



VOLUME 4-

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MARCH 1975

RESULTS OF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The RPCIA recently sent a survey to all its members. A little over 200 two-hundred replies were returned. The following is a summary of the results.

Question 1. "How long have you lived in Regent Park?" 43% of our members have lived in the Park for 3 yrs. or less. The remaining 57% spread evenly from 3yrs. to 20yrs. The conclusion is that if you stay in the Park for more than 3 years it is very likely you will stay as long as 10 or 15 years.

Question 2. "What improvements would you make in Regent Park?"

The most frequent answers were those related to physical remodelling i.e. more painting and plaster, new sinks, showers, more electrical outlets etc. 14%, increasing the security force 12%, stopping vandalism 9%, more outdoor recreation areas for both winter and summer activity 7%, locking all doors and putting in intercoms 7%, getting more activities and places for pre-schoolers and children under 10 - 6%. The remaining answers were: faster maintenance, more adult activities, place for teens, better supervision of drop-in centres, day care for children and infants, indoor pool, get rid of dogs, establish drug addiction clinic, curfew on kids in the halls.

Some answers to this question were very original. "Get rental skates for the ice rinks". "Put in some speed bumps". "Put slots in the doors for mail to be delivered and get rid of mail rooms". The most original was, "Send an S.O.S. to the ARABS to aid Canada's Housing Program, rebuild the Park and call it Hollywood, Toronto."

Question 3. "What activities would you like the Association to sponsor?"

The biggest interest was for sports activities such as baseball, volleyball, hockey, and gymnastics 26%. Bingo was next at 20%, then children's activities at 13%, teen dances at 7%, home economics classes at 5%, and adult dances at 5%. The suggestions put forth by the members included arts & crafts, music lessons, card games, day care, socials for mothers, basement recreation areas, outings, rock concerts, movies more play areas, banquet hall, adult recreation, horseshoe pits, boy/girl scout, building meetings, lawn bowling, roller skating, tennis, kung-fu, group discussions, office training and Senior Citizens Club.

Question 4. "How much time would you be willing to give to the Association?"

said they would give at least 8hrs per month; 12% said they would come when needed; and the remaining 11% would give 3 to 7 hours a month.

"In what way?" Most of those who volunteered help said they would help in any way - 62%. Children's activities were preferred by 24%, sports and recreation activities by 17% adult activities by 3%, the dance by 2% and other committees by 2%. Two people even offered to give money to the Association.

We have your names folks, and we'll be in touch soon.

The last question asked members what they would like to see planned in a Community Centre. 28% said social activities such as dances, bingo, card parties and entertainment nights. 18% wanted gym activities such as volleyball, gymnastics, basketball, floorhockey, judo, and exercise classes, 9% wanted arts & crafts activities including woodworking, painting, ceramics, machine shop; 9% wanted a Bowling alley; 7% wanted a home economics

The answer to this question determine how many of the suggestions will be carried out. 50% said no time. Of the remaining 50%. 27%

room; 6% wanted a Mothers' Club with a babysitting service; 4% wanted instructional activities such as music and dancing instruction, educational program; another 4% wanted a teen centre in the proposed community centre; 3% wanted a games room; 2% wanted a daycare centre, and 2% wanted after-school children's programming.

Often suggestions include counselling services, hot-lunch program, rummage and bake sales, movies, elderly club, birthday club, outings, rock concerts, tennis, baseball. One person wanted recreation areas in each basement rather than a centre. The award for the best individual suggestion is to the member who wanted a bar put into the Centre.

The results of the survey were sent to OHC to give them an idea of what should be planned in the Centre. According to information given to the RPCIA the St. Cyril's Church property is available for sale. Janet Ross, the RPCIA President, on behalf of the executive has informed OHC that "the purchase of St. Cyril's is our top priority and should be so regarded by OHC. The community would be very upset if St. Cyril's property was lost to Regent Park through bureaucratic delay or bungling".

The survey will be used in planning RPCIA activities for 1975. Reports of what is happening will appear in future issues of the Community News.

