

Lafontaine en Action 1975

Le programme des initiatives locales existe depuis trois ans déjà, et il a créé plus d'un million de mois d'emplois temporaires. Participant à des initiatives conçues pour améliorer la qualité de la vie dans leur collectivité, des personnes, qui autrement auraient sans doute été en chômage, ont mis sur pied des mater-

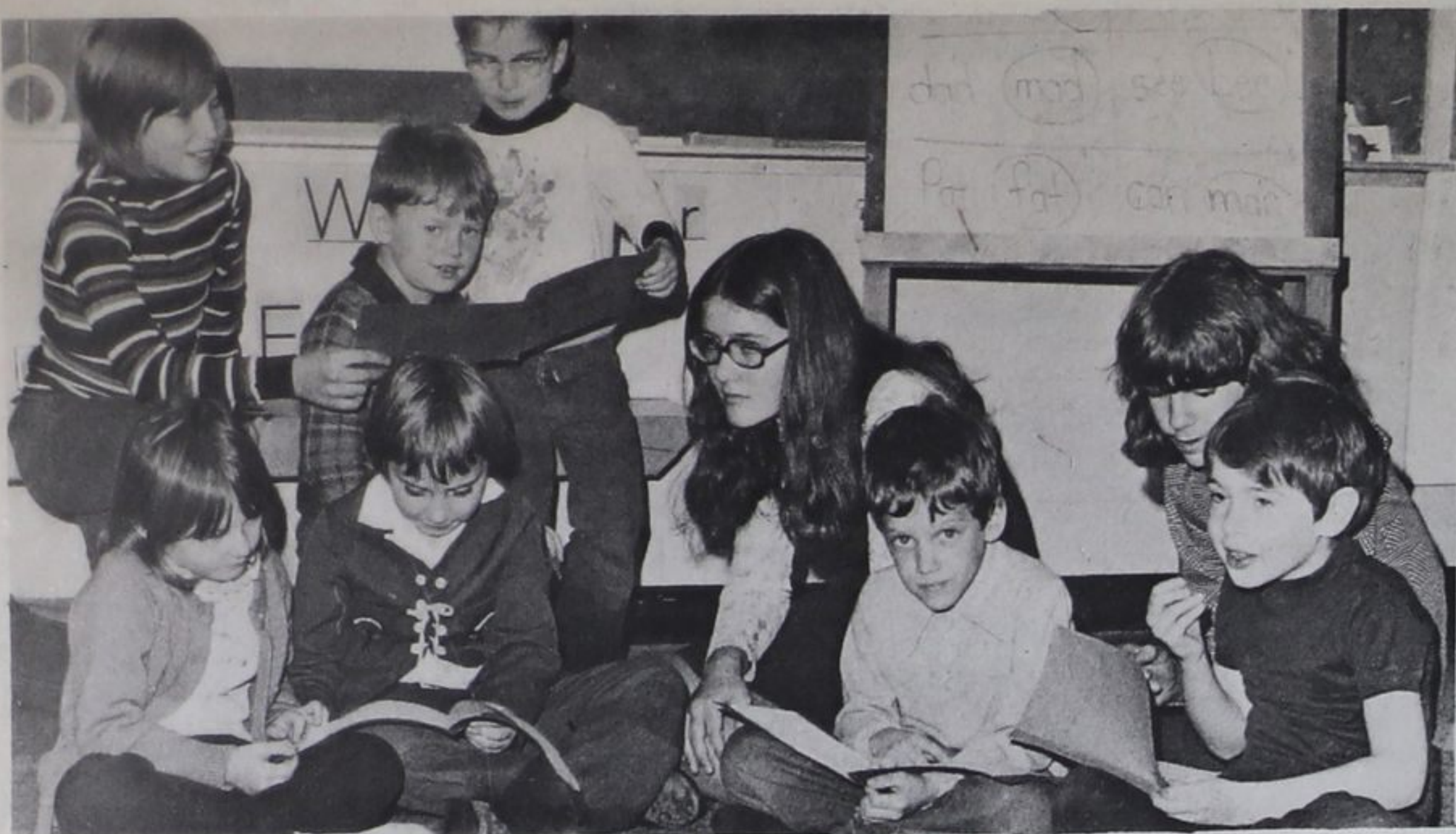
nelles, fourni des services aux gens âgés, aux handicapés et aux infirmes, construit des canalisations d'eau potable dans des villages éloignés, au bord de la mer, enregistré des livres pour des aveugles, créé une bibliothèque de pièces de théâtre canadiennes, et établi des services d'information juridique,

