

NEWS

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WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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St. Jamestown to Expand on Sherbourne

by John Sewell

Seven News learned this week that Meridian Development Corporation, builders and owners of St. Jamestown, have prepared plans for the land between Bleeker and Sherbourne Street, north of Wellesley. The development, to be known as St. Jamestown West, will be located north of the hospital parking lot, almost up to Howard Street, excluding a few properties which they have been unable to purchase.

The application will include plans for two 30 storey apartment towers, plus one 27 storey double sized apartment building. 1110 units are planned, 50% of which will be one bedroom, the remainder consisting of bachelors, maisonettes (a smaller version of the one bedroom unit, with the remaining 12% consisting of two and three bedroom units.

The apartments, and rents, will be similar to those now existing in St. Jamestown. None of the units will be available as public housing.

Also planned is an enclosed swimming pool, a high quality restaurant, professional offices, and some commercial space. There will be more than 100% parking: that is, there will be more than one parking space for each apartment unit, and steps are being taken to provide greater control of parking facilities.

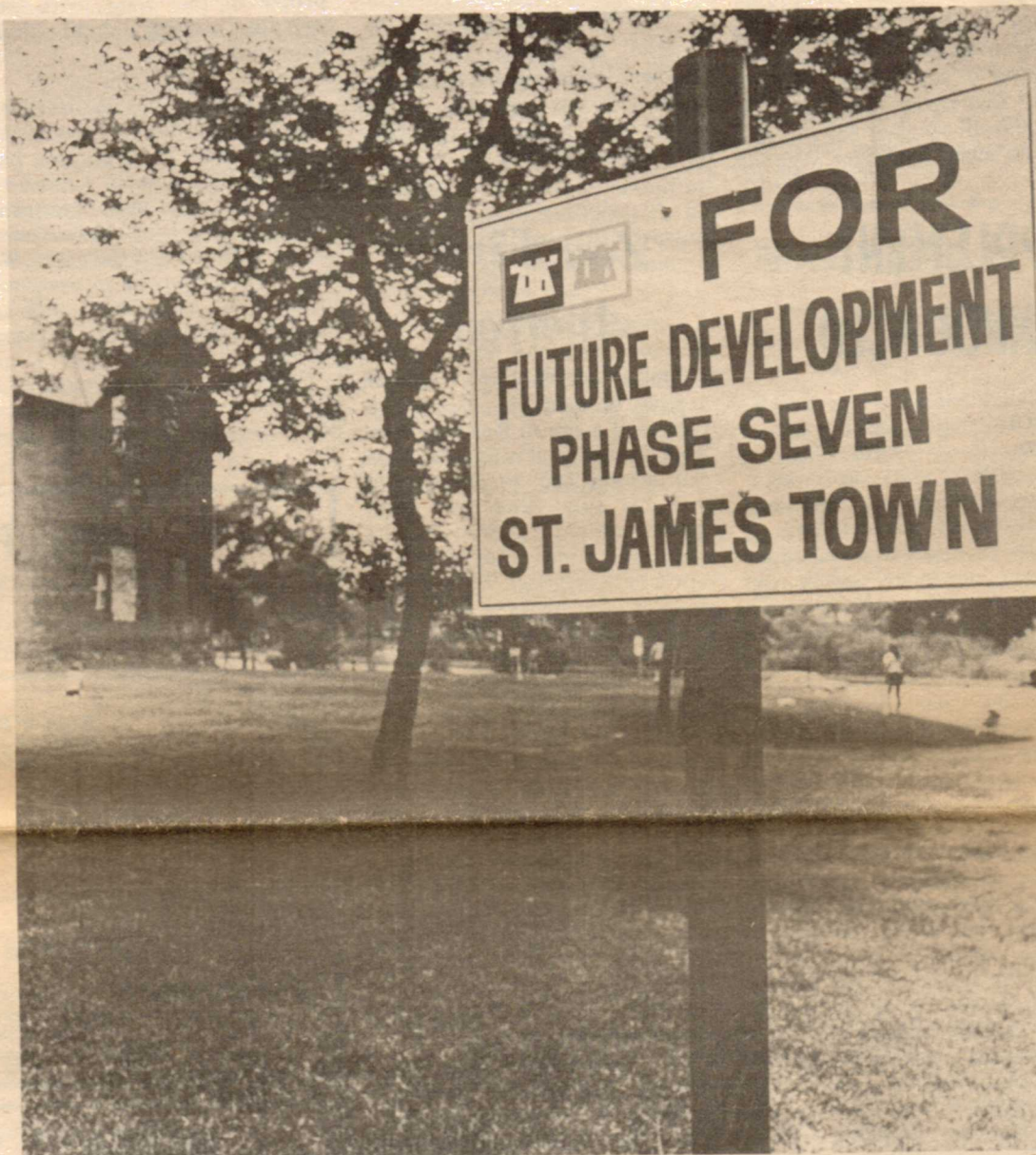
More precise plans will only be available after Meridian makes the development public.

