

# Concord school finds new life as community centre

Noisy games; paste and paper; the screech of chalk on blackboards; laughing, running kids.

Concord Public School is again alive with all these things after a year of lonely retirement.

Thanks to a busy citizen committee the former eight-room school is becoming a second recreation room for all the area homes.

For the past year, boards covered the windows and locked the light out of the school.

But the people who used to drive past the Dufferin Street school knew it should be more than just a place for the York County Board of Education to pile its unused desks.

They used to convince Vaughan Town Council the Concord area needs a community centre. And council was able to negotiate a favorable lease arrangement with the board of education.

"The town has allocated \$25,000 for the repair and maintenance of the building," said Carol McGinnis of the community centre board. "We are trying to stretch it as far as we can."

Volunteers and people doing work at cost are giving the building a new face. A kitchen is being installed in one classroom, many areas of the school have been repainted in bright colors and broken window glass has been replaced.

"We had quite a fight convincing the town the boards should be removed from the windows," said Mrs. McGinnis.

Town officials were concerned uncovered windows would be a further temptation to those responsible for vandalism over the past year. But their suspicions appear unfounded, according to Mrs. McGinnis. Only two small panes of glass have been broken, one by accident, the other by a small child.

The prospect of having a suitable meeting location has brought an energetic response from the Concord senior citizens.



Lisa Vecchi of Rockview Gardens, Concord, puts the finishing touches on a Santa Claus during a craft day at Concord Community Centre.

Don Smith and Norm Lightfoot of the group poured a new sidewalk at the front of the school and helped prepare the front lawn for sodding by Vaughan employees.

According to Mrs. McGinnis, the building has inspired the imagination of other groups too.

She said Vaughan's head librarian Boris Hrybinsky is enthusiastic about the prospect of a small library or book-drop in one or two of the classrooms.

Considered a possibility by fall, the library branch is still in the planning stage, however.

Also interested in the centre is the Italian community, said Mrs. McGinnis.

Frank Polsinelli represents this rather large segment of Concord's population on the centre board, but the rest of the board is anxious to encourage the involvement of Italian-Canadians, Mrs. McGinnis said.

As a concrete symbol of their intentions the board has constructed three bocce alleys behind the school.

The game is a type of bowling game popular in Italy, but with two other alleys built recently in Woodbridge, it may soon become Vaughan's number one sport.

Angela Quattrociocchi of King High

Drive, Concord has organized Italian classes to improve the grammar of the children of Italian-Canadians.

Each day for two hours, approximately 45 children of several ages, learn vocabulary, repeat simple sentences and try to out-smart the maestra di Italiano, Alessandra Parente.

In Canada until the fall, she teaches mathematics, geography and law at the university in Napoli, Italy.

One of her top students in the latter of two classes is her niece Carmela Colella of Rickview Gardens, Concord.

The Vaughan Recreation Department's local program for school children is taking place at the centre. With an average attendance of 112 from a population of 900 in the wide-spread Concord area, it is the largest program of its type in Vaughan.

One afternoon last week the co-educational group of 10 to 16 year-olds played a game popular with both the boys and girls. It's called killer ball.

Two teams on either side of the school's junior-size gymnasium try to eliminate their opponents by striking them with a soft inflated ball.

Part of the class was across the road swimming in the pool of Pat Kemp, a centre board committee member.

In one of the classrooms, the five to 10 year-olds were busy making decorations before a visit from Santa Claus on Friday.

Scheduled for the fall is a Saturday program of crafts for both children and adults. The local Rotary Club wants to hold its weekly luncheons at the centre.

And on September 20, beginning at 2 p.m., there will be a fun fair.

"The festivities will include silly races, goofy games, baseball mismatches, an honest-to-goodness bocce tournament and sports for all ages," according to a press release.

A corn-husking contest will precede a corn roast and sing-along at an evening bonfire.

