

THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

Vol. 1, No. 1

February 11, 1972

This is the first issue of Regent Park Community News sponsored by the newly organized Council of the Regent Park Community Improvement Association. The Council consists of the Executive and Unit Representatives of the R.P.C.I.A., and the following organizations and committees:

Salvation Army
Boys Club of Canada
Services Unit--(Catholic Children's Aid, Protestant Children's Aid, Research Foundation, Metro Welfare, Family Service Association.)

Regent Park Day Nursery
Community Guardians
Citizen's Committee for the Oak St. School
Park Community Council
Ontario Housing Corp.
Teen Centre
Boy Scouts of Canada
Old Boys Club
Senior Citizen's Council
Committee for the Medical Centre
Committee for the Developmental School for Mothers and Children (ages 2-5)
Editorial Committee for Regent Park Community News

All organizations working in Regent Park are invited to participate on a formal or informal basis.

The main aims of the Council are:

- To unite the community on issues of common concern
- To co-ordinate activities so that efforts are not duplicated
- To communicate with elected representatives on the needs of the people
- To initiate new activities and programmes
- To lend support to each of the participating organizations
- To publicize the work of the organizations throughout the community through Regent Park Community News-- published once a month.

HOWEVER THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE AIMS TO MAKE THIS PAPER MORE THAN AN ORGAN FOR THE ORGANIZATIONS. HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE A PAPER FOR EVERY TENANT IN REGENT PARK. WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, AND CRITICISM. WE WILL PRINT YOUR VIEWS ON LIFE IN REGENT PARK AND THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, AS WELL AS ON BROADER SOCIAL ISSUES SUCH AS OVER POPULATION, WOMEN'S LIB, OR MEN'S LIB, GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME, ABORTION (FOR OR AGAINST) AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN CANADA (GOOD OR BAD), THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN ETC. ARTICLES CAN BE SHORT PARAGRAPHS, OR A COUPLE OF PAGES UP TO 1000 WORDS. CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES WILL BE MORE THAN WELCOME. POEMS AND SHORT STORIES WILL ALSO BE PRINTED.

THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Murray Ponney
Mary Bilan
Bob Woodgate
Earl Collins
Dr. Eugene Demers
Ted Ower.

Regent Park Community News is one suggestion for the name of our new paper. Have you a better one? If so mail it c/o R. P. C. I. A. -280 Parliament St.

MEETING WITH OHC MANAGEMENT GETS RESULTS

Yes it can, the Tenants of 347 Parliament St. proved it can.

They submitted a petition through their Unit Representative to be presented at the first meeting with O.H.C. and Tenant Committee.

The meeting was held at 415 Gerrard St.- January 12, 1972, in the office of Mr. J. Darcy, District Manager. The meeting came

to life when the petition was presented to Mr. J. Darcy and read to all in attendance.

There was much discussion of the six(6) points that was presented at this meeting.

1. Has the janitor who was in attendance of maintenance in said building been returned to his position of said building?

2. Block the Milk Chutes in the said building with blocks as this is one of the entrances that burglars are using to enter apartments to rob some.

3. That there be more strict security protection in said building, not only for the tenants but also for the landlord.

4. Request a telephone be installed in the laundry room for the use of the Laundry Room Attendant only, to be connected with a direct line to our security office, for the sole use during emergencies or other needs of the Laundry Room Staff.

5. That there be more strict control exercised by the landlord over parking problems in Regent Park, North and South.

6. Doors and locks be installed on the entrance to the locker rooms, only adults, tenants, and the landlord be provided with keys to these doors.

There were many other suggestions made after this petition was presented and talked over.

Other problems discussed with O.H.C.

HOT-RODDING. Tenants complained that nothing is ever done about this problem. O.H.C. Management explained that the streets in North Regent Park are private streets and the police do not patrol there. Tenants have been asked to give the licence numbers so that action can be taken.

Vandalism and Noise.

A number of teenagers who collect in the hallways and stairwells at 347 Parliament St. Community Guardians do not disperse these groups.

Mr. Fitzgerald from the Community Guardians explained that they cannot physically bounce the kids out if they live in the building. He said the Guardians need co-operation from the parents and other tenants. In many cases, people witness acts of vandalism but refuse to give evidence.

Additional officers have been allocated to Regent Park as of January 19, 1972, and special attention will be given to 347 Parliament. The Police have also assigned two plain clothes men to the area.

