal illness, as Jay Boldizar put it. But the assumption that addicts are salvageable is, at the moment, the only alternative to a brutal lock-them-up-or-kick-them-out approach.

Overcrowded

The Dupont Free Clinic has decided that the community around Madison Avenue no longer needs its services. The Community Hostel on Spadina Road, however, is overcrowded, and the directors are looking for a second near-by location. On some nights the Hostel has to turn transients away.

The Hostel is not only a place to sleep. It's a centre for people who need help. "This place is to counsel kids and refer them to other agencies. No one who needs help is ever turned away", says one of its directors. The hostel is not an addiction treatment centre, nor does it service only the areas around Madison Avenue. It's a place where anyone from anywhere can find a bed or discuss a personal problem.

Pat Brown, who has lived in the Madison Avenue district for many years, is interested in getting the community firmly back on its feet, and has been trying to organize a labor force on the street. He finds that transient youth are often willing to make their own way by doing maintenance work and fixing up local houses. "Sometimes they do it for peanuts, but those peanuts keep them alive." Brown has applied to the Local Initiatives Program for funds to set up a Toronto Poverty Production Centre. He has asked the government to employ 12 workers from the community to make playground equipment, fix up houses and repair toys. When the *Citizen* went to press, Brown had still heard nothing definite about his application.

A few years ago Digger House on Spadina Road attempted to work with hard core addicts from all corners of the City. The house was notorious by the time it closed down, and June Callwood, who was intimately involved with the centre, says that community hostility was a factor in its demise. Last year, the City tried to force Callwood, who had co-signed the lease on the house, to pay for extensive repairs to the premises. Callwood says that Metro Property owned the house and failed to do necessary repairs. When Digger House closed, "the basement was filled with water and the electricity was gone."

Digger House was a demonstration project, and it was forced to close primarily because its federal grant was running out. The province refused to assume the financial burden.

Some success

Digger House was full when it had to go out of business, Callwood says. Workers at the house were "achieving some degree of success." About 3,000 addicts went through the house. "Some did spectacularly well, and some not so well." While it was functioning, the House was a last resort for some addicts. Other agencies referred "kids who were not responding to anything else" to Digger House.

Right now only the Scientologists are running a non-institutional, residential addiction treatment centre in Toronto, Callwood says. She is currently chairman of a Project '72 subcommittee looking into the possibilities of establishing a centre for the treatment of dependency diseases, including alcoholism. She is trying to get funds to send a group to Odysseus House in New York for training in addiction treatment. But she expects that it will be "almost impossible to get money for Toronto treatment facilities."

Nobody has really confronted what happened January 11

continued from page 1

he might have been shot.

Admiral Road

The most infamous Annex absentee-owner case was an Admiral Road house where the principle tenant turned out to be a speed-pusher and where the sub-tenants were his customers. The house and its inhabitants were making life hellish for neighbors. It was cleaned up only because the street took intensive action to get regulatory agencies to do their job. The owner indicated the extent to which he was willing to take responsibility for his property by selling right after the ax fell.

It's this link, between lack of any landlord concern for a place and the sort of tenants it may consequently attract, which led to the Hope motion. Absentee-owners in the Madison area have in recent years, knowingly or not, been satisfying some of the housing demands of speed-pushers and users. People with extensive experience with speed-use — community workers, drop-in centre staff, friends of users — say that it isn't possible to generalize about all users' behavior. But it's clear that speed can complicate already troubled lives and can contribute to what might be lamely labeled "anti-social" behavior toward straight society, which may range from simple non-participation to throwing garbage out of windows to, in a few cases, violent assault. People who know about speed say the drug itself does not cause "anti-social" behavior but that it often is used by people whose lives, under the influence of the drug, can become an intolerable burden for those around them.

People in the Annex don't want neighbors whose preoccupation in life is hard drugs, who throw garbage out of windows, who do noisy, scary things in the middle of the night. They don't want to live in a place with a reputation for police raids, dope peddling and occasional petty violence. They have not wanted a large speed-using community among them any more than Rochdale, which had evicted the speed-users, did. They believe that by ridding the neighborhood of places where speed-users live, they will rid the area of speed-users.

Blockbusting

Some area residents have gone so far as to suggest that a terrible form of blockbusting has been going on. Renting to freaky-looking people, the freakier the better, has been a blockbusting tactic lately. In at least one Annex neighborhood a pair of houses was apparently systematically rented to speed-users who literally wrecked the places inside; now the houses are down and something else is going up. At Gothic-Quebec in the west end, a developer, whose interests would have been served by running his houses into the ground, rented methodically to long-hairs while telling some straight people that places weren't available. But he couldn't tell the difference between long-hairs who would louse up a neighborhood and those who wouldn't, and he inadvertently rented to a collection of people with blossoming domestic urges. They later became part of the entrenched resistance to his high rises.

Most of the freaky-looking roomers on Madison don't indulge in anything much stronger than a jug of wine or a bit of grass. Many are students or have quite unfreaky jobs. But there have been some pretty serious comings and goings too.

Lately there has been a substantial improvement on the street as absentee-owners have sold out and speed-use has declined. An apartment house, for example, which used to be a godawful place, has recently been refurbished and sandblasted. It is now in the hands of an owner who appreciates the income producing power of middle class pads in a funky neighborhood.

