



Photo by Hogg

## Bill Carruthers displays silver medal

Students of Baythorn Public School watch with admiration as Bill Carruthers shows the silver medal he won at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Later, Carruthers ran several laps

with the youngsters, who are taking part in a program to raise money for the Olympic fund. The children are asking for sponsors for their early morning, half-kilometer runs.

## Children's Aid Society seeks help for homeless adolescents

This week is Children's Aid Week throughout Ontario.

The Children's Aid has long been regarded as an adoption placement agency for illegitimate or abandoned infants; a protective service for abused children.

And while it still fulfills these needs, the emphasis of its function is shifting with changes in society.

Fewer infants are being abandoned. More unwed mothers are keeping and caring for their offspring. It is the older child that is an increasing concern to agency workers. Their needs are as desperate as those of the infant, and their situations often infinitely more complicated.

The offices of the Children's Aid Society in York Region are located in Newmarket, but its services are spread throughout the region.

The thrust of its appeal this week is on behalf of the homeless adolescent.

### Runaway Teenagers

At age 15, Bill M. is already fed up with life. His home is a four-room apartment over a store on Main Street which shelters his mother and four other children younger than himself.

He can't study at home because of the crowding and confusion and has failed both his Christmas exams and the Easter exams.

His mother works in a store at night and his father makes irregular payments for the support of the family he deserted two years ago.

Money is always scarce and school is a long haul for Bill. He is tired of baby-sitting the younger children and his mother's constant nagging about his low marks, his hours away from home at the

pool hall and his bad language.

One night, while his mother was at work, he decided to take off. Reported missing by his mother, Bill was picked up by police early in the morning while hitchhiking to a larger city.

After this escapade, matters didn't improve at home so Bill tried it again. This time the Children's Aid were called into the picture.

Bill is only one of the 635 teenagers the CAS of York is called upon to help in the space of a year. More than half are boys, but the ratio of girls is increasing.

### Worry about girls

"The teenage girls we are helping may not get into as much trouble as the boys," said Maureen Jackson, teen counsellor with the local Children's Aid Society, "but because they are girls they are more likely to be noticed by police and others."

"Boys hanging about the street at night are almost invisible — but if there's a girl out there, you worry. They are more vulnerable to assault and perhaps too, when a girl wants to stay away from home all hours, or run away, it is a sign that there must be some real problems in the home," Mrs. Jackson said.

"We are now getting teens in care who formerly would have gone to training schools. There is a feeling in government and judicial bodies that a child welfare approach is better."

What can the Children's Aid do for these runaways? "We are very anxious to keep them out of the welfare system," Donald Van Camp, director of the CAS stated. "By that, I

## Principal outlines efforts to meet needs of child

By June Abbott

There was a good turnout for the recent Meet the Teacher Evening at Henderson Public School, Thornhill.

Principal, W.S. Caldwell, welcomed parents and introduced members of the staff, making special mention of the addition of two new members who are teaching French to the junior grades, and two policemen who are now part of the staff and making regular visits to the school to teach the children about safety.

In a short introduction, spiced with humor, Mr. Caldwell spoke of the efforts being made to meet the needs of the individual child within the school system.

"We need your support, confidence and trust that the placements made are in the best interest of the child," he said.

Concerning Professional Development days he said there would be nine of these during the school year, when the staff would attend workshops, and other discussions designed for professional self-improvement.

The fact that these days will be Mondays or Fridays was not to benefit teachers for long weekends, but to permit families to make plans for their weekends, Caldwell said.

Any parent interested in learning what actually happened on any given Professional Development day need only call the principal for details.

Communication between school and home was stressed by Caldwell. He stated that he appreciates hearing from parents whether it be criticism or praise. What he does not appreciate, he said, is people who claim to represent a large group in the community.

Caldwell said he rarely finds out the names of parents making up these groups.

"If you feel strongly, act as an individual and speak for yourself," he urged.

Caldwell summed up by saying that he is looking forward to a successful year and a meaningful homeschool relationship.

Take a teacher to lunch School Trustee Doreen Quirk then spoke, representing the York County Board of Education.

She too stressed the need for better communication between school and home. She said she would like to see a return to the old-fashioned custom of taking a teacher home for lunch or dinner.

