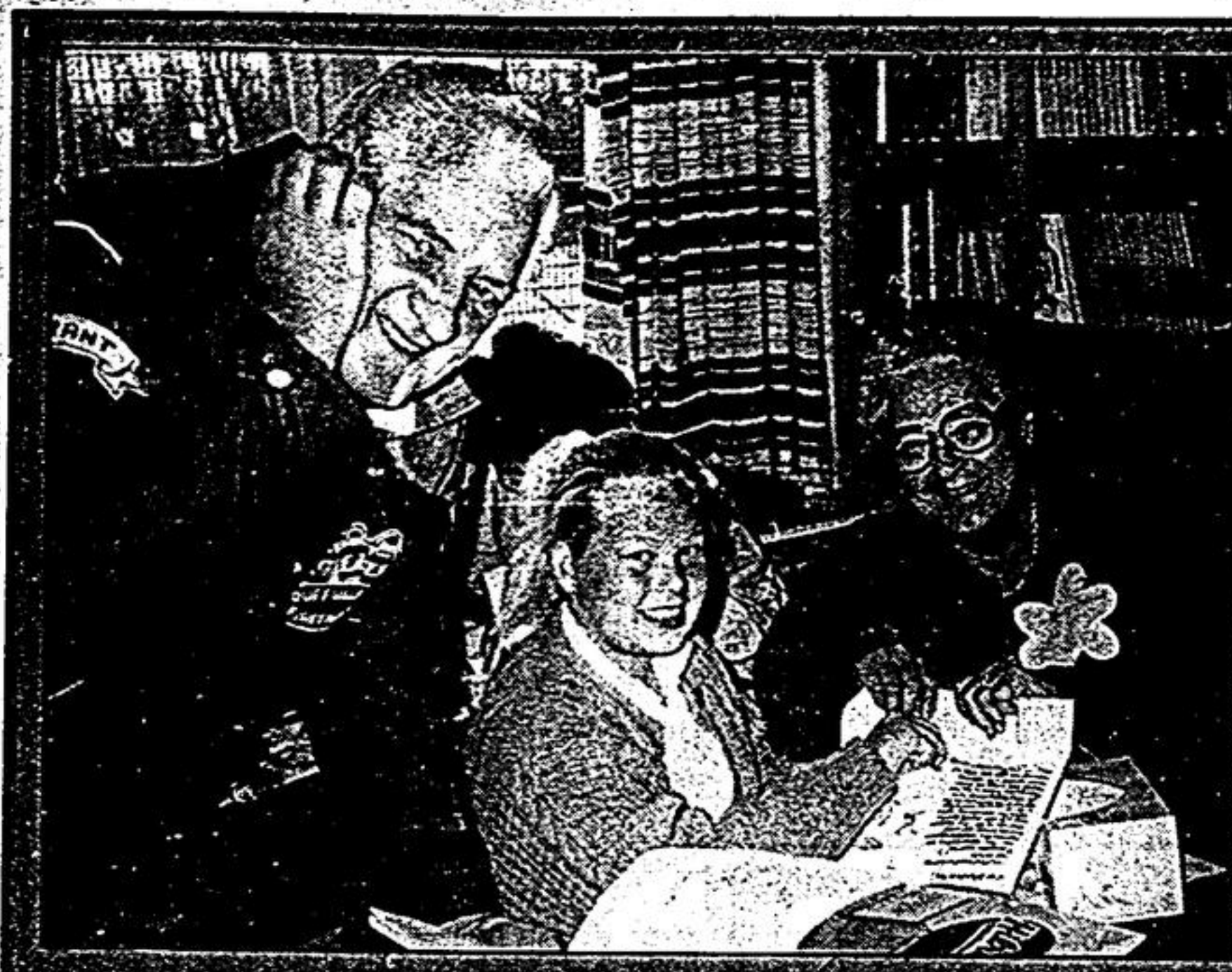


S/U



Family classes

Students at Stouffville Christian School had an open house activity with their parents and grandparents. Friends were invited into classrooms to see how their grand children were doing in school. In the photo, Grant (left) and his family look on the accomplishments of Kent Diller while his wife, Betty, looks on. At right, grandparents Howard and Shirley Meredith check the notebook of their grandson, Grade 5 student David Robinson.