Smaller stakes

Renovations are smaller stakes than land speculators and assemblers in Toronto usually play for, but the Annex has been drawing up new rules for the game which don't allow any more sub-

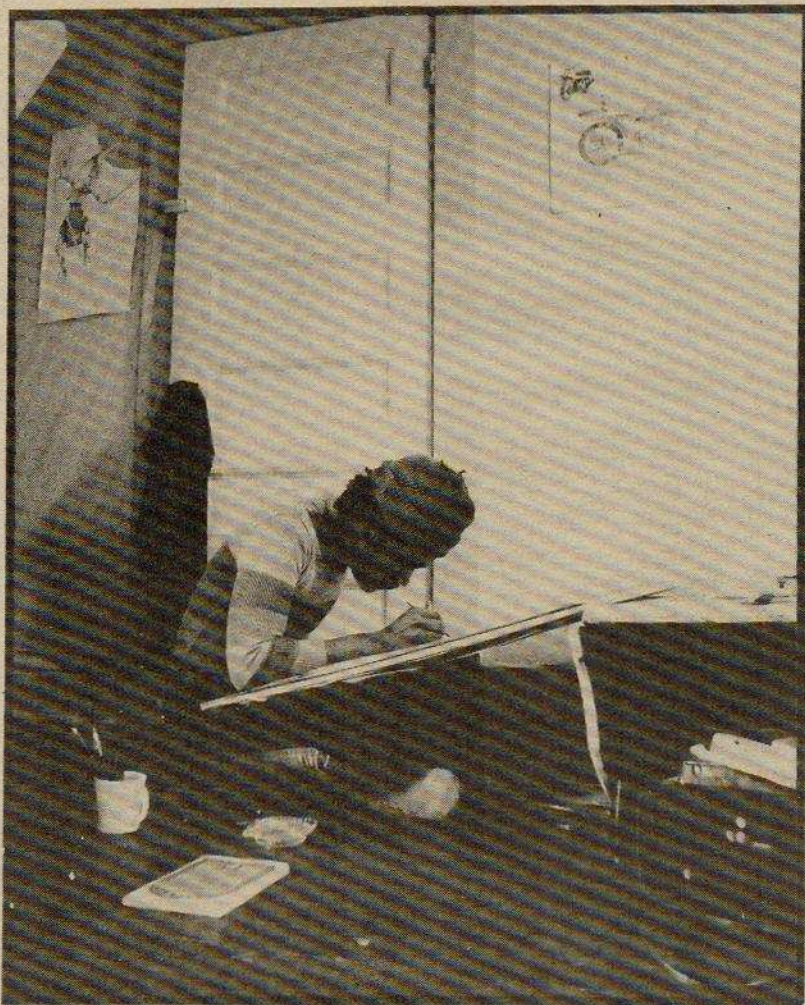


photo: Phil Lapidis

Hugh Williams, an artist who lives at the Spadina hostel

stantial redevelopment. The ratepayers are organized and tough, and they have been down to City Hall to fight for downzonings and detailed planning controls. They are about to win a 34-foot height limit on new buildings which eliminates the threat of high rise redevelopment in the area. With a deft manipulation of City Hall levers, they recently brought a developer with designs on a Huron-Madison site to a dead standstill, at least temporarily. The Annex has clout and savvy, and the Hope motion is just one of a series of efforts to drive land speculators away from the area. The stopping of the Spadina Expressway, in which the Annex played a crucial role, gave the area a new lease on life, and the residents have been doing what must be done to get iron control of the neighborhood's future. Many of the worst absentee-owners have been selling out.

The Vaughan motion will make it possible for local areas to control locally-oriented public services administered by the City. City personnel and neighborhoods will develop deeper, more useful relationships than they do now with City services centralized behind a faceless bureaucracy at City Hall. If the Annex had been able to administer its own inspections of "problem" houses 18 months ago, had been able to review the inspection results and take action as a community, 125 Madison Avenue would not have been the place it was on the night of January 11. The idea of decentralizing City services was going to arise during this term of Council, and the Madison incident provided an early occasion and good example of why it may be a better system than the one the City has now. Vaughan is drafting the motion carefully to fit not just the Annex situation but the overall concerns of the reform movement to develop a decentralization policy.

The only trouble ...

The only trouble with all this is that, had housing in the Annex been systematically cleaned up 18 months ago, Constable James Lothian would still be dead today. David Holmes, according to a friend, never lived on Madison Avenue. And even if he had, and had been evicted, he would have been living somewhere else January 11, as he was. What happened on Amelia Street that night could not have been prevented by cleaning up a neighborhood. A much tougher kind of policing might have prevented it, but policing in this sense is cure by amputation — cutting someone off from society.

Nothing which the Annex nor anyone else has publicly said or done since January 11 has really confronted what happened on Amelia Street and Madison Avenue January 11 or 12. No-one has said much about the murder charge laid against 17 year-old Barbara Wilson. I don't know if I'd call a society which lets happen to someone what has happened to her criminally irresponsible. But I would like to expect more from "enlightened" segments of society than what I've heard from the Annex in the past week. It has been like watching a man who sees his own car smashed, full of people, into a concrete wall at top speed and then goes over to see how the car is. He isn't a doctor and doesn't know what to do about the people who were in the car, and he doesn't know them anyway, so he ignores them. One person told me she thinks the people who were in the room at 125 Madison that night are now enjoying their notoriety, and I think that remark is pretty outrageous. I don't think the feeling is implied is widely shared in the Annex, but whatever sensitivity there has been in the community toward what happened on Madison has been conspicuously omitted from official public response.

