

WITHOUT STAFF SINCE SEPTEMBER

## RCO gets first instalment of \$83,760 federal grant

by NORM CRAVEN

Good news from the east-end. R.C.O. has received the first installment of an \$83,760 action-research grant from C.M.H.C. The balance is payable over the next two years.

Ads placed in the Globe & Mail for a staff director drew very few qualified applicants for the position. Don Keating, the ex-staff director, was one of the people applying and has been re-hired. For the past few months he has been working on a temporary basis for the Social Planning Council.

R.C.O., the Riverdale Community Organization, was formed from the nucleus of the

old Don Mount Coalition. The guiding lights were Ralph Thornton and the local clergy. The City was one of the foster-parents, giving the original grant that put the show on the road.

In its first year of operation (Oct. '69 to Sept. '70) it initiated 85 separate actions. Some 80 were resolved to the benefit of the community. These impressive results were achieved by using the "confrontation tactics" of Saul Alinsky. (Alinsky is a controversial people's rights organiser in the U.S.)

Don Keating, R.C.O.'s staff director, a Canadian and one-time United Church minister was trained in the method. He had worked in Chicago in citizen movements for some 6 years prior to his R.C.O. appointment.

### GRANT LOST

During its second year (Oct. '70 to Sept. '71) R.C.O. initiated 52 successful actions. Because of opposition aroused by its controversial methods and smear campaign, the City did not renew its grant.

A memorable debate resulted at City Hall that lasted into the wee hours of the morning. Both Ward 7 Aldermen supported R.C.O.'s position. Fred Beavis, Ward 8, gave grudging assent. The other Ward 8 Alderman opposed it. (Riverdale Community Organization operates within Wards 7 and 8.) In consequence the City refused to put the seal of approval on a R.C.O. request for Government assistance.

Despite the lack of City approval, R.C.O. applied to the Federal Govt. for aid. The Govt. responded with a couple of interim grants totalling some \$13,000 to keep the operation solvent, while it sought a way for more responsible funding.

A series of proposals were drafted and a lengthy courtship

with the Dept. of Urban Affairs ensued. Due to "empire building" within the Dept. and "on again, off again" promises, R.C.O.'s financial picture weakened.

The United Church then came through with a lifesaving grant, and this was used to pay off accumulated debts and over-due salaries. Ward 8 Alderman, Tom Clifford, protested his Church's use of funds.

This was only a stop-gap effort, and at this point its paid staff were laid-off. The staff continued to work for a short time as unpaid "volunteers". Eventually they had to leave to take more gainful employment.

R.C.O. has been without staff since Sept. '71, and has survived because of the strength of character of such people as Chairman Connie Leslie, and the moral leadership of Velda Cyr. Thanks to the unselfish generosity of the United Church and other friends, it has been able to pay the rent and their phone bills.

The Ward 8 Aldermen feel R.C.O. has accomplished very little. Alderman Tom Clifford is a honest, fundamental Christian, who sees everything strictly black or white. The very narrowness of his vision does not allow him to see the obvious.

Fred Beavis, the other Ward 8 Alderman, is an old pro. He is for "progress" at any price. He is well liked, by some very fine people who live in the community. However, his voting record at City Council shows he is against "people power."

Strangely enough, after studying the list of R.C.O.'s reported victories, it appears the local alderman may have something. Some victories are nebulous; others appear to be straight building inspector-type problems, like forcing absentee landlords to bring their properties up to acceptable standards.

### ALDERMEN BLIND

However, it also becomes

increasingly apparent, both Ward 8 Aldermen are blind to the needs of their constituents. \$83,760 is an awful pile of the taxpayers money to be used in Riverdale, to clean up some of the chores the local aldermen should be doing.

There is one action the R.C.O. is currently engaged in, that appears to be a definite must for the area. This is the creation of a Community Health Centre.

The community-health concept has gained tacit approval from the provincial department of health due to Velda Cyr's skillful presentation. If it becomes a reality, then R.C.O. will have proved its worth.

Doubtless Riverdale Community Organization will continue to turn some people off while serving the greater needs of the community. After all, Alinsky's methods do create friction. Unfortunately, this is an abrasive society. Wouldn't it be great, to return to the days of wine and roses.