Up to the present time, Meridian has been involved in back-room negotiations with the planning staff of the City and politicians have only been able to guess at which problems the planning staff is ironing out with Meridian.

Their application will go to the Committee on Buildings and Development, which in turn asks all of the City Departments to report on the matter. The development is discussed by the Committee once these reports have been received, and, knowing the present Committee, a rezoning to allow for the development will be granted. The Committee recommendation then goes to Council, which in all likelihood will approve the rezoning. The final step is approval by the Ontario Municipal Board.

The place for the public to get involved in discussion about the project is either at the Committee early in September, or at the Ontario Municipal Board (which will take place early in 1971). Since the Official Plan states that the area from Parliament to Sherbourne, from Bloor to Queen is available for high-density developments, it would seem that the Ontario Municipal Board would probably not change a City recommendation to grant the rezoning application. Accordingly, public comment, to be most effective, should be addressed to the Committee on Buildings and Development.

What Phase is Your Area?



Seven News Photo by Charlotte Hill

Meridian has just put this sign up on their property between Howard and Bloor Street, the only piece of park land left to the people in St. Jamestown. Neither our Aldermen nor the planning staff know what is being planned. Why not? Indications are that it will be a commercial development. The effect which this will have on the stores along Parliament St. is obvious.

In 1965 the Don Planning District Appraisal (supplementary report, page 57) recommended that the Official Plan include a proposal for the

development of a park, Community Center and playground in the area north of Wellesley St. With the exception of the site in the photo, there is no place left for that park. The area has trees, grass, and benches and is used as a park now. Some protection from traffic and more trees could turn this into a fine park. The Official Plan does not mention the park and Meridian is being allowed to act as the planner for the area. Shouldn't the Parks Department look at this opportunity before it is too late? Maybe the St. Jamestown residents should give the Commissioner of Parks & Recreation a nudge.

Backers of Meridian Picketed

by Norman Browne

In their continuing struggle with Meridian Property Management, the South of St. Jamestown Resident's Association last Friday picketed the London Life Insurance company — the financial backers of Meridian.

The events leading up to the picketing were as follows: A letter was sent by the Association to London Life asking for a meeting with them. No reply was received and a follow-up phone call was made which was kicked around and again got no response. Finally a second phone call got through but although London Life said they were "sympathetic", they refused to have a meeting.

With the decision to put pressure on London Life, help and support was sought from other groups and areas around St. Jamestown culminating in a public meeting at St. Simon's church attended by 50 people.

Alderman John Sewell was present and asked for help and support on behalf of the people living south of St. Jamestown. The following day London Life was picketed and leaflets were handed out. A spokesman for the group said they got a favorable response from many people and they are hopeful that the publicity will bring pressure to bear on both London Life and Meridian.

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Summer In The City ...

Kids defy the 90 degree heat in the Riverdale Park Splash Pool (at right), while the giant checkers enthusiasts of Allen Gardens seem oblivious to it.



Seven News Photo by Charlotte Hill

NEW RENT SCALE FOR O.H.C.

As most tenants in Ontario Housing Corporation projects already know, OHC now has a new rent scale. It was drawn up by the Federal government and is going into effect between July 1st and September 1st.

The old rent scale was based only on gross income. The new scale takes account of the number of children in the family, as well as making allowances for a working wife, or a single parent family. Thus, a wife can earn \$900.00 before her income is added to her husband's for purposes of working out the rent payable. A single working parent gets a similar deduction: if the person earns \$3,500 per year, rent will be based on an income of \$2,600.

