

RIDEAU NOTES

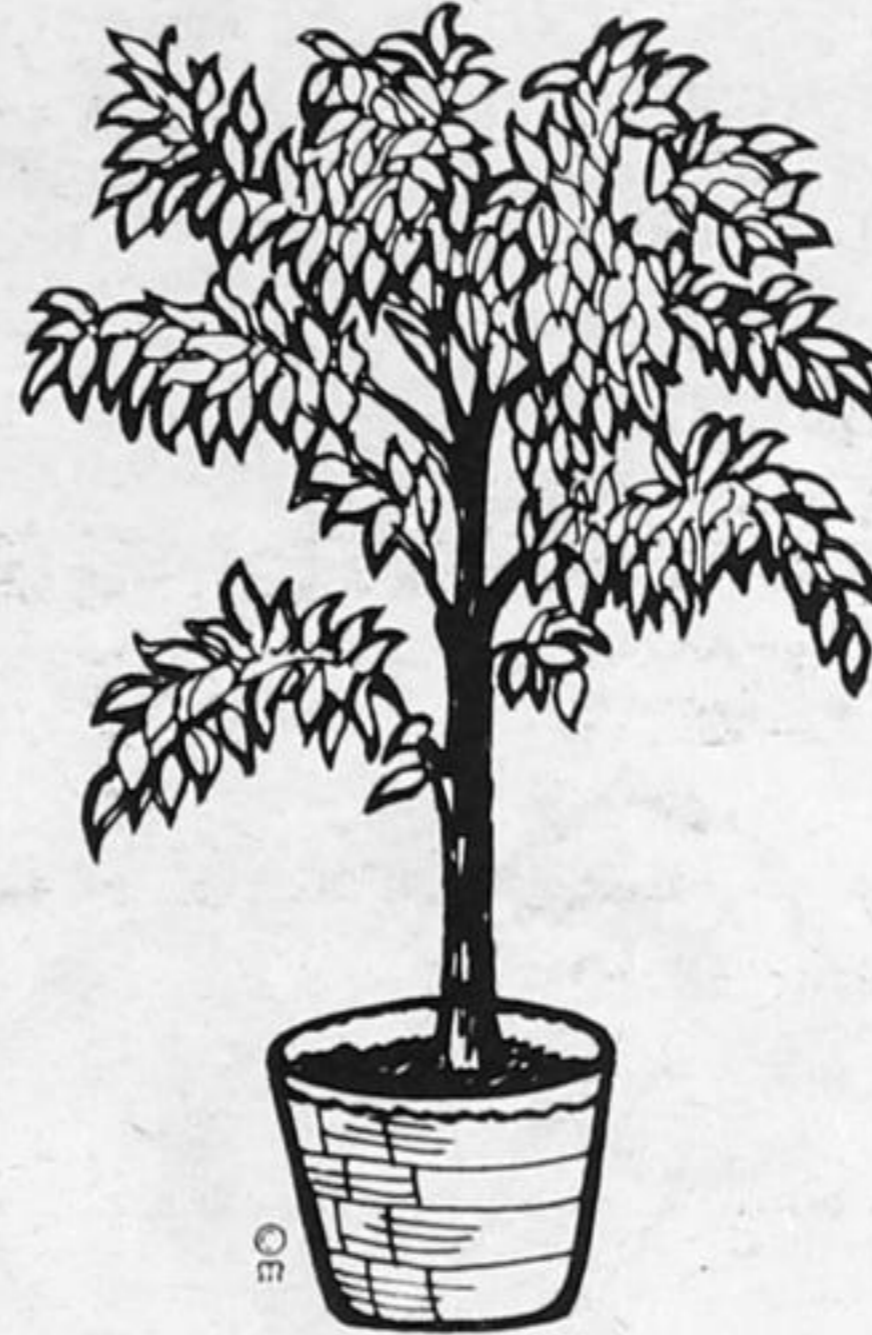
Everything is back in full swing at Rideau District High School (RDHS). In September the school held a Grade 9 Parents' Night. Principal Ken Robinson, welcomed parents to the school; Vice-Principal Tony Darby talked about how good attendance, properly kept notebooks, and a good effort, were the main ingredients for success; Guidance Head Ron Dopson, outlined how the guidance department helps students with program and career choices; and teacher Went Sharp, intramural program organizer, described the variety of inter-house games that make up the noon-hour activities, from 'blind' volleyball and basketball, to backgammon, euchre and chess. Afterwards parents formed "classes" as they followed their children's subjects for a typical day. In each 10 minute period the teachers outlined the grade 9 courses, whether it be History, Mathematics and English or Physical Education, Woodwork, Art,

Halladay, student council social director who said, "We had over 350 students at our first dance, held in September. It was a great success. Our thanks to CKLC who provided the music."

We have cheerleaders again at Rideau. The cheerleading team consists of students, Jody Knapp, Brenda Tye, Jane Taylor, Shelley Watson and Nicole Stevens. They are coached by teachers Arlie Hughes and Pat Nolan. On Sunday, Oct. 5th, coaches and team attended a Cheerleading Clinic in Toronto. "It was an exciting visit for our new team: it has given us plenty of good ideas," said coach Arlie Hughes. French and Music. Rideau offers a full range of subjects at all three levels of difficulty.

Still on an academic note, over 150 parents attended the parents' night on October 8th. The first interim report was handed out to students on Oct. 3rd and parents' night was a chance to discuss individual progress privately with the teachers.

