



# NEWS

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WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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## SEWELL GETS SSJT HOUSES

Meridian Development Corporation and Alderman John Sewell have reached agreement on the rental of houses in the South of St. Jamestown area. Two weeks ago, Philip Roth, a director of Meridian challenged Sewell to be the landlord of houses in the area, since Sewell and residents in the area objected to Meridian's needless demolition of houses which it owns.

The challenge has been accepted. Beginning September 1st, Sewell will be renting some 15 houses on Ontario and Bleeker Streets, between Carlton and Wellesley. Meridian has stated that it will give Sewell up to 200 houses in the area if things work out with the first 15. The lease provides that Sewell pay Meridian \$125 per month per house; the lease runs on a two-month basis, and can be renewed or cancelled by either party. Sewell is responsible for repairs, but a term of the agreement provides that if notice is given before August 1971, Sewell will recover a pro-rated portion of the repairs made. The agreement further provides that if Sewell does not give vacant possession when requested after 60 days' notice, he must pay Meridian \$100 per day per house.

Sewell has stated that he hopes all decisions regarding

management, repairs, rents and tenants will be made by a group of local residents. In a few months it is hoped that the community can become an incorporated co-operative, completely running itself.

Several meetings have been held between Sewell, John Whitelaw (an organizer who has worked in the area for the past year, and the person who will be working directly for Sewell with the people), and local people. It has been decided that rents must be high enough to cover the cost of repairs for the houses (estimated at a cost of approximately \$400 per house), and that there will be one person in every house who will be responsible for the day-to-day management of that house. In this way adequate controls will ensure that the area will not start deteriorating either in the condition of dwellings or the destructive tendencies of tenants. At the moment it appears that rents can be reduced by a third, still leaving enough money to make repairs. Sewell and the people are hopeful that this experiment will in fact be successful, and will show that there is no need for developers to allow areas to deteriorate, and that in fact people become more responsible when they become their own landlords. The next few months will tell.



Seven News Photo by Dallard Runge

Two of the Meridian-owned houses in the South of St. Jamestown area to be leased to Alderman John Sewell as of September 1st and renovated for tenant-controlled occupancy at reduced rents.

## O.H.C.— New Leases, Police Force?

by Jerome Murray

The Citizens Forum met at City Hall with members of various organizations on Tuesday August 18th. On the agenda were the new O.H.C. leases and the proposed police force for Ontario Housing Projects.

One plus point of the new leases is the fact that the maximum rent for a working tenant, for one year, is set in the lease. This means that the rent can go down for various reasons, but it cannot be raised if, say, the tenant gets a raise. This seems like a step forward. A point that raised some tempers at the meeting was the clause stating that O.H.C. could break the lease if tenants were found guilty of committing illegal or immoral acts on the premises. While there was no quarrel with the "illegal" part, it was felt by some that O.H.C. should not presume to decide on what was moral or immoral for its tenants.

Another problematical aspect of the leases are the repair clauses. In the first part of the lease O.H.C. states that they will keep all buildings and apartments in good repair. But it appears from the second part of the lease that the tenants shall be responsible for paying the cost of said repairs, whether due to normal wear and tear or not. This is unacceptable. You could be charged for a broken elevator or main door in a building when the fault is not yours. You could be charged for new linoleum on the floor whether you needed it or not. Various other sections go from the inhumane (such as animals and birds shall not be kept in apartments) to the nonsensical (such as no objects on window sills and no election

posters). God Himself could not live in Ontario Housing without breaking the lease.

Regarding the new lease for O.H.C. tenants. Chairman, Joseph McDonald, of the Community Booster Club, stated, that this lease was a violation of the Landlord Tenant Act. Fred Sheridan pointed out that this lease was eighteenth century thinking, that Democracy also

meant fair play on both sides, and not slanted in favour of the landlord. In the course of the discussion, which was some times heated, John Jobin said, "that sections of the new lease were difficult for the average person to understand." Former Controller Margaret Campbell agreed with this, pointing out that no one should sign a lease

(cont'd p. 3 col. 1)

## HOUSING STANDARDS TO BE ENFORCED IN DON VALE

On August 26th, City Council made some far-reaching decisions regarding Don Vale, the area bounded by Parliament Street, St. James Cemetery, Riverdale Park and Gerrard Street.

Most important, Council decided to begin enforcing the full housing standards by-law on all houses in the area. These standards have not been enforced for the last six years in this area, and because of the previous uncertainty, many owners now find that they have considerable work to do on their houses to bring them into compliance with the by-law.

Two associations in the area asked that these standards be enforced only against absentee owners since they felt it is the absentee-owned properties which have blighted the area. Further, they feel that many owner-occupiers, particularly those on pension, will be forced to sell, not being able to afford costly repairs. For such owners, the Don Vale Residents Association requested that grants and loans be provided for those repairs. Council, however, refused

to support Jaffary's motion asking that these standards only apply to absentee owners.

The Don Vale Tenants Association asked for protection for tenants. Their argument was that absentee owners would charge the tenants for the repairs by raising rents, and that the only way to protect tenants would be to institute a policy of rent supplement, or by providing security of tenure or rent controls. Council refused to take any action to protect tenants.

As it stands, the decision to enforce full standards on all owners runs counter to the wishes of all residents' groups in the area, as well as the strongly stated position of the two ward aldermen.

It is uncertain when housing inspections will take place, but it seems owners will be given adequate notice, and that inspectors will make appointments with individual owners. There will be a two-year time limit on compliance with the full standards, although this may be extended by the Housing

(cont'd p. 5, col. 4)

## HEDGING ON Y SITE?

The Riverdale Community Organization is becoming more and more wary of what the YMCA plans to do with the Broadview Y property.

On August 24th, RCO met with Robert Bradley, Executive Director of the YMCA. Mr. Bradley was not at all clear about what the Y is doing, and whether or not it will involve local people in the planning of any development.

For instance, Mr. Bradley attempted to deny his statement, made in an earlier letter, that the Y was going to seek rezoning from the City so that 400 to 500 apartment units could be built on the site.

He stated that plans were still not drawn up, but that he and Mr. Labbatt, another of the Y officials, only had a "concept" for the area. This concept included Senior Citizen and limited dividend apartments, a community centre and a few stores.

But when pushed by the 50 people at the meeting, he said that plans were not yet drawn up, and that nothing would be on paper before the end of September, at which time the

RCO would be consulted — in spite of the fact that the Board of Directors of the Y would be approving the whole thing on September 10th. In other words, he played the cat and mouse game which all developers play.

RCO is strong in what it wants to see for the area. It wants "an artificial rink, indoor-outdoor swimming, an educational and community facility, a good restaurant, locally owned shops, a market; in short, a development that would enhance and alter life in the neighbourhood." And if they keep pushing the Y, and get enough people together, they will undoubtedly get the Y to do what they want.