The allowance for children is small - a \$2.00 rent reduction per month. For example, if a husband

and wife had 2 children, their rent (depending on income) might be \$100 per month. If they had the same earnings but there were four children in the family, then the rent would be \$96.00.

Because of both of these exemptions, then, it is difficult to give a simple table for rents. Rents depend on the number of children and the nature of the family. One example, for a 2 child family, is as follows:

Monthly Income	Rent
\$300.00	\$65.00
350.00	80.00
400.00	95.00
450.00	112.00
500.00	125.00
550.00	138.00

The other change in rental policy is that OHC will now give a lease for a year to tenants who work. This means that your rent will remain constant for the year if your wages go up and you will

be able to save some of that extra earning.

It seems, however, that people in Regent Park haven't yet received word about the leases. Even people who have already sent in their pay slips so that their new rent can be worked out, have not been advised that they will get leases, and have not seen them. Tenants are always the last to find out.

And there are problems still left unsolved. People on welfare do not fit into the geared-to-income scale and their rents are determined by the appropriate welfare department. They aren't allowed leases: they can only rent on a monthly basis.

And of course the major problem is that there is no hope in sight for any of the 20,000 families who have applied to OHC and can't get housed.

NEW RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

Stanley Randall, the Cabinet Minister responsible for Ontario Housing Corporation, recently announced plans for a rent supplement programme.

The announcement was made on July 22 in response to demands by the Committee of Public Housing Applicants. The Committee is a group of people interested in getting a fairer housing deal for many of the people now holding applications with the Ontario Housing Corporation.

The group is headed by Alan Longstaff, 105 Trinity Street, and has been active for some two months.

The Committee originally asked Mr. Randall for a rent supplement program early in June. At that time Mr. Randall said the government would not implement such a scheme. But the five persons from the Committee who went to his offices on July 22 put enough pressure on him to make him come out with the announcement.

The programme he says he will implement (probably in the Fall)

is quite limited when you consider that OHC has a waiting list of 20,000. He says OHC will rent about 1000 units in present private developments, and will lease them out to people now on the OHC waiting list at geared-to-income rents. It seems the programme will not apply to houses, but only to large projects, presumably such as the Montcrest Towers, St. Jamestown, and places like that. He did not identify which areas OHC will be renting in for the rent supplement programme, and that type of information will not be available until the scheme is completely worked out in the Fall.

The Committee of Public Housing Applicants holds regular meetings, and anyone who has a housing need is invited. The emphasis is not on getting individual families into OHC, but rather working as a group to make sure that more housing is available to people with incomes of less than \$5000 a year. Notices of meetings are usually posted throughout the Ward, or you can telephone Alan Longstaff,

Zoo Fire Averted

Quick action by a Sumach Street resident in Don Vale prevented a fire in Riverdale Park from spreading through the trees and into the Zoo. Shortly after 11 p.m. on July 22nd, Mr. Garry Bridges noticed a glow in the park across the street from his house. Upon investigating, he saw two children running away from a fire in a trash container under a tree.

After phoning the fire department and stopping a passing Police car, he went back to the fire. He then managed to pull the trash container away from the tree which had also caught on fire. Using loose earth, he extinguished the flames in the tree and when the fire department arrived 15 minutes later, they put out all the remaining fire in the trash.

368-3295. Their next meeting will be Wednesday, August 5th, at 8.00 p.m., Woodgreen Community Centre. Everyone is welcome. If five people can get a rent supplement programme, imagine what 100 people could do!

As The Beatles Would Say ...

HELP! HELP!

Wondering about where this paper comes from?

In December 1969 a group of people got together with the common idea of putting out a newspaper for people in Ward 7. A community newspaper - talking about news the big newspapers didn't carry, or reported inaccurately, about things of interest to people in this Ward - a paper controlled by people in this Ward, with local people writing about things important to them.

But a newspaper like this isn't easy. It is run not by experienced people, but by people like yourself. It's open for anyone to help in. It carries local advertising both to help local businessmen and to help pay for the paper. We try and distribute it to everyone in the Ward, free. That's close to 20,000 copies, one for every house.

What we need are people - volunteers. Someone has to deliver it. At the moment we need

people who are willing to spend a half hour or so delivering the paper (with kids helping if you can get them) on every street in the Ward. Some people haven't got all five copies because we haven't got enough people helping with delivery.