financière et médicale ouverts au grand public. Au point de vue local, ce programme 1974-75 permet d'employer six personnes pour une période de 20 semaines, du début de décembre à la fin d'avril. La chance nous a souri cette année et les six employés sont tous de Lafontaine: Ligouri Laurin est le

charpentier au Centre; les trois journalistes sont: Roger Marchand, André Marion et Aimer Maurice. Ghisele Maurice est la secrétaire et Victor Moreau est le gérant. Au cours des prochaines 20 semaines ces gens d'effort feront d'accomplir surtout les trois travaux suivants: créer une piste de ski de fond, finir le centre et continuer le travail dans le parc.

Posséder une piste de ski de fond est un avantage certain pour notre localité. Les gens de l'endroit bénéficieront du bon exercice qu'est le ski de fond et nous attirerons les touristes qui se font de plus en plus nombreux parmi nous, même en hiver. Le Centre Récréatif abrite déjà plusieurs comités, clubs et organisations. Les fonds de P.I.L. nous permettra de

faire les finitions nécessaires au confort de chacun et nous aidera à aménager des salles séparées pour travaux manuels, club d'haltères, de Ping Pong, Calorie Counter Club, etc... Le parc a besoin, pour vraiment mériter ce nom, de parterres d'herbe et de fleurs, de jeux pour enfants, d'un poteau pour notre drapeau canadien, d'un second terrain de balle molle et autres installations que nous espérons accomplir, température permettant. Tous les gens des environs et les gens d'été pourront se servir de ces facilités et de ce fait leurs heures de loisirs seront mieux remplies, car les loisirs bien organisés aident à tout le monde, jeunes et vieux, à s'enrichir ou à se divertir d'une façon saine.



Reading at Corpus Christi

Three grade eight students from Corpus Christi School help the grade ones to read stories they wrote for the youngsters. The grade eight students turned to actors during the past week. The exercise in writing was designed to make the students aware that keeping the needs of one's reader in

mind is very important. Each of the grade eight students interviewed a grade one child to learn their favourite interests. They then wrote a story for the child. The expressions of glee, fascination, and keen interest on the faces of the grade ones shows the project was a success.

Pupils take up pens

Prior to the Christmas break a grade eight class at Corpus Christi School embarked on an experiment in writing. The students interviewed children in grade one discovering what their interests were and then went back to their own classes to write a story which would appeal to the tastes of the younger students. The exercise in writing was designed to make the students aware that keeping the needs of one's reader in mind is very important. One of the stories was the Big Bird by James Rankin. It is reprinted here as an example of the students work. One day the crane worker found a big thing. Todd

Laurin went to see it. It was a big shiny rock. Todd was afraid. The rock was moving. Todd ran away and the rock did too. He stopped and the rock stopped. Todd looked at the rock. It was moving inside. It was not a rock but a big, big, egg. The egg had laid legs. The egg began to crack. Out came a very big yellow bird. The big bird wanted Todd to be his mother. It was the big bird from Sesame Street. Todd said "I am not your mother," and the big bird began to cry. Todd took the bird to the T.V. station where he could be on T.V. After this long and hard day Todd went home to watch Sesame Street where the big bird has been ever since.



Nouveaux membres du Club

Le Club Richelieu de Penetanguishene, lors du dernier souper le 12 novembre chez Anatole Charlebois, s'enrichissait de deux nouveaux membres: Donald Marion parraine par son père le Lucien et Raymond Marchand parraine par le Roland. A la suite des élections tenus le même soir le Roland Asselin fut élu Président pour l'année 1975. Félicitations. (De gauche à droite, Roland Asselin, Raymond Marchand, Germain Gauthier, Donald Marion, et Lucien Marion).



