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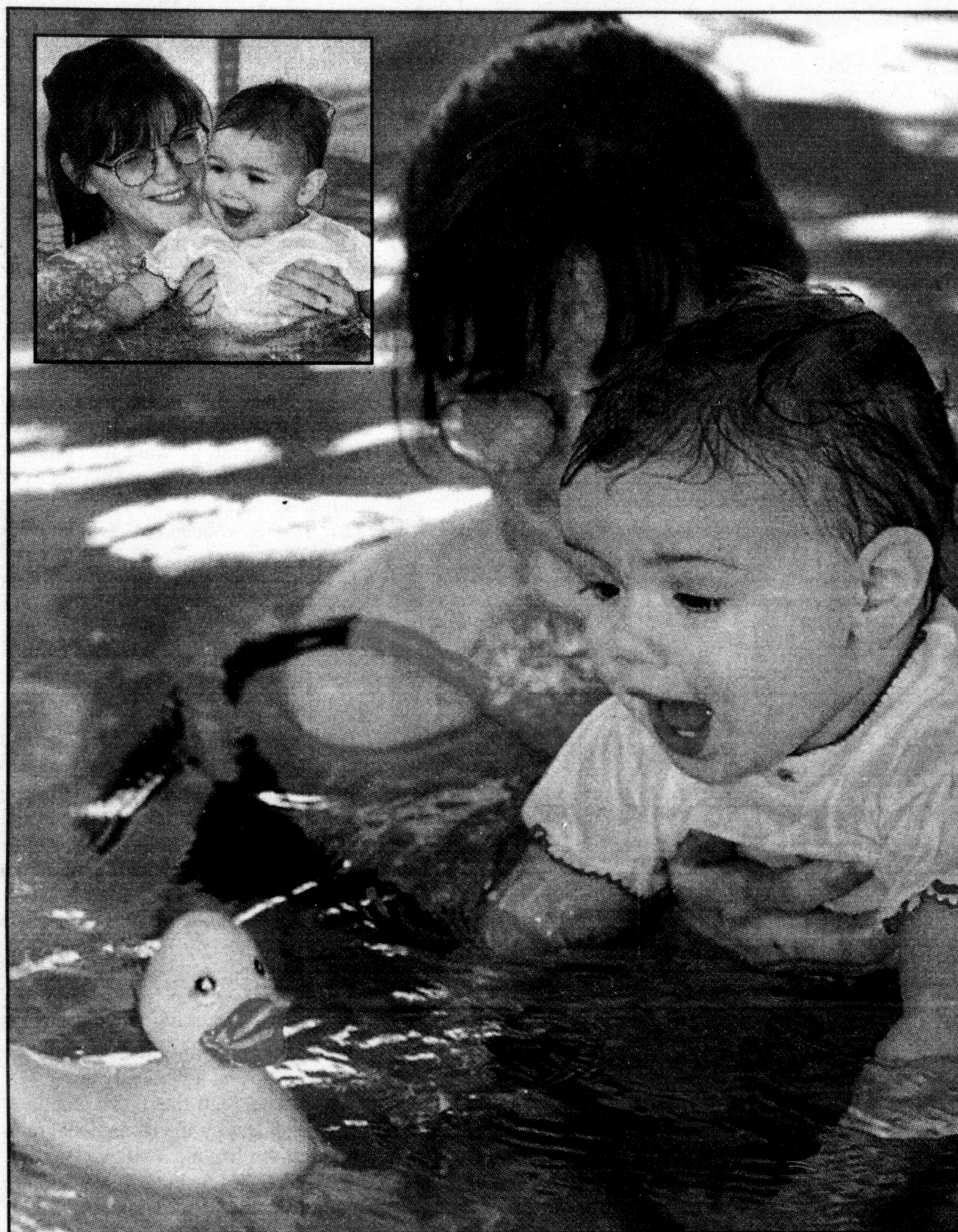
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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Aqua duck

Little Katie Sinnige swims toward a rubber ducky with help from mother Amanda during Saturday morning's Aqua Tot program at the Milton Leisure Centre. From the look on their faces (inset), it's easy to see that the activity is fun for both children and parents. See more photos from the program on page 15.

Chudleigh slams CPP hike — Reed says it had to be

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

In its enthusiasm to resuscitate the endangered Canada Pension Plan, the federal government could be choking job creation, Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh has charged.

A recent move by the feds to shore up the shaky CPP by increasing payroll taxes will suck an extra \$280 million from the pockets of Ontario residents, he warned.

Halton MP Julian Reed said that in hiking CPP payroll taxes by 75 per cent over five years, his government has chosen long-term security over short-term gain.

"For better or for worse, there's got to be some built-in protection," said Mr. Reed. "It's the backstop when everything else fails."

The CPP should be rescued, but not by gouging taxpayers further, countered Mr. Chudleigh.

Instead, he said the money could have come from the federal government's Employment Insurance fund, which is enjoying a \$10 billion surplus.

"The concept of increased taxes doesn't go in Ontario," he said. "I'm upset that the federal government had a chance to go into EI and build up the CPP and they didn't do it."

Any increase in payroll taxes threatens Ontario's job creation rate, which is humming along at 30,000 new jobs per month, said Mr. Chudleigh.

The federal tax increase will likely slow that rate by about 8,000, he said.