She feels this would give parents a chance to explain to the teacher what their children are like, and give the teacher an opportunity of expressing his or her philosophy of education. "Start a new trend", she said. "Take a teacher home for dinner".

Parents were then invited to inspect the classrooms, meet the teachers and have a cup of coffee before leaving.

mean, having them see themselves as "CAS kids" with all the ramifications of foster care, extended wardship and the rest. When a boy or girl wants to leave home, we try first to see what problems at home can be ameliorated to the degree that the parents and the child can remain together.

"In the case of a boy like Bill, that could mean helping his mother to find a daytime job, with after-school care for the younger ones, to relieve Bill of responsibilities that were too heavy for him. It means helping him to stay in school long enough to make something of himself," Van Camp continued.

"If teenagers find it impossible to remain under the parents' roof, an alternative is to find relatives who will board them while they finish school. This too keeps them out of the "system" and in an extended family group.

"Only when this fails we try to find a home for the young person on the understanding that the teenager will either be at school or in an apprenticeship while completing the transition to independence," he said.

Can the community afford to subsidize these teenagers while they are growing up away from home? If the alternative is running away, perhaps getting into bigger trouble, the CAS believes we can't afford not to help them.

The CAS makes a strong effort to prevent chronic problems which arise from having no marketable skills, from too-early marriages, from lack of family planning, from abuse of drugs and alcohol — all conditions to which runaway teenagers are vulnerable.

That is why, during CAS week, the CAS asks the public to "make time for the teens" — by calling the CAS if your own teenager is having problems. The number is 895-2318 or 362-1022.

Teenagers select homes "When a teenager runs away from home, he isn't about to settle down in a similar home," commented Van Camp during a discussion on the problems of teenagers today.

Even if the young person calls up the Children's Aid for help, in the director's view, it doesn't mean that he or she wants a CAS-selected foster home.

"So often the teenager boy or girl is looking for independence. Certainly 14 or 15 is young to be wanting out of family life but often the problems at home are severe," said Van Camp.

"We try to counsel the families back together again but if this fails we must find an alternative which will keep the child at school for as long as possible. This is our goal — school graduation or apprenticeship is a substantial trade. We want these young people to become really independent."

Successful experiment A new method being tried to keep the teenager on the ground while he maps out his future is the "self-select foster home." So far it is a fairly successful experiment in larger centres and one which the CAS of York Region hopes to try out soon.

It works this way. The Society's recruitment literature for foster homes focusses on the teens. It is pointed out that while younger children require a role model of both parents, the teen has less need of this, so that single adults or even very young adults are acceptable.

Often the teenager prefers a big brother or big sister type of person to live with.

The CAS homemaker does an assessment of the applicants and asks them to write a self-description. Social workers have been extremely impressed by the honesty with which applicants have assessed both their own strengths and weaknesses.

If the applicants are accepted they attend an orientation program on what to expect and how to cope with the teen's problems.

Finally specific teenagers needing homes are described.

When a potential foster parent shows interest in a particular teenager, the social worker lets the teenager see the applicants' self-description and the young person can decide if a meeting should take place.

During the visit, at which the social worker is present, expectations on both sides are expressed. The parents may say, "We expect you to clean your room once a week" or "you can stay out till midnight only on Saturday".

The teenager may make counter demands, such as, "I don't want you to criticize my friends" or "don't nag me to go to church with you," usually something which has bothered him at home.

These expectations are drawn up in the form of a three-month contract which gives the teenager the feeling that she or he has partly created the situation into which he is moving. This provides an extra incentive to stick it out.

For many, the contract contains privileges — such as a regular spending allowance, a party friends — which the child has never had before.

Lasting placement likely One Society found that of 18 teenagers who went to 14 self-select foster homes, lasting placements occurred for all but a few.

The Society found that the most successful situations were with parents who had a strong desire to live with a teenager, who could cope without feeling personally attacked and where the father was just as involved as the mother.

The self-select system is designed for teenagers who possess enough maturity to appreciate the meaning of the contract and whose behavior problems are not more serious than perhaps shoplifting.

One graduate of this new system has completed his BA and is now studying to become a social worker.

Persons interested in this form of community service should call the Children's Aid Society at 895-2318 or 362-1022.

### News next door

LEMONVILLE: Bell Canada has announced that two more subdivisions in this area will not receive telephones for some time. They are the 12-lot Ratcliff subdivision and the 26 lot Bristol Pond development. The date given is November 1976.

