Ombudsman Arthur Maloney sends in his resignation

letter sent to Premier William Davis by Untario Ombudsman Arthur Maloney advising the premier of his intention to resign Oct. 9.

Mr. Maloney has told the press that he will not make any public comment beyond the scope of his letter until the day after his resignation takes effect.

There have been occasions in the time that has intervened since my appointment when I have been in confrontation and controversy with some of the members of the Legislature.

No one who knew the circumstances would regard this as evidence of any lack of either respect for the office of the elected member or appreciation of the importance of that position. The strong stand I have taken on several such occasions was intended merely to manifest my determination that the office of the Ombudsman would-so long as it was under my direction-remain untainted by any suggestion of outside direction or control. This had to be the case if Ontario was to have an Ombudsman function in the tradition of its counterparts around world.

Ombudsman for cause and to determine his budget has, with these controls, the fullest measure of authority over the

ience with the office I have become immensely impressed with the amount of good it can do for the people . of the need for it and of the importance that it continue strong and independent in the people's service. There is no appointed public function that belongs more especially to each of Ontario's citizens than that of the Ombudsman. Costs Of His Office

to time about the cost of the Ombudsman operation. The total budget of the Province of Ontario for the present fiscal year is fourteen billion. five hundred million dollars (\$14,500,000,000.00), As I stated in my fourth report the during the month of Septembudget approved for the ber. Your government under-Ombudsman for this period is took to carry out whatever four million, one hundred and sixteen thousand dollars (4,116,000,00). This is 0.000293 in all of the cases being dealt per cent or indeed less than 1. 35th of one per cent of the Considering the millions of dollars that the government of Ontario must spend annually to investigate the agencies of government entitled to no less.

Extended Authority urged that the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman be expanded to include authority to deal with complaints by citizens against any agency that has a terests and where that agency is financed in whole or Ontario taxpayer.

Specifically, I have taken the position that the jurisdiction of the office should be extended to include municipal or local governments. boards of education, universities, hospitals and nursing homes. This, as you know, is a practice that works very well in many other Ombudsman

Following are parts of the jurisdictions in Canada and around the world. As I leave the Office I re-state this posiand urge that this jurisdiction be conferred on

my successor. Insofar as my successor is concerned you have my assurance that I will lend him or her every possible assistance and this I undertake to do for as long as may be necessary.

The Province-Wide Hearings I think it important that my staff has taken great pains to ensure that the office of the Ombadsman its service and its facilities have been brought to the people. The carefully organized program of tours around the province has resulted in hearings in over 100 different municipalities. All this has served as

a great convenience to thousands of Ontario residents to whom Toronto is not that easily accessible and has assisted members of our staff, who participate in the program of hearings, to get a clearer picture of the people and their needs. This has also worked to the advantage of the farmers and other rural residents of the province whose special problems have the always been of concern to us. North Pickering

The Legislature, with its I very much regret that the to dismiss the positive and agreeable tone of this letter must be marred by a necessary reference to the problems arising out of the land acquisition procedures in North Pickering which In my three years' exper- have not yet been resolved. The hearing agreed to between me and the Honourable John Bhodes when he was Minister of Housing and which is being conducted by Mr. Keith Hoilett under The Ombudsman Act commenced in December, 1976, has proceeded with expedition and without delay. It has been thorough and exhaustive.

