

Kids' Stuff

Penned by them . . .

SHARING THE FLAME

At last we were on our way to my briefing session. I had been waiting seven months for this day and I couldn't believe that it was finally here. After a stormy journey up to Sudbury the day before, I at last met up with the other six people with whom I would share one of the most wonderful experiences of my life.

It was 2 p.m., Friday, January 8th, and we were at the "Ambassador Motel" with our family and friends preparing the run with the Olympic Torch. In the briefing room I was given my uniform and was told to change. When I returned the instruction began. I learned what to do when it was my turn to run and what to do when my run was over. I learned about the whole procession of "torch" vehicles, the core (the runner with the torch is part of the core) and that each "torch" vehicle has an Alberta licence plate with the word "Torch" and a number from 1-43 on it.

At approximately 6:15 p.m. the drivers of T-1 called me to the front, opened the side door and slowed down enough for me to step out. I stepped out of the RV and waited for two other vehicles (an Olds 98 'VIP' car and a 5 ton Press Van) to pass by me. When the runner came along we hugged, exchanged the torch and then my run began. "Hi, I'm Bill from Montreal and she's Marie from Toronto," introduced one of my two escort runners. "Really," I said, "I'm from Milton which is near Toronto." "Yes," answered Marie, "I've been there." Almost as soon as Marie had finished speaking, the loud-speaker on top of the van behind me BOOM-ED. "And now carrying the Torch on its cross Canada journey is Sam Smith from Milton, Ontario. Hold that Torch high for Sudbury, Sam."

This was followed by the Relay's theme song "Share the Flame" and hundreds of people who didn't know me and who I didn't know, shouted and cheered.

As my run progressed, (and my arm grew

weaker) my excitement grew stronger. Cars on the other side of the road drove by honking their horns madly and people were four bodies deep in most places. I remember cameras and flash bulbs going off right, left and centre and one lady even ran into the middle of the road and asked to hold the torch. Most of all I tried to let every little kid that I saw hold it.

When my kilometre was over I returned to T-11 (my shuttle van) which stayed with the core until all of our group had run. When we were all back in the van we left the core and drove down the side streets back to the Ambassador Motel.

Back in the briefing room we tried to express our feelings on what we'd just done.

None of us could express exactly what we wanted to say but we all knew what each one of us had felt.

Complete and utter elation.

By Sam Smith
Torch Runner
W.I. Dick
Grade 8

THE BIG DAY

I woke up in the morning. The first rays of light shone through my window. Outside the grass was lightly covered with dew. I knew this day was special. Today's the day I'm going to run in the torch relay. "I'm practically dying with excitement," I told my mom. All of a sudden people started yelling, "The flame's coming! The flame's coming!" So, I ran outside. I got the flame and started running. I discovered it's hard to run when you're all bundled up. Well I survived! I handed the torch to the next runner, then I saw my mom. She said, "How do you feel?" I said, "I feel proud to be a Canadian!"

Bridget Campbell
Grade 4
Pineview School

Colouring Contest



Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____

Hey kids, take out your crayons and add some colour to this picture. Bring it into The Champion and be eligible for a grand prize of \$5 offered each week and a monthly draw for a McDonald's sports bag. Hand it in at The Champion, 191 Main St. before Thursday morning. Children must be 10 years of age or younger to qualify for the contest.

Last week's winner was Robin Van Hoek, 5, of Syer Dr.

Spot the Differences

There are 10 differences between these pictures. Can you find them?