A symptom

Speed-use is a symptom, an iceberg tip of a problem which begins in our homes and schools and social structures which offer to young people the sorts of alternatives they do. Speed-use does not happen. It is caused. It would have been much easier for Ward Five if the police hadn't come to Madison for David Holmes but had gone to a street in Ward Six or Ward Four or Ward Seven. But they did not. They came to 125 Madison, and the only immediate response of the neighborhood has been the Hope motion — clean up the place so it doesn't happen here again. The Vaughan motion is a good one, but it does not have much to do with the specific problem which exists in the Annex.

One aspect of the problem is young people like Barbara Wilson who come to this City from up north — from Kirkland Lake and Timmins and Parry Sound and Wawa — because they want to find something here they couldn't find at home. Some people may not want them here, but here they are. And speed-use looks an awful lot like a last resort. On January 11, by way of the tragic vehicle of David Holmes, some facts smashed us in the face, and the response to date has been pretty close to nothing.

The preamble to Hope's motion talks

about "drug addicts, pushers and young hoodlums". This kind of batching — of pushers and users — flies in the face of much of what we know about drug-use. I think that if we're serious about community control, we have to be communities which take responsibility for something besides making our lives more comfortable. We know that Barbara Wilson and young people like her do not belong to some amorphous category of "drug addicts, pushers and young hoodlums". And we know that if we abandon these young people at critical moments in their lives, regard them as beyond help, maybe some of them will soon be beyond help, as David Holmes may have been. If we haven't got the sensitivity to respond to incidents like January 11 on Madison Avenue without some public reference to the 17-year-old girl who is now in Don Jail on a murder charge, I wonder whether all our sophisticated reform pamphlets are worth the paper they're printed on.

Scant Attention

I don't know what we do as a community to begin working with problems like this. It does seem that jurisdictional rationalizations give us an easy way not to think about them — that's a Metro responsibility, that's a provincial responsibility; it's not a City problem or, God knows, a neighborhood problem. And so critical social questions get scant attention at the local level — community workers and agencies pay attention, but the ordinary local political institutions don't.

The kinds of initiatives which might be taken at City Hall in this area don't

have anything to do with solving the roots of the problem. The City can't straighten out its own schools, much less those in Kirkland Lake. And this area isn't one that City Hall has dealt with very often in the past; municipal power and activity in Ontario are confined pretty much to real estate regulation and servicing. One thing the City might be able to do is act as a funnel for resources from funding-sources to people in Toronto who want to work in the field of developing alternatives to speed-using and the other kinds of troubles some young people get involved with. We have at least one alderman with considerable experience in related kinds of work, Anne Johnston of Ward Eleven, who seems to have a hard-headed appreciation of some of the things that are wrong with our traditional approach to social problems. It wouldn't be very difficult to find a few citizens — June Calwood, for example — and maybe a dried out speed-user who would work with Johnston on a City Hall committee charged with exploring what can be done at a local level to help some young people and to make sure that what exists in the way of help for them continues.

Under the law this is not our responsibility. Nothing says that we have to ask at City Hall or in midtown communities why a girl has ended up in Don Jail, why speed-houses exist in our neighborhoods. But nobody else, except for a few community workers, is doing anything about these questions. And responses to incidents like 125 Madison which only talk about real estate regulation seem pretty callous and foolish.

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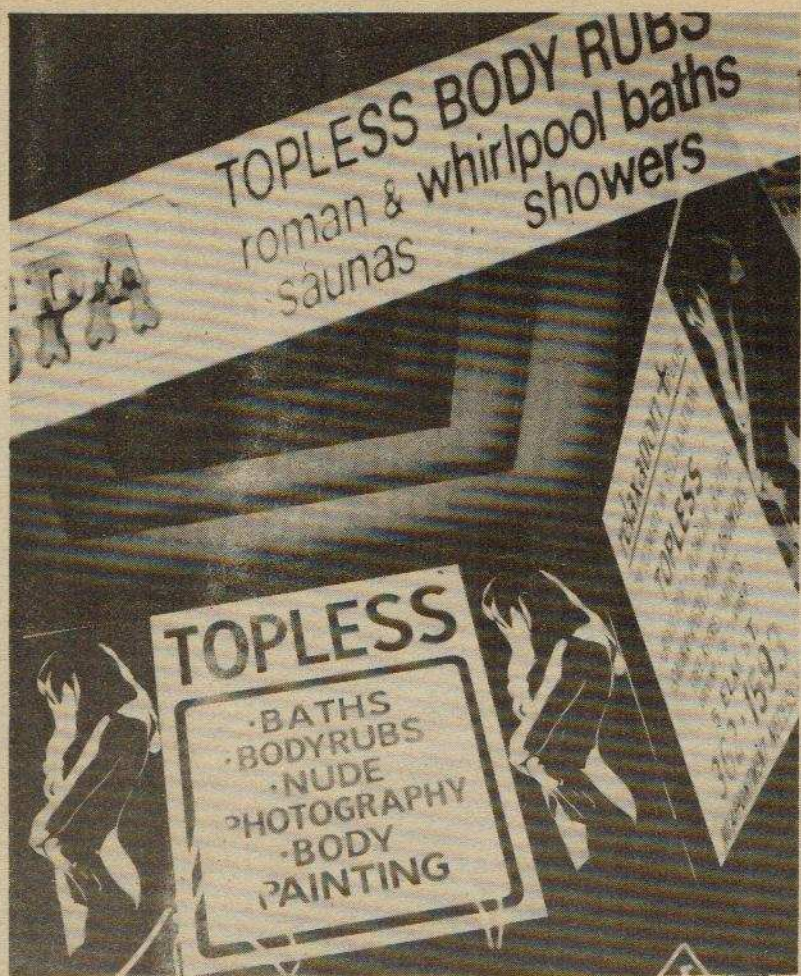