We need people to write articles on things that both interest them and will interest the community. We need people to come out to the editorial meetings to help choose what articles should go in the paper and what articles have to be written.

If you're interested, telephone the newspaper. If you have anything to contribute, it can be mailed or dropped off at the Seven News Office, in the Parliament Street Library House, 265 Gerrard St. E. After hours it can be dropped into the Library Drop Box outside the library doors at Gerrard & Parliament. If everyone is involved, it is bound to be a better paper. Give a call, telephone 922-9175; there is a 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. answering service.

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(East of Broadview Avenue opposite Boulton Avenue)

Distributor Assaulted

A Seven News distributor was punched and thrown to the ground while distributing Seven News in an apartment building recently. Joe Cassar, who distributes over 1,000 copies of Seven News every issue in various parts of the ward, had been trying unsuccessfully for a number of weeks to distribute in the small apartment building at 214 Wellesley.

On July 14th, Mr. Cassar managed to obtain entrance to the building and began distributing the paper to each apartment. He was just about finished when he was accosted by a resident of the apartment who told him in no uncertain terms to get out of the building.

Before Mr. Cassar could reply, the man punched him on the head, opening a wound in his scalp. A further punch threw Mr. Cassar to the floor. Mr. Cassar finally managed to escape, fleeing the building with the man chasing him. Out on the street, a crowd soon collected and the police arrived.

John Alexander Dailly, 45, of 2 Wellesley St. East was arrested and charged with being drunk in a public place. The police also recommended that Mr. Cassar press charges of assault.

Poet's Corner

Northern Breeze

*Through the silver distant trees,
So frosty cold, the northern breeze
Moves like some half-forgotten thought
That night's dark stillness one time brought.*

- Martti Walker

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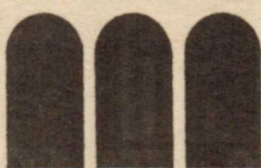
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CALL OR WRITE

Opinions From Our Readers

On O.H.C. ...

Here are some thoughts and suggestions for O.H.C.

A question should be included on the form indicating the amount of ventilation in the applicant's present accommodation; whether there are any recreational facilities near-by; the state of health of applicants (not that ill-health would be a factor for being turned down - on the contrary, a heart condition is instrumental in granting instant acceptance); the condition of the house of tenant's present abode.

Mrs. Meredith, who is in charge of the O.H.C. office, has promised a monthly meeting. It is a small office. The number of home visitors has been curtailed since Trudeau came into office.

The demands for housing far exceeds the supply. Apparently 3,000 units a year are being built, but a far larger number of people are applying. The government is finding that the maintenance costs of apartments are high.

Would the government consider subsidizing housing rather than giving accommodation in apartments? Then anyone wanting good housing could pick their own house.

Could tenants be granted Government funds to repair their own rooms? A few men could get together to repair houses and be paid by the Government.

Donald Winters

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the courage to print this picture (July 3 issue, of the mothers marching on Chairman Malette) - abortion and sterilization are no answers to chronic welfare cases.

A little more education so that they can get a better job, better housing conditions so that their children grow up in a decent environment, and a great deal of

... And Legal Aid

You have a problem. To you it is very real: but you will have to have a lawyer to help you. Lawyers cost money, and you are on a limited budget - welfare maybe.

What do you do? Turn to Legal Aid, of course. You need help and through the goodness of our lawyers you will receive it.

Or so you think

Your lawyer will listen to you, write a few notes, have his secretary type up some affidavits, then - tuck everything inside a folder, put it on a shelf, and forget about it.

Yes, that's right - forget about it!

As for you, that is too bad. He will collect his fee - from Legal Aid.

But, will point out the thinking troubled one, this does not happen, or need to happen. After all, if you believe this is what your lawyer has done you are free to change lawyers. Is that not so?

Yes, but before any case is accepted by Legal Aid, members of a Legal Aid committee have already sat down and evaluated your case. If it is not A-one winnable, they will designate it to the shelf. Of this you know nothing, you simply trust in your lawyer.

Therefore, you have been judged by a committee of lawyers, not by a judge or a court. Is the latter not the privilege our country is supposed to offer?

And, initially, why?

Because you did not have enough money to pay for a lawyer - through the proper cash channels.