Simon

CITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Invites every boy and girl in Regent Park to their Annual Track and Field meet to be held on Saturday March 15th, at the Fort York Armoury 660 Fleet St. between the hours of 10am and 5pm. Track and Field work-outs every Wednesday Evening at 6:45pm at the Regent Park Gym. Contact Ray Baker or Pauline Muller at 363-2955 between 1pm and 10pm. *photo results?*

The Regent Park Recreation Centre will be opened 9am to 10pm on the Spring Vacation Break commencing Friday March 21st, and ending on Monday March 31st. Contact the Centre for our special Program that has been planned

Congratulations to our winners in the various Ice Hockey and Ringette Leagues. We are now looking forward to our Softball Leagues.

ADULT RECREATION CENTRE
605 Whiteside Place
364-4915

Hr. Sun. to Thurs. 1-4 & 7-10
Fri. and Sat. 1-4 & 7-11

Bumper Pool, Shuffleboard, Darts
Ping Pong, Card Games, Library
Colored T.V. and Stereo

Our repair shop is in full swing. We repair small appliances and small repairs for a nominal fee.

OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIP \$2.00 per fam.

We would like to thank everyone for making our bank and what not sale on Feb. 20th. a success. Thanks to Mr. A. Corrente for his donation of Pizzas. They were very delicious. Thanks to Bert Bamford for her donation of water lily and slippers also for teaching some of us to make the slippers. Thanks also go to V. Yedon, F. Lake, E. Constantinos, E. McFadden and B. Bamford for the help they gave us in running the sale. Proceeds of these sales go to the Adult Recreation Centre and the Community Services Unit. Look for our next one on the 20th of March.

Jack Harris,
Pro. Director

Ruth Tettman
Co-ordinator.

YOUR VOTE CAN HELP YOU!

BE A PART OF YOUR TENANT ASSOCIATION AND MAKE REGENT PARK
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

R.P.C.I.A. ELECTIONS

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED



MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT
JANET ROSS

Since I took office in April 1974 as President of the RPCIA I have been working extremely hard to change and improve some of the things that make living in public housing difficult.

We have tried to show members of government, housing corporations and authorities that the problem in housing is not really housing, but the entire economic question, of which housing is merely one part.

What can one individual tenant do? Not much. But together we can accomplish much for everyone. This is why I stood for these positions and have been assisting these with the back up of our association over the past year, and vice-versa. The National and Provincial are just a national extension of the other levels of local tenant associations all of us working together for one goal. Our aims and objectives to mean anything have to be on a Canada wide basis, ten provinces and two territories - so that all Canadian public housing tenants can have benefit from and can contribute to the programs ahead of us. "Together we stand, divided we fall".

Some of our problems being high density, lack of recreational facilities and space, poor maintenance of units and buildings, old rent scales, length of leases, security, noise, families on waiting lists, transfers, overhoused families, underhoused families without you ... we can do nothing.

The RPCIA exists to represent each individual tenant.

Our aims and objectives are your aims and objectives, but we need your assistance, we need your representation at the general meetings, and we need your participation on committees etc. The following are some of the programs that the executive and committees are in process of implementing and expanding.

BJRT - Basic Job Readiness Training - To prepare participants for entry into the labour market - directly or through Canada Manpower programs.

BJRT is a three way co-operation between the community George Brown College and Canada Manpower. Training will be held off-campus at the ratio of 10 to 15 students to 1 leader. Course Content, which will be flexible including basic education, work experience, job orientation, job search techniques, and counselling, and services from agencies outside the department.

We will be sending two tenants from the Park to this course in April or May and hopefully in September or October have one of the designated locations in Regent Park with 15 students attending.

A grant has been sent to PLURA to find out and research the feasibility of a food co-op in Regent Park.

A grant application has been submitted to Mr. Ray Tomlinson, Commissioner of the Social and Family Services for and at the request of the Senior Citizens Busy Bee Club for a Home-Help Service for senior citizens in Regent

Park on a fee for service rendered basis.