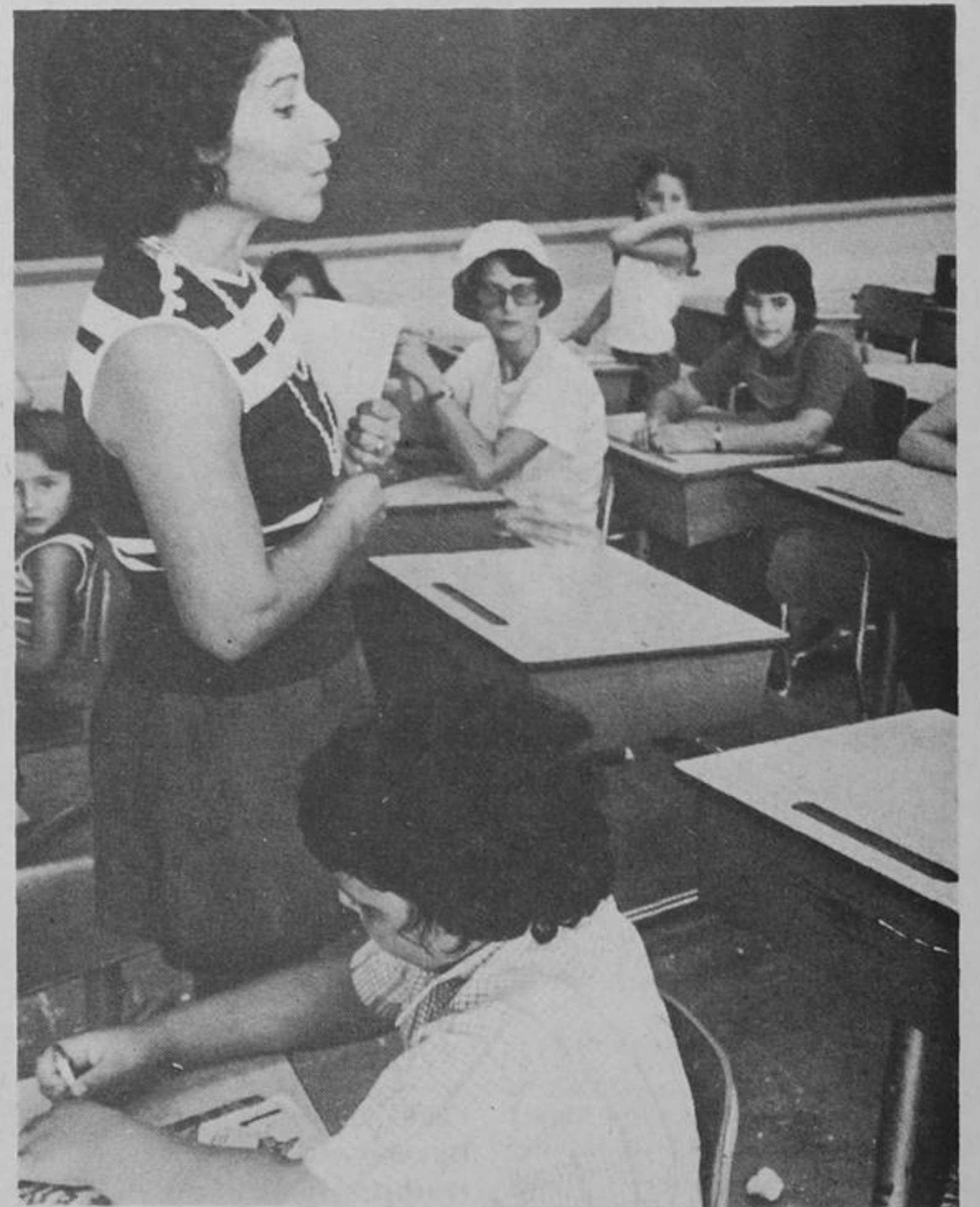
Admission will cost 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children under 16. Those under three will be admitted free.

When Mrs. Kemp and Mrs. McGinnis speak about the centre it is with obvious enthusiasm.

They first met when the citizen group approached council for use of the school and both feel the centre will have a tremendous impact on the community.

And they both feel it was about time the town spent some money on recreation facilities for the area.

"Before this, the community had nothing else," said Mrs. McGinnis, mentioning an after-thought Highway 7 and the Concord Food Centre.



Italian classes for the children of Italian-Canadians are being offered at Concord Community Centre. The teacher is Alessandra Parente of Napoli, Italy.

## Crest mosaic took two winters' work

Under the cover of darkness Friday, 14 men struggled to carry a long concrete slab to a resting place on three concrete piers beside Keele Street.

