Don Vale residents draw battle lines over co-op expansion

by ANDY STANLEY

As the snow started to fall on February 27 a public meeting of well over two hundred Don Vale residents failed to generate the storm of controversy many had expected. Instead, a local co-op quietly rolled over neighbourhood opposition to its plans to build eight new three-bedroom homes.

Don Area Co-operative Homes

Inc. (DACHI) wants to construct the houses on vacant land it owns on Dermott Place, a small lane just east of Parliament St. and south of Carlton. A minor by-law change is required to permit construction.

Some local residents at the meeting raised questions about the proposed design of the new houses. Their criticism ranged from the use of asphalt shingles and aluminum siding to the proximity of the houses to the street.

Some of the local residents say

a move by DACHI to have another bylaw changed leads them to distrust the co-op's intentions. DACHI proposed the change to push through long overdue building permits for renovations it made in 1975.

According to the co-op's architect, Stephen Langmead, the houses were renovated by plans filed with the City in 1974, and only a "bureaucratic bungle" prevented permits from being issued originally.

In a leaflet distributed to area

residents before the meeting, the property owners' association asked: "Do you want to determine your own desitny... or do you want your destiny determined by DACHI and by planning staff?"

Judie Pirrie, President of DACHI, assured residents that the co-op did not want to dictate planning policy to the rest of the neighbourhood.

"We're very concerned to follow all the rules," Pirrie said. "We have a waiting list of families looking for affordable housing, families that can also add a lot to this community."

"The co-op could spread right across the neighbourhood," said A. E. Chapman, a resident on Sword Street. "There's no knowing where they'll stop. It's a bad picture for property owners."

David Weenan, a prominent local renovator says the co-op did not meet the requirements of the neighbourhood. "Feelings

Continued on page 2

SEVEN NEWS

8 MARCH 1984

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FREE



8 MARCH 1984

Feds close City UIC offices

by STEVE HELLER

A picket line of unemployed workers and some elected officials formed in front of the office of John Roberts, Minister of Employment and Immigration, to protest cutbacks in services to the recipients of unemployment insurance.

In spite of bitter cold and high winds the picketers marched for an hour without any let up of spirits. They claimed that the federal government's plans to fire 400 employees of the Unemployment Insurance Commission would curtail services. Offices at 909 Jane Street and 1985 Danforth Avenue will be closed, according to James Third, Regional Director for Employment and Immigration.

The immediate cause of the protest was a break-down in communications between Third and Dan Heap, member of Parliament for Spadina riding. Heap says his office engaged in protracted efforts to meet Third and discuss the concerns of the unemployed in his riding. A meeting arranged by Heap and Third last week did not take place because of what Heap calls "a breakdown of communication

and news blackout" at Third's office.

Third denies such a meeting was arranged but says he was aware of Heap's involvement. Third's office also cancelled a local tour of Lynne McDonald, federal member for Broadview-Greenwood. He provided no explanation. Heap says reduced service to UIC claimants places a heavier work load on his own office.

Another marcher, Ward 6 alderman Jack Layton, agrees. Layton says his offices are also inundated by calls of unemployed workers seeking help. Layton's ward is one of the sections of the city most effected by any cutbacks.

Bill Fisher of the Canada Employment and Immigration Union — the bargaining unit for the workers in the UIC offices is also concerned. He says the federal government doesn't fully understand the impact of closing UIC offices.

While most of the UIC workers effected are not unionized, Fisher feels the cold wind at his back with a possible ten per cent cutback in staff with no decrease in work load. He fully supports the efforts of the Toronto Union of continued on page 2



A picket line of approximately 30 people formed outside the Toronto office of John Roberts, federal minister of Employment and Immigration. The picket line included Dan Heap (extreme front right), federal member for Spadina riding. (Photograph by George Fulford)

Soviet officials visit Ward Seven



Soviet dignitaries lunch at John Sewell's house last week. Major General Alexandre Ovcharov (second from left) talks with Jack Shapiro while Lodmilla Kouznetsova (third from left) looks on with Lynn King and Ted Johnston. Photo by Doron Rescheff.

by GEORGE FULFORD

Ward Seven had two special visitors from the Soviet Union last week. Major General Alexandre Ovcharov of the Red Army and Lodmilla Kouznetsova, a member of the Volgograd city council had lunch with former Toronto mayor John Sewell on Monday.

Ovcharov and Kouznetsova were visiting Toronto on an official goodwill mission. They were invited here to help celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the liberation of Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) from German troops. Volgograd and Toronto are twin cities.