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# POLLUTION - WARD 7 STYLE

by G. Jeffrey

Pollution! Everyone is talking about it — the papers are full of it, the kids are demonstrating against it, and all the time it gets worse. Serious as the problem is, only very few are taking it seriously — seriously enough to try and do something about it.

A few basic facts. The one kind of pollution we cannot avoid is air pollution. We have to breathe the air, no matter what is floating around in it, no matter how harmful it could be. And so the poison gets into our eyes, our noses, our lungs, even our bloodstreams. Eyes water, noses are irritated, we choke and cough, and internal damage can be even worse. Pollution causes chronic bronchitis, all kinds of respiratory ailments, and in very extreme cases, death. And aside from these very serious effects on our health, there are other factors to consider.

Air pollution affects visibility, and so becomes a hazard to all kinds of transportation. It causes most of the grime and dirt in cities. Air pollutants also abrade, corrode, erode, tarnish, weaken and discolour materials of all varieties, from building materials to the clothes you wear. And you pay — for the accidents, for new materials and for more expensive materials that will not be affected as much, for cleaning, and for keeping yourself healthy.

And what about Ward Seven? What is the situation here?

Ward Seven is one of the most polluted areas in the city. Containing many heavy industrial areas, it suffers most heavily from sulphur dioxide fumes. And the evidence is considerable that this pollutant aggravates existing respiratory diseases in humans, and contributes greatly to their development in the first place. There is also the carbon monoxide from car exhausts during the very heavy rush hours in this area, but until there is either a better car, or a better transportation system, not too much can be done about that.

It is industry that is most responsible. One of the biggest offenders in the Ward seems to be the big Ingleheart Plant, a metal plating outfit situated on King Street between Sumach and River Streets. Every day for hours it spews forth great big yellow clouds of sulphur dioxide, and has been doing it for years. The area around it is black and grimy, the streets covered with a fine black dust, the houses depressingly dirty, and the people look tired and defeated.

Peggy Sprecht, who runs a small boutique on Queen Street, just in front of the plant, has become very bitter in the past few years. "Some days it rains ashes — great big hunks of them — for hours and at night I can smell the fumes. And it's so hard to keep the place clean." Her husband, a policeman, says he would gladly even spend a day in jail if it would get some action, but feels it would be useless. "We call the people at Pollution Probe all the time but nothing is ever done about it. Once they

came and took a look but just then the wind changed and all the smoke blew the other way — so they said we didn't have a problem. And not enough people complain because this area is full of transients who leave when they can't take it any more. Others don't care or don't believe they have any rights or they are afraid to get in trouble with the authorities." He is disgusted with the whole thing, but they have paid off their mortgage and are going to stay. "Why should we back down for people like that?"

Down the street is an antique store run by Mr. Broderick. He too, is bitter. "The yellow gas just comes pouring out — sometimes we can't even go out into our backyards, it's so bad. It really gets to you — you can feel it in your throat. But it is owned by an American company; they are very wealthy. No way anything will be done about them." The Sprechts had brought up this point too, adding that "they can afford all the fines they want." Across the street the men in Don Auto Parts shop complain that "on most days you can't even breathe in here unless the door is closed."

Apparently something is supposed to be done about it. At least there have been vague promises of equipment that will alleviate the problem, but until now it has only been talk — nothing much has been done in

## Meat Packer Agrees to Install Drain

by John Sewell

The fight between residents of Grant Street, and Sunnybrook Meat Packers on Queen Street near Grant, has been openly going on for the past five months.

Sunnybrook employees wash out their trucks in a lot behind the store. The lot has no drainage, and thus the dirty water, often blood coloured, runs over the sidewalk and onto the street.

Residents of Grant Street decided to take action in May. They invited the owner of Sunnybrook to several meetings, and when he would not attend, they picketed his store. In the face of the picketing, he agreed to meet with them, and look after the problem. But nothing was done.

Finally, after constant pressure from local residents, the City administration got involved, and asked Sunnybrook to clean up the mess. This week, Sunnybrook has taken definite action, and plans are underway to build a proper drain.

It has been a long time coming for residents of Grant Street. But their persistence has paid off, and by community action they have received a positive answer to one of their major demands: clean streets and sidewalks.

concrete terms and the people continue to suffer.

Then there is the Sani Seal factory on Berkeley and Dundas Streets. Big, black smoke billows forth regularly, and what it may contain is open to speculation, but certainly nothing good. But Sani Seal does most of its billowing at night when not too many people can see it and so there are fewer complaints. Perhaps when you cannot see it, it cannot harm you??? John Sewell, Alderman for Ward Seven, has been to see the manager of the plant, but nothing has come of it. The smoke still spews forth.

The Hearne Plant near the Toronto Harbour has long been one of the biggest problems of the area. They were throwing sulphur dioxide into the air too — in the amount of 80,000 tons a year. People's complaints finally drove them to do something — they built a bigger smokestack. So now the pollution gets dispersed higher up. Now they are talking about converting to natural gas, since gas is a much cleaner burning fuel (they are presently using coal with a high sulphur content, as this is a cheap fuel). In fact there has been a rumour that they are going to have a natural gas pipeline coming down the Don Valley from Markham, to feed the plant. But this would be a very expensive operation, and probably not too much will come of it.

These are but some of the main offenders in the vicinity, enough to illustrate what is happening around us. Something needs to be done, and soon.

# R.P.C.I.A. HIRES NEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

The Regent Park Community Improvement Association has tentatively hired a new community organizer. He has been selected from half a dozen applicants for the job by the unit representatives, representing most buildings in Regent North and South.

The person hired is Bruce Arnold. He is married, with three children, and lives in the east end, on Galt Avenue. He was born in Toronto in 1937, and brought up in the west end.

This is Mr. Arnold's first job as an organizer. He received training in both Kitchener and the USA in public speaking, basic child psychology, journalism and religion. He has done evangelistic work for churches in both Toronto and Markham, and has spent too much of his time working with teenagers. His feeling is that that type of work has provided him with a good background for community work, although he does not see his position in Regent Park as in any way having religious overtones.

Mr. Arnold feels that his job has two aspects: firstly, to help the community identify its needs, and then go after

solutions to those needs. He will attempt to get as many people as possible involved in this process, and he hopes that community people will take leadership roles in response to the various issues that arise. He does not intend to play a leadership role himself, but would rather act as a catalyst for people in the community to get moving themselves. In his opinion, normal channels should be pursued in an attempt to get solutions, but if those channels don't give the results needed, then he feels that other tactics 'as long as they are legal' are valid. The second aspect of the job will be to refer people with individual problems to agencies which can help solve those problems.