Martti Walker

concern and understanding are better solutions. While I do not agree entirely with Mrs. Powers, I do admit that we - the affluent society - at least must listen to her.

Sincerely,
N. Neuer

Dear Sir:

After reading the article "Barbara Apts. residents learn what Y.M.C.A. public spirit means" in Vol 1 No. 3, I would like to clarify the situation discussed.

The Y.M.C.A. was hired by Meridian Property Management to organize a recreation programme for the St. Jamestown residents. Strictly speaking, it was not a public Y.M.C.A. but they chose to call it the Y.M.C.A. which is an organization supposed to open to the general public.

Thus, representatives of the 700-730 Ontario Street Tenants Association met with Mr. Jules Hanson of Meridian, Mr. Henry Labatt of Y.M.C.A. and other appropriate officials to discuss our lack of recreational facilities. The Y.M.C.A. realizing their difficult position has worked hard to rectify the situation.

As a result of many letters to many people, numerous consultations of which one was mentioned in the article in 7 News, Mr. Jules Hanson is now allowing us the option of using the Y.M.C.A. facilities in St. Jamestown at an annual fee.

Secondly, through many consultations, the O.H.C. has consented to allow, at least, the children of our two buildings to use the outdoor pool.

I feel we have made a step forward in what Allan Lawrence calls the "plan to destroy the old concept of public housing and to integrate all the peoples in that community as citizens of St. Jamestown which was one of the objectives of Meridian Property Management and the Ontario Housing Corporation in co-operating on the Bleeker Street Plan."

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Leslie A. Pethes
Recreation Committee Chairman
Ray Carleton,
Chairman of Ontario Street
Tenants' Association

Parliament St. Businessman Speaks Out

With all the publicity, effort, money, and programs designed to help the people of this area I think the government has forgotten the most important and most discriminated-against group in the community - the local businessman. While government at all levels builds huge apartment buildings, supports a large part of the populace, and hands out grants to virtually every community organization that asks, the city fails to make good on meagre, long-standing promises to the local businessman. The Parliament St. business district is the core of Ward 7 and if it starts to go, you will see this district deteriorate a hell of a lot faster than it is now. During the past year several stores have gone out of business and more will fold during the years to come unless the city does

something soon. And the only way to save the area is to attract more business from St. Jamestown and outside the ward - and this will never happen without 1) off-street parking (the city promised us this twenty-five years ago!) 2) the city and local merchants to clean up the area to make it more attractive to outsiders. But so far the city has ignored the needs of Parliament St. And while the area falls apart, our aldermen are busy with issues not even concerning the ward, such as the Spadina Expressway. We need someone to speak up for our interests and we demand at least some recognition from the city.

Sincerely Yours
Nat Naster
527 Parliament St.

Movie Review

Goin' Down the Road: New Yorker Cinema, Yonge Street, below Charles Street.

Goin' Down the Road is not only a Canadian movie of merit: it's a movie about Maritimers and their experience in Toronto.

Simply, it deals with the lives of two men from Nova Scotia who come to Toronto, looking for jobs which will allow them to experience some of the more exciting aspects of life in Toronto. But the experience they find is all too common.

When they get to Toronto, they can't find a place to stay, and spend a few nights in the Sally Ann on Sherbourne Street. They find that most of the jobs demand more education than they have, and they finally end up working at Wilson's soft drink company.

Of course, they have a bit of a tiff with the management, and are laid off. Life begins to go downhill, and with the wife who one of the men has married since arriving in Toronto, all three move into a room on Pembroke Street. The movie gives a good picture of the problems that Maritimers face in coming to Toronto, and of the dreams that get shattered.

It is important for people in Ward 7: both for those who have had similar experiences, and for those who wish to get a better picture of what some people in this ward have had to go through.

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Wood Green Magic

by Norm Craven

Do you want to hear a magic word? Just whisper Wood Green to any kid who lives along Queen and east of the Don. Watch his eyes light up. What is Wood Green? It is a unique hive of activity, that goes beyond being another recreation centre.

It does more than fashion programs tailored to the very real needs of the community. It offers more than a counselling service and a free legal aid clinic. It is people in action. It is a centre with a "big heart" staffed by the most dedicated people in the whole of North America.