The following letter was received from Mr. Darcy, Area Manager for O.H.C.:

Dear Mr. Tanner;

In reply to your letter with attached petition signed by a large number of tenants residing at 347 Parliament St., I would like to go over six(6) items mentioned in the petition to bring you up-to-date as to what steps are being taken to alleviate the problems you are encountering.

1. STAFF. Although it is necessary to make staff changes from time to time, every effort will be made to comply with your request as it relates to the caretaker.

2. MILK CHUTES. Estimates of cost have been called for and as soon as we are in receipt of same, work to fill in the milk chutes will proceed.

3. SECURITY. As discussed at our meeting January 12, 1972, Community Guardians have arranged extra security. Particular emphasis will be placed on 347 Parliament.

4. TELEPHONE. As you are aware, we have some thirty laundry room attendants. A telephone in each laundry room is out of the question. In addition, the telephone would be subject to vandalism and misuse. Laundry Room Attendants have been instructed in the past, should an emergency arise at any time, they should immediately leave the laundry room and seek aid.

5. PARKING. We believe the R.P.C.I.A. has agreed to assist in this regard in an effort to have all tenants register their vehicles at the Area Office.

6. LOCKER ROOM. As you are aware, it was agreed at our meeting January 12, 1972, that we would proceed to place doors on our locker rooms at 347 Parliament St. The key would be kept by the Unit Representative. Tenants requesting access would contact the representative. We believe agreement was reached to proceed with this approach on a trial basis. Instructions have been given to proceed with the installation of the doors.

The tenants of 347 Parliament St. got some action from their petition as one small body. But, they feel one small body of tenants is not going to make things better in Regent Park. We must all work together as one. This includes not only the tenants but, all the services of the R.P.C.I.A. and O.H.C., to make Regent Park a better community for All to Live and Work In.

The Advisory Committee consists of 5 elected representatives who meet with management of Ontario Housing Corp. monthly. The questions discussed here were taken up at the January meeting. It is hoped that as a result of these meetings, solutions to many problems facing the tenants can be solved.

continued page 2.

FRUSTRATED? USE THE SUGGESTION BOX FOR YOUR COMPLAINTS
R.P.C.I.A. Office 260 Parliament St.

MEDICAL HEALTH

CENTRE

TO

OPEN SOO

The Medical Health Centre Committee have made considerable progress in the formation of the Clinic.

As a result of six(6) months' of weekly meetings and the completion of a survey of the health needs of the Community---138 families were visited by the committee and friends.

We advertised in 2 Medical Journals and so far have 12 family practitioners wishing to work in such a Medical Centre, run for the Community by an elected Board of Tenants

We have the space- the preliminary plans for the Centre. The estimation of cost for alterations and the salaries for the Staff is being considered.

We the Committee will present the details at a Council, General Meeting for your acceptance and suggestions.

Mrs. M. Garrison

Mrs. F. Lake

Mrs. K. Clarke

Mrs. W. Boundy

Mrs. E. Ferguson

(Co-Chairman)

Mrs. M. Bilan.

Mrs. C. Estwick

Mrs. V. Jewett

Mr. Dick Boundy

PROGRAMME FOR MOTHERS & TODDLERS

This programme aims to help mothers learn how children learn. There will be simple equipment for play and learning which parents can duplicate in their homes. Children will have the opportunity to play with other children and to create together with mother. Stories, music, painting, drawing and building will also be part of the programme.

The school will be kept small but there are still a few openings. There is no charge.

STARTING DATE----February 21, 1972. (approximately)

TIME-- -- --2 Hours, 2 Mornings per week.

PLACE-----Oak Street Portable.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME

Ages 6 mos. - 3 yrs.

S timulating

E njoyment

L anguage

F antasy

H ealth

E ducation

L earning

P arents

For further information phone---863-0358.

PROBLEMS Discussed with O. H. C. Continued.

HAZARDS. It is up to the tenants to report hazards and O.H.C. groundsmen are now taking over the day to day clean-up on the project.

EG. of HAZARDS.

--small pipe sticking up at South West corner of front lawn by 600 Dundas.

--a hole in the cement at lobby entrance to 347 Parliament.

--warning lights at dead end of Oak St. not working.

--trunk sewer grill on Sackville St. not secured.

DOGS. A letter was sent to the Toronto Humane Society authorizing them to come into Regent Park to remove dogs running at large.

