

Crumbling organization rebuilds Block Parents now 700 strong

By JANE MULLER
Champion Reporter

Don Johnson had read about the program, had seen the red and white signs in windows and did not get one of his own until they were almost extinct.

He and his wife Lynda are two of the hundreds of local residents who reacted to an appeal from Block Parent organizers in December last year. The organization was about to crumble due to lack of support.

The Johnsons heard about Block Parents through their 7-year-old daughter's school newsletter. Their neighbors heard about it through Don who began recruiting after his own sign went up.

"The biggest recruiters could be Block Parents themselves," said Mr. Johnson.

This is a point he will make at the annual meeting of the group, Thurs. Oct. 25. The meeting falls mid-way through Block Parent Week which runs from Oct. 20 to 27.

There are 700 Block Parents in Milton but there are never enough, according to Mr. Johnson. He became chairperson of the group in June and at the same time, Lynda volunteered to be secretary-treasurer.

The meeting in January represented an attempt to stir more interest in the group. It served its purpose, especially where the Johnsons were concerned.

Like many program outsiders, Mr. Johnson did not realize the organization behind the window signs existed.

"At that meeting we found out the whole process is volunteer. I didn't realize there were so many committees," he recalls.

None of the executive and committee positions take much time, according to Mr. Johnson. There are monthly meetings which last about two hours. Those involved with the telephone committee will spend some day-time hours calling Block Parents and those acting as school contacts will spend time visiting schools, however.

Being a Block Parent takes little time other than setting the sign in the window and taking it out again when unavailable to children who may be seeking help. Mr. Johnson said a lot of people feel that if they work they won't be able to join the program.

"Even if it's in the window for an hour it might just be that hour that someone needs help," he said.

Some people believe if their neighbour has a sign they don't need one, but that attitude is wrong as well, Mr. Johnson explained.

Anyone over the age of 16 can apply to be a Block Parent. Applications are screened by local police who also look into the history of any adult residents of a house where a sign may be displayed.

There are about 8,000 households in Milton and Mr. Johnson would be pleased if half that number had Block Parent signs. Not only do they indicate to children a home is a safe refuge, the signs discourage



Don Johnson's smiling face is no indication his is a safe house but the sign in the corner is. The chairperson of Block Parents here feels those with signs should spread word of the program.

molesters, according to the local chairperson. Large signs at the entrances to town indicate this is a Block Parent community. These, the house signs and frequent displays at Milton Mall help keep the program in the public eye. This year for the first time the program's profile will be lifted through a float in the Santa Claus Parade.

"We're always looking for people willing to do things," said Mr. Johnson.

Volunteers to help with the float are the latest requirement.

The chairperson is hoping for a good turnout at the annual meeting to be held at the Optimist Club on Commercial St. beginning at 8 p.m. Thurs. Oct. 25.

Margaret Lake, secretary-treasurer of Ontario Block Parent Program Inc. will be guest speaker. A film about the program will be part of the meeting which is open to Block Parents, potential Block Parents and all interested people.

Frankel Steel goes New York, New York

Harris Steel Group's Frankel Steel Division has started work on a new 50-storey building at 599 Lexington Avenue, at 53rd Street in New York City.

The Frankel \$14 million (U.S.) contract covers fabrication and erection of all structural steel for this Manhattan city core office tower.

A total of 11,500 tons of steel are being fabricated at the company's

plant in Milton. Erection will commence immediately, with completion set for Summer 1985.