Tenant representatives on the Technical Steering Committee have asked OHC and CMHC, by way of a random survey done in the Park on recreation, to purchase St. Cyril's Church which is up for sale and already has 1 bid in from the Native Canadian Indians Group. We feel that this will make a perfect community centre for us, we don't want to wait another 2 or 3 years to have one built. There is only approximately \$1,400,000 left and with construction costs this amount could go down yet. We also don't have the space. If we build we will take away more of our parking facilities and we don't have enough now. Our recreation needs are now, and they are at an emergency situation. Summer is coming and what are our young people going to do.

We are also negotiating with OHC for a renewal and expansion of our Tenant Management Contract which is up in May 31st, 1975.

By way of Local Initiative Funding (LIP) we have staffed our newspaper and amalgamated with Ward 7 News for a 4 to 8 page insert in their paper to cut down on the cost of doing it ourselves also to help Ward 7 distribute in the Park. We hired a secretary for the association and started up REACH a crisis intervention drop-in or phone centre for alcohol or drug related problems, depression, potential suicide's, family problems etc.

THE ROLE OF REACH

This will be the first of a series of articles explaining the different roles of REACH and how they are important to a community. Living in a high density housing development such as Regent Park can present problems that no one accounted for in the beginning. It has lots of positive and a few negative aspects. The most important of the positive aspects is that it can build up a high sense of community feelings. Such a high sense of community identity is already apparent in the tenant representation by the RPCIA.

On the other hand when people live close together they tend to build up defenses, walls to keep people out for protection. Those walls become firmly established and are difficult to break down which is necessary in order to communicate. Walls eventually only imprison the builders and those who only wanted to protect themselves wake up someday only to find themselves lonely and isolated.

Often we find ourselves being hurt by a situation we seem to have no control over. This feeling of hurt will become more and more disturbing when we feel we can't trust anyone enough to talk about it, not even your best friend and sometimes especially your best friend. This could be a beginning of a mental crisis. What we hold up inside us has a tendency to build up into an uncomfortable pressure and the tendency to blow up over the smallest incident comes more often than not. Everything gets way out of proportion and the children usually get the worst of the bad temper.

Everything that is brought to REACH remains strictly confidential we have excellent staff from 10:00am to 2:00am who can be trusted. Your problems become our problems no one is alone, we are all in this life together so by helping each other we are helping ourselves.

Corry Wyngaarden

DANCE MAR. 8

Regent Park Community Improvement Association will be having a St. Patrick's Day Dance Saturday March 8, 1975 at St. Cyril's at 8:30pm.

Increased cost of rentals, food and liquor has forced us to raise the price of admission to \$2.50 per person.

MY PLACE STORES

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BUSY BEE

The training of Toronto fire fighters -- including how to deal with burns, how to give artificial respiration, how to put out subway fires, even how to clean an infant's throat -- was the subject of a film recently shown to the Busy Bee Club by two senior firemen.

In their comments, the Chief of the Toronto Fire Department, Charles R. Chambers, and the District Chief of the Toronto Fire Academy, James H. Struthers, stressed the importance of team work to a firefighter in his daily encounters. The film depicted various kinds of rescue work and winter exercises with aerial ladders, necessary to fight fires in high-rise buildings.

Members of the Busy Bee Club, who now number 100, were invited to visit the Toronto Fire Academy, and several are planning to do so, one of these days.

REGENT PARK UNITED CHURCH
40 OAK STREET
(Parliament below Gerrard)

Mondays 1:30-3:30pm Adult Drop-In
3:30-5:30pm Study Group
4:00-5:30pm Piano Practice

Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am Student Gr. Supervision
2:00-3:30pm Mothers Club
3:30-5:30pm Planning Gr.
4:00-5:30pm Piano Lessons
4:00-5:00pm Girls Group
6:30-10:00pm Go-Go Band
7:00-10:00pm Friendship Unit

Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am Staff Supervis.
4:00-5:00pm Boys Group
7:00-9:30pm Family Nite

Thursday 4:00-5:30pm Piano Pract.
6:30-9:00pm Dog Training
6:30-7:30pm Junior Choir Practice
8:00-9:30pm Senior Choir
7:30-10:00pm RPCIA meet.