JAMMING INCINERATORS. This is caused by tenants putting in cartons and lumps of wood.

GARBAGE. Why is the garbage left sitting outside for so long? There will be more frequent pick-ups in the future.

FLOOR NUMBERS. Will be put on exit door on each floor of the buildings.

LIGHTS. At the rear of buildings in North Regent Park Inadequate.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

CONCERNING COMMUNITY GUARDIANS

One of the most significant features of the last R.P.C.I.A. meeting for Community Guardians Project Officers in Regent Park was the participation of the young people in the community. For the first time, they were fully involved in the Tenants' Association meeting.

It was interesting to hear the young people's opinions of the adult group and the favourable reaction of the adults in the realization of the gap which exists between them.

The meeting did much to improve and foster better understanding of the problems of communication. The young people at the meeting came to realize that in the years to come they could be the people administering the affairs of Regent Park.

This meeting which was held to discuss Community Guardian's role in Regent Park opened for discussion and scrutiny some of the security problems facing the tenants and Community Guardians. In addition, we of Community Guardians were able to explain our methods of dealing with these problems. It seemed to us that this meeting went a long way toward reaching a mutual understanding between the tenants' and project officers. More frequent discussions of this nature, we feel, will make this relationship even better.

Another exciting part of the meeting for us was the impressions that our approach to the young people of Regent and their problems seems to be working.

We of Community Guardian believe that our role is to help promote better understanding between young people and adults, parent and child, O.H.C. and tenant; and to do this so that the community in the future will be actively involved in the assessment and resolution of our mutual security problems.

Attending a recent meeting of the RPCIA Jan. 18 with Community Guardians and tenants I was pleased to see so many young people in attendance. It's rather encouraging to see three generations represented at any gathering these days. Some people seem to think they didn't get a chance to be heard so let's do this kind of thing more often. We can't solve problems unless the people concerned get together to discuss them. Virginia Pettipas 600 Dundas St. #313.

These are some of the main questions raised at the Tenants Meeting with the Community Guardians. The Executive of the R.P.C.I.A. will continue the dialogue with the Guardians, so that some of these complaints can be solved. We wish to continue this discussion in the paper.

Why do the Community Guardians not answer calls faster when damage is being done to the buildings?

Mr. Fitzgerald replied that they receive 1200-1500 calls a month and that complaints should be made at once.

What can be done with regards to vandalism?

Mr. Fitzgerald --nothing can be done unless you find the person actually doing the damage.

What are tenants supposed to do in emergencies such as a running hose?

Mr. Fitzgerald said the Guardians are not authorized to touch the hose, only the tenant may do so.

Do you patrol buildings at night?

Mr. Fitzgerald replied that there are about 5 officers on duty and an officer on 24-hour Mobile and two-way portable radio. One problem is the "winos" who come off the street.

The great turnover of Community Guardians do not help the community, when very little follow-through is possible.

Mr. Fitzgerald; This can't be helped if a man prefers to leave the area.

The noise by-law is not being observed because they cannot "throw their friends out at 11:00 o'clock."

Mr. Fitzgerald--Drinking parties lasting until 3:00 in the morning should be reported.

More laundry room supervisors were advocated but telephones were out of the question because of possible vandalism.

Why they didn't do something about youths sniffing solvent?

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that there was no law to do this. The same applies to alcoholism.

PHONE NUMBER FOR COMMUNITY GUARDIANS

924-7754

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING AND
MEETING PEOPLE**

**DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN
YOUR COMMUNITY**

DO YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO SPARE

The Regent Park Community Services Unit needs paid volunteers to spend 3 ½ hours a week answering the telephone, acting as receptionist, doing informal counselling, providing referral and information and becoming part of a resident controlled, self-help programme. Through on-going training sessions the volunteers (unit associates) are given an opportunity to broaden their experiences of dealing with and helping people and an opportunity to become involved in an important service in the community.

The Services Unit, itself, is a friendly place to drop in for coffee and a chat, whether you're feeling up or down. It also provides direct service through both the volunteers and the resident agencies (Addiction Research Foundation, Welfare, Family Service Association), referral and resource information.

If you are interested in people,
willing to learn and have some
free time, call or drop in

70 Pashler Ave. 863-1768

(parish house behind St. Bartholomew's Church)

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

DOWNTOWN BOYS' CLUB

FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS

Monday through Saturday.

GAMES* ARTS & CRAFTS* GYM & SWIM*

Please call 367-0648 for detailed information.