## HELP!

Tenants at 41 Oak Street in Regent Park are still wondering what happened to the lady who got stuck in the elevator.

Cries of help from the elevator aroused tenants in the building and one of them, after four tries, got through to OHC. The janitor as well as the elevator repair man arrived on the scene some half an hour later. In the interim, as many as 25 people congregated in the halls, talking to and reassuring the woman caught.

A half an hour later, the elevator was put back in service but when it was opened, it was found to be empty. At that point, the various stories conflict. OHC officials claim there was no one in the elevator, some tenants think that the OHC "spirited" her away.

And the tenants say the elevator still isn't working.

## Seven News hires two new staff workers

Seven News now has two full-time staff people both with wide newspaper experience and community involvement who aim to breathe new vitality and excitement into the two-year-old community paper.

Under a Local Initiative Program, Norman G. Browne, and John Goyeau, former editor of the New Democrat, was chosen reporter-circulation manager. Both will receive \$100 a month until May 31.

Mr. Browne is a well-known figure in the ward as a community organizer with the Christian Resource Centre working with local tenants.

"The purpose of the LIP grant is to revitalize and expand the paper. I hope to get involved in such projects as setting up a newspaper morgue, establishing boxes for the paper and organizing a journalism course at the Parliament St. Library," he said.

Mr. Goyeau has worked as a reporter for the Windsor Star, as an assistant editor to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Industry, a trade magazine, and as a writer with a large public relations firm.

Although most of his time will be spent searching out stories in the community and giving the paper a more modern, exciting look, one of his main jobs will be to make the circulation system more efficient. Seven News is distributed entirely by volunteers and Mr. Goyeau hopes to get these people more involved in the writing of the paper and perhaps organize social events to show the paper's appreciation for their service.

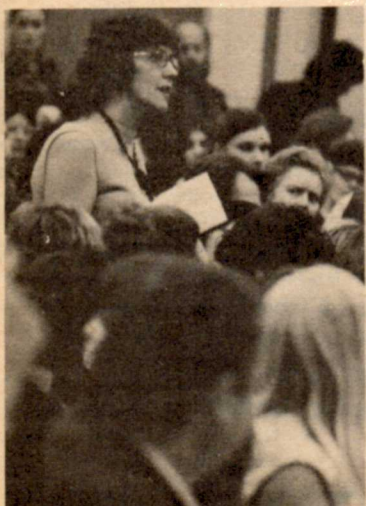
Mr. Browne is a member of the Executive Council of the Don Vale Association of Home Owners and on the executive of the Don Vale Tenants Assoc., on the Executive of the Don Vale Community Centre and on the Executive of Community Information Centre for Metro Toronto.

One of his prime jobs will be to contact and encourage people in the community to write and report for Seven News.

## People, people, everywhere ... but only 12 trustees show

by Leith P. Piper

Once again it would appear that the Board of Education does not believe in the value of citizen participation. On January 31, a



The crowd spoke up . . .  
. . . but there was no one to listen

special meeting of the Toronto Board of Education was convened at Park School to discuss the recommendations of the Park School brief. Over 350 students, parents, teachers and concerned citizens thought it important enough to attend.

Only 12 board members were there on time, an insufficient number for a quorum. Thus the discussion became informal and no binding decisions could be taken.

The Parks School brief states that most children in inner city schools are two to three years behind their equivalent in middle class areas.

- The brief recommends:
- 1) Medical checkups to insure all children entering school are healthy
  - 2) Two hired fulltime teacher's aids per classroom in downtown schools
  - 3) A reading-testing program for very poor readers
  - 4) A withdrawal program for very poor readers
  - 5) Additional money for books

for use in classrooms and libraries

- 6) A thorough teacher training program in the language arts.

Many concerns and issues were expressed by parents and local citizens such as Janet Ross and Mike Carson. The Board failed to respond to these misgivings and systematically passed the buck to Mr. Jones, Director of Education. Mr. Jones demonstrated concern and willingness to listen but policy decisions and major changes in the system do not lie in his hands.

Gordon Cressy, trustee from Ward Seven, stated that the inner city program had failed.

He pointed out that no academic high school exists within the boundaries of Ward Seven although three vocational schools have been constructed here recently. He questioned the value and necessity of the multitude of social workers "helping" in inner city schools.