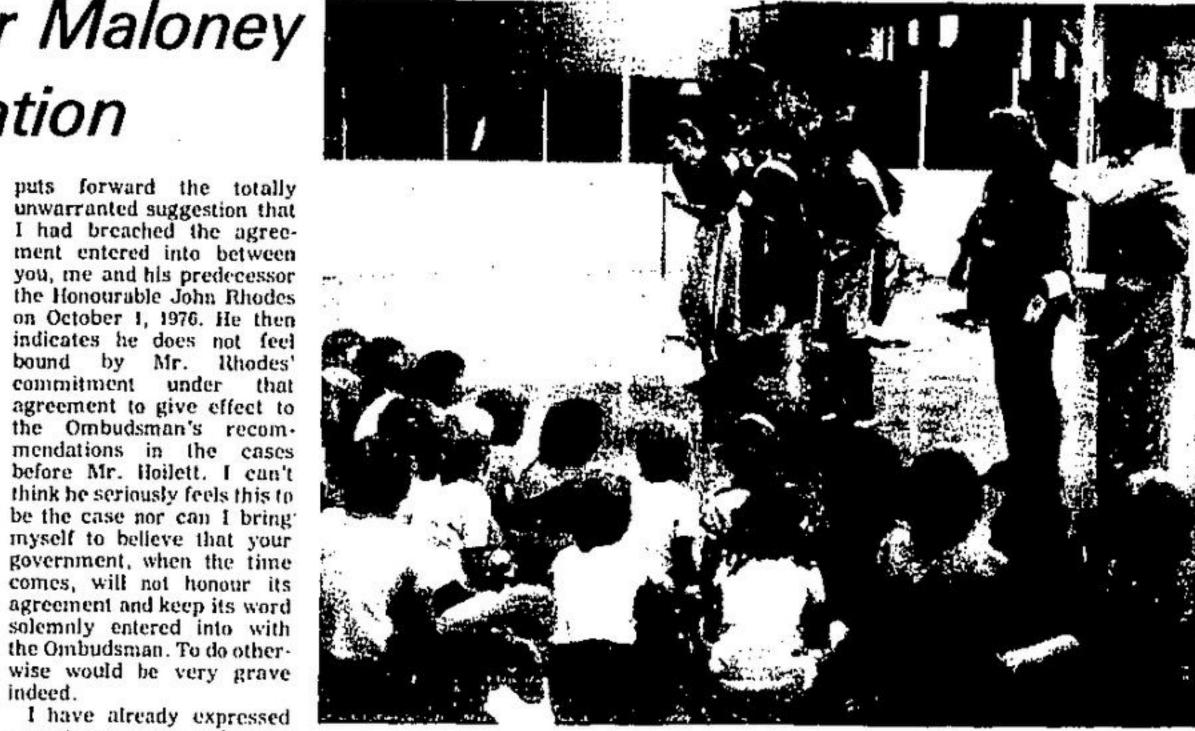
Over two hundred witnesses have been called to Questions arise from time give evidence. The landowners - numbering approximately 70-have been represented by counsel; so has the Ministry of Housing and so were the land acquisition agents. The taking of evidence should conclude recommendations Ombudsman saw fit to make with in this hearing. It was the wish and understanding of the Ministry officials that I should delegate the authority to preside over this hering to

Mr. Hoilett and the Ombudsman would in turn make Mr. that he feels, rightly or Hoilett's recommendations wrongly, have been unfair to his own -whatever they may him. The people are surely be. Mr. Hoilett has conducted a careful, thorough and courteous inquiry-in For many months I have manner we are entitled to expect of someone entrusted with such a serious responsibility. Whatever his recommendations may be it can be assumed they will be decision making power likely just and fair to all. I feel a to affect his rights and in- heavy responsibility to all parties involved in the Pickering controversy, to in substantial part by the their right to a fair hearing and to the right to just compensation to any fand-

owners in those cases where this is deemd appropriate. It follows I was much surprised to read early in July on my return from Russia a letter dated June 23 sent to me by the Minister of Housing- the Honourable Claude Bennett-in which he

puts forward the totally unwarranted suggestion that I had breached the agreement entered into between you, me and his predecessor the Honourable John Rhodes on October 1, 1976. He then indicates he does not feel by Mr. Rhodes' commitment under that agreement to give effect to the Ombudsman's recommendations in the cases before Mr. Hollett. I can't think he seriously feels this to be the case nor can I bring myself to believe that your

wise would be very grave I have already expressed my extreme regret at the way in which the Donnelly Comdischarged its mandate. It failed to appoint Counsel: it failed to conduct an investigation; it failed to require the presence of appropriate government officials and the landowners as witnesses.



RECYCLE PLAYERS, a group fo young entertainers from Toronto were in Acton last Wednesday to perform for playground kids. The group is sponsored by the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Resources. The play itself is on Energy Conservation.

have visited facilities and

schools for the handicapped,

such as the scent garden for

the blind in Toronto, the W.

Ross Macdonald School in

U of G trail for handicapped

A "touch and see" trait for the blind and a nature "walk" for visitors in wheel chairs may soon enable the physically handicapped to enjoy and learn about nature in the University of Guelph Arboretum.

