

METRO NEWS

Waterfront project gets planning board's nod

The \$250 million Campeau plan to develop the central waterfront area was approved by Toronto Planning Board yesterday and is expected to go before City Council for final approval later this month.

The development will consist of a 500-foot apartment hotel, two 550-foot office towers, five high-rise apartment buildings with retail stores, a new island ferry terminal, a fireboat terminal and a 5.6-acre public park.

Most important of all, the development will finally open up the waterfront to public use and enjoyment, a long-sought objective by successive city councils over many years.

It would result in open public space almost all the way from Yonge St. to York St. There would also be a public square at the foot of Bay St. that would be almost as large as Nathan Phillips Square in front of City Hall.

One notable feature of the development is that all residential apartment units will have a two-way view for occupants—one out towards the lake; the other back towards the city skyline.

The scheme—which goes to a special meeting of council's buildings and development committee Monday—was developed after seven months of consultation and negotiation between the developer Campeau Corporation Ltd., city planners, Toronto Harbor Commission, city and Metro parks departments and Metro planners.

George Hamann, of the architectural firm of Bregman and Hamann which planned the development, said adjustments required to the original plan were minimal.

Contrary to earlier reports, it is not definite that the development will contain a new headquarters for the Toronto Harbor Commission.

Dateline Metro

Most cab fares up short rides cheaper

New cab fares, increasing the average ride cost by 15 cents, were approved yesterday by Metro council executive committee.

The first, half-mile will be 50 cents, and each additional quarter mile will cost 10 cents. The old fare schedule was 55 cents for the first third of a mile and 10 cents each additional third. The average ride now costs \$1.45 but will go to \$1.60.

Alderman Tony O'Donohue said he opposed the increases because they would discourage people from taking cabs.

Some independent drivers said most of their downtown rides were short trips, and the new schedule could result in lower earnings.

Cheaper homes studied

The University of Toronto has established a 10-man research centre to study ways of building homes faster and cheaper. Professor M. W. Huggins, a civil engineer who will head the group, said one of its first aims will be to amass all information available on "systems" construction techniques, which co-ordinate factory-made prefabricated components for assembly on the building site.

4,500 expected at picnic

The annual Thomas Foster picnic for city children will be held Saturday at Riverdale Park and is expected to attract 4,500 of them. The picnic is endowed by a \$100,000 bequest from a former mayor of Toronto. It includes a grandstand show, pony rides, races, clowns, contests for picnic queen and the boy with the most freckles, as well as refreshments.



—Star photo by Doug Griffin

THEY'LL STUDY PREJUDICE: Mrs. Gwen Lee (right) and Kathleen MacConnell discuss an after-school program they'll get off the ground next month to study race prejudice in children. Mrs. Lee had her legs broken in car accident.

Commonwealth speakers visit Queen's Park

The speakers of national and regional legislatures in 19 British Commonwealth countries arrive today from Ottawa for a one-day visit to Toronto.

The 66 speakers and clerks will be given a fast tour of Metro before lunching at the Park Plaza Hotel, with the Ontario government as their host.

This afternoon they are to meet behind closed doors at Queen's Park.

Black teacher couldn't get job, now plans inter-racial school

By MARK STAROWICZ
Star staff writer

Eleven years ago Mrs. Gwen Lee wanted to become a teacher, but she didn't even bother applying to the school boards in Ontario.

"They weren't hiring blacks," she said last night. "Maybe some West Indians with diplomas—but not Canadian blacks."

Today, thanks to her starting a little Saturday school in a church basement last year, a research program into the development of race consciousness in Toronto children will be launched.

Mrs. Lee of Bernard Ave., said from her Western Hospital bed last night: "I don't like the word Negro. Call me black." The 28-year-old mother of Scott, 7, and Celeste, 4, suffered two broken legs in a recent auto accident.

But she is planning for the day when her project on race relations gets final approval and government financing.

Professor Alan Marcus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education supports her project and has

gained approval of the Toronto Board of Education for use of a schoolroom to conduct the after-hours study. He is now after a grant from the Department of Education to finance it.

The idea is for Mrs. Lee and a team of educators to bring together 24 children—black and white between 6 and 12—after school and Saturdays to study the cultural heritage of Afro-Canadians.

There will be a nearly equal proportion of black and white children in the

class, she said, "so that the white kids can see the black kids as a group."

"If there is a black kid with a bad personality, they won't see this as all black kids, but as only one, because the others will be different. They will get a feeling of the group."

She said black and white children learn nothing of the cultural history and contributions of the black race.

"Here in North America the cultural heritage of the blacks is slavery. Africans are portrayed everywhere as stone-age people. That is the image every child has."

The results of the year's experiment may eventually affect the basis of education in Metro schools.

She herself believes some similar form of class should be a regular supplementary program for children.

The importance of introducing such a program says Mrs. Lee, is obvious. Statistical studies on race relations in the United States show that all prejudices and attitudes towards race, all awareness or lack of it, is formed in the child by the age of six. "Here, we have a chance to tackle the problem of living together in peace, right at the base."

File of waste burns at plant in Scarborough

Fire badly damaged a huge stockpile of waste and pulp paper at the Atlantic Packaging Co. plant on Progress Rd. in Scarborough today.

Five pumps and an aerial truck brought the blaze under control after an hour. No one was injured.



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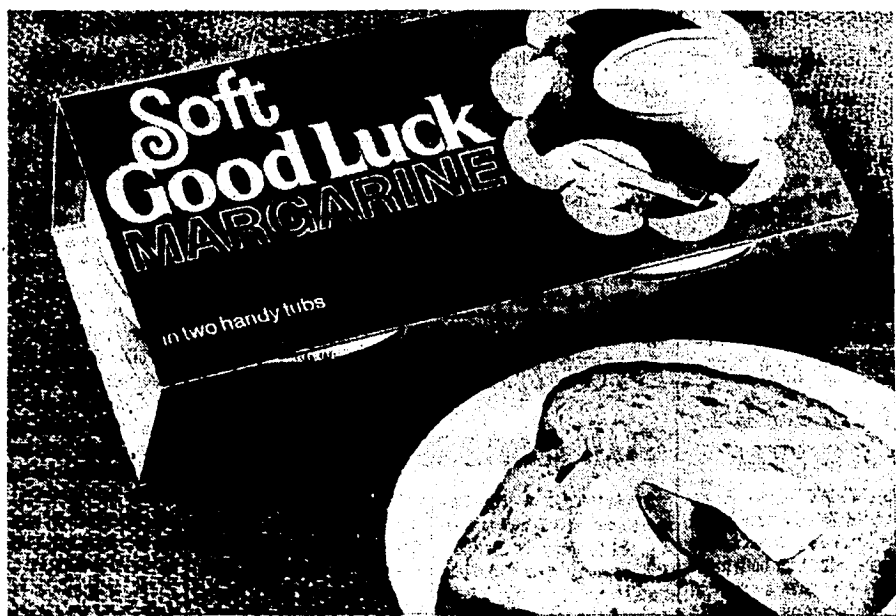


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