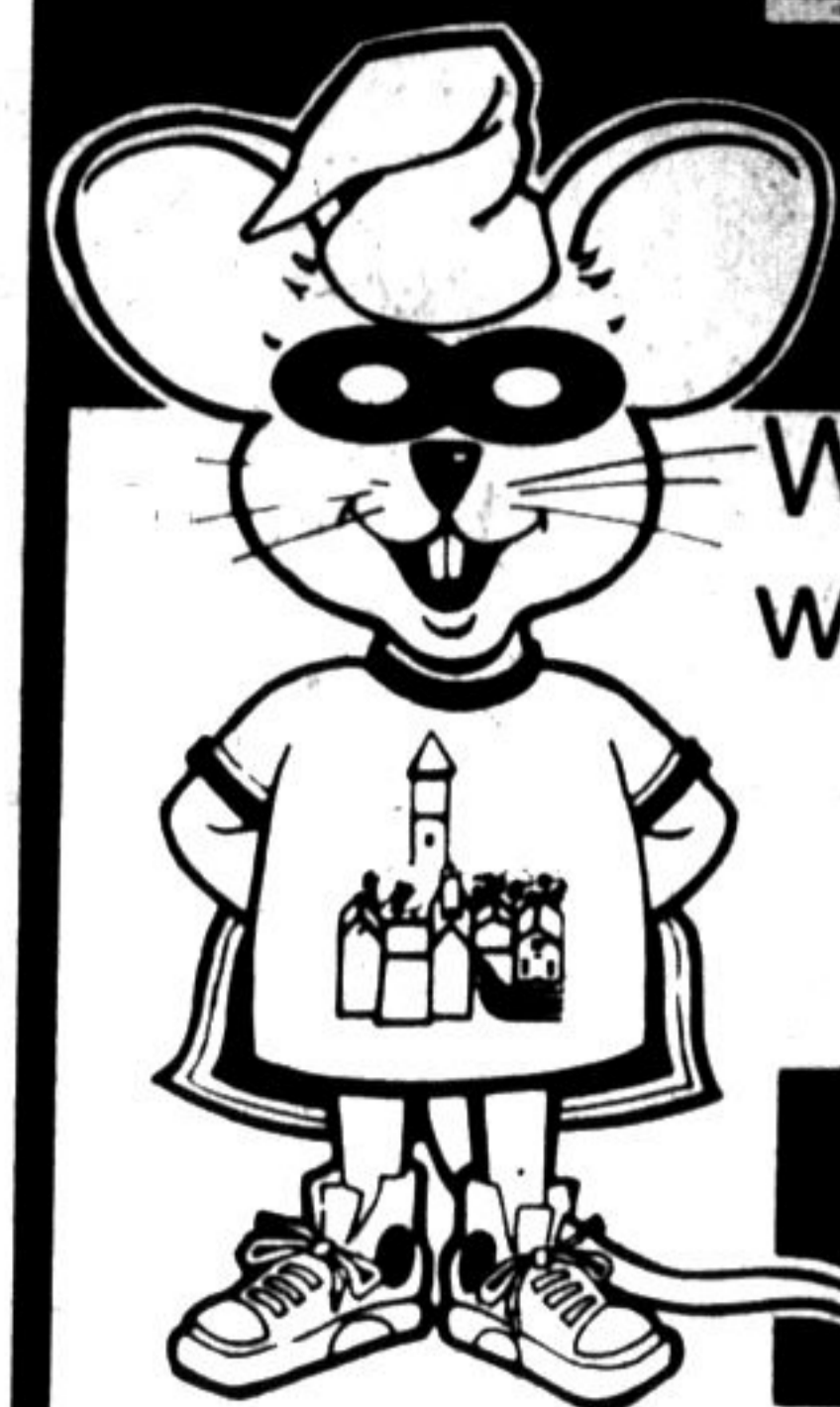
The company has recently topped-off the first 40-storey tower at Olympia and York's World Financial Center at Battery Park, and has also supplied and erected steel for a 10-storey gatehouse in the same complex.

Frankel Steel Limited, a member

of the Harris Steel Group of Companies, is one of Canada's largest steel fabricators and erectors, with facilities in Toronto, Milton, Sarnia, Edmonton, and Bethlehem, Pa.

Other current Frankel projects are the new Burlington Skyway; the 26-storey Standard Life Office building in downtown Toronto; a bridge contract in Bangladesh; and industrial projects in Windsor, Oshawa, and Hemlo Ontario.

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PUMPKIN CARVING EVENT

Saturday, October 27: 11am-1pm/4pm-6pm
Escalator Court, centre of mall
next to Fast Food area!

Children under 12 accompanied by an adult will be given a pumpkin to carve (while they last) and take home full of goodies!

FREE SOFT DRINKS

It's About Time Donut Shop will be giving out small orange and Coke soft drinks to pumpkin-carvers, at the above times.

FREE FACE PAINTING

Tuesday, October 30: 7pm - 9pm
Just for Halloween - have your child's face painted FREE at Happy Hour Card Shop

SCARECROW CONTEST

Children have the chance of WINNING PRIZES by entering their own Scarecrow Creation and the ENTRY FORM below in this contest by Saturday, October 27 at the Mall Management Office

PRIZES CHOSEN!

Winners of the Scarecrow Contest will be chosen Wednesday, October 31st!

HALF-HOUR SPECIALS

Friday, October 26: 6pm - 11pm
Super Specials will be announced over the PA System every half hour, so keep your ears peeled - until then, check out just a few of the savings below!