Saturdays 9:00-11:00am Floor Hockey

Sundays 11:00am Church Service and Junior Congregation
1:00-3:00pm Lenton Study

Regent Park Old Boy's News

Holding a rummage sale on March 8th from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Regent Park North Gym.

Coffee and donuts to be served. Another 50 - 50 draw to be held.

Membership tickets to Old Boys are going good. Keeping members to 500 only 200 left. Contact Joe Ganny on Bolton Avenue or Niel Beaton of Sumach Street for membership tickets.

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Permanent eye lashes

THINGS TO PONDER OVER - TENANTS RIGHTS

Every tenant living in Regent Park have certain rights for example the landlord is compelled to provide you with hot water, heat for your apartment, clean hallways, proper standards of electrical fittings, stove and fridge. Your apartment cannot be entered by Ontario Housing except when you are given 24 hours notice. On receiving Notice to Vacate you are privileged to appeal the notice by requesting that you wish to have your appeal to go before the Management Advisory Board. This is to say that as soon as you received this notice contact your Unit Rep or the R.P.C.I.A. office immediately.

Tenants Responsibilities

As a tenant you are responsible for keeping your apartment clean not throwing garbage in the hallways, not having loud noisy parties at the late hours of the night. Do not allow your visitors or children to congregate in the hallways; do not abuse your neighbours or other tenants nor prevent them from having the peaceful enjoyment of their own apartment.

Tenants should not tamper with fire alarms and tenants are responsible for their children's actions. Tenants should make prompt payment of their rent and should notify the Area Manager if you are not able to do so.

Tenants should not have people other than their immediate family staying for a long period of time without informing O.H.C.

The things I have asked you to ponder are very important indeed, for remember a man's home is his castle.

The social climate of Regent must be improved. Tenants you must come out and take your rightful place. "Don't say it doesn't concern me." Whatever happens in Regent Park should concern you, for remember this is where you live. and where you should live in peace and joy. Make Regent Park to be the envy of other public housing projects in Canada. We can do it, for we are people with a noble heritage. Our roots run deep in the community.

So you must remember that just as you have rights so you have responsibilities.

Harold Jackman
Project Manager.

Adult Recreation Centre

605 Whiteside Place #101
364-4915

Hours	Sun. to Thur.	1-4pm
	and	7-10pm
	Fri. and Sat.	1-4pm
	and	7-11pm

BumperPool, Shuffleboard, Darts, Ping-Pong, Card Games, Library, Coloured T.V. and Stereo.

We have a repair shop for small repairs at a nominal fee plus part. Open for Memberships \$2.00 per year per family.

We would like to thank everyone for making our bake and What-not Sale on February 20th, 1975 a success. Thanks to Mr. A. Corrente for his donation of Pizzas. They were very delicious. Thanks to Bert Bamford for her donation of Water Lilies and slippers, thanks also for teaching some of us how to make the slippers. Thanks also go to V. Yedon, F. Lake, E. Constantinos, E. McFadden and B. Bamford for the help they gave us in running the sale. Proceeds of these sales go to the Adult Recreation Centre and the Community Services Unit. Look for our next sale on the 20th of March, 1975.

J.E. Harris Pro Director
Ruth Tettman Co-ordinator

Salvation Army Program

The work-shop is now available where young people can receive instruction in woodworking.

Vacation Bible School will be held during the March break. Your children can have fun while learning. (Ages 5 - 15 Welcome) Register before March 15th, by calling 864-9364 and asking for Beth.

For information on any activity call 864-9364.

PRE-TEEN PROGRAM - Free & Easy Room - Monday to Friday - Workshop Rap Sessions, Music, Sewing, Arts & Crafts. New program - Photography.

Mothers Group - Sewing & Typing classes are available.

Clothing Store - open daily from 1:30 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. New shirts for \$1.00 special this month.

Special Events - Fri. Feb. 21st. Movies for the family - Little Apostle & Don't Call Me God - I'll Call You!

Advance tickets available - 75¢ for children - adults \$1.50. For further information call - 864-9364 or come to 470 Dundas St in the basement.

MOTHER'S CLUB

Mothers Club are holding a Easter service on Tuesday March 25th, 1975 at 2:00pm.

