

NEWS

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WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Now in Ninth Week

GAS WORKERS ON STRIKE

(This information comes to Seven News from Alexander Girvin, president of Local 161.)

Still on the picket lines against Consumers' Gas after almost nine weeks are the 588 members of Local 161 of the International Chemical Workers. The strike, by the men who read meters and maintain and repair gas appliances is their first in 44 years.

As the strike remains unsettled, supervisors and outside contractors are being spread thin with repairs and servicing. In some urgent cases customers have had to call in private contractors at their own expense or have been asked to light their own appliances - an operation involving some risk if handled incorrectly.

The Union, which has not had a new contract since 1968, went out on strike November 15. On December 23 it met with the Company on questions of wage increases and employee benefits. The union is asking for a two-year agreement involving 9.5% wage increases in both years, as well as 100% Company-paid welfare benefits, such as OHSIP, OHSC, group insurance, and major medical and extended health care plans. Other demands relate to

(Contd. P2, Col.3)



Consumers' Gas strikers picket the Eastern-McGee St. plant in near-zero weather. From left to right they are P. Clarke, William Mackton, Kelvin Christopher, Norman Gillespie, and Clarke Lock. When asked how long they thought the company would hold out the workers replied that since the

company wasn't poor they could hardly care less. As to whether they would like to say a few words about the strike they laughed and said that anything they had to say about the company was unprintable! Even after 9 weeks the morale of the strikers seems high.

Photo by Charlotte Sykes

St. Jamestown Tenants Meet With Meridian

by Norm Browne

A general meeting of about 100 St. Jamestown tenants, held last Monday night, heard with mixed feeling the news that Blecker street was to be widened by 16 feet and opened up to two-way traffic.

The meeting was called to hear and discuss plans by Meridian to develop the area bounded by Blecker, Howard, Sherbourne and Wellesley into another apartment complex to be called St. Jamestown West.

Chairing the meeting was Alderman John Sewell while Mr. Manthorpe of Meridian was present to answer specific questions about the proposed project.

The proposal, presently before the planning staff of the City of Toronto, calls for the zoning density to be changed from its present density of one to that of four. The project itself consists of three main buildings: two of them in the shape of a square would be 30 stories high and be built on the lower half of the block while the third building would be a large "Z" shaped building of 27 stories.

The whole block would be excavated for the building of a huge three storey underground commercial parking garage. Tenants in the project would have a sticker on the windshield of their car which would allow them to park free anywhere in the garage. Visitors and the general public would be charged a rate comparable to other parking lots in the area.

Mr. Manthorpe of Meridian stated that this was the first time an idea like this had been tried and it was hoped it would cut down the problems of visitors parking as well as eliminate vandalism. He added, however, that there were a number of bylaw and zoning changes necessary before the concept could become a reality.

Another innovative plan for the project was a raised podium of 15 feet that would cover the whole block. This would effectively separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It was suggested from the floor that Blecker street be bridged at a number of points to allow the people of St. Jamestown access to the new project.

People at the meeting stressed several matters relevant to the development: Why wouldn't community and recreational facilities be provided for the under-served children now living in the OHC buildings on Blecker? Why can't park land be provided? Why can't some town houses, or a strip of commercial developments be provided? Can low-cost family housing be included?

The tenant associations of 200 and 325 Blecker street

(Contd. P3, Col.3)

New Coop Move

CARLTON ST. HOUSES TO BE REOPENED

By Barry Morris

Tenants in and around this Ward, and recently in the Don Vale community, are seeking a toe-hold, a better base from which to get good housing at decent rents. Tenants are seeking ways and means to get some kind of rent control, and short of waiting... waiting... waiting for a grand miracle for the whole province or nation, tenants have to start their own forms of getting good housing at fair rents. How? is the question. Petitions, meeting

after meeting, and resolutions from paper-tiger organizations do not make a difference. Local actions - the slower and more painful way, such as tenants doing repairs on bad housing, may be the way for now. Following the courageous line of the South of St. Jamestown co-op housing experiment, the Don Vale Tenants Association in alliance with the Christian Resource Centre have begun an effort to get fair rents in good housing.

