

# Ontario kids give cavities the brushoff: survey

Kids and cavities -- they always seem to go together. Most parents think you can't have one without the other.

Not anymore. According to a 10-year survey conducted by the

Ontario Ministry of Health, there has been a marked improvement in the dental health of Ontario elementary school children. Results are based on thousands of dental examinations

of kids aged five, seven, nine, 11, and 13 across the province carried out between 1972 and 1982. As part of the overall dental program carried out in Ontario's local health units, dental

hygienists travel to elementary schools in their area to do dental check-ups of their students. The hygienists use a good light source, a mirror and a dental instrument known as an

explorer. In remote northern parts of Ontario, the Ministry of Health's mobile dental clinic coaches perform the same task. Their work has brought forth some very encouraging

news. Among five-year-olds, the average number of teeth with cavities that required treatment dropped from high of 1.56 in 1972 to a low of 0.80 in 1982. Among nine-year-olds,

the average number was 2.30 in 1972; by 1982, it was only 0.88. There was also a marked reduction in the number of teeth needing treatment among 13-year-olds.

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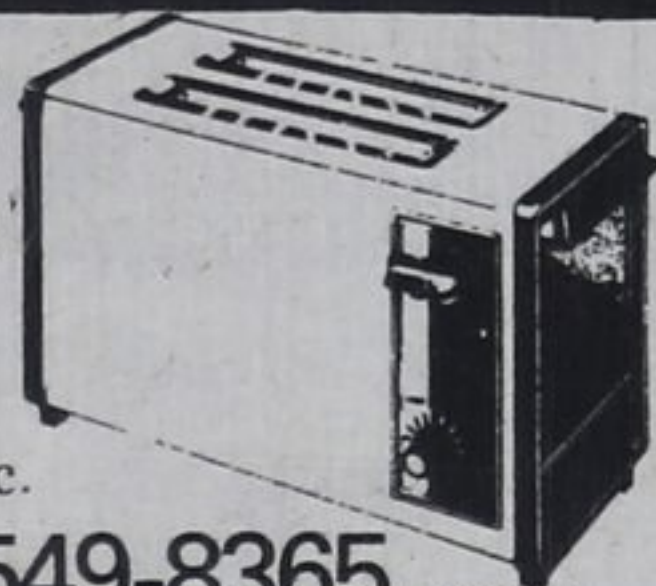
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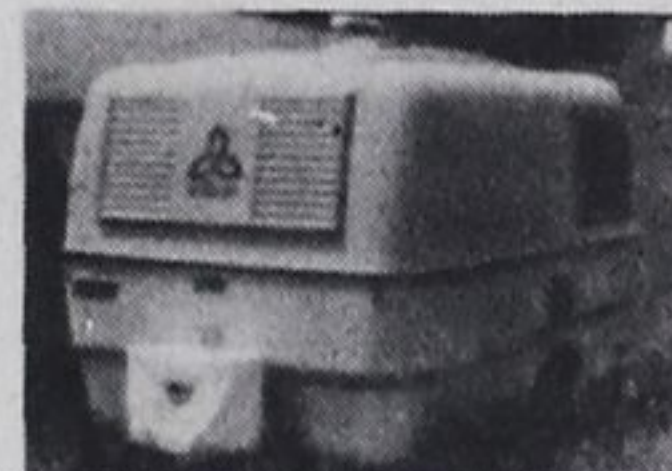
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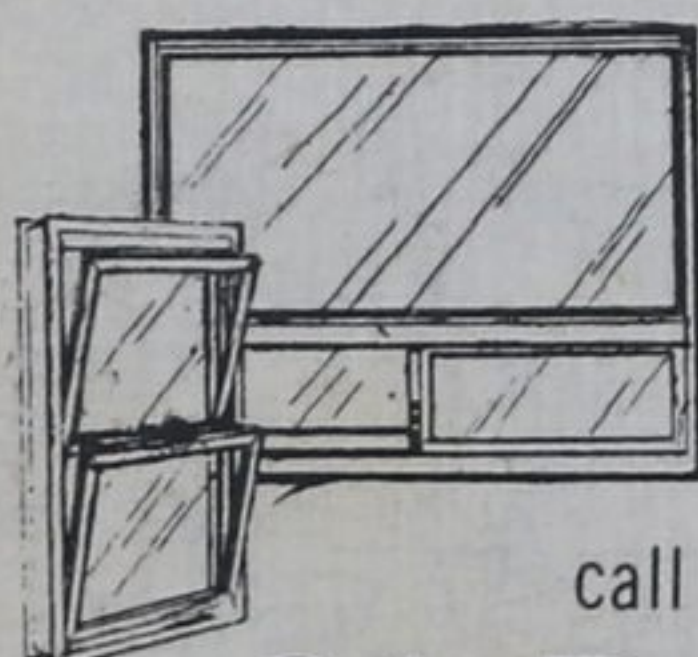
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