Student Council President, Pam McCulloch, says school spirit is very strong this year, "We had a great pep rally assembly at the end of September and there has been strong support for our teams." McCulloch was supported by Troy



FICUS BENJAMINA



PAMELA SWEET
Planning Director for
Cumberland Township
VISITS SRI LANKA

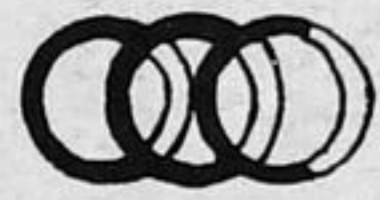
Township Planning Director, Pamela Sweet, travelled to Sri Lanka in September for a conference jointly sponsored by the Commonwealth Association of Planners and the Government of Sri Lanka. As Past-President of the Canadian Institute of Planners, Pamela and Peter Martin represented Canada at the Asian-region conference. The theme of the conference was *Shelter for the Homeless*, which ties in with the United Nation's intention to designate 1987 as the Year of Shelter.

Much of the discussion at the conference dealt with the plight of the homeless and the planning concerns experienced by developing nations. Sri Lanka has undertaken a major program in 1987 called the One Million Houses program, an ambitious plan to provide homes for some of their many homeless.

Following the theme, the conference delegates were taken on a tour of several facilities in Sri Lanka built to house squatters who have set up a village of shacks. Despite attempts to relocate the shacks, the squatters just as determinedly rebuilt them. Perceiving that there must be a legitimate need for this type of accommodation, the government took over and provided simple structures with communal water and washroom facilities — primitive by North American standards, perhaps, but still eminently preferable to the type of housing erected by the squatters.

Housing the homeless may seem a far cry from the planning concerns of Cumberland Township, however, Pamela found that the conference made her appreciative of what we have here in Canada. Sri Lanka has a good agricultural base and has achieved self-sufficiency in providing food for its residents, while delegates from some of the African nations admitted that providing nourishment for their people was the greatest problem facing their governments. This pointed out the need to assess how best to spend the planning dollar in such countries. Should their governments and the governments that provide them with aid, select the provision of services such as wells and sanitary systems as their first priority, or train planners in an attempt to head off future problems?

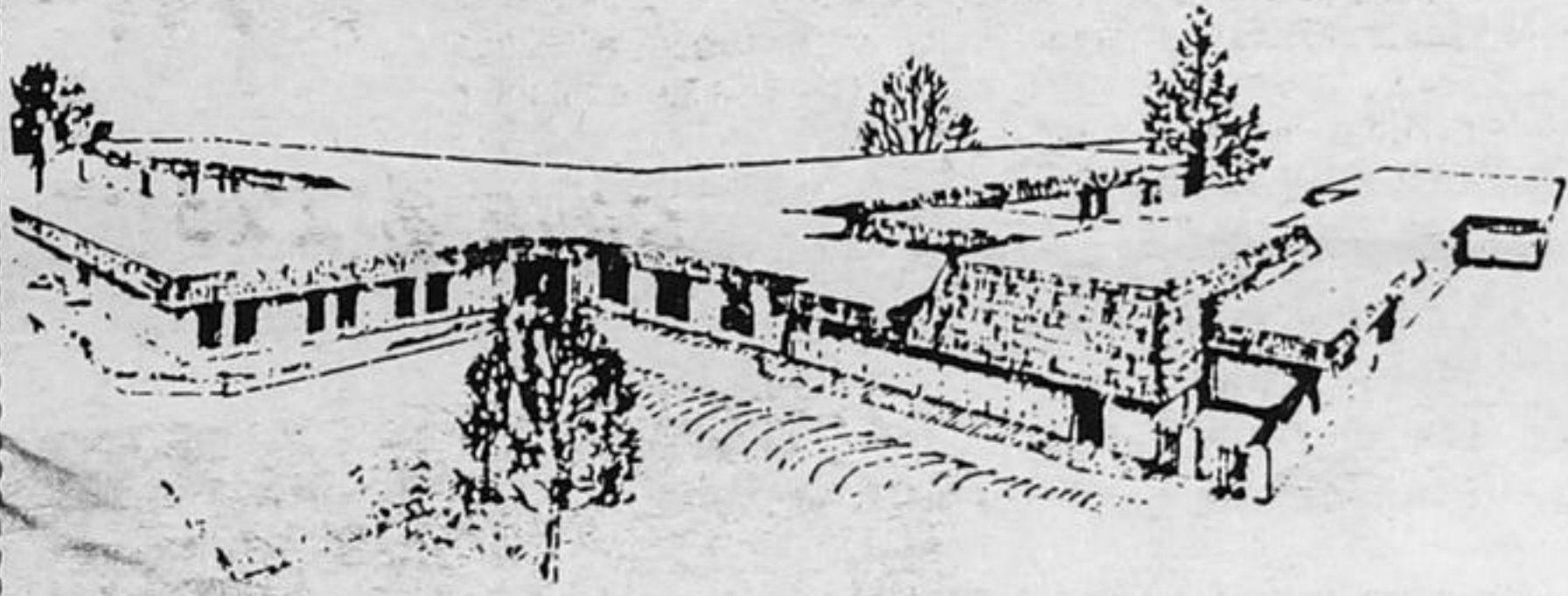
Pamela found that such concerns heightened her awareness that we are part of a global society and that we cannot close our eyes to the needs of others. Canadian and Sri Lankan culture may seem so disparate and yet she was surprised at the similarities between the zoning laws of the two countries, both drawn from a shared British Colonial heritage. For Pamela, the conference was eminently worthwhile and thought provoking.



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