On 26 February 1944 Toronto sponsored a tag day to raise money for the relief of starving people of Volgograd. Four million dollars and, 30 tons of supplies were sent to the war-torn city from Toronto as a result of

Continued on page 2

Province offers loans for summer jobs

by CINDY WIENER

Ambitious students already on the lookout for summer jobs may want to consider the possibility of self-employment this year. The Ontario government is offering interest-free loans of up to \$2,000 to student entrepreneurs through its Student Venture Capital Program. Applicants must be at least 15 years old and returning to school at the end of the program.

In 1983 the Ontario Youth Secretariat, which is responsible for the program, saw 876 businesses start up and hopes for more this year. "Most student ventures are in the service industry, where there is low over-head," says Jackie Wood, co-ordinator of the program. "They include such services as painting, roofing, pool cleaning and landscaping."

Other successful ventures have included tennis and windsurfing lessons and computer programming for small companies.

Last year the province gave out loans worth \$1.5 million to student summer businesses. Loans that are not repaid by October 1 are charged interest at one per cent above the prime rate.

"The default rate is less than 14 per cent, which is quite good when compared to the 20 per cent default

Continued on page 2

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STUDENT LOANS

Continued from page 1 rate for commercial loans at the Royal Bank," says Wood.

Each business is evaluated by the OYS at the end of the program. "Last year, all of the students felt their experience was successful or at least useful." "And 84 per cent felt their businesses were a financial success," says Wood.

Some young entrepreneurs manage to keep their venture going during the school year and others re-apply for loans the following year. Paige Sillcox, 21, a York University economics major, started a cookie company that supplies such stores as Holt Renfrew and Ziggy's. Nancy Walroth, 21, a Ryerson business student, sells promotional Tshirts, buttons and key chains for companies and events. And James Drass, 17, and Allen Cameron, 19, started a silk-screening company last summer which they hope to operate again this year.

These businesses are diverse, but one thing these students do seem to share is the desire to be their own boss. One young woman has sewed Christmas notions and sold them at bazaars and another student has made leather belts and sold them at flea mar-

A viable business proposal that demonstrates a student has done some research into his or her idea is the basic criterion for loan approval. "It isn't necessary to be a business student to apply for a loan," says Wood. Applicants must complete a project description that includes details about the product or service they want to sell, names and addresses of potential customers, market size, prices and advertising and promotion plans. They must also outline how they intend to use their loan and how they will repay the money if their venture is not profitable. Students under 18 must have a guarantor to co-sign the loan.

The applications are assessed and the students are interviewed at the local Chamber of Commerce. Then they go through a series of approvals at the OYS.

Co-ordinator Jackie Wood says about 86 per cent of the applications were approved last year.

Information about the program and applications are available at high schools, college and university placement centres and branches of the Royal Bank. Applications will be accepted by the Chambers of Commerce until June 15.

CO-OP EXPANSION

Continued from page 1 are still very highly against this sort of thing," he said.

John Carson, also a local property owner, disagreed. "I support these by-law amendments," he said. "If DACHI had been a luxury development there would have been no opposition whatsoever."

George Rust D'Eye, Chairman of the Toronto Historical Board and an area homeowner supported the co-op's plans. He called the anti co-op rhetoric "Small minded bigotry." He said there was no longer a rate-payers organization in Don Vale because of the bitterness.

Maureen Penno, spokesperson for the Don Vale Property Owners Association, said she was disappointed about the meeting. She said the meeting was "deluged by DACHI supporters" and plans to continue her group's opposition to further expansion of subsidized housing.

RUSSIAN VISITORS

Continued from page 1

the efforts.

Major General Ovcharov played a key role in the liberation of Volgograd in 1944. As a young officer, he was responsible for the capture of 9,000 German soldiers in the occupied city. He was awarded Russia's highest military honour - the Red Star - for his actions.

Ovcharov and Kouznetsova spent much of last week at official gatherings in Toronto. Between receptions they found enough time to tour the city and do some shopping. Kouznetsova was especially impressed by Canadian winter fashions. She left Toronto with Ovcharov last Wednesday carrying a Sears catalogue.

UIC OFFICES

Continued from page 1 Unemployed Workers (TUUW) to protest increases in unemployment.

Bill Warrell, chairperson of the TUUW approached the secretary in the Employment Minister's office to express the concerns of his group over the closing of the Toronto UIC offices. He told the marchers that Roberts was unavailable for consultation or comment.

The irony of this situation is evident. The Ministry, by introducing computerized systems to speed up claims is contributing to the problem of unemployment without solving the special needs of the claimants. Some workers in the UIC offices are now facing their claimants from the other side of the counter. They are learning first hand about the dehumanizing tendency of this whole process.

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR LENT

MARCH 11 (First Sunday in Lent). Reverend Eilert Frerichs, Chaplin of the University of Toronto, reads from Genesis 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-19; Mathew 4: 1-11.