# Tears and good times for boys

By Sheila Roberts She might not look like anybody's big brother, but Karen Watson knows what Big Brothers are all about.

The attractive Newmarket mother of two started in September as executive director of Big Brothers of York, an agency devoted to matching up boys without dads with men who have the time and the interests to share with them.

The workings of the Big Brother movement are no surprise to Mrs. Watson, as she moved here only a year ago from Winnipeg, where she was a volunteer with the Big Sisters, a similar organization.

An arts graduate, also holding a degree in social work from the University of Manitoba, Mrs. Watson previously was on the staff of the Child Guidance Clinic of Greater Winnipeg.

In her new job, she spends 15 or more hours a week screening and interviewing potential big

and little brothers, in the hopes of finding good personality matches.

When Mrs. Watson interviews a hopeful big brother, she looks for maturity and dependability in the man and for someone who is prepared to make a commitment of four hours a week for at least one year.

"The big brother is really there to give companionship and experiences to his little brother," Mrs. Watson said. "He's not intended to be a father figure, but is there to give the little boy something to look forward to."

Any man, single or married, age 18 or over, can apply to become a big brother.

When Mrs. Watson interviews potential little brothers, she is looking for a boy, between six and 16, who has no father in his home and is "in the normal range" emotionally.

"We wouldn't accept someone with really heavy emotional problems," she explained. "The boy has to be able to use the relationship."

However, if Mrs. Watson finds a boy with such problems, she is able to refer him to the place where he will get the help he needs.



(Photo by Roberts)

## Big Brothers' director a lady

The new director of Big Brothers of York, Karen Watson, with Big Brothers' chairman, Joe Gaspar, at a press conference Thursday of last week in Richmond Hill.

"And when he's ready, he can come back," she said.

Another part of her job is the follow-up.

Once big and little brothers have been matched, Mrs. Watson is there to help with any difficulties that arise in the relationship.

Because Big Brothers of York cover the entire region, she is finding it difficult to get to all boys for follow-ups.

"I would like people to call me if there's anything they wish to talk about," Mrs. Watson said.

A real people-lover, she finds it easy to relate to the boys looking for big brothers.

"Some of the boys I've been interviewing are a real joy," she said. "But they need a little sunshine in their lives."

Being a young mother

herself, Mrs. Watson also finds it easy to relate to the mothers of the boys.

"I met a couple of young widows — I can imagine how life changed for them overnight and can see the struggle they're going through now," she said.

Mrs. Watson finds she always has an eye open for potential big brothers, but realizes she can't "armtwist".

"It has to be the man's own decision," she explained.

Although the men have to be screened, rejections are few, Mrs. Watson said, because usually both the director and the man come to the mutual decision if "it's just not for him".

The Big Brothers of York are currently working on a recruitment program — each big brother and each member

of the board of directors is being urged to find a potential big brother.

"I've got a long waiting list of little brothers," said Mrs. Watson, "and it's always growing."

Last month, there were 27 boys waiting for a big brother in the region — six big brothers were waiting to be assigned a little brother and ten more were in the screening process.

Even though the job has its moments, Mrs. Watson finds it also offers a "terrific balance."

"There are the tears with the little brothers' stories," she said, "but along come the big brothers who can't change their lives... but they can give them some really good times."

Mrs. Watson can be reached through the Big Brothers of York office at 727-1251.



## The Town of Markham

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

THERE WILL BE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1975 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM MUNICIPAL OFFICES AT BUTTENVILLE TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING OFFICIAL PLAN.