As the meeting continued, many people became frustrated with the lack of decision-making

power and the continuous chit-chat.

Cressy and Graham Scott, the other ward trustee, called for a straw vote on the Brief's

recommendations. This motion was defeated and the Chairman hastily adjourned the meeting amongst much confusion and frustration on the part of the citizens.



Janet Ross of Regent Park gives Trustee Herb Barnes a piece of her mind.



# Favourable response to zoo plans

by Pat King

A meeting of the Riverdale Zoo Site Committee was held on February 1st to discuss the proposal of Mr. Thompson, the Metropolitan Parks Commissioner, for the use of the zoo site.

In an interview Mr. Thompson stated that he plans to recommend to the City:

- the main zoo buildings (the red brick ones running parallel with Winchester Street) be repaired and used to house bird and fish exhibits
- Donnybrook Towers (the white building at the foot of Carlton Street) be restored to its original function of shelter and lookout
- the land between them (the bear pits, cages and huts) be levelled, filled and landscaped so that the park becomes free-flowing from Sumach down to the ponds at the bottom of the hill.

The reaction to Mr. Thompson's plans was generally favorable, although the Don Vale Residents and Homeowners Association would like to see some sort of animal exhibit there as well.

Discussion of the plan was pre-empted by John Sewell's announcement that the City Parks and Recreation Committee was scheduled to discuss the Riverdale Zoo Site on Thursday, February 3rd.

Alderman Sewell recommended that a delegation attend to try to set up some sort of process whereby the Zoo Site Committee could be kept informed of the work of the Parks Committee and could in turn relay to them the wishes of the people in the area and their reactions to any plans for the use of the site.

Pat King and Peter Akehurst attended the meeting. Alderman Sewell introduced them to the Parks Committee and after Mrs. King briefly described the work of the Riverdale Zoo Site Committee and their wish to collaborate with the Parks Committee, John Sewell recommended that a sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Committee be set up to consider the Riverdale Zoo Site and that the sub-committee comprise Mr. Forrest, City Parks Commissioner, Alderman Brown, chairman of the Parks Committee, Alderman Wardle, John Sewell himself, members of the Riverdale Zoo Site Committee and other interested parties in the area.

Alderman Rotenburg opposed the motion, suggesting instead that Mr. Forrest and Mr. Sewell meet individually with interested parties, but the motion was carried in recognition of the work being done in the community.

The first meeting of the sub-committee will be held shortly.

## Panelist wanted

It's now definite; there will be a Star Forum — in association with the Don District Health Resources Committee — on DENTAL HEALTH CARE.

The Forum — free to the public — is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th at 8 p.m. at the St. Lawrence Centre Town Hall.

There is still a place on the panel for a welfare recipient who wishes to speak out on some

problems and solutions regarding the inadequate dental care available to people with low income.

If any welfare recipient is interested in being on the panel, they are asked to immediately call the Neighbourhood Information Post at 924-2543 and leave your name and address and phone number.

## DON VALE

On the advice of Alderman John Sewell, the Don Vale Association of Homeowners and Residents have temporarily withdrawn their application for a seat on the South of St. Jamestown Working Committee.

Alderman Sewell suggested that the Association delay their request for at least two months to allow the Working Committee to organize, select its delegates and work out some ground rules. At its last executive meeting, the Association decided to delay their application for a month and review it again.

Don Vale is concerned about the effect that massive high rise development.

Specifically, the Don Vale Association is concerned that high-rise development south of St. Jamestown will increase traffic density, add to overcrowding in the area schools, create additional noise pollution, cut off the sunlight from Don Vale and further overcrowd the already insufficient parkland in the area.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**SOMETHING FOR ANYONE OVER 60** is the motto of the Senior Citizen's Drop-In held every Friday between 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Woodgreen Community Centre, 835 Queen St. E. Admission free.

**EVERY THURSDAY NOON IS NOON-ON-THE-SQUARE** at 10 Trinity Square. On Thursday Feb. 17th, the guest speaker is Alderman Tony O'Donohue, the time is noon and the food is inexpensive and nutritious.

**A PETITION, ASKING THAT THE SALE OF SOLVENTS TO KIDS** under 16 be banned, is being circulated in the Ward Seven area by members of the Social Credit Party. Copies can be obtained by phoning 465-4180.