photo: Bill Lindsay

SINS OF THE FLESH

Getting rubbed down on Yonge Street

This article is a Toronto writer's account of his journey into the world of downtown vice which has lately been in the news.

by Philip Marchand

The morality squad showed up half an hour before I did at Relaxation Plus, according to my masseuse, a nice girl who was quite upset about the whole thing. Apparently eight bulls went

through all the private rooms demanding names from everyone, standing there in the doors and not letting anyone out until they got them. A truly porcine thing to do, and legally, of course, an outrage. However, one doubts if many of the customers displayed any righteous indignation. It's an emotion difficult to summon when you're spread out nude on a waterbed, soaking in a first coat

of Johnson & Johnson's baby oil, and you're looking up at a chick wearing nothing but a pair of hot pants, and a cop is standing between you and your underwear.

Anyway, no one was busted; There was nothing to bust anyone for, but people were shaken up. The fellow at the front desk felt very threatened. "You know how they try to get you alone in the halls so they can waste you," he was saying to one of the girls. What a heavy to lay on the customers who've come to get their fevered brows soothed, their poor creaking muscles, struggling to support the dead weight of several layers of fatty tissue, relaxed.

In truth, however, the Morality Squad has a right to be suspicious. Personally I find it difficult to relax staring up at a pair of knockers, even if the lady to whom they belong is doing her best, at the same time, to loosen up my astragal ligaments. I mean, a pair of breasts does not have to be your absolute dish of ocular catnip, and you do not have to delude yourself that when the lady removes her top it is anything but the merest formality, to feel faintly unrelaxed when she does this. Also, of course, for first timers, there is always the unresolved question orbiting around the centrifuge of their fantasies. Does one have to speak up, to hint that one might desire a little something extra in the way of relaxation, a little loosening up there of the muscles in the old pelvic area, or a real tumble on the water bed?

Now, your reporter passes no unqualified judgment in this regard. He was scarcely ready to assay the virtue of every girl in the establishment, and it is possible that some there might not always be ready with the snappy comeback for Milton the Masher — "I'm sorry, sir, there are no muscles in that area." No — for all he knew there might be a secret password, or a special business card that, when presented, indicated to the employee that she might earn a few extra illicit dollars from the customer if she so desired. Still, he doubts it. If the place really meant that kind of business, the Morality Squad would have been bought off before this. Besides, trust your fearless reporter's intuitive sense. He went keen for the scent of any real wickedness or carryings on, and found nothing more teasing than the odour of Johnson & Johnson medications.

Basically, Relaxation Plus is what used to be known as a massage parlor. It offers a sauna and a choice of either a body rub or bath, in a private room, by a topless "trainer". Half an hour costs you fifteen dollars; one hour costs twenty-eight. You get to choose your trainer by looking through a photo album with color photographs of all the girls, completely nude of course, and if you like a particular girl, and she's on duty, she's yours.

Now the massage parlor has traditionally operated as a thinly disguised bordello, and Relaxation Plus is certainly trying to cash in on this time-honoured identification, but the fact that it advertises so brazenly, especially in the *Toronto Sun*, is a dead giveaway. Toronto is not ready for an honest to goodness, old time, guaranteed-relief-for-horny-sailors massage parlor to come out — as the homosexuals say. The body rub or bath you obtain at Relaxation Plus is undoubtedly sexual, but it is rather like infantile sex — you have these big, grown-up businessmen reduced to the passivity of the infant lying flat on its back being caressed by mama with the tanalizing jugs, and if that's what turns you on, okay. (Actually, unlike the infant, one is not entirely nude. The girl spreads a small towel over your privates before she rubs you down, doubtless as a cautionary hint to the sex organ, a gentle warning that it might as well relax, too.)

Of course, one or two customers already have tried to reverse roles here. My trainer, with a faint trace of disgust and disbelief in her voice, told me of one girl who had been "attacked" by a customer. The very first time that happened to her, she assured me, she would quit.

At any rate, one can be certain that it is not a professional massage one is paying for — my trainer hadn't loosened up any muscles in that capacity until she had started working at Relaxation Plus. Titillation, rather than relaxation, is obviously the real bill of fare. In a sense, places like Relaxation Plus are only way stations to genuine vice, cheap

thrills in hotel rooms which do not, like Relaxation Plus, have velous paper on the walls. Such way stations may still be necessary, of course, for those males brought up in gentle surroundings who shy away from prostitution in the belief that only tough guys or acromegaly suf-

ferers would ever seek it out. If you're free of that illusion, and prefer some honest action, you may skip Relaxation Plus. Consult your local taxi driver instead.

