

## Launch Campaign For Residence, Studios For Handicapped Adults

The sod has not yet been turned for Marina Lodge in Willowdale, but already applications on file exceed the planned accommodation.

The lodge, to be built on 2.7 acres of land near the southeast corner of Bayview and Steeles Avenues overlooking the Don Valley Conservation Area, will provide living accommodation and workshops for physically handicapped people over 18.

It is estimated that it will cost \$1,504,872, to build and equip the residence for 50 people and the creative studios and workshops for both resident and non-resident handicapped people and to launch it successfully.

It has already received a gift of \$150,000 from the Garfield Weston Charitable Foundation, and anticipates government grants of \$250,000, leaving \$1,254,872 to be raised by public subscription.

The need for such a facility, says Mrs. John McLeod of Toronto, is urgent. Young people receive excellent care through childhood and adolescence, she explains, but if they have no family or home, they leave a hospital for crippled children or other similar centre at the age of 18 and are forced to enter an old people's home because there is no other accommodation for them.

Marina Lodge would provide quarters for married couples as well as single people, and the residents will form their own committees to plan communal living arrangements in a building specially designed to meet the needs of the handicapped.

It will also include occupa-

tional facilities, beginning with studios for work in ceramics, leather, woodworking and fine needlework, creating new and dignified work opportunities for those unable to enter the open labor market.

Many of these people, Mrs. McLeod explains, are capable of supporting themselves through outside work, but need the kind of help the lodge plans to provide.

Marina Lodge was inspired by Marina Creations, an extension of the services of the Society For Crippled Citizens, providing work for homebound handicapped people in quality arts and crafts. Original Founders were Mrs. Alicia Marshall, the late Senator Wallace McCutcheon of Gormley, former Toronto Mayor Nathan Phillips, James McCutcheon and Thomas Boyle.

Frequent contact with the homebound workers of Marina Creations revealed that many of them were barely existing in an indifferent environment.

"Our aims are to assist every handicapped person working in the occupational centres, whether resident or not, to use to the utmost his abilities, talents, training and energies," Mrs. McLeod says.

The current project has the support of Metro Social Planning Council and has been approved by the Borough of North York. The lodge has a full slate of officers and directors prominent in business and professional circles in the Metro area, and a professional advisory committee of experts in treatment and rehabilitation of handicapped children and adults.

Another Friday evening social has come and gone. This past one was a success. Freddie Bird and Ray Grant provided the dance music. Our chorus line gets bigger and better each time out. We had a surprise entertainer in our midst—Bruce Lewis. He was simply great. By the way, congratulations on the safe arrival of that beautiful new daughter.

Total cost is estimated at \$450,000, with \$150,000 of this to be raised by public donations. The centre will have room for about 30 children on a year-round basis and will provide an observation centre for college students taking pre-school and child care courses, and a resource centre for the general public in mental health.

In the new quarters it will also be possible to expand the parent counselling services which are so important in helping the disturbed child. Toronto architect Joseph Medvock has incorporated special features to meet the physical needs of the children, giving special attention to textures, colors, built-ins and one-way mirror observation rooms.

Permanent and visiting staff will include a psychiatrist, psychologist, speech pathologist and psycho-social worker.

The building will have a therapeutic kitchen, a hobby room, art room, accomplishment room and tantrum room.

Since the school was founded, Mrs. Powell-Brown has had the support of a visiting child psychiatrist and the psychological services and special education personnel of the North York Board of Education.

The drive for funds for the new centre has the support of professional and business people of the area, and supporters are asked to send donations to the Royal Bank of Canada at Keele Street and Sheppard Avenue. For information call 633-1422.

## Your Legion Reports

Branch 375, Royal Canadian Legion  
By Chris Ratchford — 884-5260

### Girls Second, Boys Fourth In Bowling

We would like to extend our congratulations to some very special people. The junior bowlers have done themselves proud. On March 7, in Hamilton the junior girls came in second. Sorry you didn't make the trip to Vancouver, but there is always another time. I gather the supervisors are taking the girls out on the town.

As for the lads, they came fourth. Only 29 points separated first and fourth place. Good show kids, we're really proud of you.

Glub! Glub! We hear via the grapevine that some members have gone down for a two count in the front yard swimming pool at Legion Court. Sorry about that boys, but I am always suggesting you wear wet suits. (Sure would like to have seen the expressions on their faces. How's the fishing?)

Got a new guess-who for you lads! Who is it from the Fifth Gloucesters? Rank of corporal, very shy, married his childhood sweetheart, Dart is his middle name?

S.O.S.! Mayday! Help! No matter how you express it, help is definitely needed to billet a possible three dozen lads taking part in the 4th Annual Minor Midget Hockey Tournament. This goes from March 22 to 23 inclusive. If you can help by billeting a lad or two, won't you please contact Mrs. Bob Oakley at 884-5510. Please accept sincere thanks for any assistance you can give.

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## Elgin Mills - Jefferson News

Correspondent Leonard Lomas — Phone 884-3000

**Neighborhood Notes**  
Education Week was observed at Jefferson Public School by an "open house" held Thursday of last week, which was well attended by parents. Students of the "team" room under Mrs. Betty Vent produced, acted and wrote a sketch which was enjoyed by all present. The meeting then broke up and parents went to various rooms for discussion with the teachers.

The father and son banquet was scheduled to be held in St. John's Parish Hall on the evening of March 17.