**A FREE "INFORMATIONAL" SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH** will be held on Monday, February 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the 6th floor auditorium of the education Centre, 155 College Street. Speakers will be Mrs. R. Marley of Addiction Research Foundation, Dr. DeVries of Psychiatric Service, and Rev. G. Winch of the Distress Centre.

**SENIOR CITIZENS AT DIXON HALL**, 58 Sumach Street. Senior Ladies meet every Monday from 1:30 to 3:30 for Gab Sessions, arts and crafts, speakers, films, etc. Senior Men meet for the same events on Fridays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**A SALE OF HOMEBAKING, RUMMAGE, NOVELTIES**, etc. will be held at Woodgreen Community Centre, 835 Queen St. E. on the afternoon of Saturday, March 11th.

**THE DON VALE ASSOCIATION** of Homeowners and Residents has sent off a strongly worded letter of censure to the Toronto School Board criticising the fact that a quorum of members was not present at a recent and important board meeting held at Park School.

**TRIGGER, A DROP-IN CENTRE FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH**, has opened a store-front office at 204A Queen West. The Centre also acts as an information post, gives job counselling and provides

space for some activities. More information can be obtained by phoning 863-9967.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF SEVEN NEWS** is Monday, Noon the 28th of February. Copy can be left at 265 Gerrard East, 80 Winchester or 297 Carlton. The "make-up" meeting for that issue will be held Monday night in the SEVEN NEWS office, 80 Winchester Street.

**SEVEN NEWS** urgently needs a two or three drawer filing cabinet. If you know of one available free or very cheap, please phone us at 368-5101. The filing cabinet will be used to house a "morgue" of newspaper clippings from all Seven News issues as well as a photo and general information files.

**A SERVICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND SHUT-INS** has been started by Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St. The service will help to get supplies from drug stores and markets, provide friendship and companionship, help find information, provide company to appointments and visits and do small household chores. The service is free. For more information phone Ethel at 923-6225.

**PLANNING MEETINGS FOR A COMMUNITY SCHOOL** at Oak-Cornwall are held every Tuesday except for the third Tuesday of each month, at the portable classroom at 203 Oak St. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

**A GENERAL MEETING OF SOUTH OF CARLTON COMMUNITY ACTION** will be held on Monday, Feb. 21st at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street at 7:30 p.m. The main agenda item is the formation of a working committee to help in detailed planning of the area south of Carlton. Everyone is welcome.

**THE NEXT EDITORIAL MEETING OF SEVEN NEWS** will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 23rd at 8 p.m. at the 7 News Office in the basement of 80 Winchester Street. Everyone welcome to attend.

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# McCormick and Dealey resign from Regent Park Executive

by NORMAN G. BROWNE

BOTH RESIGN

The question of security or lack of security in Regent Park has become a controversial topic of discussion there over the past weeks and has indirectly resulted in the resignation of the Vice-President and ouster of the president of the Regent Park tenants group.

The key meeting was about a month ago when over 150 tenants of Regent Park showed up to hear a representative of the Community Guardian company explain their role in the policing of the projects.

Unfortunately, the Community Guardian man used the wrong strategy in dealing with the crowd. Instead of keeping his remarks brief and throwing the meeting open to complaints and questions, he instead talked on and on, treating the people there to a monologue when they wanted a free wheeling dialogue.

When the Community Guardian people stopped talking, there was no time left for any questions or comments — the meeting had to move on to other business on the agenda.

When Mr. Bud McCormick, the President of the Association tried to move the meeting on to other agenda items he was overruled by the divided and frustrated tenants at the meeting.

At that point he resigned and his resignation was followed closely by the resignation of the vice-president of the Association, Mr. Bill Dealey.

The meeting then broke up and left in limbo the status of their two key executives as the membership neither accepted nor rejected the resignations.

Two meetings later, the problem of the resignations was dealt with. Mr. Dealey's resignation, confirmed in a written statement, gave ill health and the pressure of the job as his reasons for resigning. His resignation was accepted.

Mr. Bud McCormick, whose resignation was only verbal, withdrew it and asked to continue on as the Association President. However, when a vote was taken, the membership voted in favour of accepting his resignation.