The landlord and the houses in

question are those of a large developer, Agincourt Mall, managed by Alex Cowley Real Estate. Some 45 houses were bought up about 10 years ago as a "quick cash" investment when the Bayview Extension was a possibility. But, alas, planners and others at City Hall decided otherwise. So Cowley and people have kept the houses and rented them out. However, Cowley ran into serious frustration last November when the policy of renting out to "middlemen" ran amok (middlemen being shysters who rent several houses, fill them up with single roomers or insecure welfare mothers, and rake off double or triple the rent they pay to original owners). So Cowley shut down the houses. They were boarded up, and though Seven News was given several pictures and a summary interpretation of the event, including interviews with the evicted roomers, little publicity was given. Now the building inspectors have several pages of work orders against the houses, though here, too, as with Cowley, there is a willingness to bargain with willing tenants. With the threefold challenge of making repairs, fulfilling demands of inspectors, and re-opening for rents again, Cowley approached

(Contd. P2, Col. 2)

Citizens' Forum To Discuss Planners' Fate

by Vern Burnett

The Citizens' Forum will hold its first meeting of 1971 on Tuesday, January 19, 8 p.m. in Committee Room no. 1 at the New City Hall. The issue to be discussed is whether the Planning Staff should become a department under the jurisdiction of Council or remain under the power of the Planning Board.

Alderman Rotenberg will bring a motion before the Buildings and Development Committee on January 18 which would take control of the Planning Staff on short range decisions away from the Board; instead, the Staff would report directly to Council and its committees. Thus the Board would become a far less powerful body, reporting only on matters relating to the Official Plan.

At present, the Board (a group of unpaid citizens and politicians) is intended to act as a link between the citizens and the government. Would the loss of this link be desirable? Perhaps so, but only if the Board as it existed were unsatisfactory. The Board is now an appointed body, and this is possibly not as answerable to

(Contd. P4, Col.1)



Seven News Photo by Barry Morris

C.M.H.C. Survey

CAN DEVELOPMENT SERVE THE POOR?

by Gundi Jeffrey

Some six months ago the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CHMC) gave a grant to the Canadian Mental Health Association to do a survey of the housing needs of the people living in the area bounded by Bloor, Jarvis, Gerrard and the Don River. This area has long been slated for redevelopment, and since CHMC does not have people with proper kind of training to find out what guidelines would be necessary for future building in the area, they went to the people who could provide them with this information.

Elizabeth Loweth, Special Project Consultant for the Canadian Mental Health Association, is in charge of this survey. She has been involved in several similar projects that qualify her for this particular study in the environmental and psychological factors influencing housing and community life. There was the Poverty and Mental Health Project a year ago, which investigated the relationship between poverty and environment, and their effect on mental health. Then there was the High Rise Conference, studying apartment living. This project is the logical successor.

It all started six months ago, with weeks of reading — the National Housing Act, The Hellyer Report, the Don District studies, the High-Rise studies etc. Next she had to go into the area and establish contact with the people. She felt that a questionnaire would not do for this kind of survey. It would be

better to get to know the people on a personal basis to find out what their needs in housing are, what is happening to them, what kind of family life they are having, what kind of buildings would best serve their needs as a community.

Of major interest to this study is the Homewood Project — the new apartment complex being built on Homewood, just above Carlton. When finished, these apartments will be sold as condominiums to low-income people. The mortgages would run at 7½% over a period of forty years as compared to a norm of 10% over twenty years. As these apartments are rather small (the largest consists of 2-bedrooms), they are suitable only for small families, elderly couples, or single people.

The whole idea of condominiums for low-income groups is of course experimental. The people living in it will eventually become the owners — in fact they will form a corporation that is responsible for the running of the complex, and all decisions relating to it. In this way the leverage will be passed back to the purchaser, and it will be interesting to see how this works out.