Mr. Arnold has been at the job since the beginning of August. He is knocking on the doors of local agencies, and meeting as many local people as possible, so that he can get an accurate feel for the area.

His salary of \$6000 per year is funded through a grant to the CIA from the federal government. The grant, totalling \$180,000 for three years, has two more years to run.

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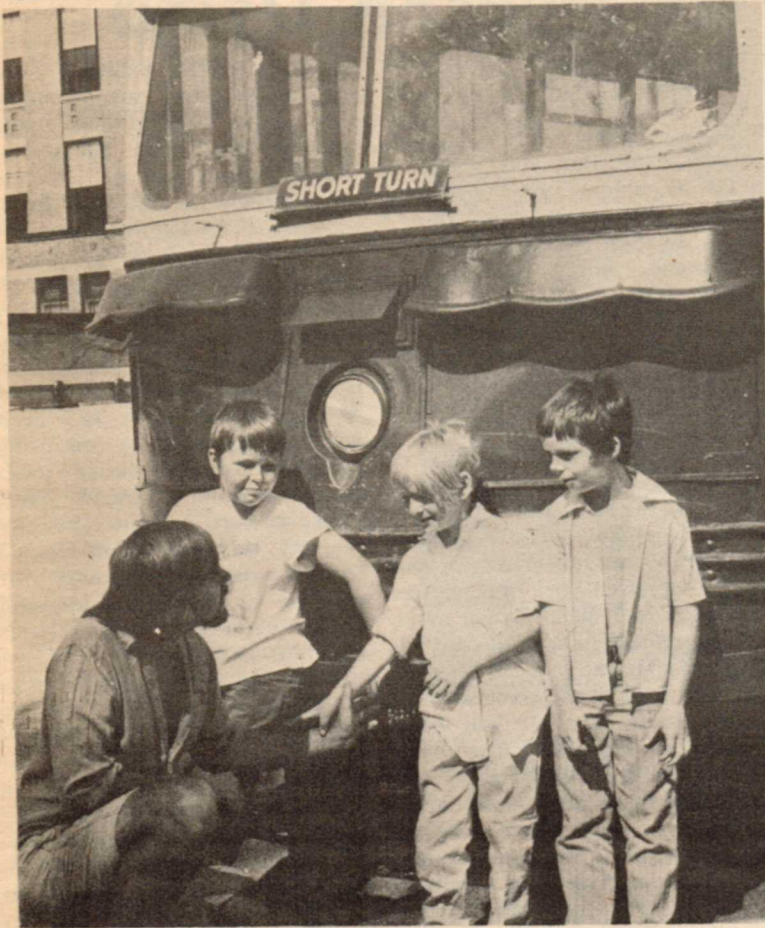
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## SUMMER AT DUKE OF YORK

### All Aboard!



Seven News Photo by Sue Roper

Sean O'hugin converses with some young poets at the Duke of York Summer Arts Program. If they seem poe about the on-rushing streetcar it is because the old girl is permanently de-railed and stationed in the schoolyard.

### O.H.C.

without a lawyer. Alderman John Sewell, who had to leave for another meeting said earlier, "that the lease was unacceptable, in parts."

The Lawyer from the legal department of O.H.C. agreed to meet with the various organizations on September 1st at the Citizens Forum with regards to objectionable parts of the new lease.

O.H.C. is also proposing a special police force for its projects. Apparently the Government has hired a firm of ex-detectives to supply a security guard service, at least some of whom will be plainclothesmen. They are also supposed to act as community relations officers, but the trouble here is that they are not controlled by the community. Should they be seen as friends or as O.H.C. agents?

On the police question Jerome Murray pointed out that "we do not want or need any special police protection. The Metropolitan Toronto Police Force has been cited as one of

the best in North America. If the Government has \$400,000 to spare (which is what the cost of the special force will be), let them give it to the Metro Force. We do not ask or need any special privileges." Members of other organizations pointed out that this is how Hitler started in Germany, with special police forces. Other tenants asked that the next meeting also include organizations outside of Ontario Housing Projects, who also have beefs. This was agreed to.

### Notice

At the last regular meeting of Citizen's Forum August 18, 1970, the new OHC lease and the proposed new special police force came into question. We urge you to attend the next meeting and participate in the general discussion, Tuesday, September 1, 8:00 p.m., new City Hall, Officials of OHC, UDI, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Metro Police, all members of Metro Council, and representatives of tenant, resident and ratepayer associations have been invited.

by Ted Plantos

Duke of York, located on Pembroke St. between Dundas and Shuter is unique in that it was the first inner-city Public School in Toronto.

I spoke to Sean O'hugin and Sandra Taylor on my visit there. Sean, who is a real living Irish Canadian poet, works with the children through the Inner City Angels, in connection with their Summer Arts Program. Sandra Taylor is a volunteer at Duke of York, and a mother of two.

I asked Sean to explain to me who the Inner City Angels were. "Well, they're a private group of people who decided that it was time to send artists, and theatre groups into the schools and expose children to things that they normally wouldn't be exposed to, and employ artists as well."

The summer program covers a wide range of activities, and as Sean explains they do not all have to do with art. One example of this is a recent series of 'Feminars' for the young girls at Duke of York. These 'Feminars' were conducted by people of varying interests that included 'charm and good manners', conducted by Mrs. John Basset Jr., and another on 'good psychiatry and dieting', while psychiatrist Dr. Saul Goldstein held one on 'youth problems'. Sandra attended this with six young girls, but says she did most of the talking. Apparently most of the children did not feel quite right about discussing their home problems with a stranger.

Other activities include the volunteers taking the children on trips to Centre Island, High Park, to the Science Centre, Towne Hall for free film shows, and recently to the Okeefe Centre, where they were given free tickets to see Jose Feliciano.

I asked some of the kids in the gym that day what they thought of Jose's performance. Johnnie and Danny Bakan both thought he was "real good", but Danny, who is an actor in the Play-Group at the school, enjoys it more when he is on stage. The Play-Group is presently working on a play that they will perform for the people at the Fudger Home for the Aged.

In the schoolyard of Duke of York the children have access to an old streetcar that was donated to them by the Toronto Transit Commission. It has been there for four years. During the school year it is used as a woodwork shop, but in the summer it is used for art classes. These are conducted by Paul Scott, an artist. The multi-coloured paintings hanging up in the streetcar offer a strange contrast to the black asphalt yard outside. These classes, under Paul's guidance and instruction, are conducted every week-day throughout the summer, from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

About thirty to fifty children

attend these activities every day. The attitude of the kids in the gym that day was incredible. There was very good communication between the children and the volunteers, and plenty of laughing, joking and jostling about.