Un soixantième anniversaire

Un soixantième anniversaire: M. et Mme C'estin Brunelle, 47 Poyntz, Penetanguishene, ont récemment célébré le 60^e anniversaire de leur mariage dans l'intimité de leur demeure. Plusieurs des enfants ont voulu partager leur joie à cette occasion. Sincères félicitations! Voeux les meilleurs! Special Photo

Welfare father winning struggle

by Bob Faulkner Harold Currie and his three school age children go out to dinner together. It sounds like nothing out of the ordinary, but to this man it is another expression of kindness and compassion which his family has repeatedly been shown over the past months. Since 1972 the 45-year-old man has fulfilled the enormous task of being both a father and mother to his children. In true fatherly fashion, his children were told to "remember the rules" when they were out to dinner. He then adds that he is an old-fashioned parent, but the kids have been getting away with more than they should have over the last while and he is just starting to get them back in line. Currie has been carrying on a fight — he prefers to call it a struggle — with Simcoe County Social Services and the province over the Family Benefits Act since mid-September. "There's been a constant tension in the air," he states. Two weeks ago today he received word of the best Christmas present he could hope for. Rene Brunelle, Ministry of Community and Social Services, announced an order-in-council was being prepared to provide the family with permanent assistance through the Family Benefits Act. It came after a series of setbacks in the progress he might have been making. He had received benefits from County Welfare until December 1, but had no assurance after that. Another cheque came through which carried the family until mid-December. The next cheque, if it was coming, was due on Dec. 15. It did not come. Three days after it should have arrived he phoned the Barrie office to find out what was happening. He was told it had been "overlooked" and would be sent out. "We were assured by Simcoe County that assistance (to Currie) would be continued through December with the decision pending," said John Anderson of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. He also added that the county had gone even further and said they were satisfied

to maintain assistance until a final decision was made. According to another ministry spokesman, the order-in-council should be through by the new year. Harold Currie is a man who appears almost too sincere, and when asked how he felt about the sudden turn of events, he replied "I've been doing a lot of thinking about it. I am convinced that love will be the victor in mankind's destiny. I don't know whether that gives you an idea of how I feel or not." He adds that love is a sadly "bastardized word", and suggests that it should be written in capital letters. The problems began when the children's mother developed cancer. Currie had bought a 5.5 acre lot on Concession 18 in Tiny Township in 1967. With his wife's illness he built a small cabin-style home and moved his family there in 1970. He then took over the responsibilities of looking after the young children and running a household. To do this he stopped work and went on the welfare rolls. If his wife's death in 1972 was not enough to get him down, the annual struggles with Simcoe County Social Services were. Every year he would be assessed as capable of working. He admits he is able to work and goes so far as to say he is looking forward to the day when he can go back to work. That day is when his children, Geoffrey, 7, Jennifer, 9, and John, 10, are capable of fending for themselves while their father is working. Until then he will not leave them alone — but will instead attempt to give them the home life he feels every child needs. "The benefit is for the children," said John Stapleford of the Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto. "It has nothing to do with Currie at all. He is just the administrator of the money. The issue is that there are dependent children in need." Stapleford has been involved with the Currie case for many years, and given the family a great deal of moral support. Since September, when the issue of the Currie family not being allowed family benefits commonly called "mother's allowance", came to a head, increasing pressure was created.

The issue was picked up by the Globe and Mail in Toronto, followed by coverage from other major newspapers, local radio and television, and eventually received coast to coast nation television coverage. Currie's case also appeared on the Ombudsman television program. About the same time help started pouring in from all corners. A group of Tiny Township residents began circulating a petition, neighbours took an active interest in the battle and the family's welfare. "I've received more mail, and I think my phone has run more in the last three months than since I've been here," said Currie. The Currie family should be receiving its permanent support soon. It has set some type of precedent, according to John Stapleford. It is a decision over one family with a unique situation which experts feel may open the door for other fathers in similar situations. "It actually represents a major change in policy," said Stapleford, "and we are very pleased to see it...I'm not really trying to open the door so that welfare will be abused as I feel it's now being abused by some

people." He can see it opening up the regulations so that legitimate cases of single fathers are not denied. The legislation itself will probably not be changed for a while, but directives will be issued to area offices to provide assistance for those cases that the local municipality deems necessary. Then the provincial government will look at the results and probably change the legislation according to what they find. Harold Currie and his family have played a major part in bringing the problem to the foreground. His future and ability to provide for his children appears secure. Now it is time for him, to leave the field and allow the moves to be made by government agencies and other single fathers. "I feel quite humble about the whole business," said Currie after the announcement. "I hope I can exercise the responsibility this privilege has placed upon me to my children and to my fellow man. "I just wish everybody's Christmas could be as optimistic as ours was. In the world I feel we are very privileged."