Meridian wants to maintain the traditional concept of down-payments, but they only want 5% of the total cost. This could be as low as \$450 for the smallest units (bachelors), but would run up to \$1000 for families.

Mrs. Loweth is trying to find out if these down payments would be too high for low-income residents. If so, she would recommend to the Federal government that no down-payments at all be required, and that all rent payments be applied towards purchase of the units.

Another question: could welfare make these payments for residents who are on their rolls?

Mrs. Loweth has contacted the Welfare Dept. about this question, but as yet has received no reply.

Other ideas are being explored, too. Perhaps a mental health centre could be installed in the complex. Or a few condominiums could be purchased and turned into a community centre. The idea of a day-care centre or even a few hospital beds would be worth considering, and Mrs. Loweth will look into these possibilities and see what best use can be made of the project, and what to build in the future that would eventually serve the entire community.

As for the people she has talked to about this — the single and elderly are very enthused about the whole thing, a chance to own their own homes. However, those with larger families are less impressed, but would probably be interested in a similar project for these families.

Hopefully the survey will answer many questions. What is the value of the condominium concept? How can such a project relate to the community in a healthy fashion? Who can use it and how? What does it mean for future building in the area? How to include recreational and educational facilities, both for adults and children? All these things are important for good community co-ordination — all these things are important so that people can relate to more than just a place, an address. For a harmonious community makes for good mental health.

Anyone living in this area who feels he has some suggestions to offer or who would like to talk to Mrs. Loweth about this project is welcome to contact her at the Parliament Street Neighbourhood Information Post, 265 Gerrard St. E., on Tuesday mornings, or at her office (487-3651) the rest of the week. She wants to meet and talk with all the people of the area, including those completely opposed to the condominium idea.

**Community TV—
A False Hope?**

by Bruce Geddes

For some time now the residents of the Don District have been told of the wondrous benefits of Community Television. The day was coming soon when proud fathers in Regent Park would flip the switch on their set and catch "little Johnny" playing in the Junior League Hockey finals. Irate parents in Don Vale would be able to get together and discuss education on their own talk show.

However, everyone by now knows the sad truth — these days are still quite distant. Cablevision has hardly made a dent in this neighbourhood. Regent Park and Moss Park have still not been hooked up, and neither has "swinging St. Jamestown".

And even if there were cable hook-ups to every home in the Don, there would still be nothing to guarantee "community content" on the screen.

There is a way, however, to bring the day of community TV a little closer, and in such a way that it will be up to you, a resident, to determine what kind of programming you will have and the uses to which it is put.

Just recently a small VTR (video-tape recording) unit was placed at the Parliament St. Library House at 265 Gerrard St. E. This unit consists of a camera,

monitor and a record and playback deck. And it is for anybody in the community who wants to come down, learn how to use it (it is incredibly easy), and then to produce his own show about whatever it is he wants to tell.

Several workshop dates have been set aside for instruction in the use of this equipment (Jan. 19 & Jan. 25). Special workshops can be arranged by contacting either Bruce Lawson (964-6453), Marvin Novick (925-4363) or Bruce Geddes (921-8674).

A public meeting is set for January 26th, 7:30 p.m. at 265 Gerrard St. E. The context of this meeting is being kept loose to allow people to talk about the impact of this resource on the community and how they wish to organize themselves to use it. Maybe you, as an individual, or the group to which you belong have a good idea. Bring it along.

It is hopeful that a group of citizens have just persuaded Roger's Cablevision (Roger's has the Cable TV contract in the Don District) to allow the community TV-time, use of their facilities and, most importantly, control over the content of community productions.

Poet's Corner

"Marilyne"

Marilyne was a real nice girl.
A good student and friend to everyone. She was a happy girl and full of fun, even though coming from a broken home. They lived on Bleecker St. from her birth until a couple of months before her death. She was just a girl who wanted to see what fun it was to skip off school for an afternoon and to try a motorcycle. This is the folly of her attempt.