Bill Cormier, one of the children, was teasing Sean, who was wrestling with some other kids on the gym mats. He was calling him "a bearded leprachaun" with "a fat ugly beard."

In programs like these where there exists an openness and honesty between the children and the adults working with them there is a freer development of communication, and the sharing of ideas, which is beneficial for all concerned. One of the differences between 'freedom' and 'Licence' is that the former requires a discipline that results from honest communication between people, and the latter does not.

"Gee, I said to Sean, I wish there had been things like this when I was growing up in the area."

Sean, who knows that I write poetry, smiled impishly beneath his beard and said, "Wanna see some of the poems my kids have written?"

"Sure" I said, and with this he opened a folder. I began reading.

Once there was a man  
his head was like a pan  
in the sun  
he likes to have a tan  
that is what he says  
he eats out of cans  
and calls his fans men  
with heads like pan can  
tans and fans

Karen

SKIPPING  
I like girls skipping  
ropes colours  
some are red green pink

Barney Wilson

"Oh, here's another poem by Karen," I said.

Sean loves Karen  
Karen loves Sean

"There aren't too many Canadian poets that write that well", I said, looking through the rest of the folder.

On the subject of parent involvement both Sandra and Sean emphasized the need for more participation of that kind in the program. A lot of energy, imagination and hard work goes into making activities like these successful, and it seems to me a shame that the parents are not participating as volunteers. Apparently Sandra is the only mother who has shown enough interest to become involved.

It also seems to me that there should be more programs that allow the children in our community the opportunity to participate in activities that offer a creative direction for their energies.

## Residents Act to Save Brick Street

by Margaret Haliburton

The one block of Carlton St. between Sumach and the valley is paved in red brick. During the last few years, block meetings have been held in Don Vale, so the wishes of the people could be made known to the politicians. When the Don Vale Urban Renewal Scheme was prepared in 1969 the desire to keep the bricks was noted.

In July 1970, the new storm sewers were laid on Sumach St. and the marks were painted on Carlton St. The residents of this one block inquired of their request, to keep the bricks, was to be honoured. They discovered the Public Works Department knew nothing of this request, and after some calculation, the works dept. came up with a first estimate which involved extra cost.

A group of residents devised an alternate plan, whereby the sewer could be laid under the asphalt parking strip on the north side of the street at a cost equal to that of the city's original plan:

A deputation was made to the Executive Council of the City requesting this alternative be adopted. At this meeting the Executive of Council criticized the works department for not meeting with the citizens, and deferred the matter until such a meeting could be held. We met with Mr. D. Doherty of the Public Works Department and after discussing our alternative with us, he made his report to the Commissioner of Works.

On August 4 we presented a second deputation, the Commissioner of Public Works presented his objections. While all the Executive and the people giving deputations spoke into microphones, Mr. R. Bremner, the Commissioner, spoke quietly and directly to the executive, making it difficult for we in the audience to hear him. However we understood his objections to be: - (1) This request would make our street or area different from the rest of the city. (2) Any work in the future (and I sensed he meant the distant future) could be more expensive. (3) The Executive had to decide on the principle of who should pay for extra costs, if any: the local residents or the city as a whole.

The mayor then asked him, if this is so, why were the brick sidewalks in Rosedale replaced with bricks, instead of conventional material? He replied very quietly that this was a special case and a question of heritage. The Mayor questioned the city solicitor about the legality of charging certain areas for the extra costs of things they request. Karl Jaffary explained that his is already before the City Council to be decided upon in the fall.

Mr. Rotenberg asked if all the owners were aware of, and agreed to, this alternative proposition. After being assured they were, he moved that the matter be re-rendered on the basis of the residents' alternative plan, and that a letter from all the owners involved be presented showing their understanding of the situation. Passed unanimously.

### GET INVOLVED IN THE EXPERIMENT SOUTH OF ST. JAMESTOWN.

John Sewell is taking over houses from Meridian, and turning them over to the community to manage.

Repairs must be made to most of the 20 houses involved. We need help in these repairs, so that costs and rents will be kept as low as possible.

Help bring this area between Carlton, Sherbourne, Wellesley and Parliament back to life.

We need:  
plumbers  
electricians  
handymen  
painters  
people to clean things up.

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## High-Rise Rooming House?

What goes on here? Some of it you'll be able to see and some you can anticipate.

First of its kind, not only to this area but to the whole City, is the Hi-rise roomers apartment to be built on the west side of Sherbourne Street just north of Dundas St. The plans call for a 13-storey building, housing an estimated 220 persons in 20 single rooms for tenants with incomes from \$50.00 to \$70.00 to be rented for \$15.00 per week, and 100 double rooms at \$20.00 per week for people in the \$67.00-\$92.00 per week bracket. Each unit is to be fitted with cooking and sanitary conveniences, with communal washrooms provided for every 5 units. The other shared accommodations would be the Community living room, Tuck Shop and Reading Room in the basement, and a Living Room and Lounge on the ground floor. The project is intended to cater to roomers now in the area, with incomes up to \$2500.00 per year. The question is - How is it possible to assure us that the roomers presently living in the area, in below par quarters, will actually benefit as the new residents?

Being first of its kind poses problems of new categories and regulations. Because of the nature of the building it would include 200 more people per acre than the highest possible density of an apartment development. Normal parking provisions required for apartments could be deleted since 75% of the roomer population do not own cars.

Declaring it a PILOT PROJECT made it possible to pass a Special By-Law to permit the development on the site and to exempt it from the density, parking, and landscaping requirements of the Zoning By-Law. To prevent any rush of applications before they know how it will work, the Council passed a recommendation made by the Planning Board that no specific By-Laws for Hi-rise Roomer Apartments be enacted until this project can be monitored, long enough to find out how it works and just what effect the various exemptions from the general standards of the zoning By-Laws may have on living standards.

There is no argument about the need for adequate accommodation for roomers in this area, but is this the only solution? The only answer from City Hall is that there may be other ways, but no one has come up with them. This is the only legitimate offer. Developers usually aren't interested in producing fixed-income buildings. Hi-rise usually denotes accommodation priced above what the people in the area can manage.

Because this development is to be assisted financially under the Federal Government's "Special Programme" for the development of low income housing and administered through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the developer has to prove that he can construct, finish, and administer the rooming apartment within the fixed rentals proposed. C.M.H.C. must be satisfied that the developer's cost projections are

adequate and though a slight increase in rentals to make the project economically feasible might be considered, a large increase would mean - no loan. Once rental fees are fixed, they cannot be changed without an investigation and the approval of the C.M.H.C. To protect the project should it change hands, it is strongly recommended that the mortgage financing agreement ensure that the developer or his successors in title maintain the low rental character of the project for the entire term of the loan. Passed in Committee and by City Council, final negotiations between the developer, Mr. Fred Braidia, and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation must soon be settled, for part of the original agreement, unless it has been changed, necessitates a start on the construction site by September 15, 1970.