They were all needed for the secret mission because their awkward burden weighed approximately 1,600 pounds.

Once they had the slab secured, they left it covered with paper to rouse the curiosity of passers-by in Maple.

Later this week, there will be a solemn unveiling ceremony and the product of two winters' work will be on display for people to enjoy.

The paper cover conceals a colorful mosaic of Canadian crests, the work of a man who shows his love for other people through his art.

Arthur Bacher, a Swiss-born resident of Maple for over 20 years, is not an artist by profession.

He is responsible for inventories, purchasing and warehousing for the international company Eirich Machines, which has a plant in Maple.

But he has been interested in drawing and painting all his life.

"In Switzerland we were taught that a gift is better if you put your heart into it, your own time," he said. "I am always looking for new

ways to make presents." So he became interested in wood inlay work and later mosaics. Finally, he was tempted to do something major.

The huge crest mosaic now in front of his home south of Major Mackenzie Drive is the result.

What is the next project for the cheerful 65-year-

old? A leisure-time fisherman, Mr. Bacher says he has a great appreciation of nature. He photographs wild plants and collects stones with interesting coloration.

He will soon start on drawings for a type of mosaic using these naturally colored stones.

### The York South Clinic

129 Church Street, South  
Richmond Hill

Telephone 884-1133  
887-5245 832-1384

For free and confidential diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease — Birth control advice — No appointment necessary.

#### Clinic Hours

Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Thursday 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

## Property keeps increasing in value

Think back! How many homes sell for less today than they did ten or twenty years ago? Be smart today. Profit tomorrow. Get that property you want right now. Come direct to us for a mortgage loan custom built to fit your needs.

Member Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation

**VG** The senior Trust Company devoted entirely to serving the people of Ontario.  
**VICTORIA and GREY**  
TRUST COMPANY SINCE 1889

10355 Yonge St., Richmond Hill

Ken Meyers Mortgage Officer

884-1107

9-5 Mon. to Fri.



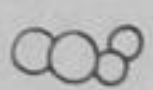
WATCH FOR IT!  
WAIT FOR IT!

- Grand Prizes
- Giant Cake
- Carnival
- 5 Jungle Cats
- Clowns

and Savings Galore!



AUGUST 7, 8 & 9



Hillcrest Mall  
For the world today — your way

Sears

# Save 22% Vacuum bags

Simpsons-Sears bags made to fit these makes and models. Plus our entire line of Kenmore bags. All bags treated with SANI-GARD to prevent growth of bacteria

2 packages for

**1.99**

Reg. \$1.29 pkg. oversize bags 2 for 2.29 Reg. \$1.49 pkg.

Electrolux 	Hoover Constellation 	General Electric canister 	Westinghouse canister 	Lewyt canister 	All uprights (but Hoover) 
Hoover upright 	Hoover Dial-a-Matic 	Sunbeam canister 	Eureka, Princess, Viking, Singer 	Viking, Eureka, Singer 	Lewyt-Shetland 

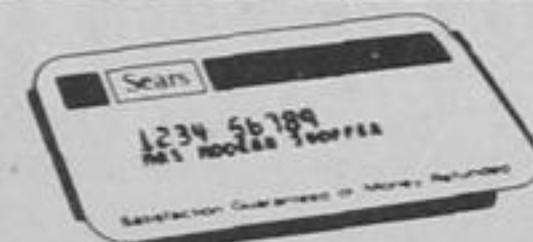
Rejuvenate your vacuum cleaner... heavy plastic construction tools to fit 1 1/4" diam. tubular wands

Upholstery brush 2 <sup>98</sup>	Dusting brush 3 <sup>98</sup>	Carpet nozzle 5 <sup>98</sup>	Crevice tool 1 <sup>98</sup>	Wall and floor tool 4 <sup>98</sup>	6' hose kit. All models 6 <sup>98</sup>

PERSONAL SHOPPING ONLY, PLEASE

Simpsons-Sears Ltd.

VACUUM CLEANER DEPT



Enjoy it now! Use your All Purpose Account. At Simpsons-Sears you get the finest guarantee. Satisfaction or money refunded.

Sears, Richmond Hill, Hillcrest Mall, Carrville Rd. and Yonge St.

Store Hours: Mon., Tues., Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.