An investigation team, funded through a three-and-ahalf month Young Canada Works grant, is studying ways to increase the use of the Arboretum by the handicapped. The team will identify areas on the trails suitable for demonstration to specific handicaps, recommend modifications to the Arboretum buildings and trails, and design nature education programs suitable for handicapped adults and The grant, amounting to almost \$6,800, covers the salaries of three young adults for the summer.

Under the direction of Guelph naturalist Watson, the group focussing on Victoria Woods trails because of their proximity to the J. C. Taylor Nature Centre and because they are free of poison ivy. "With relatively minor changes," explains Project Manager Mary Coles, "part of the trail network in Victoria Woods could be made accessible to wheelchairs. We are evaluating different types: of trail surfaces such as

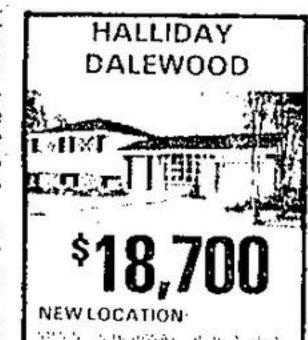
cinders and rock dust." "A primary goal in designing trails for the handicapped," she continues, "is providing the necessary feeling of security." Blind people, for instance, can be fiercely independent terribly insecure outside a building. On a trail for the blind, the security could be provided by a low kick rail along the trail, braille signs,

and with a rope railing tied with knots at specific points of interest. Ms. Coles notes that many legally blind people have limited sight, and for them the braille signs. therefore, would also include large printed legends

wheelchairs of the Arboretum Centre, the headquarters building for the University of Guelph's Arboretum, and the J. C. Taylor Nature Centre will be evaluated during this summer study. Necessary modifications recommended. They probably involve constructing wood ramps, widening doors, and minor changes

to washrooms. Ms. Coles feels that some changes to the trails could be implemented right away The investigation team

Mary Coles, Susan Neufeld and Cindy Dugas have scoured the literature on nature trails for the handicapped and have contacted local and international organizations with perience in this field. They



Between the profession to star. Property Control of the major of the con-SPECIAL CHORDS ON INDICASE. DISPLAY COURT



Recycle Players

from Toronto visited the summer playground program and performed a play on Energy Conservation.

The group, known as the Recycle Players, are university students sponsored by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources. There are six members to the group and there are ten groups across Canada. One in each province.

The group is hired through student manpower to write and perform a play on Energy and Resources. The Recycle Players have

Judge sheep

By Ruth Gillies On Aug. 9 the last Sheep Club meeting took place at Russell Hurren's farm. Holly Hurren, vice-president. called the meeting to order and Heidi Stadler led the 4-H pledge. Ellen Hurren read the minutes of the last meeting. Holly told about the 4-H Family Day planned for Sept. 3 at the Hornby Ball Park.

Six lambs were brought out for showmanship. Gardhouse explained what judges are looking for in showmanship and what exactly we should do.

There were two classes. more experienced members were in the first

A group of young people been all over Ontario per- dian National Exhibition until forming and are at the Cana- this Friday.

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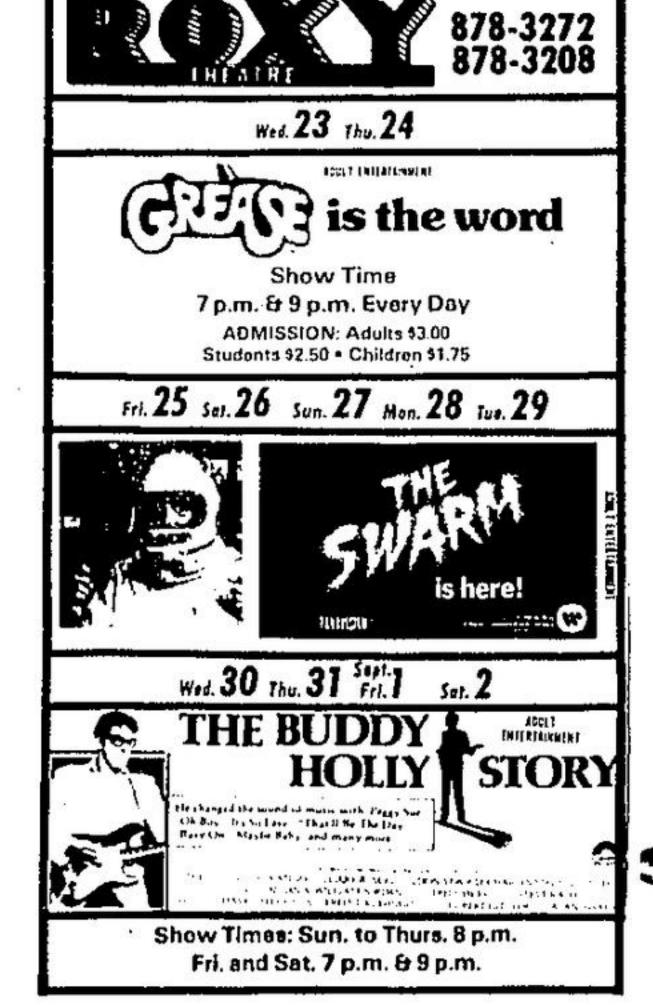
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ACROSS FROM THE BAVARIAN INN