(Another version of this article appeared in *Grapevine*.)

MUSIC

Fiddler's Green folk

by Larry Krotz

The music comes from the inside room; a small stage, three microphones, four dozen chairs, a few tables by the walls. On the stage Kathy Reid, a young Toronto folk artist, has just finished "Barbara Allen" in her fine, high, clear lilt. The people applaud warmly.

Despite an enormous commercialization of popular folk music, there has remained a strong underground movement of traditional music. Tam Kearney, lively eyes and a burr as mellow and engaging as the spirits of his native Scotland, is telling me about the place of Fiddler's Green in this folk underground.

"There's money for sure in the folk music business," he says. "But it's too bad that none of it is going to the fishermen and farmers who made the songs in the first place. For us here, we just want to have a place where you can have the traditional music sung."

"Basically," adds his friend and partner, Jim Strickland, also a Scot, "we started Fiddler's Green to have a place where you could hear 'Barbara Allen'."

That's how it is at Fiddler's Green. The charter reads, "To promote and stimulate the appreciation and performance of Canadian and related traditional folk music, folklore and crafts through the medium of workshops, concerts, lectures, demonstrations and school programmes."

Fiddler's Green was started almost three years ago by Tam, Jim and Tam's wife Margot. They have since been joined by four more enthusiasts and have incorporated into the group known now as "the friends of Fiddler's Green". They run the club as a non-profit venture out of an old three-storey house, on Eglinton Avenue east of Yonge Street, which is rented from the YMCA, whose Eglinton Centre is directly across the parking lot. It is one of the few houses left on the block. The area is thickly budded with high rises and high rises-to-be.

Inside, two nights a week, Tuesday and Friday, there is good traditional folk music, from blue grass to ballads, sea-shantys and blues. The club hosts a feature performer each night and tries to maintain a high standard of artistry and adherence to true tradition. One recent singer who drew an overflow crowd was Joe Hickerson, an anthropologist from Washington, D.C., and serious student of folklore and music in the Pete Seeger tradition. Other performances draw on the serious folk talent from Toronto and throughout North America.

Budding musicians

Complementing the feature artist is a string of amateurs and budding musicians who frequent the club and perform for the sheer joy of it. No auditions are required, says Kearney. "If somebody comes and wants to perform between sets, we put him on, asking few questions."

"It is one of the very satisfying things about running the club," says Strickland, "to afford an opportunity for

young performers to sing to an audience. Many do their first performances here." Invariably there are three to four individuals or groups on any given night waiting a chance to do a few songs for the audience.

The audience, sometimes swelling to the walls and crowding the doorways, other times leaving some empty chairs and sing-along room, remains steady. "There's a hard core of folk enthusiasts in Toronto — and from all over North America for that matter — that frequent the club," says Tam. "But there's usually a broad cross-section of people in here as well. We get people from 18 months to 80 years." They come, they sit, bring their children or their dogs, drink some coffee, toe-tap, sing along or just sit to listen.

Both Kearney and Strickland were involved in folk clubs in Scotland before their migrating to Toronto — separately — five years ago. "We'd been hundreds of times to the same places back home," says Tam, "but never knew each other until we met at the Folklore Centre here in Toronto. That's when we decided to start a club." The audience they have here is similar to the audiences of the British clubs — people who come to listen to the music. The British clubs are pubs as well, but Kearney fears that the music would suffer if Fiddler's Green became a pub. "Pubs here in Canada tend to become really noisy places," he says. "And we don't really want the young swingers crowd."

Kearney, an engineer by profession, and Strickland, a bio-chemist, run the club because they love the music. That's the consuming interest that keeps them going. It would be nice to do it full-time, they say, to become professionals. But then they would have to worry about making money, and it mightn't be as much fun.

Busy people

The friends of Fiddler's Green are busy people. Besides running the club, they perform their music — again at no profit — at hospitals, schools and libraries. The club hosts the Toronto area Blue Grass Committee monthly for song swapping and circle-sings, is attempting to put together a library of folk-lore material, sponsors a craft centre each winter; and the members lead workshops in various crafts and in music and story-telling arts at the Toronto Folklore Centre on Avenue Road.

"It's amazing," says Kearney, "that the club has lasted as long as it has. It just keeps going on, and we anticipate that it will continue. There's a revival going on in the performing of the traditional folk music. It's a revival based mostly on British music that's being generated in the United States and is moving into Canada. Acoustic music is coming back, and people are becoming more and more interested in the non-commercial performance." Fiddler's Green will be one of the important homes for this revival in Toronto.

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photo: Larry Krotz

Tam Kearney at Fiddler's Green

THEATRE

Siobhan McKenna

by David McCaughna

The Irish Arts season of five plays opened on a splendid note last week with the return Toronto engagement of Siobhan McKenna's *Here Are Ladies*. McKenna, First Lady of the Irish Stage, brought her one-woman show back as an appropriate beginning to a festival dedicated to displaying the richness of Irish literature. "These are ladies," says McKenna at the start, "seen through the eyes of Irish men," and the following two hours show that Irish men have an especially keen insight into their women. The women vary greatly in mood and position, but all have a rich humour and a deep-rooted sense for struggle and survival, often in spite of enormous hardships.