Full-time experienced leaders, and Health Service too!

WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

CITIZENS COMMITTEE WINS

K-8 SCHOOL

It has been passed at the Board of Education in co-operation with the Oak Street Citizen Committee of Regent Park and the surrounding area. ~~That a k-8 School be built on the Oak Street site.~~ This decision was made on the results of a random survey made by the tenants last August and September.

Another complete survey is being made at present to inform the tenants of the decision. To try to get more parents involved in the Oak Street Citizen Committee and the future Oak Street School.

A sub committee of the Oak Street Citizen Committee has set up a recreation program for children in Regent Park and the surrounding area eg.

Arts and Craft

Pre Teen Drop-In Centre--11 13 years.

Drop-In Centre 14-18 years.

Drama

Study Room

For more information call the Oak Street Site-- 863-0358.

The Oak Street Committee is preparing a Newsletter which will be released shortly.

ATTENTION BOOKWORMS

New hours at the Parliament Library

In response to public demand the library at Parliament and Gerrard St., will be open two more evenings a week. Current hours are:

Adult Department.

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., -12:00-8:30
Saturday--9:00-5:00
Closed Wednesday.

Boys and Girls Department.

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., -2:00-6:00
Saturday-9:00-5:00
Closed Wednesday.

Library House.

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., --
9:30-12:00
1:00-6:00
7:00-10:00
Closed week ends.

SALVATION ARMY

REGENT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
470 Dundas Street

TEENAGE CENTRE (Supervised)

Monday-Friday
3:00p.m.-10:00 p.m.

POOL TABLES, TABLE TENNIS, TABLE SOCCER,
JUKE BOX, REFRESHMENT BOOTH, T.V. ROOM,
STUDY ROOM, CHESS, CHECKERS.

Sewing Classes.
Professional Instructors.
Tuesday 1:30- 3:30

Sewing and Crafts
Thursday 1:30- 3:30

Typing.

This class beginning this month (Feb.) will be limited to 20 persons. Applications are now being taken.

Nursery is provided for pre-school children, so that mothers can enter the program.

Clothing Exchange--SAVE MONEY
Wednesday and Friday 1:30- 3:30
Exchange, Buy, or Sell.

MORE ABOUT PARK SCHOOL

A near capacity audience of over three hundred interested parents, teachers, students, and others were in attendance at the Park School Meeting, on Monday Jan. 31, 1972. The meeting was called by Dr. Ronald E. Jones, Director of Education for the Board of Education for the City of Toronto, for the purpose of considering the Park School Community Council brief of some eighteen pages.

Although the brief was submitted on Nov. 16, 1971, Dr. Jones called the meeting for Jan. 31, 1972, and despite the fact that the Chairman and members of the Board of Education had been notified, only twelve members attended. This lacked a quorum and consequently, the people of Regent Park Community felt, once more, that the Board of Education did not consider them important enough to be given a legitimate hearing.

"Is there any sense in going on, since nothing definite can be accomplished because of the lack of a quorum?", queried one of the parents. It seemed that the parents in Regent Park had been duped into attending a meeting which had been deliberately planned not to succeed--since twelve trustees were absent.

Nevertheless, the parents wished to have their views heard, so the Board Members present could convey at their Thursday Board Meeting what were the desires of these parents with regards to the type of education their children received, and, especially the attitude in which they were regarded by the Board and other schools.

--"Because of therapeutic dismissal of pupils, were they being deprived of something to which they have a right?"

--Is it not wiser to retain more pupils in school so that they will not get into trouble in the streets?"

--"Should there not be smaller teacher-pupil ratio in the school?"

Such were some of the questions of the parents.

Dr. Jones, Director of Education--"It is possible that the brightest pupils are in inner city schools. The balance is on the side of the wealthy. The slow learners are fewer in wealthier schools. A child may be influenced by pre-natal care. You must realize that the kindergarten kids are lower, or you would not ask for extra help in your brief. The Board of Education has spent more money and spent more thought than any other large Board of Education in North America. We are opposed to labels as "opportunity" classes, but proper "special" classes. We welcome your ideas and we will co-operate with you."

The chairman, when someone requested a resolution, said, "There was no quorum, therefore, no votes could be taken."

Parent, Murray Bonney--"Should there be two teacher aids in each classroom?"