Elected as pro-tem chairman was Mr. Neil Tanner while Babe Clouthier was named interim vice-president. Both will hold their positions until March when the annual elections of the Association will be held.

And the problem of lack of security and lack of effective policing in the area is still the hottest topic of conversation amongst groups and in meetings in Regent Park.

## Will study drug costs

# Health Committee to set community goals

by Don Weitz

An important and potentially far-reaching decision was made at a recent meeting of the Don District Health Resources Committee.

Sparked by Don Weitz (Chairman Pro-tem), who said he felt the Health Committee had no clear definite objectives or focus, committee members decided to form a working committee charged with specifying the Health Committee's goals.

The working committee consists of Barry Morris, Roberta Sankey, John Nicol, Richard Boundy, Betty Fletcher and Don Weitz.

This committee will present its tentative list of goals at the next meeting and will also consult with various members or

representatives of community groups in the Don District within the next few weeks.

The Health Committee also discussed the controversial issue of drug costs. Terri Scriver with Operation Family Rights, said her group had written a brief on prescription drug costs for low income people. The Health Committee deferred endorsing the brief until its next meeting to give members and member organizations a chance to study it in detail.

Carl Palmer, co-ordinator of PARCOST, (the Ontario Government low-cost drug program) was also at the meeting to answer questions regarding the drug plan.

He stated that the PARCOST plan seeks to reduce drug costs without reducing quality. He also

said that 70% of all pharmacies in Ontario have committed themselves to PARCOST since the program began about one year ago. However, he said, many doctors who fear increased government control over the medical profession are still opposing and resisting the plan. The drug companies are also strongly opposed to the Plan as they see it as a direct threat to their profit margins.

Anyone with questions on PARCOST can obtain more information about it by phoning Mr. Palmer at 365-6685 or writing him at the Department of Health, Parliament Buildings.

Some useful information on PARCOST, including a list of participating pharmacies in Ward Seven can be obtained at the Neighbourhood Information Post, 265 Gerrard East.

## SIXTEEN EMPLOYEES .... BUT NO BOILER

Mixed emotions is getting a grant of \$22,000 to hire 16 people to work in your building on the same day that the boiler in the building konks out, rendering the building uninhabitable.

This unlikely situation happened to the Don Vale

Community Centre early this month.

To further add to the irony, without the grant of \$22,000 it was doubtful if the Community Centre could continue operating. However, the cost to replace the boiler was set at \$6,400 which was far in excess of any money available for that purpose. Without the boiler to heat the building the Community Centre operations would have to cease.

Fortunately, this crisis situation only lasted a day. After a hurried telephone meeting amongst its members, the Board

of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada agreed to install a new boiler in the building. (The Community Centre is housed in a former church and rented by the United Church to the community for \$1 a year.)

For awhile there was a distinct possibility that the Don Vale group might have had to give back all or part of its grant. Since the grant was given under the Local Initiative Program and they had to do a lot of hassling to get it, the chance existed that they would give it back and say, "We don't want any of your LIP!"

## DROP-IN CENTRES

A Drop-In Centre for Women only has been operating for the past couple of weeks in a room at All Saints Church at the corner of Sherbourne and Dundas.

Called The Open Door, the drop-in runs daily, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and any woman is welcome. There is free coffee, games, TV, companionship, counselling and information on available community services.

A free room registry service has also been opened at All Saint's Church and is available to both men and women. Listing are being compiled or rooms to rent in Ward Seven and listings are also made of people seeking rooms.

Anyone having a room to rent or seeking a room in the district can use this service by phoning 366-4319.

## Ward 7

## Sports

## Round-Up

By Joe Ganny  
77 Howard St. Apt. 203  
Phone 923-7251



In playground ice hockey Regent Park Atoms are on top of their division with 5 wins, no losses and only one tie. Mike Hill leads the team in goals with John Smith close behind, while David Ruffo is outstanding in goal. However this is not a one or two man team and boys like Mike Christie, with six goals, Troy Montrait, Brian West, Calvin Green and Allan Zutautas are all playing fine hockey. This team will be playing in the finals at Maple Leaf Gardens on March 11th.