Because of tight regulations and the necessary controls imposed by the government, it is no mystery why there has been no rush by private developers to build low rental houses. Mr. Braidia is the first and only one to tackle the rooming problem. Why? The lessons learned from this first one should produce better ideas and designs for the roomers in the future.

This is the only known negotiation for Sherbourne St. between Gerrard and Dundas Streets. But Mr. Braidia or Mr. Braidia and Associates also control most of the property on the east side of Sherbourne Street and the west side of Seaton Street between Gerrard and Dundas, as well as a sizable portion of the west side of Sherbourne Street at the site of the Roomer Apartment. It would seem inevitable that extensive changes are on the way.

What kind of development can we anticipate? Is the newly planned Roomer-Apartment a small part of some comprehensive development plan? Will the area change so radically that life-long residents are not able to live within it? Who determines our way of life and do we have any say at all as to what happens to us?

As business men, all developers produce what they feel will sell for a profit and that makes sense. Control should come from our representatives but too many at City Hall have the same kind of mentality. Will our city end up designed for a fast buck, or can we find some way to combine the buck and the design for living that we need?

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## How to Adjust to ...

# THE JOYS OF MODERN LIVING

by Jerome Murray

What is wrong with living in apartment buildings?

The word living is what seems to be wrong. To a family living in one or two rooms, an apartment would seem to be a God-send - yet all the apartment offers is an extension of inhuman existence that they have. You can't turn around in the kitchens, but this is called compact - standing in one place, you can open the broom closet, the fridge, the oven, the window, and fill the kettle. The children will never bother you, and your daughters will never learn to cook. You will become an expert at walking sideways. If you have a cat, he will be able to walk backwards as fast as he walks forward, all due to the new narrow kitchens.

Adjoining the kitchen is an area that you will be told is the dining area. Don't let your heart falter - chin up - eyes ahead. Be brave for Canada. You will not have to buy a buffet or a china cabinet, there is no room for them. You will also be convinced that there is no room for a table or chairs, but you will find that your eyes have deceived you, and your minds has not been prepared for apartment living. To place the table in the dining area, you have to put the chairs in place and fit the table over the top of them. To sit down you slide into the space left between the table and the chair. You will soon learn to slide out the same way, especially after you have wrenched your back, smashing it up against the wall and skinning your legs on the edge of the table, by trying to push the chair back and stand up. The smallness

of the table calls for a new code of manners, in that due to no fault of your own you will find yourself eating off of someone else's plate. But you will find that by holding your arms and hands like a whooping crane's neck this problem can soon be overcome. Always sit opposite your wife, especially if you have any young women eating with you, because when you move your head forward the one inch you will be kissing whoever is opposite. However there is an advantage: by lifting a slice of bread to mouth level, two can eat it at the same time. You may have noted how tall and slim our teenagers are: full credit for this can be given to our narrow kitchens and small dining areas. The only way they could grow is straight and tall.

You will now come to the living room area. It will be a space not unlike a clothes closet. Your heart will thump, but remember, each must stand ready, aye ready, sir, to serve the economy. Now even the modern living room must have furniture, chesterfield, chair, T.V., floor lamp, coffee table, ash tray, and perhaps a flower. You will say, "how can it be fitted in?" But remember the dining table and chairs. If you are sitting in the living room reading a book and someone walks in, lift your feet seat-high and draw them in, or learn to sit with your feet folded under you. Otherwise you will trip your guests. Once two or three guests are sitting, you must take care, if you move your foot one to two inches, not to be charged with playing footsie. By moving the foot two inches coffee table will be shifted, knocking over glasses, cups, or

ash tray. At this point someone will always jump up, knocking over coffee table. Other guests will try and jump backwards, though unable to do so. One guest will always grab floor lamp, to keep from falling forward - he will fall forward over coffee table, driving lamp through T.V. picture tube. Meanwhile other two guests will be found fallen over first guest on floor. Or, having jumped up on chesterfield or chair, some guests have been noted to have jumped from living room to top of dining room table, but these are usually smart alecks or very nervous types. By the way, sideways shuffle learned in kitchen very handy for entering or leaving living room area, otherwise shin plasters recommended.

With regards to bedrooms in apartment buildings, Mr. Trudeau said, "the nation has no right in the bedroom." He may rest assured the nation will not be in the bedroom of apartment: it is hard enough for two people. Bedroom furniture is put in room same as dining area. Front of bed placed tight against door opening; by climbing over front of bed valuable space can be saved, allowing room for one night table, (to save arguments about using night table, best for couple to rotate sleeping positions or come to agreement and pass false teeth and glasses as requested).

If wife and husband are tall, dresser can be placed on top of cedar chest: if short, cedar chest can be placed on front of bed. Some couples use bunk beds, claiming they are practicing birth control. I don't think anyone

(cont'd p. 6, col. 1)

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## A Visit To C.N.H.

by Martti Walker

The Central Neighbourhood House — what is it? I did not know, so I started a small personal survey and soon discovered I was not alone in my ignorance.

"Why, just what is it?"

So I dropped into the Central Neighbourhood House (CNH) which is located on Sherbourne Street opposite Allen Gardens. There I spoke with the director, a Miss Rowles.

I found her to be a warm, friendly person who was most patient, especially after I explained that I was not a reporter — proper.

Well from her and from looking around I found what seemed to be a very well-run day school which seemed to specialize in the very young citizens.

To call it a school seems to do the house an injustice. The youngsters I found there were having a good time wearing out their workers.

The rooms the house contained were play-rooms, geared for tots and ones that seemed designed for older people (e.g. there was a pool table); there was also an enclosed outside playground on a second-floor roof.

Along with the activity going on in the house while I was there, I learned also that for five days of the week, at nine in the morning, children were picked up at the house and taken to the Toronto Island for the day. They returned to the house at four in the afternoon. This goes on for six weeks during the summer.

But back to the house. Sooner they will be leaving it and they will certainly be leaving many memories.

It is believed that the man who built Casa Loma, Mr. Pallett, used to live in this house

## Tiny Tots at Dixon Hall



Photo Courtesy of Dixon Hall

There were many new happenings at Dixon Hall this summer. Along with a variety of exciting activities for children 6-12 years, teens, adults, and Senior Citizens, there was a Tiny Tots programme. Concerned mothers in our community came up with the idea of a programme to keep small children (2-5 years) off the streets. It was known as the Tiny Tots Community Project and ran five days a week all summer. It consisted of an activity programme combined with an outdoor play

and possibly had it built.

