

## WRIGGLESWORTH OPENS PLAYGROUND



*Specially adapted for handicapped*

It was a special occasion for students at Howard Wrigglesworth Public School when their new playground facility was officially opened Friday afternoon.

Over a three year period students at the school raised \$7,000 towards the total cost of the equipment (\$12,000).

Selling peas, Halloween candy and holding hot dog days and spring fairs, helped to pay for one of the few creative playgrounds available to the handicapped.

The money was given to the Recreation and Parks Department which constructed the playground. Friday director Tom Shepard and members of the works department were on hand to witness the opening.

Helping to make the project a success were donations from the Georgetown Little Theatre, Daughters of Scotland and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Principal Tom Gibson said the fund-raising was a total school effort, with help by all the students, teachers and many parents.

It's a creative playground equipped enough to please any kid, especially students at Howard Wrigglesworth Public School on Guelph St. The school officially opened the \$12,000 playground which is able to accommodate handicapped students. Here Chris Hyde, Adam Money Penny, Scot Brown and Angle Telford spend their lunch hour as swingers.

(Herald photo)

## Senator Hastings defends bill to wary hospital staff

Canadian Senator Earl Hastings might have expected a quiet meeting with the University Women's Club last Tuesday, but what he got was an earful of complaints from local medical staff on health care in Ontario.

The former leader of the Saskatchewan Liberal Party (1948-52) was speaking for federal Health Minister Monique Bégin about the proposed Canada

Health Act. In a question period after the senator's 20 minute talk, Dr. Elliot Halperin and a colleague from Georgetown District Memorial Hospital offered their own opinions on health care in Canada.

"Extra billing is just not the issue," said Dr. Halperin. After 10 years of erosion to health care because of a lack of money, hospitals don't have enough beds and the equipment is

"second-rate," he said. By disallowing doctors the option to extra bill under the proposed Health Act, the best doctors will leave for green pastures in the United States. The new health bill is a "poli-

into position first," Senator Hastings said, before tackling extra government spending.

Questions were directed to Senator Hastings about the abuse of medicare under the present system. He replied that only about 2 per cent of the total users abuse the system - about the same percentage of people who abuse the credit card system.

Senator Hastings explained that in his home province of Alberta 57 per cent of doctors are overbilling: "It's the overbilling capital of Canada". He said a heart by-pass operation in Calgary costs up to \$500 above what medicare pays to the doctor.

He said that if Alberta is allowed to continue with overbilling, the other provinces will follow.

Extra billing affects "access and universality", the senator said. Some people are buying health programs to cover extra costs and it's not fair to the poor, he said.

**MORE MONEY**  
One lady said she was

more concerned people will have the proper equipment available and that medicare is a non-issue compared to the need for money.

She said that babies at GDMH were "denied accessibility" until a private citizen came forward to pay for a \$10,000 neo-natal monitor - the government didn't buy the equipment, she said.

In a conversation with provincial Health Minister Dennis Timbrell, Dr. Halperin said he was told our system was still better than that of Swaziland.

Origins to the philosophy that Canadians are entitled to universal health care depends on what party you belong to, Senator Hastings said.

Former prime ministers Mackenzie King and John Diefenbaker, along with Tommy Douglas of Saskatchewan are all credited with helping the system along, although the principle is derived from the biblical teachings "you are your brother's keeper", he said.



SENATOR HASTINGS

tical smokescreen", he said.

**COMMITMENT**

Senator Hastings replied by saying the government has made a commitment to increase spending by 9 per cent on health services. He told the audience that extra billing is a deterrent to poor, big families.

"We must put this (Canada Health Act)

### Tractor trailer fire

The cab of a 1973 freightliner tractor trailer caught fire causing \$10,000 damage Jan. 11 at 2:42 a.m. at Lot 18 Concession 9.

The driver had started the propane preheater and it caught the insulation inside the cab on fire, the fire department reported.

The driver was unhurt and the fire took about an hour to put out. The truck is owned by Blair Oldham of Norval.

### Minor assault

A 30-year old male was charged with minor assault Saturday at 1 a.m. during a domestic altercation at the Cedar Springs Motel on Highway 7.

The wife of the man received injuries to her right arm and the side of her neck. The man is to appear in Milton provincial court Feb. 13.

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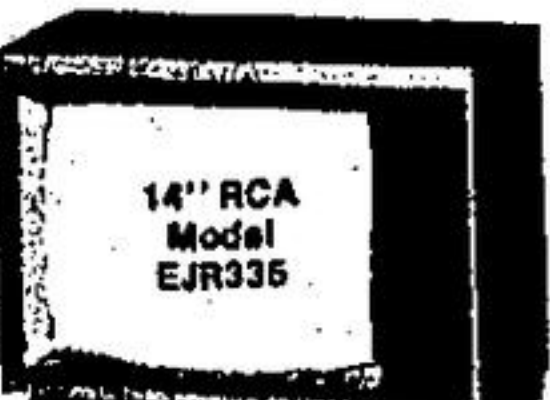


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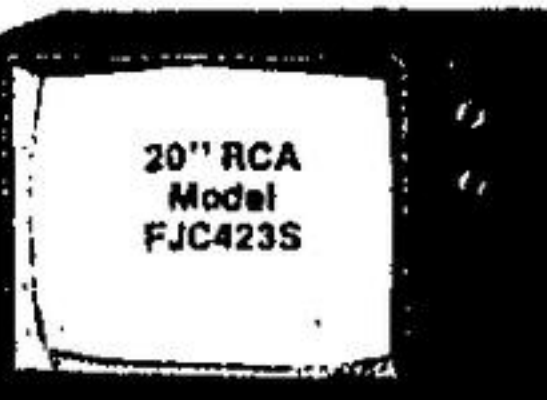


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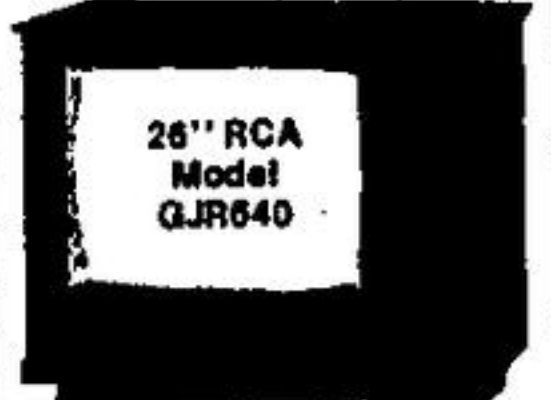
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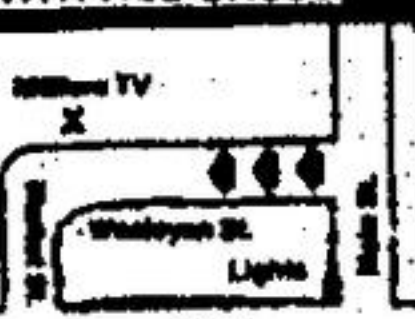
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