In the Pee Wee Series the Regent Park team is in third place and will have to go all out in order to make it to the finals at the Gardens. This team has had hard luck this year as they usually lead all through a game only to have the other team score in the last minute of play to up the game.

Paul Cormier is the team's leader and top goal scorer. Chris Adams is playing fine hockey for coach Harold Lounds as is Don McCormick, (3 goals in the last 2 games), Don McCulloch, Brian Ruffo, Kevin Fillier, Greg Kiosis, Mitch Lecourt and David Nevilles. With a little luck and some fan support, this team will make it to the finals at the Gardens as well.

The Regent minor bantam team is unbeaten in six games this season and this is a good hockey team with every boy doing a good job for the team. Great in the net are Laszlo Szabo and Jim Nevilles while the goal scorers are Paul Popadopoulos, Kevin Hill, Chuck

Emes, Doug Dailey, Benjie Green, Doug Dumas, Don Quinney, John Montrait, Rick Whitelaw and Steve Meredith.

In the Bantam series Regent Park is tied for second place. Led by Len Quinney's two goals, Regent recently beat Pape 7-0. With fine play like Len's and help from such boys as Randy McCormick, John Woodcock, Paul Szabo, Ricky Green, Geo Smith, Danny Smith, Ricky Goose, Delbert McCulloch, Dan Robbins, Tim Christie, Bill Fillier and Lucky Gouldby, this team will not be too far away come play-off time. Two fine goal keepers, Robert Miller and Dan Duggan will also have a lot to say in how the team will finish.

Regent Park Midgets are in first place and the main reason for this is the sensational netminding of Brian Bilan. Jack Pike, Paul Baylis, Wallace Chan, Warren Francis, Brian Blunt, Mike Holder and Bill Kerr are all doing a fine job at scoring goals so this team is a winner too.

In the Junior series Regent is in second place with only one loss this season. Tops in goal is Mike Horniblow, while Dan Nolan, Peter Ritchie, John Burns and Howard Fillier are superb on defence. With Roy Graham, Brian Kitamura, Ed Delaney, Greg Kelly, Bill Yaschucki, Jim Maybin and Ted Adams doing a good job up front, this team will also be at Maple Leaf Gardens for the finals on March 11th.

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## LETTERS

## They won't get my vote

Dear Sir,

Your paper can do without John Sewell's letters and comments. I know, as you've told me, that he has contributed financially, but I guess its the amount of the contribution that counts. The amount that I contributed, (if I may say I did) was small and I'm lucky to get even a letter to the editor printed.

I noticed his pre-election list of street and sidewalk repairs in the issue before last, but what do they plan to do with Wellesley St. E. (east of Parliament)?

I've been here as a home owner 6 years, I've paid my taxes every year in full, and yet, nothing is ever done to fix up the road. We are lucky to get snow removal. The ambulance drivers have to drive over snow banks to remove people from my home, and I require an ambulance now and again to take my mother who is 72 to the hospital. She can't even get out during the winter months, in our private car or in a taxi, because the snow is 6" to 8" above the sidewalk.

I clean the snow from my side walk and I feel that it is up to Jaffary and Sewell to see that we get some consolation for keeping Wellesley St. as clear as they do for the snob hellers.

I may sound bitter, but those two have done nothing for us since they were elected into office. They won't get my vote this term. I respect them as human beings, but they can't practice law and look after us too. There is more to Ward Seven than just South of St. Jamestown.

I would take pleasure in running against them, even with my limited education. At least I would act for my people; all of them.

George Christian  
411 Wellesley E.

P.S. I will support your paper as usual if I must to get my letter in.

(Dear Mr. Christian:

1. - The amount of financial contribution by an individual to SEVEN NEWS has no bearing whatsoever on whether their material is accepted or not. Material is printed on the basis of readability, interest to our readers and length.

2. - The SEVEN NEWS constitution states that one of the reasons for the paper is to provide a means of communication between the people of Ward Seven and their elected representatives. This gives some priority in publication to material by Ward

Aldermen, School trustees, M.P.P.'s and M.P.'s.

3. - The snow can't be removed from Wellesley St. without being removed from every other side street in Toronto at the same time. Are you willing to pay for the massive increase in taxes that that would cost?

4. - Alderman Sewell does not practise law, and never has. He spends 12 to 15 hours a day "looking after you."