He house was bought, named and used as the Central Neighbourhood House in 1928.

But the new house is soon to be opened (September hopefully). The new house is situated on Ontario Street between Gerrard and Dundas Streets.

This house is designed for the type of work the C.N.H. does and after looking over the plan of objectives for the new house, I know it will not be long before this new house will start to collect its own memories.

Miss Rowles is hoping that the house will take a role in beginning to help the people of

the district to settle. In other words to persuade landlords to make their homes more suitable for the raising of families, then the C.N.H. would guide families to these homes. Miss Rowles is hoping perhaps to have some hand in controlling rents.

Miss Rowles is also hoping to be able to set up activities for the young adults of the area. Many teenagers and young parents would like to enjoy the company and friendship found when there is a place to play cards or a game of pool, or perhaps to join some sort of creative class.

Of course the nursery school will be continued.

A program close to Miss Rowles is one designed to help youngsters who come to Ward Seven from rural areas where the schooling and general way of life is simply not the same as in downtown Toronto. Special tutoring would help these children settle in more quickly and in many cases make it possible for a child to remain in school in a class of his own age group.

This form of help is sadly needed and Miss Rowles is to be congratulated on her not only

recognizing the problem but for being so interested in it. There will be many young lives who will benefit by it.

Thanks to a core of hardworking mothers we feel that these goals were realised. However the need remains great for a Day Care Centre in our area. After a successful summer we can only hope that the fall will be as exciting.

## Don Vale

Inspection Department.

The second important decision made was to lift urban renewal designation from Don Vale. In essence, this means that after all the mistreatment this area has received in the past years, Council will not compensate in terms of local improvements. In short, Don Vale will be treated the same as any other area of the City, just as though its situation over the last ten years had never existed.

This action by Council is the latest in a long series of setbacks for the people of Don Vale. After urban renewal was unwillingly forced on them, the residents set to work to develop an urban renewal plan which would suit their needs, only to see that plan be rejected by the city. When the residents tried to start a community centre in the area, with initial financing by the Federal government (at no cost to the City), they found that the City killed that too.

## Just Society Plans Day Care Centre

by Norman Browne

Since its early beginnings, the Just Society had seen the need for Day Care Centres in Toronto and contemplated setting one up when they had the means and manpower to do it. Shortly after the opening of the George Street Welfare Rights Office, a committee of dedicated people formed and began actively working toward the establishment of a Co-operative Day Care Centre for the Don District.

Their first action was to canvass the Churches and agencies in the area for a site for such a Centre but these efforts proved unsuccessful. They next wrote the Summer Committee of the Board of Education and asked to appear as a delegation to seek a school site for both a temporary and permanent centre.

Since they appeared on the supplementary agenda of the Board's meeting, they were only able to talk to the matter of a temporary site but the Board did grant them the use of Sprucecourt School for a period of five weeks until the school opens in September and they have made use of that site.

Meetings were held with residents in the area at the school to discuss the concept of a co-operative centre, and the centre opened initially on a five-day a week basis. This has since been cut back to three half days a week due to lack of volunteers to man the centre. The Sprucecourt Centre, it was realized, was largely an experimental operation and it was seen that a hard core of both children and dedicated volunteers were needed. It was also discovered that two separate methods had to be used with the children because of their wide age range.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Mike Mears, Diane Mason, and Diane Sidd again appeared before the Summer Committee of the Board of Education to present a proposal for a permanent Day Care Centre site in the former annex of Parkway Vocational School at 349 George Street.

After some attempts to block the idea, a motion by Trustee William Ross was passed by the committee. Under the terms of the motion, the Just Society will have the use of the building for a two year period starting the 1st of January 1971. The Just Society will pay a nominal rent plus all maintenance, upkeep and taxes. They will also have to pay for all renovations necessary to meet the standards of the Day Care Centre Act.

The motion has to go before the full board for ratification at its first meeting in September but Michael Mears, a spokesman for the Day Care Centre group was optimistic that it would be passed.

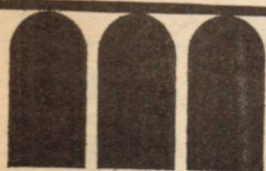
With the first hurdle passed, the group now plan to canvass the area to be served by the new building, pass out information leaflets, and hold block meetings. "We were reluctant to approach people until we had something concrete to offer them," said Mr. Mears. "Now that it looks like we have a building, we intend to talk to the people in the area and involve them as much as possible."

Mr. Mears added that they will also be approaching foundations and private donors for money to pay for the expense of the centre.

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## What's Noo at the Zew?



Above is Bonnie, the lion cub who lives with the keeper, Mr. Southam and his family, at the Riverdale Zoo, where she was born about 2 months ago. To the right is Peter, the baby moose giving Mr. Southam a little exercise in his



Seven News Photos by Charlotte Sykes

side yard. Peter was found up north by a ranger and sent to the zoo for safe keeping. At present, neither Bonnie or Peter are on display; they will have to leave the zoo because there is not enough

room for them now. But perhaps when some of the larger animals have been transferred to the new zoo, part of the Riverdale Zoo can be turned into a kind of nursery for young animals.

## Wood Green Schedule

by Vern Burnett

Below is a portion of the very full schedule of activities and services offered at the WoodGreen Centre. More to follow in the next issue!

**Day Nursery:** The Day Nursery provides day care for pre-school children whose parent(s) work during the day. This service is available Monday through Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The children are fully supervised by a qualified staff and receive a hot meal at lunch time. A fee is charged according to the ability to pay. Unfortunately, there is a long waiting list for accommodation. There are presently 50 children attending.

The nursery is large and airy, it has a model child-size kitchen for play, cots for rest periods, an attractive dining room, and a fully equipped outdoor play area.

It will be a happy day when nurseries of this type are spread out across Metro.

**Recreation Services Department:** This department provides programmes of an educational, recreational and social nature on a membership basis for youth, adults and senior citizens.

**Youth Programmes:** Programmes are designed to accommodate the "ages and stages" of youth. (These times will be in effect after the summer program is over):

After school (4.00 to 5.30 p.m.), Saturdays (10.00 a.m. to noon), for Fidgets - 4-5 years; Midgets - 6-8 years; Juniors - 9-10 years.

Evenings (7.00 to 9.00 p.m.), Saturdays (1.00 to 4.00 p.m.), for Middlemen - 11-12 years; Seniors - 13-14 years; Grads - 15-17 years.

Some of the activities available are leadership training, cooking, sewing, arts and crafts, woodworking, sports, dancing and clubs.