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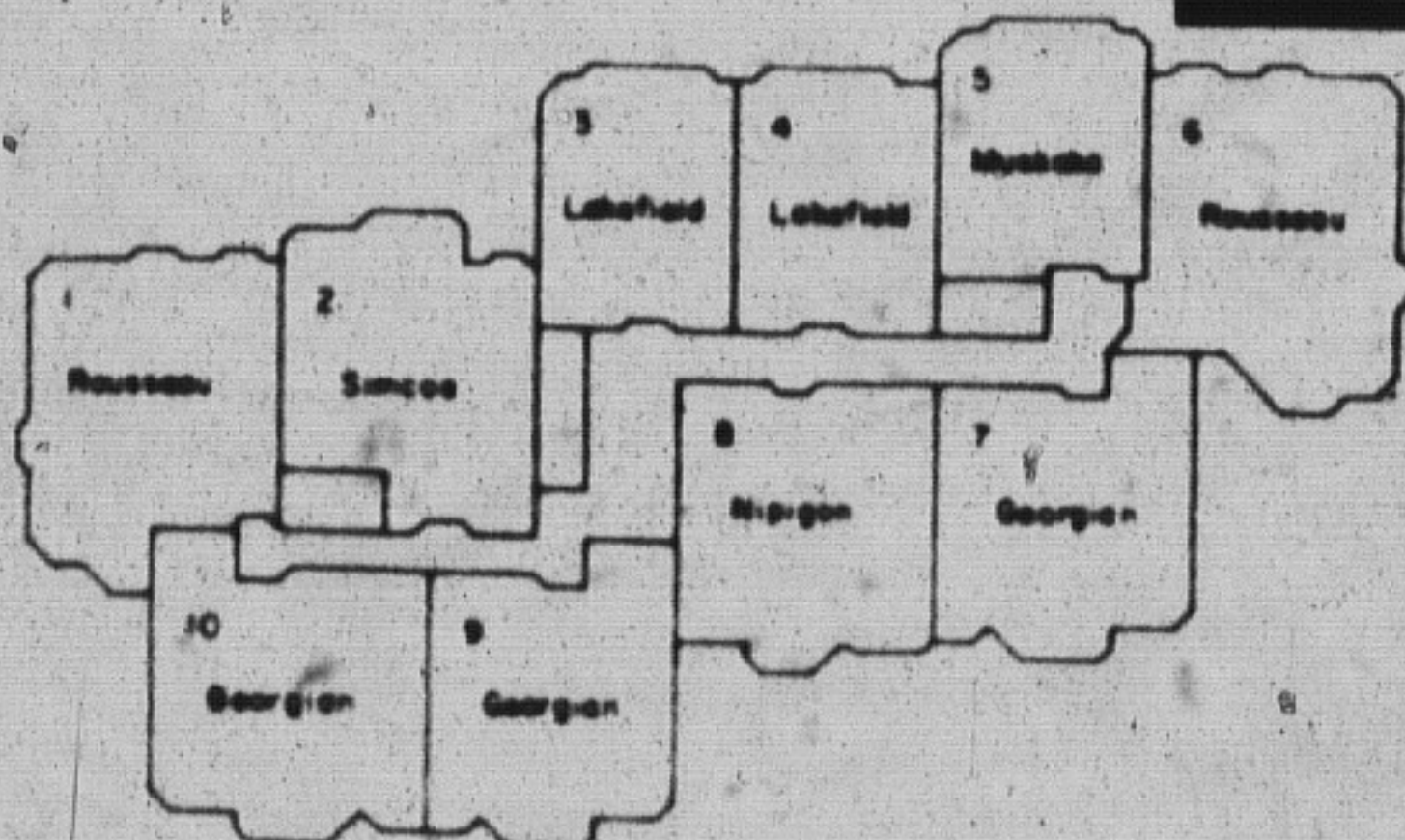
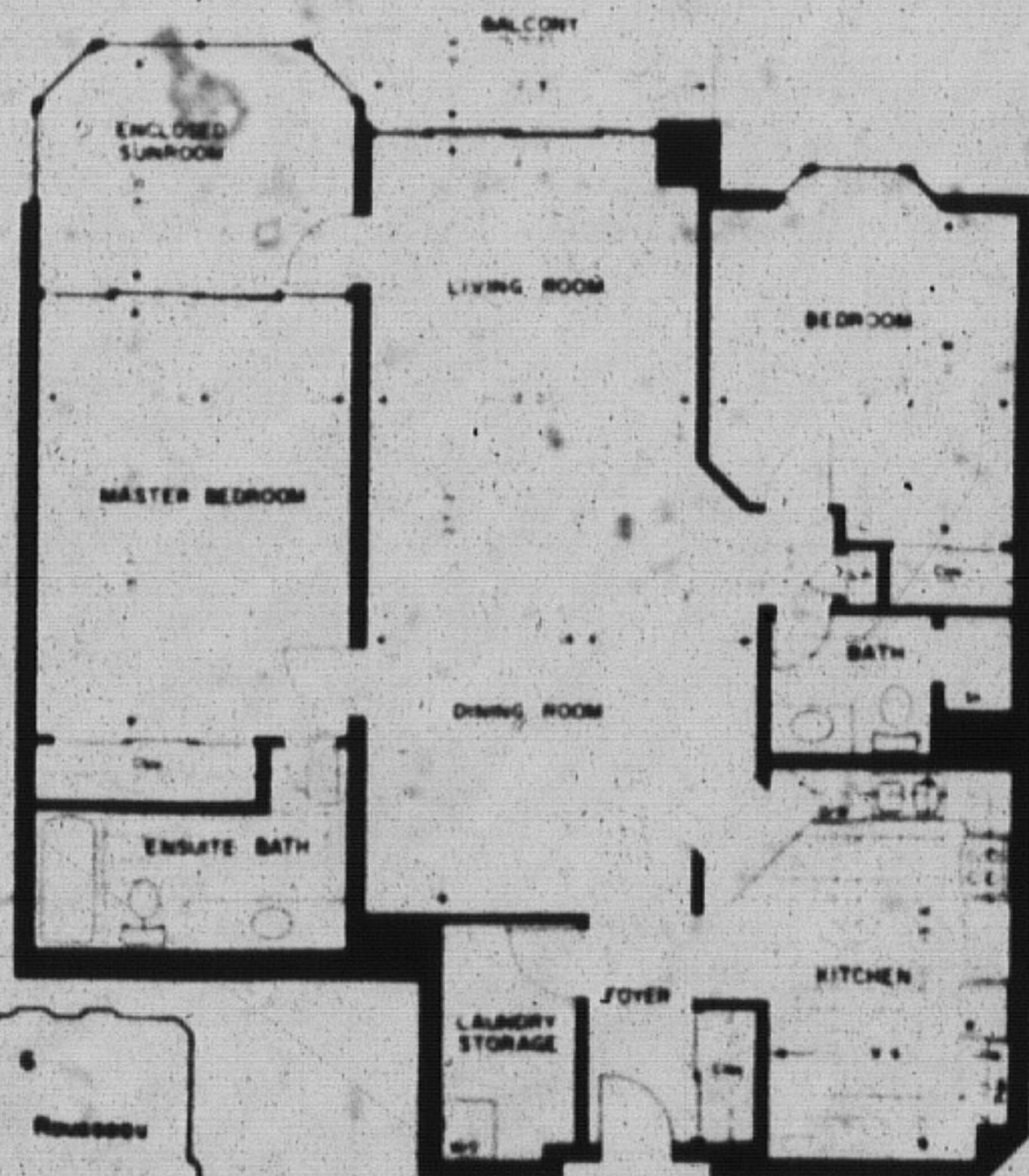
