

Council grabs brass ring — saves carousel

Don Wrigley had a good week. After months of organizing an intensive fund raising drive to save the PNE carousel, last week Wrigley managed to convince the carousel's owners, York Hanover, to drop their asking price of \$350,000 by \$20,000.

Then on the weekend, the persuasive president of the society set up to save the antique merry-

go-round, learned that volunteers working at Eaton's Centre in Metrotown had collected more than \$4,000 towards the carousel's purchase price.

Then Monday morning Wrigley learned of a \$7,000 pledge from the George Cedric Metcalfe Charitable Foundation in Toronto as well as a further \$2,000 from the B.C. Jockey Club. Added to earlier contributions, it totalled \$290,000 towards the purchase price.

But none of that could top what happened at council Monday night. With the Sept. 30 deadline fast approaching, as Coun. Derek Corrigan put it, council decided to "grab the brass ring," as it agreed, unanimously to lend the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel \$330,000.

"I strongly believe that if we are able to move the carousel into Burnaby Village Museum, then we will have the impetus to finish the job," Corrigan told council.

Now the carousel, which has thrilled parents and children alike since 1947, will be moved to Burnaby Village Museum and completely restored. It could be up and running in time to help celebrate the municipality's birthday in 1992.

Two weeks ago, Burnaby Willingdon MLA Elwood Veitch brought a \$200,000 Go Grant from the provincial government towards the purchase price.

After thanking council, the ineffable Wrigley reminded them that certain councillors had yet



Volunteer Phil Whitlock and 'Julius' at Eaton's Centre.

Paul Clarke/NOW

NPP13

Carousel touches emotions of our lost youth

Philip Whitlock could not believe it when he heard Playland was getting rid of its antique carousel.

"I used to live by the PNE. I couldn't believe they were even considering letting it leave B.C.," Whitlock said. "I took my sweethearts on it when it (Playland)

By THERESA McMANUS

was Happy Land. I've taken my kids on it, and I hope they'll take their kids on it."

Whitlock, a volunteer for the Lower Mainland Association of the Friends of the Vancouver Carousel, is one of the many individuals who are trying to raise the \$350,000 needed to buy the carousel.

The association has only a few days left to raise the funds or the carousel's owner, York Hanover, will auction off the carousel horse-by-horse.

Association President Don Wrigley said the number of volunteers has grown during the last two months. Volunteers have been setting up pledge booths at the PNE and Lower Mainland malls to encourage people to pledge to the campaign.

"I am very, very delighted with the calibre of

said. "We've had no problem covering the shifts. We have about 20 to 30 volunteers — they've been putting in a lot of hours."

Whitlock has been very supportive of the carousel project, said Wrigley. "Phil Whitlock has been a tremendous help. Anytime we're short of people, he'll jump in."

Whitlock said many people who visit the pledge tables have an emotional attachment to the carousel. "There's a lot of anger that there's any consideration of getting rid of it."

Supporters include people who rode the carousel in their youth and people who are emotionally involved with horses, Wrigley said. "It's the emotion there — the emotion is coming out."

The association is trying to save a carousel which has been located at the PNE since at least 1947. It is one of two carousels in North America built before 1920.

Said Whitlock, "If it ever left, people would regret it. It's a piece for B.C. and the Lower Mainland. Just about everybody has taken a ride on it at one time or