From the plays of Sean O'Casey, dealing with the Irish struggles which have once more become tragically pertinent, McKenna brings to life the indomitable Dublin slum women, Ginnie Gogan from *The Plough and the Stars* and Mrs. Tancred from *Juno and the Paycock*. There are Shaw's noble St. Joan and Yeats' zany Crazy Jane, raving about her fantasy lovers. The women of Synge, their men lost to the sea, endure against the unfathomable cruelty, and from Samuel Beckett, the most contemporary writer involved, there's Winnie from *Happy Days*.

The second act is pure Joyce. McKenna sweeps us away in a torrent of words from *Finnegan's Wake*. As Mollie Bloom, the greatest of Irish heroines, McKenna, in a nightie, with her hair down, rolls around on a brass



Siobhan McKenna as Molly Bloom

bed.

McKenna is an actress of great power, and this show is her forte. She moves from comedy to tragedy with great ease, giving each character a twist that brands them unique.

The Irish Arts Festival, housed this year in the comfortable but out-of-the-way West Park Collegiate auditorium, will be presenting a few other productions during the next two months. McKenna will star in O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*, (January 30 - February 17) and she will direct a programme of three of Synge's one-act plays (February 20 - March 10). Jack MacGowran will close the season with a one-man show from the works of Beckett (March 13-18).

Zippy history

by David McCaughna

An episode in Canadian history is taken out of the closet, where it has been relegated along with the rest of our presumably dull past, and given a bright, zippy interpretation at Theatre Passe Muraille. *1837* demonstrates that Canadian history can actually be stimulating, even enjoyable, subject matter.

1837 is directed by Paul Thompson, whose style, free-wheeling and inventive, seems to have developed fully, following closely on the heels of his previous success this season, *The Farm Show*. The Thompson touch works towards creating an atmosphere, a sensation of time and place, using short sketches, rendered at a rapid pace by

actors equipped with a penchant for the highly physical. Like *The Farm Show, 1837* radiates a feeling of the land. It works best at giving a sense of those Canadians towards the bottom of the socio-economic scale who struggled to survive in Upper Canada, and of the causes behind the 1837 uprising.

Written by Rick Salutin, *1837* is the story of the rebellion in the Toronto area and is filled with local settings, like a brewery at Bay and Adelaide, and a farm house on Yonge, way out in the sticks above Bloor. The first part of the production sets the background for the rebellion. There are the poor families unable to obtain and keep land, the ruling Family Compact, the condescending heavy-handed attitude of the British to their colonial charges and the tyranny of a corrupt oligarchic government. The various numbers move smoothly; the facts and lessons of history never drown the human element. In one particularly effective sketch, a British lady relates her visit to this "harsh and unrelenting land," but her initial alarm at the muddy land with its taciturn natives soon turns to fascination with the clean air and untouched wilderness.

The political stage is carefully set with unrest steadily growing, the lure of American prosperity evident and the stubbornness of the regime cemented. In the second part of the evening William Lyon MacKenzie's rebels, champions of reform, are locked in a losing battle with the defenders of the status quo. Somewhat longer than it had to be, this part of *1837* gives a very energetic rendition of the shooting and terrorism that once filled our now peaceful streets.

The cast sparkles under Thompson's hand; they create the movement of a coach moving through the mud, or the head of the pompous lieutenant — governor Sir Francis Bond Head, with great agility. John Bull, arch symbol of bulldog Britain, becomes a ventriloquist manipulating dummy Canada. Thompson's method seems to inspire a feeling of ease among the cast, and they work together remarkably well. Three *Farm Show* veterans, Janet Amos, David Fox and Miles Potter, are joined by Clare Coulter, Suzette Couture, Neil Vipond.

For *1837*, designer Paul Williams has turned the huge Passe Muraille space into a rustic scene. Huge trees soar over the audience, powerful symbols of the richness and wonder of the land. The actors perform on a number of levels and ramps constructed of plain, rough logs. It provides a fitting setting for a play that's a tribute both to the history of the country and the theatrical creativity of Paul Thompson and his companions.

EVENING COURSES

Cities, judo, women & taxes

Opportunities for intellectual and physical self improvement are not hard to find as the new year begins. Evening courses are beginning not only at colleges and high schools, but at various other institutions in downtown Toronto.

The YMCA on College Street, for instance, is offering a wide variety of classes. *Citizen* readers might be especially interested in *Exploring the City and its Institutions*. The classes, which began January 18, are every Thursday from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. The cost for 12 sessions is \$30.

The YMCA also runs classes in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Por-

tuguese and Greek. Other courses include *Bridge Instruction, Yoga, Small Business Management, Introduction to Photography* and *Discovering Canadian Drama*. The Y runs a physical education program and offers classes in Akido, Judo and fencing.

All classes at the Y began the week of January 14. Course fees vary from \$20 to \$40. For more information, call 921-5171.

The Toronto Waffle Education Committee is presenting a public evening course on the political economy of Canada. The course will treat, among other subjects, the history of domestic and foreign capital in Canada, the trade union movement in Canada, and Quebec in the Canadian federal state. Jim Laxer, Mel Watkins and Robin Mathews will be among those lecturing. The course is scheduled for Sunday evenings, 7 to 9:30, from January 28 to April 15, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education on Bloor Street. The cost for the complete course is \$10; the charge for a single lecture is \$1.50. For more information, call 651-6709.