MARCH 18 (Second Sunday in Lent). Mr. Bruce Mac-Dougall, Downtown Churchworker's Association, reads from Genesis 12: 1-8; Romans 4: 1-5; John 4: 27-42.

MARCH 25 (Third Sunday in Lent). Reverend John M. Metson, Executive Moderator, CRC/RPCM, reads from Exodus 17: 3-7; Romans 8: 1-5; John 4: 27-42.

APRIL 1 (Holy Communion). Mr. Larry Morris, Associate, CRC/RPCM reads from 1 Samuel 16: 6-13; Ephesians 5: 8-14; John 11: 1-45.

APRIL 8 (Fifth Sunday in Lent). Mr. Vaughan D. Blueman, Elder RPCM reads from Ezekial 37: 11-14; Romans 6-11: John 11: 1-45.

APRIL 15 (Palm Sunday). Mr. Carmel Hili, Associate CRC/RPCM reads from Isaiah 50: 4-9; Philippians 2: 5-11; Mathew 26: 14 and 27: 66.

APRIL 19 (Good Friday). Reverend John M. Metson, Executive Moderator CRC/RPCM reads from Isaiah 52: 13-53; Hebrews 4: 14-16; John 18: 1-19, 42. Service

APRIL 22 (Easter Communion) Readings from Acts 10: 34-43; Colossians 3: 1-11; John 20: 1-9. Service at 11 a.m.

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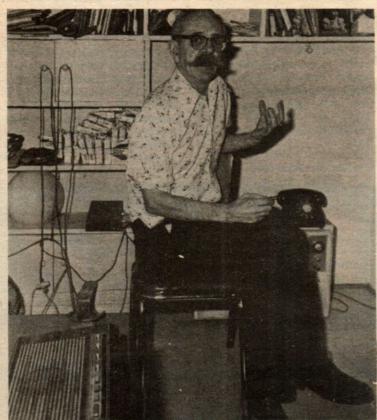
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Social Development in the '8Os



Jerome Murray, former social activist and retired chairman of the Regent Park Community Improvement Association. Murray says professional social workers are responsible for many of the things he used to do at Regent Park. Photo by Doron Rescheff

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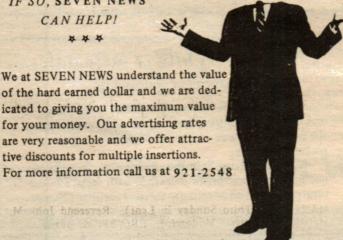
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by LARRY MORRIS

The 1960s catch phrase, "community development" is being given a new lease on life by some Torontonians seeking solutions to social injustice. To them, the thought of a justice-oriented, broad-based democratic movement sounds attractive.

But, the fact is, their networks of professionals, or "think-tank coalitions" merely serve as information depots for those who are involved. Information depots aren't a bad thing in themselves. But they don't move toward social change, which is the goal of community development.

The latest push for information sharing came at the February 20 meeting of the Toronto chapter of the Ontario Community Development Association which was held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Educagether more than 50 human resource professionals from across the city and featured John Sewell as guest speaker.

Members of the OCDA fleetingly discussed community-police relations, unemployment and poverty. Yet, no groups advocating responsible action on any of the above issues spoke up.

Bob Alexander, one of the organizers of the gathering, was disappointed. He said nobody at the meeting took any steps to act. Instead, they talked.

Lisette Fernandez, community worker with single parents in Regent Park left the networking session early. She says she was

"The women I work with want community development to be something more than just a buzzword," said Fernandez. "Many professionals use networks as hideaways from people people with real problems.

Fernandez knows the single mothers she works with every day in Regent Park won't go Nor will their prob-That's why she tries to get ordinary men and women involved.

But social activism is on the There isn't the grass roots involvement there was ten years ago. The ordinary people who got involved have retired in frustration.

Jerome Murray, one-time militant tenant leader from Regent Park, was such an activist. What has happened to him exemplifies what has happened to grassroots social activism in the '80s.

Fifteen years ago Murray helped establish the Regent Park Community Improvement Association. He was its first chairman.

The urgency of problems at Regent Park compelled Murray to seek outside help. Reform politicans like John Sewell and Carl Jaffray were soon getting involved. A lot got done, but the pace was frantic.

Health problems forced Murray to retire after 18 months as chairman of the Regent Park Association. "My doctor warned me to stay away," he says. Murray hasn't been involved in

any community programs for eight years. He, like many other activists of the '70s, is just too





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This issue would not have been possible without the help of over 150 volunteers.

Next Deadline: March 3

Next Editorial Meeting Monday 27 February 8:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Monday 5 March 8:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March Break

Harbourfront offers day camp for children aged 6-12 years. Supervised indoor and outdoor activities from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes in computer programming for children also available. For information and registration call 869-8432 and 366-2054.