*An angel, a child
So young and so fair
With petal soft skin
And bright shining hair.*

*She went for a ride
On a cycle one day
She stayed out of school
In the sunshine to play.*

*They went for a ride
Quite happy and gay,
Not knowing what fate
Was planning that day.*

*While passing a truck
Was the story I'm told
A car cut them off
They went out of control.*

*A few moments later
When things settled down
A heartbreaking sight
The onlookers found.*

*The girl just fifteen
Her life but half-through,
Had been pulled off the cycle
By her shirt when it blew.*

*What a terrible price
For a young girl to pay,
For skipping out school
For barely a day.*

A friend who knows

So kids for your fun
Don't skip and run.
Let your parents know
What you are doing and why.
Because this story is a true one
and it could happen to you.

Houses

(Contd. from P1, Col.1)

Alderman Sewell, the CRC and the Don Vale Tenants. The result?... families who are willing to pull together, to supply their own labour and materials, are offered a month's rent, plus some incentive money when the work is completed. Each house is being worked at, room-by-room, with all tenants aiding. And, in accordance with the Tenants Association principle that no family, especially low-income, should pay more than 25% of net income for rent, the rents are just.

The initial stumbling blocks are: seed money to get first supplies (paint, polyfills, and flooring); leads on getting discount prices on materials; and tenants willing to commit bodies to making extraordinary repairs and help one another. Contact Larry Dixon at 255 Carlton St., Garry Hudson at 74 Spruce St., or Barry Morris at 297 Carlton St. for information. It takes a special breed — willing to risk. Meanwhile... good housing at just rents endures as a community and Ward problem.

Strike

(Contd. from P1, Col.1)

restrictions on Company contracting of work to outside firms and a proposal to allow for an arbitrator to modify disciplinary action. There are further issues relating to sick pay, working conditions, and vacations.

The Company is interested in a three-year, not a two-year agreement, with an 18% increase spread over the three years. It proposes to leave the major medical and extended health care plans optional, with premiums to be paid in full by the employee.

As of the end of December, Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis was attempting to set up a meeting between Local 161 and the Department of Energy and Resources.

The last negotiation meeting between Company and Union was scheduled for January 7 but was cancelled because the Company was unable to attend. Another was allegedly being scheduled for sometime in the early future.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD INFORMATION POST

On Wednesday, November 25th the Neighbourhood Information Post held its first training session for the volunteers who operate the Post. The purpose of the training program was to acquaint all the volunteers with the resources available in their community that can be called on; and to familiarize themselves with the procedures used in the

operation of the Post. These training sessions will be a regular feature, given to new volunteers as they are recruited, and for old volunteers as new information increases their need for updating.

Since the Post began on July 20th this year there have been upwards of 200 enquiries by telephone and drop-in. Many of the enquiries have been directed

to the lawyers available at the Post on Monday and Thursday evenings, but more than 60% have been non-legal in character. Questions relating to tenants rights are popular. As a general rule the Post tries to refer enquiries which need direct action to the tenants association for that area (if there is one). In many cases the knowledge of their rights as set forth in the Landlord and Tenants Act is enough to put people at ease and permit them to make their own judgements concerning the action they wish to pursue.

Many enquiries deal with problems of trying to get through the tangled red-tape of bureaucracy. "How can I get food from Welfare for the week-end? Because I start work on Monday they won't listen to me." "What has happened to my two-year old application for OHC housing? Each time that I phone them they tell me I will hear from them shortly." One of the difficulties experienced by the volunteers at the Post in relation to OHC applications is the flat refusal of the Applications Office to listen to anyone but the applicant — thus a difficult problem for an 82 year old applicant with a speech defect.

The Information Post even helped an old man locate the whereabouts of his older brother who had disappeared five months ago leaving his unspent old-age cheques in the hands of his brother.

Other questions:

"Where can I find a bingo game on Friday nights?"