Board--Lack of finances prevent this. We are limited by the provincial level of grants. Let each board set its own priorities. Some monies may be spent on other things. Some have an elaborate equipment.

Mr. Bonney--"Turning the budget over to them won't improve the budget. In the case where a child needs penicillin, give it to him."

Mrs. Carsley--"Why is the Board not here if they are so interested in helping us?"

Board--The final test of the educational system is the success of its pupils.

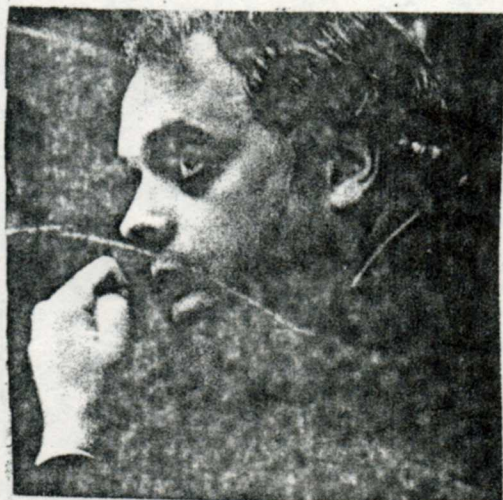
Trustee, Gordon Cressy--The system must change. We need a High School in this area. People should be treated as equals, not as patronizing them.

At this point a Board member entered at 9:25 p.m. and apologized for being late.

Board--The parent should come to the school and talk to the teacher instead of kicking.

Mike Carson said: "Poverty cannot be eliminated by seasonal or short term positions, or even, allowances. Education is a right to every Canadian."

Someone called the Board "Beureaucratic Snobs."



Graham Scott

WARD 7 TRUSTEES

THE ONLY TWO MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD WHO
SUPPORTED THE PARK
SCHOOL BRIEF



Gordon Cressy.

MORE ABOUT PARK (CONTINUED)

Tenant, Dr. Demers--We have a quorum now.

Chairman--It is too late. We must have a quorum by 8:15!

Dr. Demers--But, the meeting started at 8:19!

Mr. Rutledge--"Parents know ~~what~~ their children are doing ~~and~~ the teachers are qualified to test. Biannual testing of reading is no necessary. One is enough. Too many tests increase the anxiety of the pupils. The teachers have a more accurate way of testing them by standardized reading tests.

Park Lady--It is time to get some action.

Another--This is typical of the bureaucrats. Nothing will be achieved. They are not in touch with the pupils. Stop breeding horses and put more into education. Vote some of the people ~~out~~ and do something.

Chairman--The Board cannot change the policy of the Board.

(If they can't, who can?)

Tom Roberts, Teacher at Park School--I'd be ashamed to be a member of a Board that couldn't get a quorum. We felt that the pupils here have the same reading ability as any pupil in Toronto, in Canada, and in England. The teacher works hard. I know, I'm one of them. We want our children to compete with others in the world and to be proud of the jobs their parents do. We're behind you. The main objective is to educate our children to read but, not limit education to the 3 R's. Education is often irrelevant. Teach them words that interest them.

Mother--"How can you understand reports that say, "Good work", when the next reads "Sloppy work"?

A Park spokesman contended that pupils proceeding to High Schools or Universities are treated differently. They haven't got a chance because they are branded as lower class immediately.

Since the chairman refused to recognize the Board meeting as an official one, Gordon Cressy, Trustee for Ward 7, moved that a "Straw Vote" be taken so that the parents could see who supported the Park Brief. This was seconded by Graham Scott, but voted down by the rest of the Board.

The meeting then erupted into pandemonium as many walked out, or stood up and thundered questions and insults.

It may seem that nothing was achieved by this general meeting, but one must consider the fact that, at least, a solid confrontation with the Board of Education proved to the latter that they meant business and that this was only the initiative of further action by the residents of the Regent Park project.

Dr. E. H. Demers.

REGENT PARK UNITED CHURCH OFFERS PROGRAMMES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

1. Adult Drop-In at Regent Park United Church.

Each Wednesday 1:30--3:30 P.M.
Crafts, Sewing, Boutiquing, etc.
EVERYONE WELCOME.

3. WINTER WEEKEND in the COUNTRY.

11 girls and 3 leaders of Regent Park & St. Bartholomew's Churches carried out a money raising project recently to make possible a weekend holiday in the country.

Thanks to all parents and friends for to all parents and friends for helping to make our sale of used clothing, fresh baking, and tea tables such a success both financially and socially.