Directors of the University of Toronto course on *Women: Oppression and Liberation* are continuing their series of evening lectures into the spring term because of popular demand. The new series begins with the theme of women in the arts. The January 30 lecture will

feature radical feminist sculptor, Mary Kantaroff. On February 6, the film *Sexuality and Communication* will be shown. Both sessions are at 7:30 in the Ontario College of Education auditorium.

York University's Centre for Continuing Education is sponsoring a series of seminars on the new income tax system and how it affects the businessman, investor and individual taxpayer. *Business and Corporate Taxation* is a four session course covering tax rules for the computation of business income and capital cost allowances, and the effects of the tax system on business decisions. The course runs from February 19 until March 1. To register, call 667-2502.

York is also sponsoring a course in *Writing Non-Fiction*. Discussions will be led by Valerie Miner Johnson, who is a freelance journalist as well as a teacher. The workshop will be an approach to creative writing through the literature of journalism. The class will discuss works like Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year* and Tom Wolfe's *The Pump House Gang*, but emphasis will be placed on the students' own writing.

(In its January 11 issue, the *Citizen* listed spring semester adult education courses offered at the University of Toronto, and colleges and high schools in the area.)

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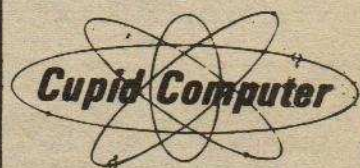
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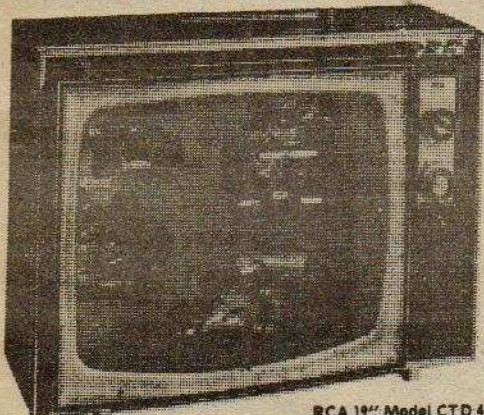
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

NOON — Okah Jones, the president of Consumers Gas and a director of more boards and corporations than anyone else in Toronto, appears at Noon on the Square. Its at 10 Trinity Square.

8 p.m. — The Annex Ratepayers' Association Board of Directors meets for its monthly meeting. At Huron Public School. Open to members and interested public.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

11 a.m. — Lawyer Charles Roach speaks on Canada's Immigration Policy at the First Unitarian Church, 175 St. Clair Avenue West near Avenue Road. All welcome.

2:30 p.m. — cultural afternoon, entertainment, etc. at Harbord Collegiate, 286 Harbord. Admission \$2.00, \$1.00 for children. Proceeds to Black Education Project's community school activities.

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8:00 p.m. — Fun Film Night, featuring Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy, presented by the Vietnam Children's Hospital Committee at the Bathurst Street United Church. Admission is free. For more information, 536-4060.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

10 a.m. — The Ontario Conference on Women runs all day today and tomorrow with discussions and workshops on the role of women in various fields. It's at Victoria College, University of Toronto. Tel: 964-1535 for further information.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

11 a.m. — The Unitarian Church presents the Hinterland Chorus in a recital of a Total Worship Experience; joyful poetry and music. 175 St. Clair Avenue West, near Avenue Road. All Welcome.

2 p.m. — Escape from the Planet of the Apes is the movie at Bathurst Street United Church, Lennox south of Bloor. Admission by donation. Sponsored by Theatre In Camera.

2:30 p.m. — The Royal Ontario Museum presents its free Sunday film offering. Today: Pan, The Music Machine, I am a Guitar and others. The program is aimed both at adults and high school students. Free with

Sponsored by Spadina Review Corporation at 252 Bloor Street, West, (at St. George) All welcome. Free.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

8 p.m. — Citizens for a Better Waterfront (C.B.W.) will meet to discuss a report by Mary McLaughlin, a member of the Toronto Harbour Commission and C.B.W., on the Commission's activities and to discuss jurisdiction, planning and the Federal Waterfront Park. Pollution Probe Office, 43 Queens Park Crescent.

8 p.m. — The St. George NDP riding association prepares for the by-election that will be held in the riding this Spring with a general meeting to discuss when to hold a nomination meeting. It's at Jesse Kethcum School on Davenport Road. Open to all.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

1:30 p.m. — The Ontario Science Centre movies for Senior Citizens features Paul Scofield in A Man For All Seasons. Movie free with 50 cents admission to Centre.

7 p.m. — The Royal Ontario Museum presents the best of the National Film Board. Films by Canadian directors. Tonight: Labrador Hospital, Where There's Smoke, Legend, Saint-Urbain in Troves. Free in the ROM Theatre, Avenue Road and Bloor.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

NOON — D'Arcy McKeough, the controversial loud-voice former Treasurer of Ontario is the guest at Noon On The Square. It's at 10 Trinity Square, two blocks south of Dundas off Yonge. Lunch refreshments available.

5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. — The Art Gallery of Ontario presents Underground Film Classics. Tonight: Eaux d'Artifice, Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome, Desistfilm, Mechanics of Love, Transformation, Dance Chromatic and Catalogue. Admission free. Seating limited to 100 and on first come basis. At Dundas and Beverley streets.

