

Good-news story: How citizens fought to build their own park

By E. KAYE FULTON  
Star staff writer

They scrapped and they fought for three years to get a bit of green grass for their children, and last Saturday they had reason to celebrate.

The swings were up and the grass stretched seven acres from Emerson Ave. to Dufferin St. — the Wallace-Emerson residents' association finally has its park. It's not a big park, mind you. There's

still a lot of work to be done but then again, it's a lot better than the tangle of empty and dilapidated warehouses that stood on the site a few years ago.

Adults like Rose and Mike DiFilippo, the husband and wife team that spearheaded the drive to get what they claim is the only park for a community of 10,000 people, say they will make sure the association won't stop just because they now have a space for play.

And kids like Diego Barbera of Emerson Ave., who played table tennis and pool for 24 hours to raise money for field hockey equipment, and Carlo Berlingieri, 14, who lent his stereo and record collection as entertainment, say they will make sure the park is well used.

"It was an ugly site before this park. The buildings stood empty for a long time and we'd worry about the kids. If the children take good care of it and use it like they should, it will be a great boon for this district," said Grace Oliver who is 73 and lives on Lappin Ave.

She has lived in the neighborhood for more than 30 years and remembers the days when the warehouses were new and exciting. Those days, she said, are long gone.

Mayor David Crombie was there to open the park. It was his fourth "opening" that day but this one was special because he had a hand in persuading the city to buy the land in 1973. He also presided over the meetings at which the city at first changed its mind and started talking about putting a school there instead.

But then the city changed its mind again and even let the community keep the remaining building as a "neighborhood improvement program office."

In addition, there's \$2.5 million "in various stages of approval" to set up permanent facilities and maybe even an ice rink. Three local residents' groups, a senior citizens' representative and a youth delegate will decide what goes where.

"This park is not only a testimony, it shows that if a community wants something badly enough and co-operates and works together, it can get it," he told about 150 people.

He left in his chauffeur-driven limousine shortly after to attend another function, but the people's celebrations continued with films, a garage sale, food, music and dancing.

'Share the blame'

Let's all resign  
let others try  
zoo officer says

By MARILYN ANDERSON  
Star staff writer

The Metro Zoological Society could avoid its second "palace revolt" in two years if all six members of the executive stepped down, according to John Bates, who has already submitted his own resignation.

However, zoo board chairman Pamela Goh, who intends to resist any attempts to unseat her, said in an interview yesterday that what the zoo board now needs most is continuity.

Bates, a trade magazine editor, said if there is any blame to be assessed for the executive's handling of the zoo's financial crisis, "it has to be shared blame."

"We should not let any one person be the target," Bates told The Star yesterday. "That's insanity."

'ALL THIS RANCOR'

Bates said it is not necessary for the six on the executive — "including me" — to resign altogether from the 37-member board. But they should step down and let six others fill the top offices to put an end to "all this rancor."

"There's been a lot of gnashing of teeth about a Metro take-over, about underhanded scheming, threatened closing of the zoo and layoffs," Bates said. "It's led to the emotional resignation of beautiful people. The whole thing was unnecessary and I am sick of it."

In a telephone interview from Chicago where her husband is attending a medical conference, Mrs. Goh said Bates' proposal is not practical. The executive meets much more often than the whole board "and a lot of the members just don't have the time to be on the executive."

'BE VERY FRANK'

Mrs. Goh said she is sure the rest of the board will have confidence in the executive "when we can sit down and be very frank and take them through the series of events that led us to where we are now."

Under an agreement worked out with Metro for the management of the zoo, Metro Parks Commissioner Tommy Thompson will be acting director and an additional \$225,000 has been allocated by Metro Council's Executive Committee to meet the Zoo's financial crisis.

Susan Porter, one of two vice chairmen of the zoo executive (the other is Barbara Robertson), said anyone who interprets the

deal as a Metro take-over "doesn't understand the relationship between Metro and the zoo society."

"Metro can't take over the zoo without giving two years' notice. Tommy Thompson is going to be there on a very interim basis and will stay only on if the society requests him to stay."

A week go, the zoo executive had decided to close the zoo for the winter and lay off 80 employees. This resulted in the resignation of zoo director Philip Ogilvie.

Since then, four board members have submitted resignations — John Bates, Dr. Andrew Malcolm, Robert Hall and Maggie Siggins.