WE'RE OFF TO THE COUNTRY!!
See you when we get back.

2. March 3, 1972, at 2 P.M.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
AT Metropolitan United Church House.
PLAN TO ATTEND.

4. Thursdays 1:30--3:00 P.M.
at Regent Park United Church,
Mothers who have children under 3, are meeting together to discuss problems and joys of raising children.
If you are interested, Please Call, Cathi Lambert-- at Regent Park Church--363-4234.

Don District of Public Housing Corp. has received a Local Improvement Program (L.I.P.) Grant. Tenants will be hired as Emergency Homeworkers and domestic workers and messengers for the elderly and handicapped. Office is at 200 Wellesly

TEEN NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT 203

REGENT PARK TEEN CENTRE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11,
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12,
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13,

Greaser Night.
Bauchy Ball Tournament, (Partners)
DANCE, Featuring "Francis Duvell", from Widsor.
Members--Free, Non-Members--Admission-\$.50.

OTHER PROGRAMS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19,
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20,

Variety Show. Parents Welcome--Admission \$.25.
Dance Featuring "ATLANTIS"

Silk Screening
Toboggan Party
Hay Ride
Floor Hockey
Trips and Tours

Each Week a FULL FEATURE MOVIE.

ALL PROGRAMS OPEN FREE TO REGENT PARK TEEN DROP-IN MEMBERS -----14-22
MEMBERSHIP \$ 1.00

My name is Allen McCormick and I'm a student who is unemployed.

I was talking to Barry Tulip about Signwriting, and he told me how I could get a Government Grant through the Initiative Program. He told me if I could get a few of my unemployed friends from Regent Park he might be able to get me the grant. Well I got three friends, Bill Wood, Larry Gillespie, and Randy Parson.

The four of us and Barry went to a Storefront Office that helped us get the application for the Grant. This man Ross we met said we have a very good chance of getting the Grant.

Now if we get the Grant, we will be making Signs, Printing Pamphlets, and Printing a paper. The signs will advertise for meetings, Drop-In Centres, for all the Community groups in Regent Park and neighbouring non-profit organizations.

ALLEN MCCORMICK.

THANK YOU

The teens of Regent Park Teen Centre, 203 Sackville Green would like to thank the Adults that participated in our first Bingo, Friday January 28, 1972. It is this co-operation that allows our Centre to operate. We were able to raise \$74.00, which will help us provide better programs to teens in Regent Park.

BINGO

THE NEXT BINGO WILL BE LOCATED IN ST. BARTHOLOMEW, S
CHURCH HALL.

THIS WILL BE A BIG SPECIAL AND WILL BE ON,
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1972.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

I am just one of the teenagers who live in Regent Park, but, I know all the kids like myself, need and want a place to go.

Now we have one, and a good one at that, and one that all our people can go to, but we need your help.

I know a lot of people say "help our kids," but for most that's as far as they go--talk! We are trying to change but we can't if you don't give us a chance.

Barry Tulip and staff have come a long way, they have trust in us as people and we trust them. But, they can't do all the work themselves. We are your kids too! If you don't show some kind of interest in us and get to know us better, how do you expect us to take an interest in the community ourselves.

We have a handful of tenants who I would like to thank for hearing what we had to say at the meeting in the United Church in Regent Park North. I know we must care a bit to come out and at least see what is bugging you, so maybe we can stop it if we can.

I am not saying all the trouble will stop, but a lot of damage will stop. Being kids, we can never stop it all together without help. But, almost is better than not stopping at all.

I wish that the groups of teenagers all over the city could have a drop-in centre like ours, or at least get a chance at having a place to go to.

With our growing minds we need now to do something with it, while we are young.

Join in our activities! Show us you care and are standing behind us and we will try and give you our best kind of respect in return.

We are starting a Bingo every Friday, closest to the end of the month. It needs people to make it work and we are making an all-out effort towards it.

This is where you can start to show us where we stand with our parents and neighbours. Our clubs are at 203 Sackville Green. It is not too far and we are your kids. We want to fill the gap between young and all the old.

At least give us a chance. Come to our club anytime to see freely for yourself, how it works, and see how we work together.

Well, that's it. I hope we get an even chance at it and I think we will, for a change in Regent Park's reputation would be nice.

Peace be with You,
"Anonymous."

DO YOU KNOW

WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE?

