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It helped put millions of dollars into charity and gave work to dozens of youngsters. Landing a job at the Kingsway was a boon to students, who were paid well above the minimum wage.

MP John Nunziata (Liberal-York South) began at the Kingsway when he was 15 and quit 10 years later when he became a York alderman.

"It was a great job," said Nunziata, who attended a weekend staff reunion. "The owners were superb to us. They always believed in sharing the wealth. If the club did well, we did well."

Four more Nunziata family members held jobs at the club at various times.

John Nunziata, now 31, worked part-time as a short-order cook, security guard, painter and cleaner before taking charge of the kitchen.

"I'd work two, three, sometimes four or five nights a week after school," he said.

When Nunziata was a teenager, Weinstock picked him up while he was hitchhiking to another job. He was told that if he ever needed work, to give him a ring. Weinstock made good on the offer and with it Nunziata earned a university education.



PAUL REGAN/TORONTO STAR

Bingo mecca: The Club Kingsway on the Queensway was Metro's premier bingo hall for 27 years until it closed down for the last time Monday night. It will be torn down to make way for condominiums.

On Monday, more than 1,500 bingo lovers packed the Kingsway, its largest crowd in nearly a decade. The club handed out small gifts to the regulars — ashtrays, coffee mugs and lighters.

"After 27 years we felt that we'd like to do something for the people who made us successful," said Weinstock, 54. "It was a really grand night. There were a lot of tears and a lot of hugs."

"You make a lot of friends," he added. "They may not be the

shakers and movers in society, but they're nice, honest people."

Before its booming bingo days, the Kingsway was home to flea markets, car shows, dog shows and some of the biggest weddings in town.

"A lot of people were very upset" when they heard the place was closing, he said. "It was like their home, they felt very comfortable. They'd come hours before the bingo started, play cards, talk about their former husbands,



PAT PAYNE/TORONTO STAR

Loyal player: Florence Beattie, 74, a former post office worker, has spent at least five nights a week for the past 27 years at the Club Kingsway, which closed Monday.

their (medical) operations," he said. "You couldn't chase them out."

The stakes weren't high compared to lottery winnings, but "they just wanted to get away from the TV or the hassles and headaches at home," said Weinstock.

"The hard-core regulars would arrive as early as 11 a.m. to sit in the lobby all day," recalled one former employee. "Bingo games

began around 7.30 p.m., so they would sit for up to eight hours reading the National Enquirer, knitting and arguing about horse races. When the hall finally opened, they would rush to get their regular spots, grabbing places for their friends and setting out their good-luck charms."

Jim Cooper, Toronto-area bingo chairman for B'nai B'rith, said each of about a dozen charities would raise about \$50,000 a year sponsoring bingos.

FoodShare seeks province's help in crusade against hunger in Metro

By Laurie Monsebraaten
Toronto Star

FoodShare, a Metro-wide group that helps gather food for the needy, wants to enlist the province in its crusade against hunger in Metro.

The first step is to collect enough facts on Metro's hungry to convince the province to tackle the shortage of affordable housing, inadequate social assistance payments and the low minimum wage.

"These are the real culprits in the hunger crisis in Metro," said

FoodShare spokesman Marian Smith.

"We are just providing Band-Aid solutions," Smith said. FoodShare needs a running tally of who and how many people seek food assistance in order to push for a long-term remedy of the problem.

Because the group is so busy coordinating Metro's dozens of agencies that provide emergency groceries, food vouchers and meals, it hopes municipal health departments will help gather the needed information.

In the meantime, FoodShare has set up a monthly food drive at Metro-area Loblaws grocery stores

slated for the last Saturday of each month when the need is greatest.

Last month's pilot blitz produced 3,402 kilograms (7,500 pounds) of food (excluding packaging weight), Smith said.

About 50 people have volunteered their services to FoodShare since The Star ran a series of articles about Metro's hungry last weekend, Smith said.

People who want to help are urged to donate non-perishable canned and packaged food at Metro fire stations. The goods will be turned over to FoodShare.

FoodShare's phone number is 861-0311.

Aldermen reminded of powers to control street flower vendors

Metro municipalities don't need any new powers to stop roadside flower vendors from obstructing roads and sidewalks, Metro's deputy solicitor says.

George Rust-D'Eye told a meeting of Metro's legislation and licensing committee yesterday that municipalities already have the power to stop the vendors.

The news came as a surprise to Scarborough Alderman Marilyn Mushinski. She appeared before the committee to ask that Scarborough and other municipalities be allowed to enforce the Metro bylaw against vendors clogging Metro sidewalks — enforcement she says is lacking by Metro offi-

cial or police.

Mushinski said roadside vendors pay few taxes or other business expenses.

But Andrew Paton, solicitor for the Cash and Carry Wholesale Flower Market, said his client pays high taxes and rents.

He suggested forcing vendors to have permits or licences. But Murray Stroud, solicitor for the Retail Florists Association, said his group is opposed to licensing vendors because of the cost and difficulty of policing them.

The committee asked Rust-D'Eye to report back on how Metro could delegate power to municipalities to set up sidewalk permits for vendors.

York, which prides itself on being the "People's University," continued to accept students with lower averages, violating the formula. As a result, Arthurs said York receives only 80 cents on the dollar in grants per student.

York vice-president Sheldon Levy said York is suffering because it lies on the edge of booming York Region, one of the fastest-growing areas in Canada. And at the same time, more high school graduates are choosing to go to York University.

Levy said the number of Grade 13 students making York their first choice has increased 65 per cent since 1976.

Arthurs wants the ministry to funnel more money to York and Brock University in St. Catharines — which is in a similar financial straitjacket — over a three-to-five-year period, to put them on par with the rest of Ontario's universities.

Arthurs also wants universities to be assured a certain grant level as long as they don't sway too far out of range from their current number of students.

Pest firm poisoning birds at highrise

Wild birds are being poisoned legally by a pest control firm at a North York residential highrise, a spokesman for the province's natural resources ministry says.

However, Jim McMullen, a conservation officer, has asked management at 569 Sheppard Ave. W. to see if the pest company can dispose of the birds more discreetly because a number of dead pigeons and crows have been found around the building. Special feeders with poisoned corn kernels have been placed on the roof, says McMullen. He did not name the pest control firm.

McMullen said smaller birds are not in danger because the corn kernels are too large for them.