Stork poster  
has City Hall  
fit to be tied

A worried-looking stork with an intra-uterine contraceptive device tied around its knees came close to becoming the symbol for literature put out by the city's family planning services.

"It was funny and horrible at the same time," said Toronto Alderman Anne Johnston, chairman of the city health board, which oversees family planning.

"It was sort of cute, but the whole subject of birth control is not," she said. "That department is new — it doesn't need that kind of aggravation."

She suggested the artist should show it to other women at City Hall to see what they thought, and "the reaction was 99 per cent Yech," she said.

"It was too cutesy-poo," said development commissioner Graham Emslie, who first showed it to Mrs. Johnston. "I've got nothing against birth control, especially after five kids, but I thought it in bad taste."

Emslie said his concern was that a graphic artist in his department, Earl Woodley, had drawn it.

"Rather than depicting family planning, it carried the idea of the elimination of families," Mrs. Johnston said.

"I'm a bit strange for a 44-year-old," she said, "but I didn't think it was quite what we wanted, so I asked Earl to get the opinion of others."

The knock-kneed stork has been allowed to die a natural death.

BLOOD  
DONORS  
NEEDED

The Toronto Blood Bank has only 872 units on hand, just over half its daily requirement of 1,500 units.

The shortage means that surgery will have to be postponed if there is not an increase in blood collections by the middle of this week, said Doreen Duffin, director of blood transfusion service for Area A of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Type O positive and A negative, are in particularly short supply, she said.

Locations of the clinics are published daily by The Star on its Metro page, but there is a permanent clinic in the ManLife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., which is open from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

TOMORROW'S  
BLOOD DONOR  
CLINICS

- ManLife Centre, 55 Bloor St. W., 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free parking.
- Famous Furlane Club, 7065 Islington Ave., Woodbridge, 5 to 9 p.m.

Around the Town

Calling all Metro Brodies

Finian Brodie, chief of the Clan Brodie, is expected in Toronto today. He'll stay until Wednesday before returning to the Brodie estates in Scotland. Any Brodie interested in the program arranged for the chief may call Craig H. Brodie, 447-0900 this evening.

Calling the active retired

The challenge of retirement will be discussed tomorrow at the St. Lawrence Centre on Front St. E. beginning at 1:30 p.m. Elwood Glover, radio and television personality, will be moderator of a panel of retired persons. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Calling Scarborough golf nuts

Scarborough's recreation and parks department is accepting registrations this week for indoor golf classes.



IT WAS ALMOST A FLASHBACK when 200 protesters marched into Nathan Phillips Square on Saturday to protest against nuclear arms. But many of them agreed this one lacked passion. "Let's face it," one lamented. "Nuclear arms proliferation, love and peace were trendy 10 years ago. Now, every one is protesting things like wage and price controls, rent hikes and pay cuts. Even lettuce and grapes are cliché." But City Council endorsed demonstration.

What's this? A ban-the-bomb march?

By E. KAYE FULTON  
Star staff writer

For a moment on Saturday it could have been the Sixties as a peaceful Ban the Bomb demonstration wound its way along Queen St. to Nathan Phillips Square.

But while the 200 or so marchers brought back glimpses of past protests with familiar rhetoric and placards, many of the participants agreed that this one lacked the passion.

"Let's face it," lamented one marcher. "Nuclear arms proliferation, love and peace were trendy 10 years ago. Now everyone is protesting things like wage and price controls, rent hikes and pay cuts. Even lettuce and grapes are cliché."

But the demonstration, endorsed unanimously by City Council, had all the necessary ingredients.

Organizers said they had a cause — "The nuclear arms race with its catastrophic implications continues unabated." The times that were supposed to be a-changin', never did — in fact, they said, it's worse.

They didn't have a Baez or a Dylan to lead the group in that song, but they did have Susan and Jerome who sang When the Saints Come Marching In as the marchers assembled in front of a stage in the square.

They had living proof of their concern — two survivors of the dropping of the first atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that signalled the end of World War II and the beginning of the nuclear age.

They had a seven-member delegation from the Japanese Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. The seven are on a North American tour en route to the United Nations.

They even had Rabbi Abraham Feinberg, the colorful and controversial anti-war activist whose fiery speeches have ignited the fires of many protests.