Majestic osprey welcomed home

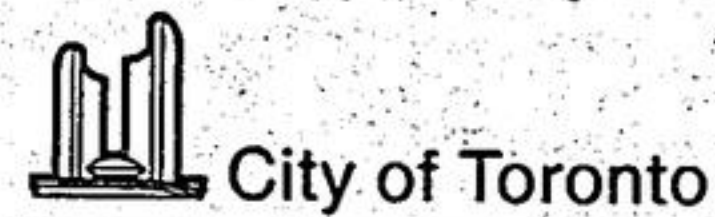
By ART BRIGGS-JUDE
The speck in the bright blue sky gradually grew to the form of a large bird, whose powerful wingbeats soon brought it over the nearby pond.
There it hovered kite-like on an invisible string. Now, as if that strand had suddenly been severed, the great bird dropped quickly and, with wings held high, hit the water with a resounding splash.
From the midst of the falling spray, the powerful fish hawk emerged; a struggling sucker gripped securely in its sharp talons. With slow, deliberate wing strokes, it regained half its former altitude and, swinging over the naked trees, disappeared.
The osprey's return to its former haunts was an annual April affair. It had left the area with the first frosts of winter and followed the interior river valleys to the warmer climes of Mexico. With the de-icing of the inland waterways in its northland home, it had come back.
And its welcome arrival was not only mirrored on the waters over which it flew, but on the faces of the winter-weary residents. The old-timers blinked in the warming sun, knowing full well another fishing season had begun.
To all outward appearances the osprey's habitual landscape remained unchanged — the gentle, winding river, the creek-joined beaver ponds, the shallow bays in the lake.
Because its mate had not yet arrived, the male bird was not in any hurry to visit the traditional nest site. Instead, it chose to course the familiar waterways and sample the spawning fish stocks wherever they gathered.
However, the morning that he heard the melodious cheep, cheep, cheep of the female, the osprey turned his thoughts towards his arriving mate and his course to that bulky structure of sticks along the river.
Yet even before they met, the male noted some uneasiness in the female's call. Swooping over the high cedars, the incoming osprey saw the reason for his mate's distress. The prominent old elm and its cradle of woven branches were no more.
A rotting base and heavy wind had toppled the century-old tree during last autumn's deer hunt. The two raptors landed on a nearby snag to rest. Now the long search for another nesting place would have to begin.
Half a concession away, near the edge of a pond the ospreys often visited stood a single pole with a sturdy platform on top. It had been erected recently with great difficulty by a group of men and a machine.
Now it stood straight and tall some 30 feet into the valley air, waiting to take the place of the fallen nest. As an inducement for

the big birds, human hands had formed a rough nest of sticks on the outside perimeter.
Whether the ospreys will find and use this nest of any of the others put out this spring for their purpose, only time will tell.
But within an hour of the pole's erection, a single osprey arrived on the scene. It flew around and plunged for fish and may even have noticed the new nest. If it did and brings its mate to accept the site, it will surely be another chapter in the return from the brink of oblivion for this magnificent bird.
Much a part of our Canadian wildlife scene, the osprey, like the eagle, had its ranks decimated by toxic chemicals after World War II. Now in the midst of recovery, it still faces these pesticides in Mexico and South America where some of the big birds winter and whose governments do not restrict these persistent killers.
Add to this the loss of the large ancestral nesting trees and the reasons for erecting man-made platforms are at once apparent.

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Firms that obtain business from the City are also required to adopt and post non-discrimination policies where they can be seen by both employees and the public.
The City is holding a series of information clinics to help suppliers and bidders meet these requirements.
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Toronto, Ontario
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Mayor A. Roman
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