

Agre funding and is left to carry

Photos by Steve Patriquen

id "the kids are catered to too much they need to be taught independence. by, he said, was sometimes mis-directed aines should be treated equally and no These kids are retarded," he said, "but pid."

aid he predicted training was "on the new era." Other provinces are funding he mentally retarded and there are w Brunswick will make significant sting legislation. inswick Liberal Party in the November, election included in their platform a plan for such services which included i, education and support services. The nservatives, who hold office, have also rest.

aid it was important the retarded were he home as early as possible to acquaint outside world. Other wise, remaining ne for much of their lives would limit cope.

id he was concerned the government le the institutionalization of programs ally retarded the way they were being MR. "We'd like to get a janitor training ny of the boys would make good here are you going to get instructors for

ould like to see governments lay down a am which allow associations like the long-range plans but have public remain in an advisory position. This date flexibility of planning, the hiring of ad expansion of programs.

id that at the centre there were mainly r training. These included the activity rossly retarded, training others in the ills and the world level which includes r which they are paid tokens. These hanged for money each Friday. Some of spend their money while others put it in it at the centre.

eed facilities to learn how to shop, how oney including making change and o telephone and how to measure. "A new etty well a necessity," O'Connell said, one just isn't worth putting any money

are being made with the Fredericton id erecting a new centre. "There's all s we could do," said O'Connell. escribed the centre as part of the "grave" program CAMR has for the rded. He felt that they would be ey had two or three percent out working. n some success with two women hired 's helpers and some men working on action crews or on construction of fence posts.

or three of the men in the carpentry shop job so long as it is well defined and there competition. e are possibilities that these people can es," he said, "we have to face the fact ity of our people will have to be provided of their lives." After 21 there is nothing and some of them go back to the "damn ess.

e only recreation at the centre is a social Wednesday. This is held in the lunch d by the Kiwanis, the Youth Association n Association for the Mentally Retarded, nd parents. One instructor said their eparate recreation facility since "one

shouldn't play where one works." O'Connell invited any students at the University of New Brunswick or St. Thomas University in particular and any individual in general to feel free to take part in these Wednesday night affairs or drop down for a tour of the facilities.

As there is no longer a bowling alley on Fredericton's south side, there is not nearby place to take the clients on an outing.

Another problem faced by the centre involved relations with the board of management which existed before the present one. O'Connell said the board is too large to deal with the centre and their relations should be carried on through a three-member sub-group.

Two teachers at the centre wrote to the Board in November 1973 requesting to be permitted to take courses in special education that were being offered at the University of New Brunswick during summer session. O'Connell in February, 1974, again presented the proposal to the Board. There was no response. These courses were required due to the need for a certificate of endorsement called for by a provincial white paper and an education department ruling that teachers must get these courses within three years of taking the job requiring them. These teachers have until December, 1975, to complete these courses and are not enrolled yet.

Enrolment in the centre drops in the summer and last year these two teachers were teachers six girls. The centre on Mondays and Wednesdays in the summer is not used but because they had not received approval from the board in time, the teachers missed the courses. The education department would have given them a \$200 grant to do so. Last summer was the last year the courses were offered in summer session at UNB.

The board has changed recently and O'Connell said he expected better relations. McDonnell said he hadn't been a member while the upgrading issue was being considered but he said all those involved are volunteers and in most cases there are those who are energetic contributors and those who get involved in so much that they end up overcommitted. For this reason, he said, it might have been possible there was inaction.

McDonnell saw one of the foremost problems of the centre as being unable to organize placements to the most suitable degree. Since it is a training centre, he said, more should be done to get these people out in the world. This comes back to public education, he said. People have to be informed about "the valuable resource that they (the mentally retarded) provide."

McDonnell said he would like to see a placement supervisor working in co-operation with the federal manpower department who could go out and "do the spade work" to get these people jobs.

He said a CAMR project called the satellite Home on Gregg Court where retarded children are accommodated was quite successful despite initial protests by neighbors. This, said McDonnell, indicates the need for public education about mental retardation as opposed to mental illness.

One instructor said "the kids have to do better than average-work and be on better than average behaviour to dispel society's recreation to them."

Public support for centre projects, however, has at times been "fabulous," said the instructor. A sale of the clients' wooden and ceramic goods-produced assembly line fashion-was held Dec. 6-7, 1974, at the Fredericton Shopping Mall. A total of \$1,235 was raised from 1 p.m. Friday to Saturday evening.