Mr. Blueman will be the speaker.

On Thursday March 13th, the House on Gerrard will present Thomas Whyte in a one-man performance of his play "That time of the month" at 7:30pm at the Parliament St. Library House. Admission is FREE.

nearly new

shop

605 Whiteside Pl. - Basement

Thursday Mornings - 10:00 - 11:15

Clothing and Household items

MAY COURT CLUB

MESSAGE FROM



[Signature]

J. Darcy
District Manager

TRANSFER PROCEDURE

Transfer Requests should fall into the following four categories:

- (a) Overhoused
A tenant in accommodation larger than their family composition requires.
- (b) Underhoused
A tenant in accommodation smaller than their family composition requires.
- (c) Medical
Extenuating medical problems related to their accommodation.
- (d) Employment
Present accommodation being to far from the tenant's place of employment creating difficulty in commuting.

All requests for transfer should be submitted in writing specifying the reason for the request to the respective area office:

- 1. Attention: Mr. M. Black
33 Belshaw Place
South Regent
- 2. Attention: Mr. M. Maloney
415 Gerrard St. E.
North Regent

At the present time all transfer requests are submitted to a District Transfer Committee chaired by the District Manager with representation from the Tenant Placement Branch. This Committee sits once monthly and tenants are advised in writing of the Committee's decision.

We hope this will assist tenants in knowing the mechanics of their transfer requests.

What's on at the Library

Now that the weather (hopefully) is improving, may we remind all Regent Park Senior Citizens of the Wednesday afternoon program for Seniors at the Parliament St. Library House. Wednesday March 5th, will feature Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire in a film classic "Flying Down to Rio." March 12th, is the time for all you frustrated actors and actresses to join in a play-reading session. All programs begin at 1:30pm on Wednesday afternoons. Admission is FREE

Don't forget- this is income tax time, and the Parliament Street Library and Neighbourhood Information Post are co-sponsoring a FREE income tax clinic, Monday and Thursday nights at the Library House. These clinics are by appointment only. Phone the Information Post at 925-2543 to arrange for a time.

Do you have time on your hands? Do you want an opportunity to share your knowledge of this community and to help others? Then the Neighbourhood Information Post is looking for you. The Information Post serves all residents in Ward Seven, but depends on resident volunteers to provide most of it's staffing. Volunteers are needed to

answer telephone inquiries, type, file and take care of general business in the office. If you can spare 2 or 3 hours during a day, once or twice a week, and would like to get involved in helping your neighbour, please call Susan, at 924-2543. A volunteer training program will begin early this spring - so you need not be afraid of lack of experience.

The Board of Directors of the Neighbourhood Information Post will meet Wednesday March 12th, at the Parliament Street Library House, at 7:00pm. All residents of Regent Park are invited to attend.

'K' Club News

PROGRAMS: Gynasium, table tennis, chess, swimming, bingo, rifle club, games room, cooking, sewing, knitting, arts & crafts, woodwork, stamp club, baseball, football, drama, movies, leaders' corps, study room, model car club.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR MARCH
"K" Club Fun Week March 24th to March 28th - Club Hours: 10:00am to 4:00pm.

FUN - FUN - FUN - FUN

MARCH 4th - 6th SHUFFLEBOARD

COMPETITION

SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd BOY'S CLUB OF CANADA SOUTHERN ONTARIO TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES 6:30pm

March 7th Fussing & a Fighting
March 14th The Man Without a Star
March 21st The Reluctant Astronaut

The St. John Ambulance Organization will be setting up another First Aid Course for boys and girls. If you are interested please telephone Miss Yvonne Cameron at this number - 925-2243

Rep of the Month

A few weeks ago one of our Unit Reps was calling on tenants in her building. On this particular evening she noticed a young man take a fire extinguisher from the wall and deliberately set it off all over the floor, so she called the fire department.

After investigating it was decided to prosecute.

Gary McNeil of Dundas St. E. was found guilty by Judge Newell and fined fifty dollars or five days.

This is the start of our success in taking control off our buildings in vandalism.

Our Unit Rep of the month is Mrs. Margurite Wilson.

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