**Adult Programmes:** Adult members are 18 years of age and over. Programmes are geared to the interests of the members. Bowling, sports, euchre, sewing, etc. Our adult lounge is open from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. If you wish to drop in and relax, watch T.V., etc.

**Senior Citizens' Programmes:** Club programmes are available to the over 65 set, and "Friendly Visits" can be arranged for shut-ins. For further information Phone: 461-1168.

**Detached Youth Services** The Detached Youth Services Department is concerned with helping boys and girls with problems, be they related to school, family or whatever.

**Talk Shop:** This is a referral service which accepts juveniles on referral primarily from the Youth Bureau of the Metro Police Dept. at a pre-court level and involves them in a specialized programme developed to meet the individual needs of each youngster.

**Outreach:** Some youngsters have made certain street-corners and housing developments their meeting places as they do not wish to participate in any organized activities or find suitable services unavailable. "Outreach" programmes such as drop-ins and pocket-shops are a major concern of this department in attempting to meet previously unmet needs.

### Modern Living

should lie when they don't have enough space. If you have a double bed and must use the bathroom at night, wake husband or wife. This is better than tramping on them when you are climbing down front of bed.

With regards to the space in bathrooms, you may sit on the toilet seat, soak head in sink, (especially on the morning after the night before) with feet soaking in bathtub, or you can stand in the bathtub and soak your feet, while shaving at the sink. There may be other advantages to living in the modern economy apartments, I am sure the readers can tell of more.

## ZOO COMMITTEE FORMS

by Patricia King

There is growing concern among residents in Ward 7 about what will happen to the Riverdale Zoo site when the zoo is relocated in 1973. Bramalea has expressed a desire to obtain the site for construction of a domed stadium. The Toronto Humane Society would like to use the site to house their present operations along with a "lollipop zoo" for children. Given the shortage of parkland in Toronto, there is considerable doubt about the desirability of either alternative. Many people would prefer to see the site preserved as an integral part of Riverdale Park with improved recreational facilities for children.

As member of the City Parks and Recreation Committee, John Sewell originally requested that representatives from Ward 7 be allowed to sit on the committee that decides the fate of the Riverdale Zoo site. Although his request was denied, the Parks and Recreation Committee did agree to hear comments from a committee representing the people of the area.

On July 1st, a letter was sent to community organizations in the Riverdale Park area inviting them to participate in the election of a Riverdale Zoo site committee and on August 18, a meeting was held at which the following officers were elected: Chairman - Allan King, Vice-Chairman - Drew Simmie,

Recording Secretary - Diana MacArthur, Corresponding Secretary - Patricia King, Treasurer - Bruce Arnold. adjoing neighbourhoods would be canvassed for an expression of their wishes.

At the meeting it was agreed that a careful study would be made of the role in Ward 7 of the Riverdale Parkland, with special emphasis on the Riverdale Zoo site. It was also agreed that An open meeting of the executive is planned for the month of September.

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# Letters

Millions of dollars are spent on Reports by Federal, Provincial, and City Governments. Who listens?

We have a strange case in Ward Seven. On April the sixth, 1970, the Social Planning Council in a report headlined front page in the Newspapers, warned of the danger of a ghetto to the 45,000 residents of downtown Toronto Eastside. In a 185 page report, the council called for a slowdown in public and private developments until the human problems that they create are solved. The top redevelopment priority should be conservation of existing neighbourhoods, the report says.

The City of Toronto in Planning Board City in 1965 in the Don District Appraisal, that this area was structurally sound - yet we find these reports mean nothing, nor do the wishes of the people mean anything to money grasping slumlords or their ilk in the political field. Living cities, with happy people in short, good community, is superceded by the money bloodsuckers.

The mystery of mysteries is this: Meridian Property Management receives a grant from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to build a skyscraper apartment building on Homewood Avenue. Now here we have a branch of the Federal Government that is supposed to be a leader and a model agency. But we find C.M.H.C. completely ignoring the reports and the wishes of the people that common sense would indicate should be listened to. These are mistakes that will cost millions of actual dollars in the future to correct, to say nothing of the cost in human degradation and misery.

We think Alderman

Rotenberg, the great manipulator of city hall, should weigh developers' money versus the wishes of the people - people do remember, especially at election time, when they mark their X on the ballot.

Jerome Murray

Dear Editor

An item in Ward 7 News was of particular interest to me - a new rent scale for O.H.C. I have been working for better rents since 1962, which have improved somewhat over the years here in Regent Park.

I am sorry to say that until 1969, I received no support on rents from the people of Regent Park. Then people started to complain about high rents and other matters of concern on the TV, press, and radio. They started to get off their rear ends and do something constructive, which the former executives on the R.P.C.I.A. can be justly proud of.

Two items that appeared in the July issue of the Regent Bell are without foundation or justification: the articles by Mr. Boudy and Mr. Woodgate. We the people can run a housing project if the time comes to do so. And the grant has helped us in many ways to become the kind of leaders the community expects. As to destroying the R.P.C.I.A., and in no way is this a thinkable thought. The Tenants' Association will serve the tenants, and no other body or group interest. The people that are members can vouch for this - the record speaks for itself. Those that can't do the job will have to step aside and let those who can represent the residents. It rests with the people to decide the issues and problems, and to put their two cents worth in where it belongs

if they want a better Regent Park. Do more than complain. Start damnwell participating for a better environment and support those who are going to improve the area, or suffer the consequences of defeat.

Yours truly,  
Fred Sheridan  
Former Executive Recording Sec'y R.P.C.I.A.

p.s. When we lost Brenda Gorman we lost a good social worker and a true humanitarian - without cause or justification. Another example of man's inhumanity to man. And 2/3 of the membership were denied a vote. A petition has gone out for her reinstatement. No new organizer should have been hired until this matter was straightened out. The present executive have a lot of explaining to do in this matter to the people.

TO THE EDITOR,

As chairman of the Community Booster Club, I would like to ask on behalf of our members, for the support of all local organizations and citizens to approach the Toronto Board of Education with regards to a swimming pool and other community facilities being built into the new proposed school for Oak Street; a meeting will be held on this matter in the near future. We now have the backing of Aldermen John Sewell, Karl Jaffary, and Gerald Tooke, Private Secretary to Donald S. Macdonald, M.P. We have a promise of co-operation from School Trustees Cressey and Scott. Thanking you,

Yours truly,  
Joseph McDonald  
Chairman of the C.B.C.

## CHANTELLE JEWELLERS

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## St. Jamestown Swings

by Pat Packer

Well, swingers of St. Jamestown it has now been proven - you really do swing.

According to the Don District Study produced for the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, the residents of the St. Jamestown area lead the gayest life in all of the Don District.