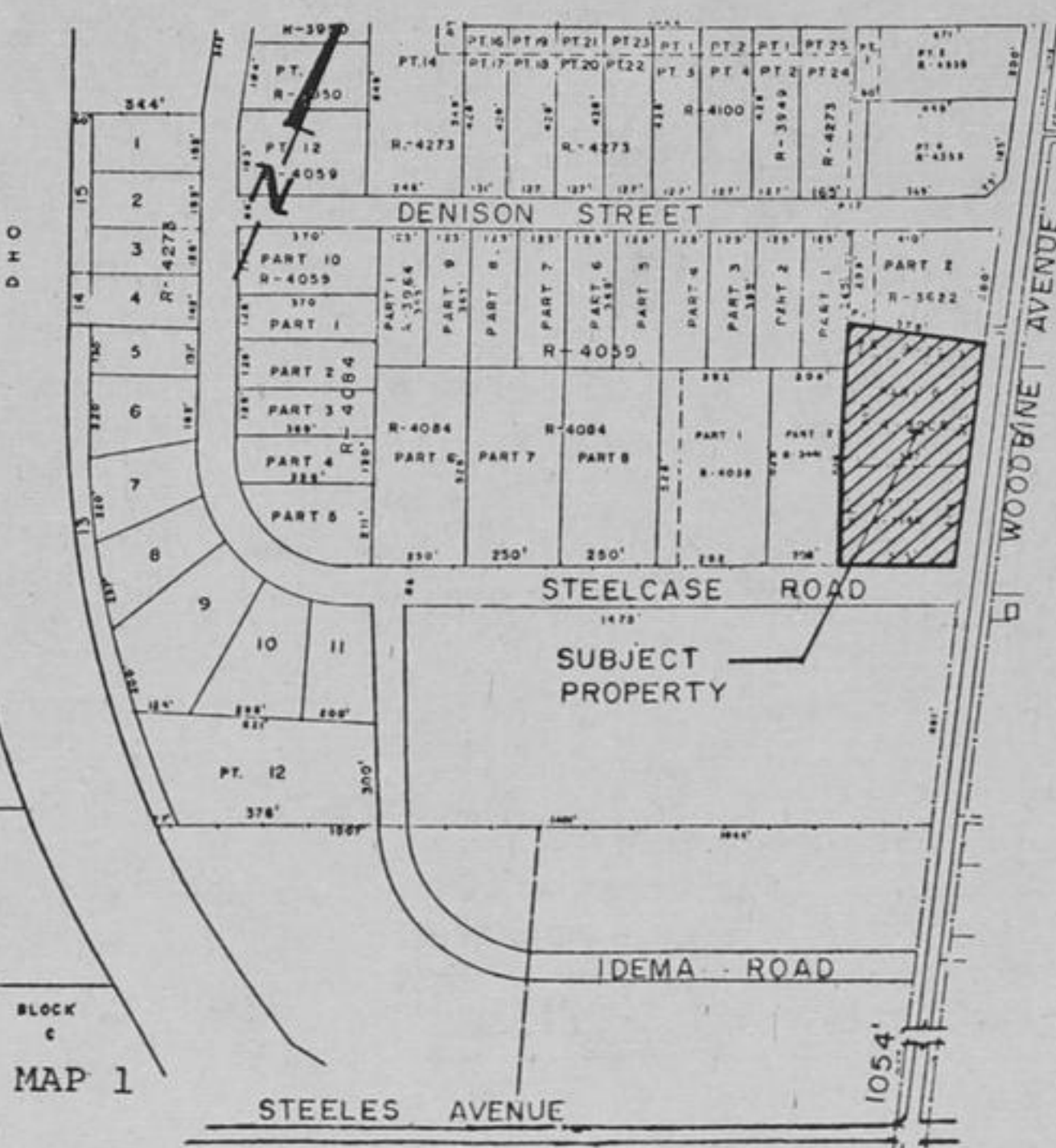
AT 7:30 P.M.

AT 9:00 P.M.

#### SOUTH DON MILLS INDUSTRIAL AREA

Amendment No. 64 - To redesignate a parcel of land now designated "Select Industrial" to "Select Industrial with Limited Commercial". The subject property is located on the west side of Woodbine Avenue (formerly Don Mills Road) between Steelcase Road and Denison Street and is part of Lots 2 and 3, Concession 3, as shown on Map 1 below.