Among the ribbons won at the recent York-Summit Scout and Cub Hobby and Craft Show were first prize ribbons by Jefferson Cubs Mike O'Donnell, Geordie Watson, Brian Scriver and Nigel Walker. Geordie Watson also won second and third prize ribbons. The Scouts' entry of a Klondike sled gained a second ribbon.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was observed in the area at St. John's Anglican, March 5,

attended by representatives of Our Lady of the Annunciation Roman Catholic Church, St. Paul's United and Temperanceville United as well as St. John's women. The annual service was followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Mrs. Margaret Britton of Stouffville was the speaker, first leader was Mrs. Bette Stiver and second leader Karen Crawford. Others participating were Mrs. Joan Anderson, Mrs. Catherine Zimmerman, Maureen Bales, Mrs. Everett Phillips, Mrs. Marion Passmore, Brenda Ash sang a solo accompanied by Mrs. Joy Hardan at the organ.

The offertory was accepted by Heather Gerber, Cindy Wilton, Susie Locke and Caroline Lomas. Mrs. Angela Eliot and Mrs. Jean Lomas were ushers and Mrs. Irene Rickward and Mrs. Marg Browne were refreshment convenors.

Church Notes  
At St. John's Anglican Church, March 21, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 8 am followed by a parish breakfast catered for by men of the parish.

The congregation is then invited to attend the regular 10:30 am service at St. Paul's United Church, Lake Wilcox. There will be no 10:30 am service at St. John's.

Sunday, March 28, the United Church congregation will join St. John's congregation for a celebration of Holy Communion at 10:30 am at St. John's.

The men of the parish enjoyed a turkey supper, March 15, arranged as an organizational meeting for an effective men's club. It is hoped regular meetings will be held on a monthly basis.

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## Parents Responsible Too

### Discuss Snow Policy For School Buses

The heavy snow falls and ice storms of the past two months have prompted York County Board of Education to take another look at procedures for cancelling buses in severe weather.

On a number of occasions some or all bus runs had to be cancelled because of snow clogged roads, but at no time did the board order the schools closed, and despite the bad driving conditions, most teachers made it to school every day.

Some teachers were, however, unhappy about criticism of those teachers who did not report for duty.

Said a staff report to the board, "A few teachers feel that their dedication — perhaps even their integrity — was questioned."

In discussion, trustees agreed that parents have some responsibility to make sure that the school will be open and a teacher present before they send their children off to school. It was suggested that principals should find out where each teacher lives, and if there is a possibility that teachers, particularly at small rural schools, may not be able to reach the school, a parent near the school be enlisted to make sure no children are stranded.

The report states that "cancelling buses has nothing to do with closing schools. The children who walk, or who are brought by their parents unless it is completely impossible for a teacher to get to the school," it continues, "The board should indicate that it appreciates the flexibility of teachers who were able to make a day of very small classes one of exceptional value to those students who were present."

Trustees agreed that they should go on record as appreciating those teachers who made the extra effort to be at school under very difficult conditions of several days this winter, and to make clear that this includes almost all teachers.

At several schools, all teachers were present, but due to cancellation of buses, very few pupils were able to get to their classes.

The board's guidelines and procedures concerning buses states, "Where, in the opinion of the principal and/or operator, roads or weather conditions make it impossible to operate safely a bus on either the morning or afternoon runs, it shall be the obligation of the principal and/or operator to notify the area business officer in sufficient time for him to make the necessary arrangements."

"The area business officer shall have the authority to arrange for the early departure of an afternoon run or cancellation of a bus run and be responsible for notifying local radio stations and principals."

Staff was asked what radio stations are used to broadcast cancellations of buses. Three are normally used — a station

in Richmond Hill, one in Barrie, and Toronto Station CFRB. Area 1 Superintendent Walter Wilms reported however, that on one occasion the broadcast was not made until 25 minutes after a call had been made to the station. Area 1 is the most northerly area in the region.

The board agreed that principals and operators should be instructed to make decisions to cancel buses not later than 7 am so that parents would have ample time to check radio reports.

East Gwillimbury Trustee William Bales commented that he was surprised to learn that absence had been charged to sick leave for those teachers who were not able to get to their schools on stormy days.

All agreed that arrangements should be made through principals for some adult to be present at every school on days when roads appear to be impassible.

Trustees approved a recommendation "that the board commend its teaching staff for their devotion to duty and concern for students as indicated by their being present in spite of very severe weather conditions and by the ingenious and creative ways in which they made the day one of special value to the small number of students who attended in several schools on those bad days."

WILLOWDALE — Fourteen young people raised more than \$450 for the Fred Victor Mission in a recent 48-hour starvathon at Lansing United Church. They played records, pingpong, read books, did art work and made string belts while they fasted.

More than 17,000 of York County Board of Education's 44,000 students travel to and from school by bus each day.

At their meeting March 8, trustees received an analytical report of student transportation showing that 17,741 students are bused to school daily, and that 3,718 of these live under two miles from school.

The latter group is made up mainly of kindergarten and grade 1 students, although students in higher grades are sometimes given temporary bus privilege cards where there is room for them on the buses.

The largest group of students, 6,429 of them, are transported between two and four miles, and 3,178 are carried between four and six miles.

Another 1,955 travel between six and nine miles, and 1,372 between nine and twelve miles. Just 772 are on the bus for more than 12 miles but less than 18.

In addition, 314 students have to be bused from 18 to 25 miles, and two between 25 and 35 miles.

It was pointed out that some of these whose have the furthest to travel are going to Blue Hills Academy which cares for about 12 emotionally disturbed children. Several of these children live at Blue Hills but attend school in their home area.

Staff is now working on an analysis of the group which is bused less than two miles to see how many of these are bused for reasons of safety.

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