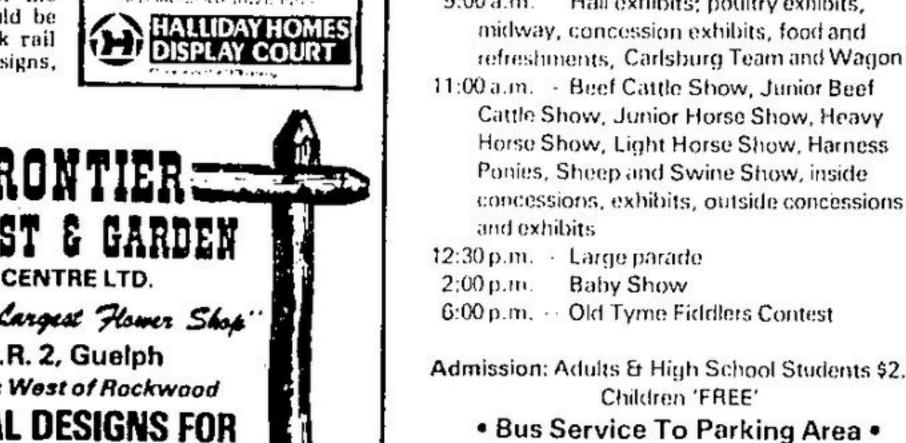
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Brantford and the Royal Botanical Gardens, where one staff member has made The accessibility to great strides with horticultural therapy. Guelph organizations concerned with the developmentally and physically handicapped have been contacted. A blind Guelph man served as a consultant by walking the Victoria Woods trails and giving his perceptions. "Since we started working 4:00 p.m. - Hall exhibits, poultry exhibits,

A HALLIDAY HOMES



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ACTON FALL FAIR Sept. 15, 16, 17

observes Ms. Coles, "we have

all become so much more

aware of the needs of the

handicapped, which have not

been considered in the design

our cities, and mass

With existing Arboretum

facilities, it is possible to

design programs for groups

of blind, deaf or physically

handicapped children or

adults. Mr. Watson hopes to

provide facilities so that

handicapped individuals, or

families with a handicapped

member, could use and enjoy

the Arboretum trails on their

at Acton Park Friday Night - September 15th

'concession exhibits, midway, food concessions. Heavy Horse Pull under the lights

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Saturday, September 16th

9:00 a.m. Hall exhibits; poultry exhibits, midway, concession exhibits, food and refreshments, Carlsburg Team and Wagon 11:00 a.m. - Beef Cattle Show, Junior Beef Cattle Show, Junior Horse Show, Heavy Horse Show, Light Horse Show, Harness Ponies, Sheep and Swine Show, inside

and exhibits 12:30 p.m. - Large parade Baby Show

Admission: Adults & High School Students \$2.50 Children 'FREE'

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Fair Night Dance

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Men: Shirt & Tie - Ladies: Dress or Pant Suit Advance Ticket Sales for Saturday Night Fair Dance Sept. 16 to B.J. Wright on sale at the Village Variety Shop, 41 Mill Street East,

Acton - Limited Tickets Available

Sunday, September 17

12:00 Noon - Carlsburg Team and Wagon, The Pet Show, Dairy Cattle Show, Junior Dairy Cattle Show, English Horse Show (Jumpers), Western Horse Show, hall exhibits, inside and outside concession exhibits

1:00 p.m. - Tractor Pull 1:30 p.m. -- Fireman's Water Ball Contest 2:00 p.m. -- Fashion Show in the arena

Admission: Adult & High School Students \$2.50 Public School Students \$1.00