

## Claremont

# Neighborhood Watch needs to be tended

By CHRIS SHANAHAN  
Staff Reporter

Claremont's two-year-old Neighborhood Watch program is one of three in Pickering that may be forced to disband due to lack of public interest.

Pickering's Neighborhood Watch Committee has identified Claremont, Maple Ridge and 1331 Glenanna as communities presently lacking in leadership for the crime-prevention initiative.

"If these communities are to remain in this program, it is necessary to have residents volunteer to work with the police to re-organize their Watch and form an executive," explained Pickering committee chairperson Beverley Morgan. "It doesn't take a great deal of time and Durham Regional Police have specific guidelines for you to follow, and (the force) has people to assist you."

The committee, formed in the spring of 1985 and since officially recognized by Pickering Town Council, consists of representatives from 11 Watch groups operating within the municipality.

Though Claremont is a member, the north Pickering hamlet has been without a Neighborhood Watch chairperson since founder Ward McCance moved out of area last year.

Cst. Mike Bevan of Durham's Community Services Bureau urged Claremont residents to attend a re-organization meeting Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Claremont Community Centre.

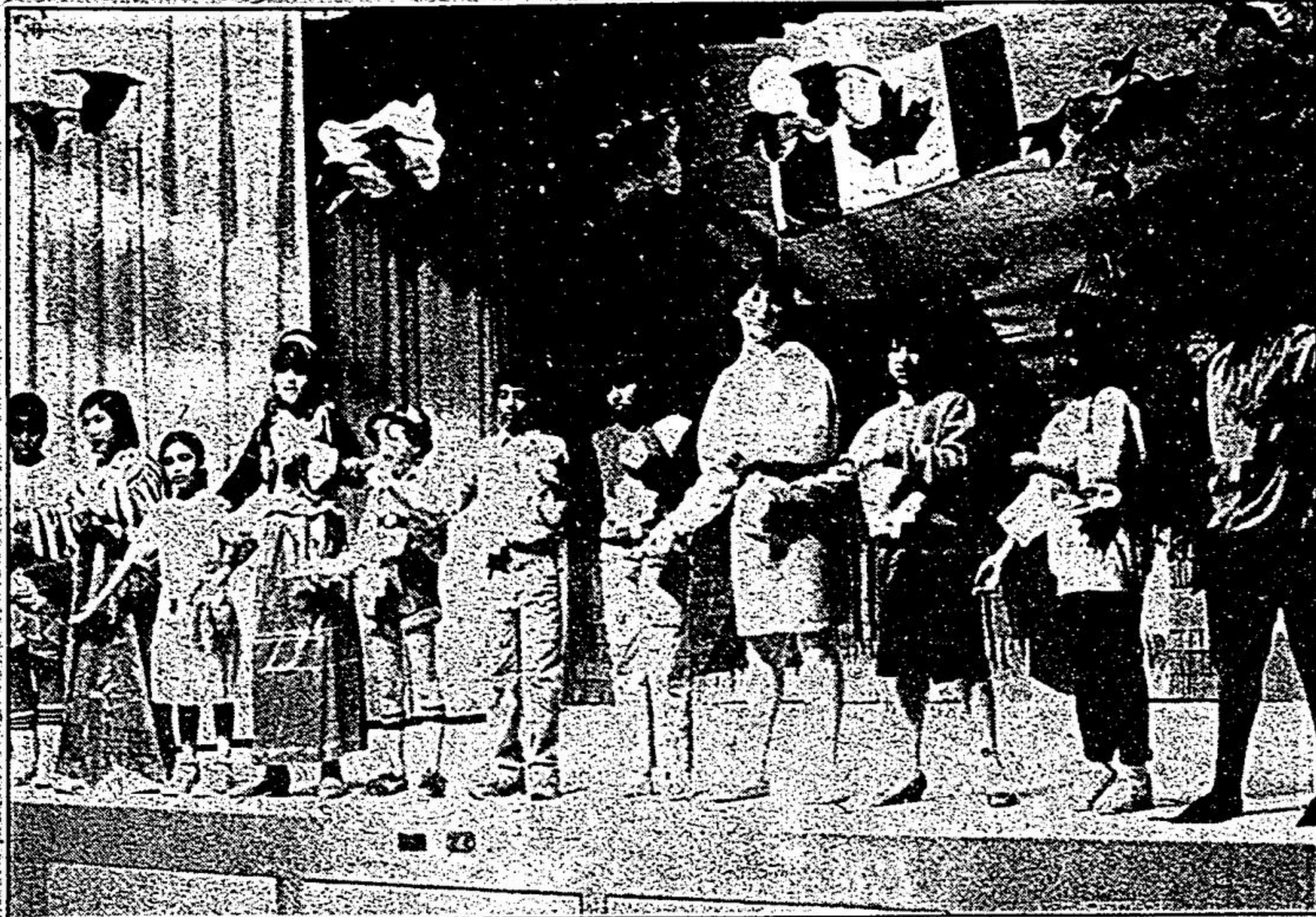
"Active Neighborhood Watch communities reduce crime and make their homes a safer place to live. Without a chairperson and block captains (one for every 20 to 30 homes), this crime prevention program will not work," claimed Cst. Bevan, noting that Watch signs were first erected in Claremont after the program was endorsed there in 1985.

Added the crime prevention officer: "If we do not recruit an adequate number of volunteers to rejuvenate the program, Claremont Neighborhood Watch will no longer be recognized by the Durham Regional Police Force, and the Town of Pickering will be asked to remove the Neighborhood Watch signs."

According to a news release issued by the Ontario Provincial Police, a rash of recent house break-ins in the Perth district underscores the need for communities to work with police through NW.

Arrests made by officers with the Westport OPP detachment were the direct result of a tip provided by a Watch member who suspected there was something suspicious going on at the home next door.

"This is a prime example of how important the Neighborhood Watch program is," OPP Commissioner Archie Ferguson said. "Crimes of opportunity can be eliminated only if communities work together with police, in the common goal of crime prevention."



## Save used items for charity sale

The Markham branch of the Canadian Save the Children Fund are urging local residents to save those spring cleaning bundles destined for the garbage heap.

Any items with a potential resale value for local bargain hunters will be collected and sold by the local chapter during its spring garage sale in

May. Everything from used clothes to forgotten lamp shades will be accepted for the spring sale.

Local members are also seeking volunteers to help with the annual event. Interested residents can call 294-0813 for volunteer information.

### Goose gander

Milliken Mills Public School students took a gander on a play "The Canada Goose" for fellow students this week.

— Sjocra Witteveen

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