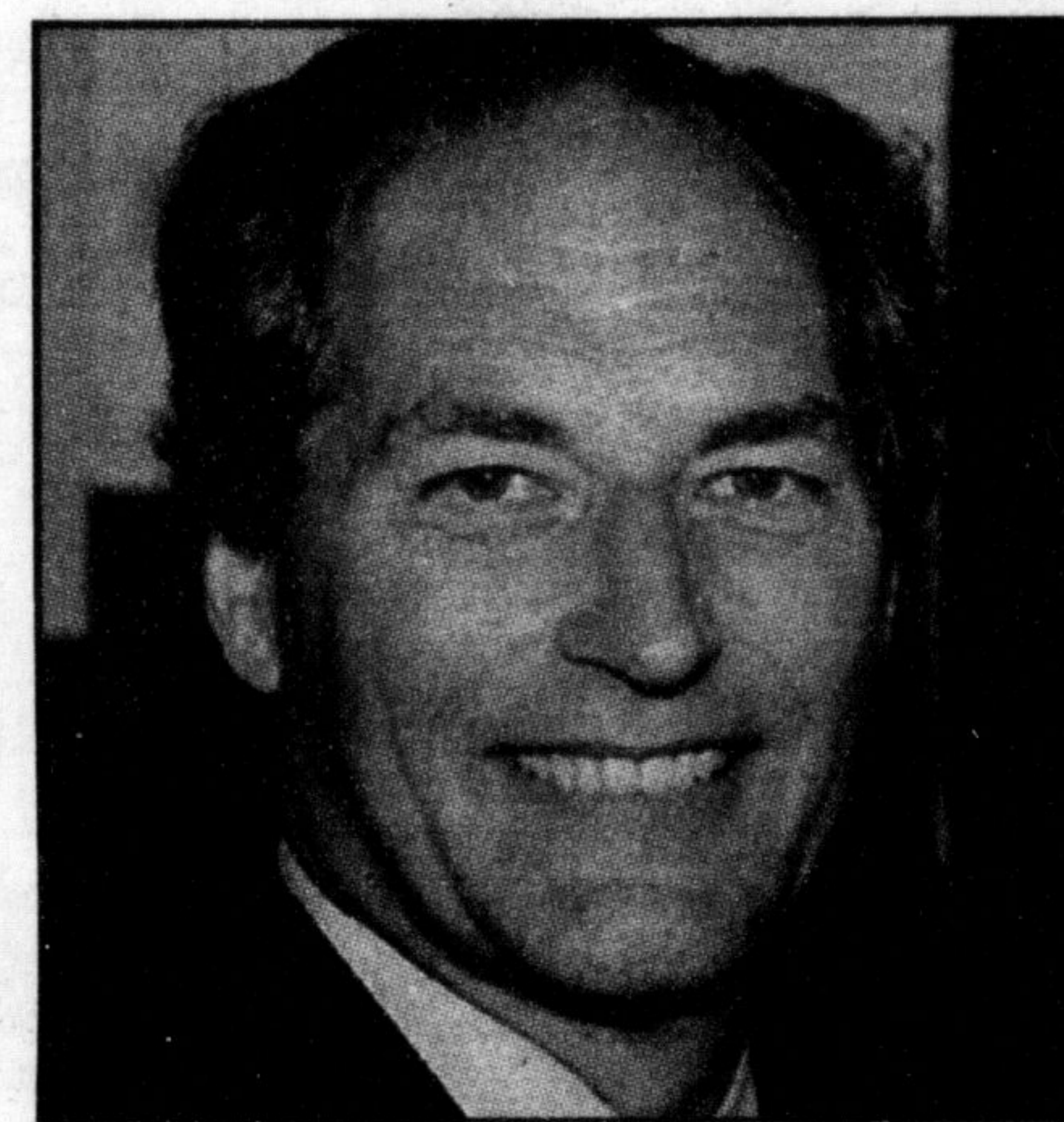
"Every time you increase payroll taxes, employers think twice about hiring someone," he said. "That's especially true in entry level jobs. They think, 'maybe I can get away without hiring someone.'"

That leads to more part-time and contract work, but only secure full-time employment gives people the confidence to participate freely in the economy by buying big-ticket items such as cars and homes, said Mr. Chudleigh.

Rather than minimizing employment opportunities, the federal government should be encouraging work, he said.

"The fewer people who are working, the more jeopardy the CPP is in," said Mr. Chudleigh.

• see REED on page 10



Ted Chudleigh

NEWSLINES

Woman to make water pitch at Halton Region

A Milton woman will make a pitch against blended water at the Region's planning and public works committee tomorrow (Wednesday).

Carol Gustafson said she hopes to encourage the committee to look into alternatives to mixing Milton's spring source water with water from Lake Ontario.

Ms Gustafson has invited the public to attend the 9:30 a.m. meeting in the Halton Room at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., in Oakville.

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Earthquake help being accepted

Those interested in aiding with the relief efforts for the Colombian earthquake can make a financial donation through the Canadian Red Cross Society.

The funds will be used to provide food, medicine and shelter for those affected by the recent disaster.

To make a contribution by

cheque or credit card, contact the Milton chapter of the Canadian Red Cross Society at 875-1459 or drop by the office at 42 Bronte St. E.



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