The report starts out by quoting Cameron Darby in Toronto Life, May, 1968, who says St. Jamestown is the "place where Love makes the World Go 'Round and Sex makes the elevators run". Note: there must be a lot of times when sex is not an activating force, in view of the many elevator breakdowns reported.

You like the outdoors, apparently, because the study says you make use of the parks around Toronto.

Fifty per cent attend movies once or twice a month, and 10 per cent attend six or more times per month. Thirty per cent attend athletic events, varying from once to six times per month.

The largest percentage, over three-quarters of those interviewed, participate in the sport of elbow-bending, making good use of the beverage rooms in the area.

Living in St. Jamestown means your social contacts are more likely to be with friends and neighbors than with relatives. Thirty per cent of the respondents visited friends at least weekly.

It's not likely that you're a church-goer, either. Only 23.4 per cent of the St. Jamestown folk indicated some degree of participation in the church.

The report made a study of the shopping habits of the area, noting that for food and confections most residents shop close to home. But when it's time for new threads, you head for the downtown shops. To get you, St. Jamestown swinger?

downtown, 30 per cent used cars, 33.3 per cent used TTC, and the rest of you walked.

Most (83.3 per cent) are satisfied with the area, but still, 66 per cent think it's too noisy and 30 per cent think it's a bit dangerous. And 33 per cent of those interviewed were planning to move during the coming year.

"Getting to Know You" could be a good theme song for the area, as 23 per cent said they knew one to five people and 37 per cent knew over ten of the local residents. You're friendly folks - 77 per cent found it was easy to meet people in St. Jamestown. Maybe that has something to do with the density of population.

You must be healthy in your hi-rises, in that health was not a significant problem for the residents of the area. The problems most frequently mentioned were related to marriage and/or sex, along with other kinds of personal problems. And you are more likely to talk about these problems with your spouse or your friends.

You are in the know about what goes on around Metro, as the report said St. Jamestown residents were more aware of city plans for the district than were other respondents in the Don area. Generally, you learned about these plans through the media.

For all the modern tendencies, you must have some nostalgia, because two thirds of the respondents favored restoration of old houses over demolition of same.

The gist of the report would seem to re-inforce the claim that St. Jamestown is a city within itself, a place where a tenant can meet most of his social and recreational needs without having to leave the boundaries of the complex.

Well, does all that describe downtown shops. To get you, St. Jamestown swinger?

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## Ward 7 Sports Round-up

By Joe Ganny  
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Aug. 13 at Regent Park: This was an unlucky day for Shoppers Drug Mkt as they were knocked out of the playoffs by Ward Seven in a game that was protested by Shoppers Drug to no avail, as the protest was denied. Ward Seven banged out a 5 to 3 victory and as the score indicates it was a well-played game.

Taking the time out to let you know what's in store for the future at Regent Park. On Sunday Sept. 13 the game of the year will be played at 2 p.m. between the Avion Hotel Waiters and the Gerrard Waiters. These two teams have played 14 softball games in the last 14 years with the Avion winning ten games and the Gerrard four. A trophy as usual is at stake along with refreshments, lucky draws, a tug of war contest and speed base running. All monies raised in this game and past games help

to aid minor sports in the Moss Park area and Regent Park. Just to mention a few names that have helped to keep this event alive: Gord Summers, Manager of the Gerrard team, Dick Mayben and Cecil Blunt, managers of the Avion Club, Sid Doyle, Earl and Ray Baker, Steve McEvoy, the many business men in Ward Seven, and of course the fans who make all this possible by attending the game. If rain occurs on this day the game will be played the following Sunday at the same time. Who will you be betting on this year?

Tiny Tyke Hardball: Rod and Gun 6, Bradleys Bombers 4, R.P.N.O.B. 10, Bud Price 5.

Tiny Tyke Playoffs Mon. morning at Regent Park, Series A: R.P.N.O.B. 18, Bradleys Bombers II; Series B: Expos 17, Rod and Gun 14.

Aug. 17: In the top of the seventh inning with the score tied 3-all Jim Stoner banged out a long double to score Jim Clark from third base and give Latimers Brokers a 4 to 3 win over Shoppers Drug Mkt to keep them alive for a playoff spot. The action was great as Delbert Lounds at the plate had to make some close calls.

Tues. Aug. 18: Ward Seven 1, Langs Auto Electric 0. In this game Ward Seven strengthened

their playoff position and the tension is beginning to build up as the last position for a playoff berth is between three clubs.

Wed. Aug. 19: Active Const. 3, Dexters Shell 0.

Thurs. Aug. 20: Dexters Shell 1, Latimers Brokers 0. Gary Lavine of Dexters Shell tossed a 2-hitter to aid his club to a victory.

Competitive Baseball at Riverdale Park: Regent Atoms 18, Adam Beck 4. Regent Atoms 11, Adam Beck 4. Regent atoms won semi finals (two games out of three) to enter playoff final.

Sat. Aug. 22: Tiny Tyke - New York Mets 7, Red Sox 15. In this game little John Bond banged out 5 hits and a bases-loaded homer to help his team of a playoff spot.

Aug. 24: Activ Const. 5, Ward Seven 0; Dave Mullett tossed a no-hitter and struck out 14 batters.

A couple of social notes: Band Concert Wed. Sept. 2 at Regent Park, 7.00 to 9.30 p.m., Jack Cooke and the Starlites. The Regent Park North Old Boys are holding their first fall dance on Sat. Sept. 19 at their new location, the Tahati Room. Parliament and Dundas St. From 8:00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. There will be a live group and the admission is \$1.75 per person.

## Poet's Corner

From the swamp he crawled  
On the shore he stood  
Covered in mud and slime  
Above his forehead a scaly hood  
Glistened from the pain of joy.

He found a shelter for his mate  
He hunted what he had once been  
To feed the children that came  
The intellect soon learned to hate  
Warped thoughts became inflamed.

Compassion and love his heirs were taught  
Religion ran its course  
But hate was the strongest of the lot  
A black compelling force.

The science of death  
Increased with time  
And people soon realized  
They must again crawl into the slime  
For that's where wisdom lies.

By Raymond Greer.

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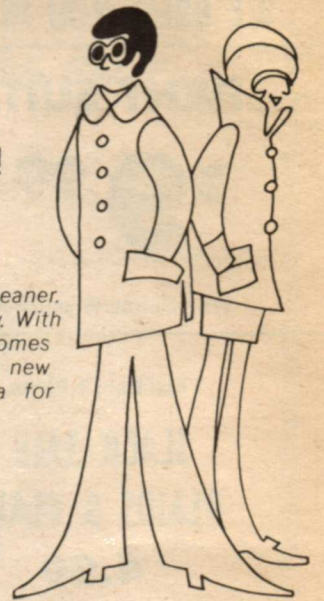


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