5. - You are still confused. Anyone who writes for SEVEN NEWS "supports" it because we need copy as well as money. - The Editor)

## We're not cry babies!

Dear Editor,

I attended a meeting on Monday Jan. 31, at City Hall; a meeting made up of the Committee (Building and Development) and the public.

One of the speakers, Mrs. Dorothy Gladwin of Parliament Street spoke her mind indeed, for which this lady should be commended. However she is very much misinformed, in regard to the 4 OHC buildings in St. Jamestown and the OHC tenants.

In my estimation this lady passed some rather unkind remarks about the OHC tenants in St. Jamestown.

She said we are all cry babies and ready to accept welfare and be supported by the tax payers.

It is unfortunate that Mrs. Gladwin did not make a tour of the four OHC buildings in St. Jamestown and find out first how many legitimate and sincere and worthy cases there really are, before she made that statement. We, the OHC tenants in St.

Jamestown enjoy the very same benefits and privileges as do all the tenants from all the other buildings.

The halls in our buildings are not wrecked, nor is the wall paper torn as Mrs. Gladwin stated. We have very well maintained buildings and they are kept superbly clean.

We are invited to many of the functions in the other luxury buildings of St. Jamestown, and they in return are invited to ours. Therefore I do not feel that there is any difference whatsoever shown OHC tenants.

I cannot speak for other tenants as I have not been authorized to do so, but as far as I am concerned I am not at all interested in the park across on Bleecker Street.

I would like to conclude that I am very proud of being an OHC tenant in St. Jamestown.

Mrs. Mary Ritchie,  
Apt. 1510 - 200 Wellesley E.

## St. Jamestown T.V. .. Is it community programming?

In a penthouse on top of the Winnipeg Building in St. Jamestown there is a television studio. It serves St. Jamestown's own station, Channel 12.

Channel 12's studio is large and bright and jammed with equipment, props and a beer fridge. A burlap covered screen is hung with contest prizes, dresses, home wine-making kits; the Bingo machine stands at the ready, a wire cage filled with colored balls.

A newspaper is posted on one wall. The newspaper is the souvenir edition "Tele-Town", issued July 29, 1971 to promote the opening of St. Jamestown T.V. which is also known as Tele-Town.

The paper features announcements of contests to be carried on the Tele-Town system, a channel code of ethics, and articles explaining the project's virtues and benefits.

"St. Jamestown may be the First Attempt at Real Community T.V. . . the St. Jamestown project, because of its many common denominations . . . such as geographical proximity, all residents being apartment dwellers, with city-oriented lives . . . portends well for the emergence of . . . Real Community television."

## THREE TYPES

The paper goes on to explain that Tele-Town will run 3 distinct types of broadcasting.

Message cards will flip in front of a camera, carrying local merchants' ads, community service announcements and as a free service to residents, "Happy Birthday Charlie," "Boat for Sale," or whatever they wish. At certain intervals the messages stop and the camera looks at a clock and a thermometer.

Tele-Town has its own 1/2" videotape recording equipment, a T.V. camera, and equipment for on-location shooting . . . "for use in producing the residents' own shows (live or taped) . . . anything from drama to sports."

Tele-Town's third type of programming is uncut feature movies.

One is amazed that so simple an arrangement could be good: the creation of Tele-Town means not only the "first attempt at Real Community T.V." but also a chance for local merchants to advertise on television to a specific audience at rates they can afford; the creation of part- and full-time jobs; better communication between management and residents; and a chance for tenants to produce their own television shows.

Surely every silver lining has its cloud. What do Tele-Town's critics say? What's in the project for Meridian?

Tele-Town is the St. Jamestown division of an organization called Tel-Apart. Tel-Apart is 50% owned by Southam news; it has branches in the Thorncliffe apartment complex (where it is known as "Tele-Thorn") in Meridian's High Park complex, and soon, in Crescent Town.

## MASTER ANTENNA

Tel-Apart is carried on master antenna systems. Because all receiving and transmitting is done within the bounds of the buildings, there is a legal distinction between cable and master antenna television: master antenna systems are private property.