"Idol minds are the devils playground." I don't know who said it, but they must have been referring to Regent Park of yesterday.

Many intelligent kids who were burdened with too much spare time inevitably began to do something with it. Eg: steal cars, sniff glue, shoot speed, and a number of other such delightful pastimes.

This was partially due to the lack of facilities that should have been provided for the residents of Regent Park a long time ago.

With the help of a lot of concerned, the Regent Park Teen Centre was started. The Centre has provided a means for the Teens of Regent Park to use their time in a useful and constructive way. Our Drop-In has been a tremendous success, thanks to the teens themselves, the volunteers, community guardians, and all others involved.

I think other large developments who share many of our problems could and should follow our example.

A lot of parents minds are now at ease because they know where their kids are, instead of worrying where they are and what they are doing.

Della Simpson,

METRO YMCA

24 HOUR YOUTH INFORMATION

& REFERRAL SERVICE

CALL **BARRY TULIP** 920-9210

DRUGS*MEDICAL* LEGAL* HASSELS* COUNSELLING.



ALL AROUND FUN AT 203 SACKVILLE GREEN

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DOWNTOWN KIDS

by Murray
Bonney

The Feb. 1st meeting at Park School called by the Board of Education to discuss the current recommendations of the Park School Community Council was an insult. Since half the trustees failed to appear, no vote could be taken on the issues. This fact was known by some or all the trustees present even before the meeting was convened.

Fiona Nelson, one of the trustees present was heard to comment that a poll of members was made before the meeting to determine their attendance. She was angered that a meeting could continue: that could only end in useless frustration for the parents present.



I suggest to the trustees that some of them did not want to vote on these issues at any open meeting and that an actual (by word of mouth) conspiracy took place to prevent a vote. The only alternative that occurs to me is, that the members not present just don't give a damn.

The recommendations include: a better school health plan, retraining for "Reading Teachers", and most important, two teacher aides for every classroom.

Ronald Jones, the Director of Education said that by the time Park School children get to kindergarten, they don't know as many words, they don't have as many ideas and logical thoughts, they don't speak in sentences to the same degree. He attributed this in part to improper pre-natal care.

However, Roy Johnson, the only black trustee on this Board, drew a similarity between the Park School situation and his experiences as a black going to school in the nineteen thirties.

Tom Roberts one of the Park senior teachers told the trustees that he would be ashamed to sit on such a Board.

Mike Carson (of the Poor Peoples Conference), read an unauthorized brief expressing concern about poverty, and at the same time attempting to tie this in with Community control of schools. Since his statements kept saying we, we, we, instead of I, the question of community controlled schools was put to Ed Harcourt, the Chairman of the Park School Community Council, who stated, quote, "We do not want total community control of schools and we never have, what the council wants is a voice effective enough to make changes that are decided on by teachers and parents."

Gordon Cressy one of the trustees for this ward criticized the Board for their token investment in our future; building 3 vocational schools but no high school, and generally turning a deaf ear to our real problems. He told the Board that the people will not just disappear that they will be back again, and again.

Graham Scott said, "It's all just beginning."

According to trustee Fiona Nelson, who was on the Budget Committee, there have been so few quorums at budget meetings that no priorities have been set for this year, in spite of a seven million budget cut.

BULLETIN: It was learned Thursday February 3, 1972, that the provincial government is cutting an additional \$17,400,000.00 for next years' budget.

If this cut is taken from teachers salaries, it would mean 1500 less teachers in our schools; and an increase of 5 students in every class.

Mrs. Nelson, an agitator for action, and with a perfect attendance at a budget meeting was fired from the budget committee by the chairman, Mr. Charleton, and replaced by a man who has never attended a meeting.

The people of Regent Park, along with the parents and teachers of the 11 other inner city schools are being bought and sold to feed a system that cuts your throat so neatly that you don't even know it's being cut until you try to move your head to holler, Help!

It's time we marched to the provincial government, from whence cometh our budget cuts.

It was with profound shock that we heard of the untimely death of Murray Bonney, early Monday morning February 7, 1972. Murray as can be seen from this story was a talented writer with great concern for the community especially the children. He participated actively in the Park School Community Council and in the Editorial Board of this paper. He had much to contribute and the loss will be deeply felt. Murray has left with us several short stories and a T. V. play, and the script for a T. V. program about the Park School Community Council. We will print his stories in future issues. The editorial committee on behalf of everyone in Regent Park extends heartfelt sympathy to his family.