"Where can I find a market for two hand-made hooked rugs?"

"Am I entitled to an extra allowance from Welfare for my special diet?"

"I am thinking of moving to your city from the States and want to know if there are day-care centres in this neighbourhood for my two year old child?"

"Will the Post lend me \$75 using my (broken) stereo console for security?" (One of the few questions not answered to the enquirer's satisfaction).

The Information Post seems to be on its way to becoming a useful neighbourhood resource. People are beginning to feel that they can trust us. Several people have returned to ask more questions and some have remained to become active members of the volunteer staff. And with the recent news that the Addiction Research Foundation will continue to support us, we are sure to be here for the next six months.

But we are still having some problems. We need to have a total of 30 volunteers, contributing two hours a week on a regular basis. At present several volunteers give that amount four times over. If you are a resident of the Don District and have two hours a week to spare, please give us a call at 924-2543 or pick up an application at 265 Gerrard St. E. Help share the work and become an active member of your community.

Tenants meet

(Contd. from P1, Col. 5)

announced that they would write to the planning board asking for public meetings on the project before it went to City Council for approval.

An interim steering committee was also elected to make a deeper study of the project and come up with some proposals and strategies. The steering committee met last Thursday and they will report back to a general meeting of all St. Jamestown on Jan. 25th at 8:00 p.m. in the St. Jamestown Auditorium.

St. Enoch's Community Centre

by Norm Browne

At a general meeting of Don Vale people, held in St. Enoch's Church on Jan. 7th, a decision was made to form a neighbourhood corporation, and an interim board of directors was elected to run the St. Enoch's church building as a Community Centre.

The interim board will function until July 1st at which time new elections will be called and the Church Property will officially be leased to the community by the United Church of Canada for the sum of \$1 a year.

The main function of the

board of directors will be to raise sufficient funds, estimated at \$20,000, to operate the church building as a Community Centre for the period of a year.

The interim board will consist of 17 people, of which 11 were elected at the general meeting. One final post will be filled by a representative of the Businessmen's Association and the 5 remaining posts will be filled by the heads of committees being set up.

Named as ex-officio members of the board were the two Ward 7 Alderman, and the provincial and federal members of Parliament.

Elected at the meeting to the

(Contd. P4, Col.5)

News in Brief

Seven News Editorial Staff Meeting, Thursday January 21, Parliament St. Library House, 7:30 p.m.

A general meeting of all tenants of St. Jamestown will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Monday Jan. 25th at the St. Jamestown Auditorium in the Vancouver building, 240 Wellesley East. Amongst other things, the meeting will discuss the lack of Cable TV in St. Jamestown and the proposed widening of Bleecker street by 16 feet and opening it up to two-way traffic.

On Dec. 18th, there was a fire in the building in which the Metro Tenant's Association had their offices and the membership files for MTA were partially destroyed. Anyone who is a member of MTA is asked to notify the President of MTA by mail so that the files can be reconstructed. Send your name, address, phone number and the date you joined to Alex Eaglesham, 3 Merideth Cresc, Toronto.

Toronto will host the Girls' Clubs of America 1971 regional annual meeting at Woodgreen Community Centre on February 5th and 6th.

There will be a meeting of Moss Park Residents at Central Neighbourhood House, Monday, January 25, 8:00. Alderman John Sewell will be present.

January 26, 7:30, 265 Gerrard St. E. A meeting will be held to discuss Community use of cable TV in the Don Vale.

Citizens' Forum, January 19, 8 p.m., Committee Room no. 1, New City Hall.

Project Mars operates out of Woodgreen Community Centre. It is a maintenance and repair Service provided by the Mennonite Central Committee and offered to homeowners in the City of Toronto who cannot meet repair costs on their homes.

The project period for last year ended on November 30, and at present Project Mars is no longer functioning because of lack of funds.

The Woodgreen Community Centre, in response to the many calls they have received regarding the program, is hopeful that the City will give its financial support to the project so that it can continue its work in 1971.