PRESCRIPTIONS PRESCRIPTIONS PRESCRIPTIONS

Mord. S. Millard Pharmacy
Main St. Coldwater 686-3311
OPEN Mon. to Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Victoria Harbour Medical, Dental Pharmacy
Hwy. 12, Victoria Harbour 534-3122
OPEN Mon. to Fri. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

YOUR FRIENDLY REXALL STORES
Owned and Operated by
C.W. CARTER (Coldwater Ltd.)

IMPORTANT CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1st, 1975

Your Canada Pension Plan

Here's good news...for CPP contributors—their surviving spouses and dependent children

Recent changes to the Canada Pension Plan will result in substantially increased benefits for 1975 and subsequent years. **There are other important changes, too.** Some affect people over 65 or approaching that age. Others provide equality for the spouses and dependent children of male and female contributors. These changes may require prompt action or getting advice. So we suggest you read this message very carefully.

1. Retirement Pensions
Have you contributed to the Plan at any time since January 1, 1966?

Are you between 65 and 69?
Then you have a choice... **Apply now and start receiving your monthly CPP retirement pension. No more need to retire to collect benefits.** (Once you start receiving your pension, however, you can't make further contributions to the Plan.)

OR
Continue to contribute to the CPP and possibly build up a larger retirement pension to commence at a later date. Continuing to contribute is also a way to qualify survivors for benefits if you have not already done so. (When approaching age 70, you should consider applying for your retirement pension because after 70 you may no longer contribute to the Canada Pension Plan.)

NOTE: Before making your choice you may wish to seek advice from the nearest CPP office. The staff will be pleased to help you.
Are you approaching age 65?
If you have made your choice and want your CPP retirement pension to commence as early as possible, you should apply two or three months before your 65th birthday.
NOTE: There is no provision for retroactive payment of retirement pensions between the ages of 65 and 69. So if you're in that age group or approaching it, get advice as soon as possible.
Do you now receive a CPP retirement pension?
As of January 1st, 1975, your pension will no longer be affected by any money you earn thereafter.

2. Equal Protection for Males and Females.

This means that for female contributors, in addition to being eligible for a retirement pension and disability protection for themselves, and a death benefit payable to their estates, as has been the case in the past, their spouses and dependent children are now eligible for benefits as follows:

Benefits for Surviving Spouses
A monthly pension payable to the widower who at the time of the death of the contributor is over 35 years of age, or under 35 years of age but is disabled or has dependent children; that is, a benefit similar to that which has always existed for widows.

Benefits for Orphans
A monthly benefit payable to unmarried dependent children under 18 and to unmarried dependent children between 18 and 25 attending school or university on a full-time basis. **In order for survivors to qualify, the contributor must have died in January 1968 or later and must have contributed for the minimum contributory period, which is three years for deaths occurring before January 1, 1975.**

Benefits for Children of Disabled Contributors
A monthly benefit payable to unmarried dependent children under 18 and to unmarried dependent children between 18 and 25 attending school or university on a full-time basis, where the contributor concerned is in receipt of a CPP Disability Pension.

NOTE: In all cases, it is necessary to make application for benefits. If such applications are approved, payments can only be made currently—that is, from January 1, 1975. No payment can be made for any period prior to that date.

MAXIMUM MONTHLY CPP BENEFITS Effective January 1975	
Retirement Pension	\$122.50
Disability Pension	\$139.35
Surviving Spouse's Pension—under 65	\$88.31
over 65	\$81.67
Orphan's Benefit	\$37.27
Disabled Contributor's Child's Benefit	\$37.27
Death Benefit (Lump Sum)	\$740.00

Health and Welfare Canada
Santé et Bien-être social Canada
Marc Lalonde, Minister

For assistance contact:
Your nearest Canada Pension Plan office

Your Canada Pension Plan...keeping up with changing times