Unlike cable, private, master antenna systems such as Tele-Town are not subject to federal (Canadian Radio and Television Commission) regulation. Unlike cable, Master antenna systems can carry paid advertising. Tele-Town does, on its message cards. What's in it for Meridian is 10% of the gross ad profits.

Nor is Meridian anxious that Tele-Town become an organizing tool, a forum for any tenant to organize grievances. The paper emphasizes that Tele-Town's role is that of a "Fun Thing" . . . an entertaining rather than provoking communication system for tenants.

In return for 10% of the ad profits, Meridian's 3-year contract with Tel-Apart promises that Meridian will take care of maintenance.

Survival is no crime: cable T.V. supports itself on subscription fees and Master antenna as a free attraction to tenants supports itself on ad revenues. But critics of Tele-Town and other apartment systems say that too often programming aims only at increasing the size of the audience in order to interest potential advertisers.

## COMMUNITY T.V.?

They say that time which could not be spent on community-produced service and information shows is squandered on contests and movies. They charge that Tele-Town does not provide a community alternative to commercial T.V.

Tele-Town does run movies and contests, but in addition carries education programmes from community colleges, panel discussions on the problems of high-rise living, and coverage of local events. John Sewell has started negotiations for a weekly spot.

Don Inman, president of Tel-Apart says "Tele-Town must sell advertising to pay for itself but this in no way affects the quality of our programming."

SEVEN NEWS asked Mr. Inman who made the decisions about programming at Tele-Town. "The movies are part of the commercial side of this venture so we chose them, but it is just a matter of opinion," he said, (tenants are satisfied with Tel-Apart's choice: last month they saw "Carry on Cruising" and "The Naked and the Dead" among many others.) Other programming is decided by the Production Advisory Committee.

"(The Production Advisory Group) was made up of representatives from Meridian, from Tele-Apart Corporation, the technical operators, from the "Y" and from residents.

by Diana MacArthur

## Rose Ave. after 4 program limited by lack of funding

The Rose Avenue School after four program has been operating for several years on a subsidy from the Board of Education. The subsidy has ranged from \$4,000 to \$6,000 a year.

However, this year the program was changed to a fee-paying, more structured program although the income from fees only pays about 15% of the costs with the Board of Education again picking up the balance.

At present, there are two staff who work every day. The Director, Alice Williams, is paid for three hours a day and the Assistant Director, Eve Wilkens, is paid for two hours a day.

However, this time is not sufficient for meetings and discussion with activity leaders, conversations with parents and the necessary record keeping, etc.

Because of these limitations, the program cannot be flexible enough to interest a great variety of children and as a result, registration has been limited to keep groups to a manageable and constructive size.

Miss Williams, however, is making progress with some of the more anti-social kids and is bringing in some parents to help as well as attracting some good volunteer help from outside the area.

The Rose Avenue School After Four Program could develop into a Community School Council depending upon interest by area parents and additional sources of funding.

At present, word is being waited on an application to hire an additional six people under a Local Initiative Program grant.

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As representative a group as possible from the residents was set up . . ." writes the paper Tele-Town.

## NOT ELECTED

Reg Bundy, director of the "Y" said recently in the Globe and Mail that the tenants representatives were selected (rather than elected) by the Y because "there are very special services to perform." He was not specific about what these special services were.

One lady from St. Jamestown put the situation differently. When SEVEN NEWS asked her about Tele-Town she replied "It's a big-shot thing. It's not by the people unless they have drag with the Y."

Professional broadcasters also voice criticisms. "Tele-Town isolates apartment dwellers and accentuates their apartness." "If the C.R.T.C. represents the will of the elected government, then Tele-Town is openly challenging it."

But the most immediate charge against Tele-Town is not philosophic but technical. "I've not seen our community channel 'cause of interference," says a Bleecker Street housewife. "The movies they were having looked good, but I can't get them."

Double pictures, snow, wavy lines have had tenants first phoning expensive servicemen, and later, the management. Reports say the management was getting up to 200 complaints a day that the Tele-Town system was ruining reception.

What is the future of Tele-Town? If technical problems are cleared up, will tenants continue to feel excluded?

Even while Tele-Town painstakingly overhauls its wirings, petitions have been started among tenants to show their willingness to pay subscription rates and bring in outside cable, or to start up their tenant-supported non-commercial internal system.

It should be an interesting race.