Education Committee Meeting of R.C.O. Monday, January 18 at the Broadview Y.M.C.A., 275 Broadview, 8:00 p.m. The topic will be strategy on TTC policies re: Scholar/Childrens Tickets.

General Monthly Meeting of R.C.O., Monday, January 25 at St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, 120 First Ave., 7:30 p.m.

CONSTITUTIONAL MEETING

Neighbourhood Information Post

265 Gerrard St. East
January 28, 1971 at 7:30 P.M.

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**Ward 7
Sports**

Round-up

By Joe Ganny
210 Oak St. Apt. 306
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The Saturday Night Bowlers had their turkey roll last week, and the big birds went to the following winners, Bill McKenzie, Linda Celsie, Dan Harrington, Gary Caruso, Lloyd Grant and Marlen Punyi. A special gift was presented to Cecil Blunt, consisting of three cans of sardines, one french stick, and a two foot salami for the player who is most likely to succeed. Cecil took this all in good sportsmanship but would not share it with the other bowlers.

Hockey Night in Canada.

The Moss Park Novice Hockey League had another outstanding day for the Little Leaguers. As usual there was fun for all, even though some heads were hung low as defeat does not rest very lightly, but the spirit of all the teams and coaches makes it a day, with the parents cheering their players. In the A.H.L., Bears 5, Hornets 1. For the winners John Woodcock potted 2 goals and Danny Teabo 2. The Hornets goals were banged in by James Barr, Bombers 1, Aces 5, Randy Garrison got the lone tally and Murry Smith was the Bobby Orr of the game, scoring all five goals for the aces. Barons 3, Bisons 2. This was a hard-checking hockey game with several minor penalties and plenty of action at both ends of the ice. Tom Turiff popped in three goals for the victory and Ron Badiuk had two for the losers. In the N.H.L., Leafs banged out a 9 to 1 win over the Rangers, with Allan Cunningham getting 4 goals, Mike Shimkovich 4, and a single by Stanley Parker. Bruins 9, Hawks 1. For the winners Mike Robinson netted 3,

Paul Popadopoulos 2, Bob Day 3 goals, Red Wings tally was scored by Bob Parker. These games are played every Saturday and if your boy wishes to play hockey, take him over to the rink and see one of the volunteer coaches.

Sat. Jan. 9, as the new year came in, the Little Leaguers took it in their stride, with the A.H.L. Hornets and Bombers tying four all in a hard fought game. Little Billy White scored three goals and John Barr had 1. For the Bombers Robert Millard potted two, Danny Teabo one, Robert Payne one. Both goaltenders were outstanding in this game. Bears 1, Bisons 5. For the winners John Doran 1, Ron Badiuk 1, Dennis Farvelle 1, Mike Bandura 1, and Sporos Papanthanasakis 1. Jim Proctor scored the lone tally for the losers, with Ray Doucette picked as the star of the game. Aces 1, Barons 10. Almost every player scored in this one-sided game: three goals by Ken Groves, two by Tony Black, and one each by Tom Turiff, Don MacDonald, Jeff Hosmer, Tim Simpson, and Colin Mackie. Jim Storey popped in the lone tally for his club.

In the N.H.L. Rangers 5, Red Wings 1. Gibby White was the big gun for the Rangers, with 5 goals and Vince McAulay scored for the Red Wings. Montreal 4, Boston 1. For the winners Andy Napolitano had 2, Don McCulluch 1 and Grant Cauce 1, with Steven Coffey picking up the honours as the star of the game. Hawks 2, Leafs 1. Bobby Day picked up a goal as did Greg McNally. Mike Slimkovich had the lone tally for the Leafs. See you at the next Roundup!

**WoodGreen
Christmas**

The Wood Green Centre staff, and volunteers are charter members of "Santa's Helpers Unlimited". This year their magic worked like a charm and many Ward Seven residents had a memorable Christmas which they will remember for many years to come.