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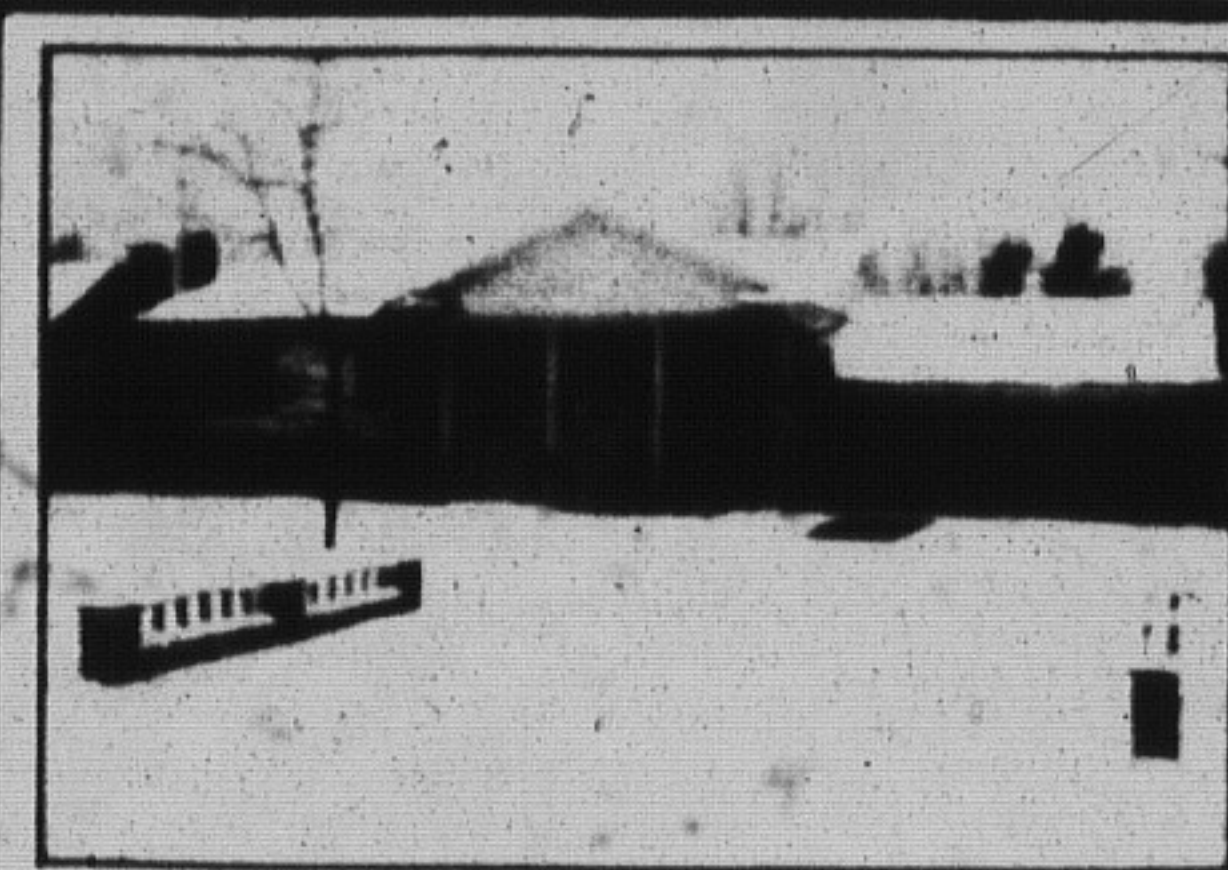
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