Feinberg, with his characteristic blue beret, walking cane and silver peace medallion, made a special visit from his home in Reno, Nevada, where he is rabbi-in-residence for the University of Nevada's Centre for Religion and Life. He was the head of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto for 17 years.

Meanwhile, organizers from Hiroshima-Nagasaki Relived, were sending around representatives to collect donations for the relief fund. The group had a delegation to a peace rally in Japan next year.



RABBI ABRAHAM FEINBERG AND TORONTO MAYOR DAVID CROMBIE. They were at a peaceful ban the bomb rally in Nathan Phillips Square.

A spectacular view for a real rubbernecker

Starting on Wednesday the best view of the skyline of downtown Toronto may well be from below ground level.

To see it you have to go beneath the stunning, bronze-windowed (actually it's real gold) Royal Bank Plaza.

Its Merchants Mall of retail stores opens this week and if you walk through, entering perhaps from Union subway station, you'll pass by a small forest of trees imported from Florida, down a ramp to a lower level and along to what, on the surface, is the corner of Bay and Wellington Sts.

You'll then be in Chef's Corners, a collection of fast-food counters topped by a skylight in the shape of a giant, clear-glassed Tiffany lampshade.

Go and stand right below its centre, so that the peak of the skylight is above your head. Then face south and crane your neck, peer upwards and start rotating clockwise.

First you see the southern, fluted tower of Royal Bank Plaza. Then you'll see its 130-foot high glass enclosed banking hall whose roof weighs as much as a fully-loaded 747 jetliner — about 425 tons. And then, attached to that, the other tower of the Plaza.

As you come to the northwest you'll see the square black top of the T-D Centre, with the top of the tallest, First Canadian Place and its blue Bank of Montreal M, peeking over it.

Still moving round (nearly finished), you'll see the gleaming white of Commerce Court. And finally, due east, the gleaming black glass of the Credit Foncier building on the facing corner of Bay and Wellington.

Now sit down on one of the oak benches and see if you can find someone to rub your neck. It may hurt like hell for a while but the view is well worth it.

The effect is like looking at the heart of downtown commerce through a fish-eye lens.

Back in the centre of Merchants Mall, you get another chance for a crick in the neck, but worthwhile again.

The trees from Florida are Norfolk pine and fig, about 35 feet high. A fountain plays among them and sends waterfalls rippling down. They won't let you see the controls that operate the fountains but the room in

which they're housed looks like the bridge of a nuclear submarine.

But look up. Past the trees, in to the banking hall. A huge sculpture of 10,000 dangling aluminum rods hangs from the ceiling, 165 feet above your head.

It was designed by Jesus Raphael Soto, a Venezuelan.

Around the perimeter of the ceiling you'll see black tracks like railway lines. And if you're lucky on the day you're looking up, you may see the cage come out carrying the man who rides around changing the light bulbs and cleaning the windows.

At floor level (but still below ground), you'll find about 60 shops to browse in — men's and women's clothing stores, a drug store, bookshop, jewelers, a ticket agency and a travel agency.

And a mini-bank with no tellers. It's connected to the main branch upstairs and you and the teller up there communicate by television. You won't get far if you wear a stocking on your head, wave a pistol and present a note. But the bank says it's just as efficient as dealing face to face.

And, of course, there are restaurants and bars. Just as you come in from the Front St.-Union entrance you'll find the Carrousel, decorated with painted wooden horses like the ones on midway merry-go-rounds.

Farther along are the Mascaron, a dining room decorated with masks, and next to it The Collector, a lounge where tables are inset with semi-precious stones.

There's also The Gallery, a dining lounge that will be open from noon to 7 p.m.

And the whole complex links up with the Royal York Hotel and the T-D Centre by underground walkways. And there are ramps so that wheelchairs can move about any part of the complex and beneath Wellington St. to the T-D Centre.

This week, the City Development Department will recommend to City Executive Committee that a walkway be built under King St. W. to link the T-D Centre with First Canadian Place. If all goes well, that should be open next summer.

Then there are plans for a walkway beneath Adelaide St. W. to connect First Canadian Place and The Lanes beneath the Richmond-Adelaide Centre.

The Lanes already connect to the Sheraton Centre, which already connects to City Hall.

Let it snow. Let it freeze. You have an underground city to play in.