The Wood Green Centre broke all records in supplying 314 needy families with Christmas goodies. The assisted families consisted of approx. 1500 men, women and children.

Some of these families would have had a very bleak Christmas if Wood Green and their "donors" had not responded so magnificently. Just this one aspect of their varied Christmas programme, the supplying of essential groceries, came to \$3500.

Every eligible family was presented with a cheque made out jointly to themselves and Vine Hill Farms Ltd. These families were required to purchase groceries of their choice using a minimum of 75% of the face value of the cheque. The other 25% could be received in cash to purchase essentials from other sources. The management of V.H.F. Ltd. very generously donated an approx. 10% of the total purchased to the Wood Green Centre. It is refreshing to see businessmen putting community involvement ahead of corporate profit.

According to a number of families interviewed this arrangement was a tremendous success, and it appears Wood

Green Centre has a very special place in their affections. If other social agencies and action committees only had as much "heart", the ever present poor in our midst would be well served.

For the multitudes of children they threw a series of successful parties, the kids had a ball and everyone came away very happy with their gifts.

The "Share a Christmas" programme was an outstanding holiday achievement. All the staff, volunteers, and the "donors" deserve thanks for spreading a little Christmas joy.

St. Enoch's

(Contd. from P3, col 5)

board of directors were: Peter Akehurst, John Piper, Mary Agnew, John Barber, Myra Box, Bill Lee, Jeremy Carver, Peggy Simmie, Alan Samuel, Marion Thompson and Hugh Taggart.

The committees that were formed consist of: Structure, Fund-raising and Legal, Renovations, Program, Publicity and Administration, and Day Care. It was emphasised that further committees will be created as the need arises and that all committees are open to membership by anyone who lives or works in Don Vale. General meetings open to anyone will continue to be held every second Thursday at the Church.

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Forum

(Contd. from P1, Col.4)

citizen pressure as it ought to be. But might not the solution be to elect the Board rather than removing the Staff from its jurisdiction?

Council control of the Planning Staff would mean the loss of the citizen link. But on the other hand, the alderman, as elected officials, might prove to be more responsive to electoral pressures.

If control of the planners comes under Council, can we count on complete autonomy for the Planning Staff? Would the Chief Planner have the status of Commissioner of Planning, separate from the Development Department? Or is there the danger that Council might give the Planning Board's power over to the Development Department? Shouldn't the two units be independent of one another?

Obviously there are many questions to be asked and answered. The topic of the Forum is: Is Toronto Overdeveloped and Underplanned? Come and make your views known.

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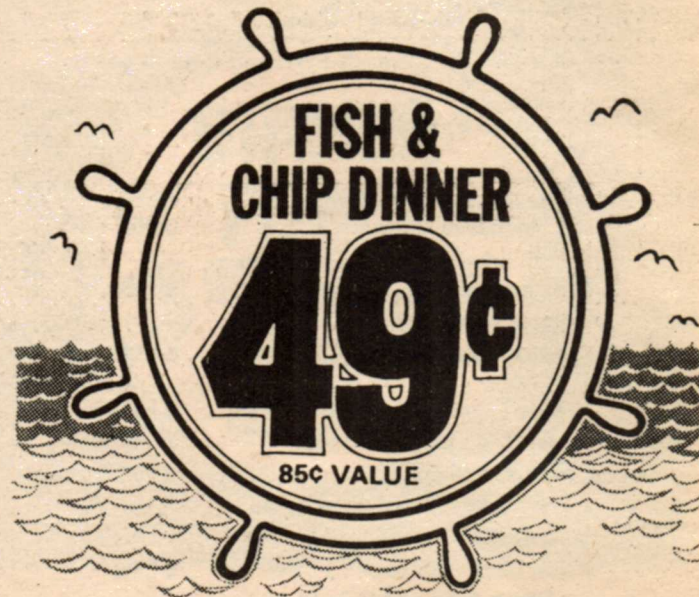
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