YWCA offers a week of learning and fun for children aged 4-11 years at the North Program Centre, 2532 Yonge Street. For information and registration call 487-7151.

Queen/Saulter Library, 765 Queen Street East offers supervised activities for children at 3 p.m. daily. Free.

Metro Zoo admits all children under 11 years of age for free, if accompanied by someone 14 years of age or older. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

MARCH 10

How to make minature doll houses at the Riverdale Library 2 p.m. 370 Broadview Avenue.

MARCH 12

A Women's Coffee House at the 519 Church Street Community Centre at 8 p.m. This is an evening of Solidarity with free admission. Free child care and the best live entertainment! For information call Nicole Casseres at

MARCH 13

Free Income Tax Clinics at NIP 265 Gerrard Street East, 6-8 p.m. Call 924-2543 for informa-

Free Income Tax Clinics at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 863-0499 for in-

MARCH 14

Free film on painter Miller Brittain. 12:15-1:15 p.m. at NFB theatre, 1 Lombard Street.

Free Income Tax Clinics at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 925-4363 for information.

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Free Income Tax Clinics at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Call 863-0499 for information.

The Moss Park Residents' Association is holding a St. Patrick's Day dance at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation Room at 285 Shuter Street. Good food, games and sociability. Adults \$1, children 25 cents.

MARCH 15

Downtown Interaction Group (DIG) is a networking group bringing together community organizations/agencies to exchange ideas and information and to collectively work on community issues in the downtown area. DIG meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 12 to 2 p.m. at All Saints Church (Dundas and Sher-

Free Income Tax Clinics at NIP 265 Gerrard Street East, 6-8 p.m. Call 924-2543 for informa-

MARCH 16

Free Film at 4 p.m. on India at Queen/Saulter Library, . 765 Queen Street East.

MARCH 17

The women of St. Barnabas Church, 361 Danforth Avenue are sponsoring a fashion show commencing 2 p.m.

Three free films at the Riverdale Library, 2 p.m. 370 Broadview Avenue.

Wanted: Men and women as new members of the Charles H. Best Diabetic Club. 953 Gerrard Street at the Pape Recreation Centre (second floor). For further information call Marion at 465-8180.

Houselink Community Homes is a non-profit organization that establishes co-op housing for people who have received psychiatric treatment. We need dedicated volunteers to attend regular co-op meetings and facilitate discussion with four or five people. If you are looking for challenging and satisfying volunteer work call Nancie Porter or Joyce Killin at 968-0242.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto needs volunteers to help provide services to adult women who have been in trouble with the law. For further information phone Brenda Somers at 924-3708.

to change society, but not sure how to find a good source of information? Then you may want to receive Connexions, a quarterly digest of information sources, cetera. A sample copy is \$1 from Connexions, 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto M5S 1X7.

MARCH 20

Old Riverdale - a slide show. Learn more about Riverdale's history. Join us for a slide show at the Queen/Saulter Public Library, 765 Queen Street East, 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 465-

Free Income Tax Clinics at NIP 265 Gerrard Street East, 6-8 p.m. Call 924-2543 for information.

MARCH 21

The Neighbourhood Information Post is holding a volunteer orientation night at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers can select from among a variety of tasks including research, writing and editing, information counselling, marketing and fund raising. For more information call Sheila Herbert at 924-2543.

Free Income Tax Clinics at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 925-4363 for information.

MARCH 22

Tom Morris, assistant editor of the Canadian Tribune, Canada's only weekly labour newspaper, will be the feature speaker at a public forum at Wilkson Public School (across from Donlands subway). The topic is "Will the Tories bring Reaganism to Canada?"

Free Income Tax Clinics at NIP 265 Gerrard Street East, 6-8 p.m. Call 924-2543 for information.

MARCH 31

Benefit Dance for Henry Teggart at Saint Cyril's (Sackville and Dundas). Tickets are \$5. For information call Joey Kelly at 864-2712.

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Volunteers

East End Literacy needs a volunteer accountant to help on our Funding Committee. Call Elaine or Liz, 968-6989.

Help! Connexions, a magazine that is a "readers digest" of grassroots work for social justice and change, needs volunteer help with office work, writing, layout, indexing, et cetera. New collective members always welcome too. Call Ulli at 960-3903 or 920-4513.

Volunteers required for infant/ toddler daycare leading to possible full time employment. Call 927-1726.

Volunteer Drivers needed to help disabled adults get to literacy group Wednesday evenings. Can you help? Call Sally at East End Literacy, 968-6989.

Seven News Classifieds - reach Ward Seven for only \$5 for up to 30 words. Classifieds for the next issue must be received by March 17.