This year before Christmas the students at the George Street School raised money and bought a washer for the centre. The centre's staff as well as students collected Dominion Stores Ltd. sales slips until they had \$1,500 worth. Dominion donated a dryer



Centre manager Bill O'Connell displays one project.

to the centre. O'Connell said the washer had been connected but hooking up the washer would involve costly re-wiring not possible right now.

One of the best examples of public support came through the annual medic-media bowl hockey match which has been held in the past few years to raise money for the centre. The doctors and nurses at the Victoria Public Hospital and members of the city media get together to play hockey and the public pays entry. City Council last year refused to donate the ice time but an anonymous donor came through.

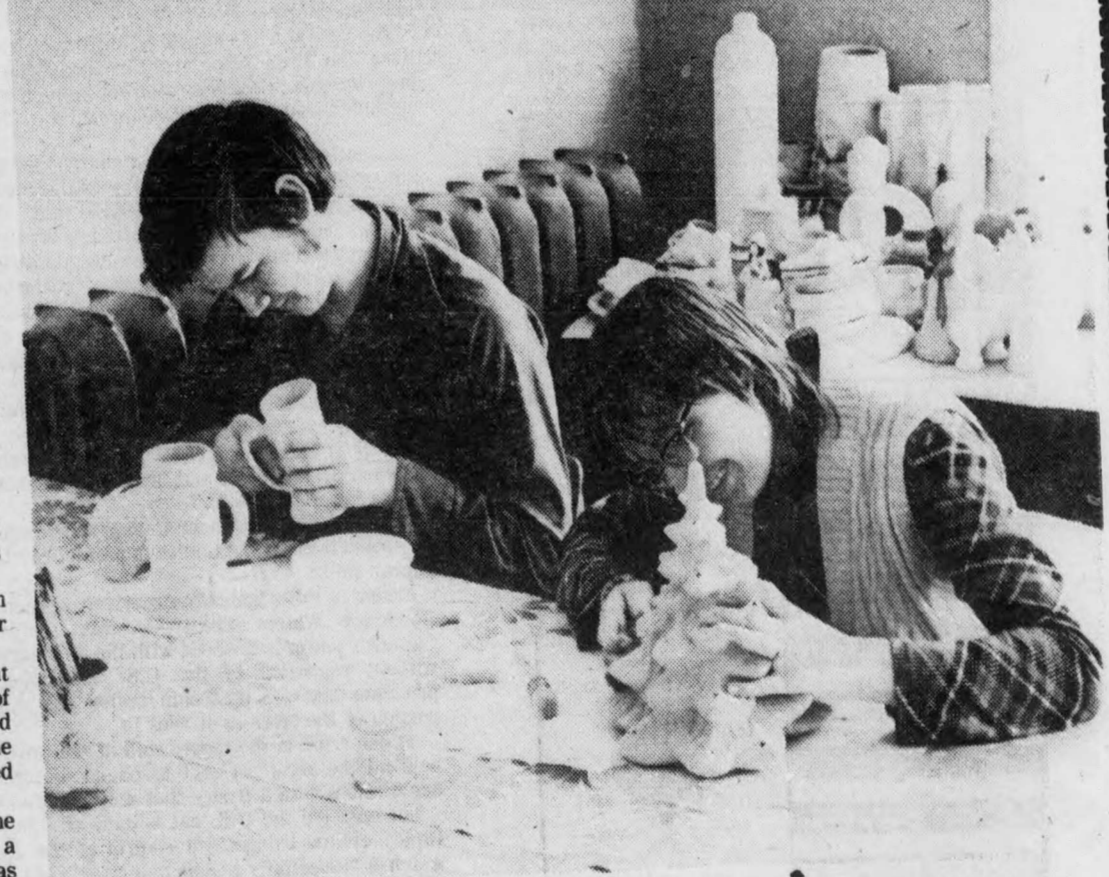
Fredericton police volunteered free patrolling and supervision, city firemen offered their services and Devon Pharmacy donated five door prizes including an electric watch. Approximately \$800 was raised.

The centre does contract work for different people and organization. These include filling claimant kits

for the federal unemployment insurance commission, making paper flowers for the Fredericton Richelieu Club, making stakes and instrument containers for the federal agriculture department and furniture stripping for private citizens. Refinishing is not possible in the old building, since dust settles on surfaces overnight and a proper paint room is needed.

Private donations of \$2,000 were given by two anonymous donors for the first two years to cover the rent of the King St. building.

O'Connell said many clients when they first arrived were wary of going outside running errands. After a few weeks there, however, he found they eagerly looked forward to the prospect of going outdoors. "You have to challenge them and keep working with them," he said.



One of several projects includes ceramics making.