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UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, ALL AD SPECIALS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ON OCTOBER 26, FROM 6 TO 11 PM

<p>LIVING LIGHTING We have many Specialty items on Sale!</p>	<p>DAYDREAMS 858-1980 Sweats by Chego 3 Styles - assorted colours 30% OFF</p>	<p>happy hour card'n party shops 50% OFF Selected Gift Items Plush Toys and Christmas Party Goods</p>	<p>Henry Jewellers Meadowvale Town Centre Tel: (416) 821-7887 Woodside Square Shopping Centre Tel: (416) 299-1771</p>
<p>THE KEY PLACE Silver-Plated Wine Goblets Regularly priced at 39.99 or 19.99 pr WITH FREE ENGRAVING</p>	<p>Town Centre INTERIORS "We'd like to thank all of our Customers for their support"</p>	<p>Innocent Hill Fashionable Dresses SALE \$38.99</p>	<p>Lantern Court RESTAURANT Chinese Food Centre All-you-can-eat Luncheon Buffet \$4.99</p>
<p>Cat Craft 20% OFF any purchase over \$20</p>	<p>Modern Images Hair Design Opening Special One FREE Sun-tanning session with every Pearl</p>	<p>Meadowvale Decorating Centre Paint 6.99 9.99</p>	<p>Meadowvale Decorating Centre 25% OFF ALL WALLPAPER BOOK ORDERS</p>
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<p>Arnie's Smoke Shop It's always a pleasure to serve our Customers!</p>	<p>House of Thomas Music Meadowvale's Music Store Music Students and Customers Thank-You for your continued patronage & support Keep making beautiful Music 826-3050</p>	<p>Fisherman's CATCH Halibut & Chips \$3.40</p>	<p>State Farm Insurance Business Hours: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm 821-4512 821-3550</p>
<p>buster brown UPPER LEVEL 821-1107 Bring this Ad & receive \$3.00 all Winter Boots</p>	<p>Marina's PIZZA FREE Coffee or small soft drink with every purchase!</p>	<p>Meadowvale Towne Florist 826-7186 10% DISCOUNT with presentation of this Ad Don't Forget Cabbage Patch Dolls DRAW!</p>	<p>SHOPPERS DRUG MART 15% off Entire Stock! Excluding prescription tobacco and advertised sale items</p>

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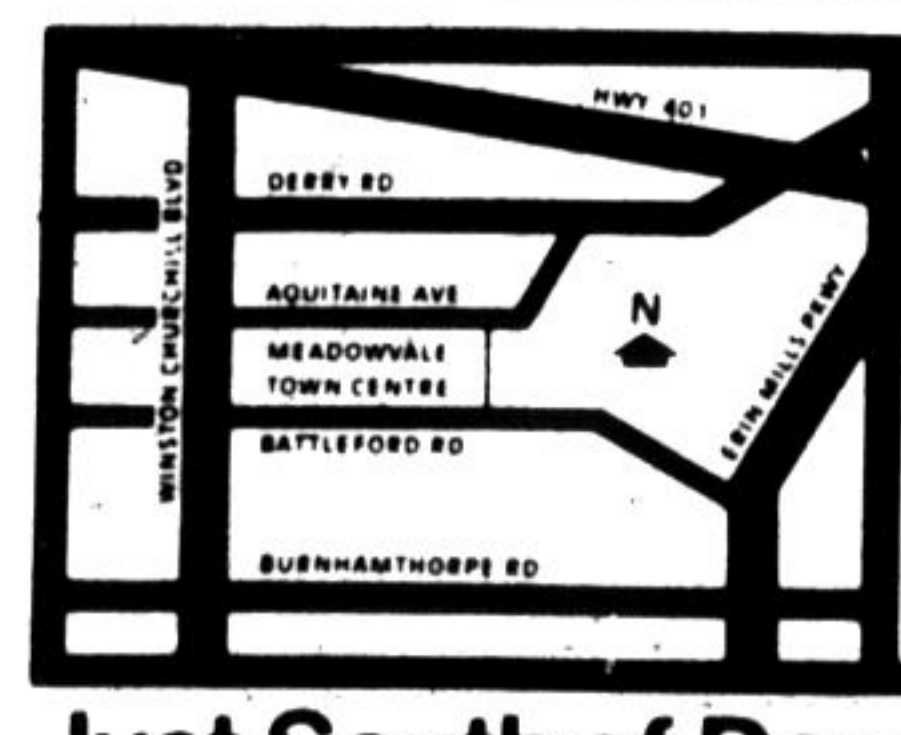
ENTRY FORM KIDS - Win Prizes!

Create your very own SCARECROW, less than 2 ft tall. Fill-in this Form, attach to your SCARECROW, and bring to the Mall Management Office by October 27, '84. We'll display your entry in the Mall and choose 9 of the best SCARECROWS for PRIZES TO BE WON!

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Winston Churchill Blvd. at Battleford Blvd. in Mississauga

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Meadowvale Town Centre

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