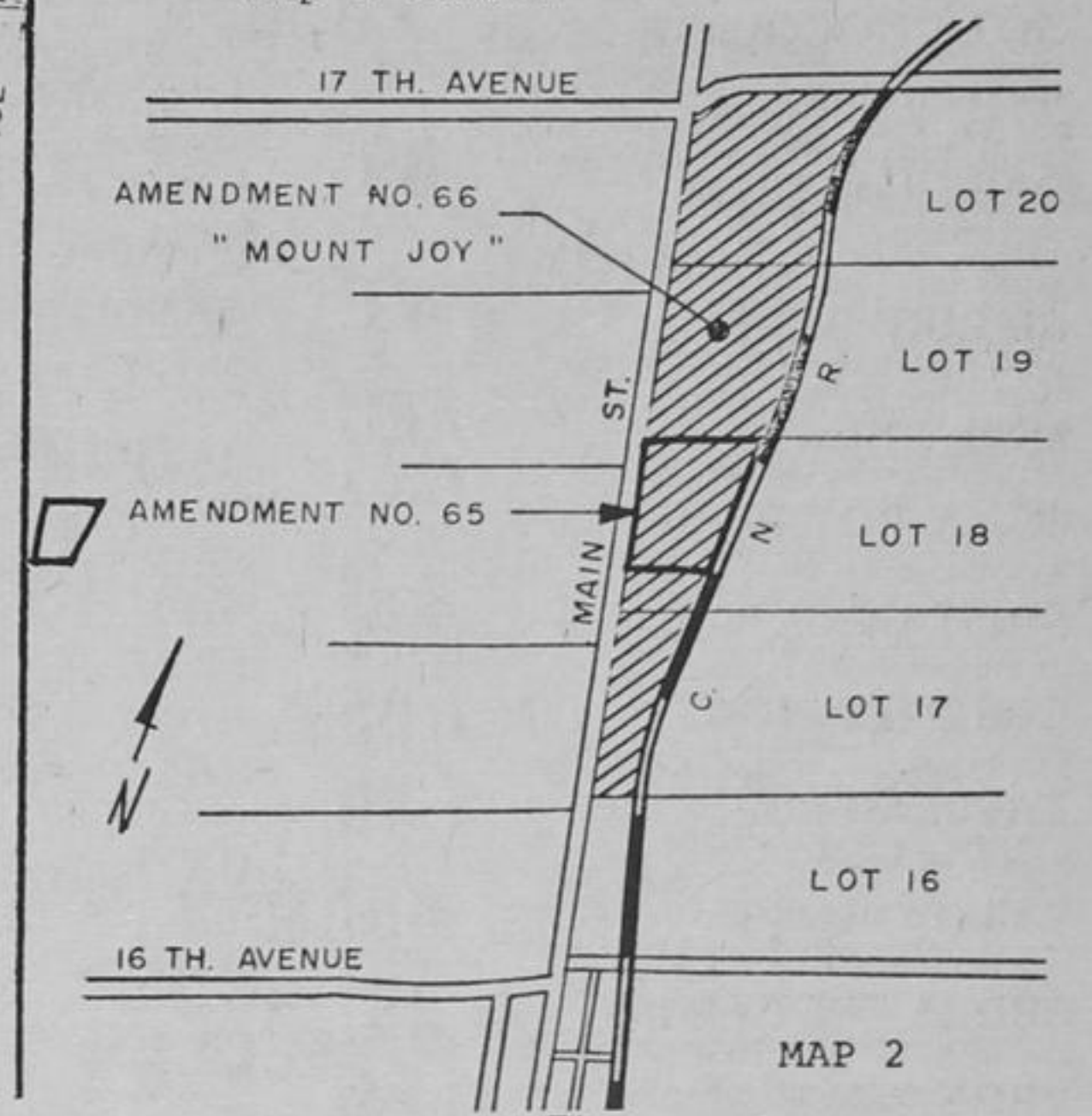
It is intended that these lands will form an integrated extension of an established "Select Industrial with Limited Commercial" area within the South Don Mills Industrial Area.



#### MOUNT JOY INDUSTRIAL AREA

(i) Amendment No. 65 - To exempt a proposed plan of subdivision from the provisions of the Official Plan which requires secondary plans for industrial areas prior to their subdivision. The parcel covered by this amendment is part of Lot 18, Concession 8, as shown on Map 2 below.

(ii) Amendment No. 66 - A secondary plan for the Mount Joy Industrial Area to establish detailed land use and road patterns in accordance with the provisions of Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Official Plan. The area covered by this amendment is parts of Lots 17 through 20, in Concession 8, as shown on Map 2 below.



Anyone interested is invited to attend the hearings and to comment on, support or object to the proposed amendments.

Furthermore, written submissions will be received by the Planning Department up to the time of the hearing. The proposed amendments may be examined at the Planning Office.

Dated October 20, 1975.

R.W. Adams, Chairman  
Planning Committee.

T.M. Januszewski,  
Planning Director.