If your husband runs off with the little blonde from down the street let him. He's beyond saving if he hasn't made use of Wood Green's fantastic facilities. You say it's summer time and the house is falling down? You don't even have the cash to hire building tradesmen? Call the "centre" they will assess your needs and find volunteers who will give their skills and muscle to put your house in order. The cost of the materials is kept to a minimum.

Right now when the weather is hot and muggy the centre comes to the people. The staff takes to the road and puts a program for young and old right into the streets. They even hold street dances and the entertainers are young people playing sock-it-to-them electric rock.

The centre is just not another institution. It believes in instilling pride and community spirit in the people. They even have an active "weight reduction club" for rotund matrons who do attack their problems sanely because they know their very lives may be at stake. Heart attacks still claim more people over forty years of age than any other ailment.

Of course no visit to the centre would be complete without a friendly word with Mrs. McDermott. She is a most inspiring vitally alive person who has the uncanny knack of saying the right thing at the right time. For that matter talk to any member of the staff, yes, even the janitor. You will find they all have a little extra portion of personality plus an indefinable air of quiet confidence that assures you they mean what they say and it comes right from the heart.

The centre is for the pre-kindergarten set, up to and including senior citizens and everybody is given the royal treatment. The centre fills a very definite need and the people east of the Don know this is a vibrantly pulsing going concern and they feel just a little sorry for people who are unfortunate enough to live in other parts of Metro.

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Ward 7 Sports Round-up

By Joe Ganny
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July 9 at Regent Park: Abe Deasley of Latimers Brokers tossed a 2 hitter to lead his team to a 1 to 0 victory over Shoppers Drug Mkt. Len McKanick gave up 3 hits and fanned 12 batters, but was not good enough to help his club to a win.

July 9 at Regent Park: 13 innings of exciting ball was played for the fans in this area with the score ending up with a two all tie. Pitcher Mike Trottier gave up 7 hits for Ward 7 and Ross Cannon gave up 5 hits. This was the longest game ever played in Regent Park.

July 10 at Regent Park: Active Construction 3, Langa Auto Electric 1.

July 15 at Regent Park: Langa Auto Electric 7, Dexters Shell 1. In this game Ricky Ramsay played a strong game at second base for Langa and Don Ames for Dexters looked like an old pro behind the plate. Congratulations to Don on his new arrival of a baby girl.

In an early issue I reported the score of Ward 7, 12 Shoppers Drug Mkt 4. A protest was lodged by Shoppers Drug and it was upheld. The replayed game was played July 23, with Shoppers Drug winning 7 to zip. Frank Locisero was ejected from this game, resulting in game being awarded to Shoppers as there were no players left to complete game.

July 22: Frank Caruso hit a 3-run homer to drive in 3 runs to aid Langa Auto Electric to a close 5 to 4 win. Gary Lavine and Frank looked very good on the mound, as the score indicates.

July 21: After 7 complete innings active construction exploded for 4 runs to win over Ward 7, 4 to 1.

ANNOUNCEMENT

August. 16th, 1970. Free On the house
Films in the Church garden of St. Peters Church at
Bleeker & Carlton on Aug. 16th - remember the date -
after evening service at 8:00 p.m.

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Tiny Tike Baseball: Paul Russell had 2 singles and a double to aid his club, The Rod and Gun, to victory over Army and Navy, 6 to 4. Ricky Gosse had a homer and a single to bring in 3 runs to help Bob Bradley's Bombers defeat Rod and Gun, 8 to 5.

Many thanks to Mrs. Little and Mr. Ted Busby for their contribution towards their Little League at Rose Ave. School. This was a mixed league of boys and girls ages 7 to 12 years old. Teams are sponsored by the following: Dale Bros, Davis Cleaners, Andys Macs Milk, and St. James Optical. As their season ended for regular schedule July 23, Ismail Altinteatar, pitcher for Dale Bros, had a perfect season with 6 wins in the

6 games he played in. Playoffs begin Aug. 4, at Rose Ave School. These teams operate under the club name of the Cellar Club. Lots of luck to Mrs. Little and T. Busby, as I'm sure that the parents are behind you.

Sorry to hear that the old sportsman Steve McEvoy is in sick bay at home, as Steve has been a great provider in getting sponsors in the Ward 7 area.

7 NEWS

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