8:30 p.m. — Another program from the golden age of cinema series. Tonight: La Boheme with Lillian Gish, John Gilbert. At the Toronto Public Libraries Learning Resources Centre, 666 Eglinton Avenue West. Free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:30 p.m. — Marx Bros Festival. Tonight: Cocoanuts, Monkey Business and Duck Soup. At Room 3154, Medical Science Building, University of Toronto.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:30 p.m. — Marx Bros Festival. Tonight: Animal Crackers, Horsefeathers and Duck Soup. At Room 3154, Medical Science Building, University of Toronto.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

11 a.m. — True Davidson, the former mayor of East York, is featured speaker on Can Our Cities Survive? at the First Unitarian Congregation, 175 St. Clair Avenue West, near Avenue Road. All welcome.

2:30 p.m. — The Royal Ontario Museum presents its free Sunday film offering. Today: Eskimo Artist and Drifting of the Continents. Free with admission to the Museum. Bloor and Avenue Roads.

7:30 p.m. — Fortune and Men's Eyes is the feature in the series of Films I always wanted to see. At Bathurst United Church, Lennox 736 Bathurst St. Admission by donation.

8:30 p.m. — Actors Theatre presents The Toronto Consort, a concert of Medieval & Renaissance music. Everything from the most earthy ribald tale to the most tender love poem is presented in this offering of 15th century Italian music. Adults \$2.00; students \$1.50. 390 Dupont Street at Brunswick. 923-1515 for reservations.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8 p.m. — meet Ron Aktey, M.P. St. Paul's, in a Citizens Forum on New Federal Housing Proposals. At First Unitarian Church, 175 St. Clair Avenue West. Everyone welcome to join in discussion.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8 p.m. — The Leonard Beaton Memorial lecture series features Professor Bernard Feld of M.I.T. on Twenty-Eight Years After Hiroshima: Is The Nuclear Genie Finally On The Way Back Into The Bottle? Free in Room 102, McLennan Physical Lab. 255 Huron Street.

8 p.m. — The Sussex Ulster Residents Association will meet at Lord

Street West at the St. George Subway Station. For early registration and information call 651-6709.

8:30 p.m. — le theatre du p'tit bonheur presents Le Fou et la Nonne on most evenings until February 3. Its at 95 Danforth Avenue (corner of Broadview). Reservations 964-8921 or 466-8400 between 5-7 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

8:00 p.m. — The Committee on Buildings and Development meets in City Hall to discuss the possibility of repealing the rezoning for the Windlass Development on McCaul Street in Southeast Spadina.

8:30 p.m. — Hon. Gordon Carton, Minister of Transportation and Communications, introduces the film, A New Way To Go, the Government's proposal for a new mode of public rapid transit. Discussion follows.

citizen classified

532-4456 / jobs / goods / digs / etc.

HELP WANTED

People at Bathurst Street United Church Congregation are looking for a person to work with children and adults in a co-operative Sunday morning venture. Paying position. Three to five hours a week. Please call 532-2310 or 923-9681.

One morning every two weeks. The Toronto Citizen needs a willing hand to help with preparation of its mail deliveries for the post office. Every other Tuesday. Basic remuneration. Call Rachel at 532-4456.

DAY CARE

Parents interested in Downtown Day Care within a few blocks of Yonge and Queen, contact Holy Trinity Church Community Programming. Anita Stainer at 362-4521.

HOUSING SOUGHT

Space wanted preferably in house or store front, for 5-6 Months, for small number of families beginning new school. Central, 1-2 rooms, kitchen and bathroom at nominal cost. Provider must be more interested in the project than the revenue — we

can afford very little during these early stages. Call 920-4758 or 929-5680.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Interior Painting, Pre-Spring Cleaning, Gardening. \$2.50 hr. Phone after six. 869-0872 — Mr. Sloan.

Good used second hand clothing and household goods, The Thrift Shop at the Church St. Mary Magdeline, 136 Ulster St. Every Wednesday 11-2. All donations welcome. For more information call 531-7955.

Basic guitar instruction. All styles—country, jazz, classical, blues and finger picking. Personal attention. 921-4589 mornings and weekends.

FOR RENT

One room, share living room and kitchen, separate entrance available; prefer student who doesn't mind noise. Yonge St. Area. 921-4589 after 10 p.m.

Former Yoga Centre for rent — \$300. per month. Call Gordon at 964-0612.

Room for rent in an apartment. Downsview 630-9954.

ARTICLES WANTED

WANTED!! Antiques, china, glass, bric-a-brac, furniture, or whatever. THE ANTIQUE LADY, 553 Mt. Pleasant Rd. (beside the Crest theatre). 488-2264 in the afternoon only.

MISCELLANEOUS

Music Co-op Forming — I write and sing songs; play guitar too I've rented a large flat at 320 Spadina near Dundas. There is room for 3 or 4 altogether. If you play guitar, bass drums, I would especially like to hear from you; if you want to live collectively and co-operatively. Rent is \$210, to be split 2, 3, or 4 ways. Racists, sexists, hard-drug users, heavy-boozers need not apply. Leave message in mailbox if I'm not in. P.S. Three rooms have built-in lift beds and there are no neighbours to disturb.

Black and white kittens for a loving home. They are weaned, box-trained and adorable. 534-6203 evenings.

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