

REGENT PARK COMMUNITY news

Volume 5 Number 2

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GOV'T CUT BACKS HURT REGENT PARK

Here's who the government cut-backs will hurt the most; people on welfare, the unemployed, the disabled, the old age pensioners, sole support mothers, students, provincial hospitals, and day-care centres.

For example, out of an entire Ontario budget of over \$10 billion dollars, the share for funding Children's Aid Society programs amounts to only 0.06%. The Ministry of Community and Social Services which contribute 80% of

CAS funds, itself is slated to receive only 8.4% of this money. Which means when it is finally filtered down to Metro, Metro Childrens Aid Budget will be \$350,000 less than needed in 1976.

In general, no new social services can be started despite dire need. All social services agencies expenditures will be cut. Senior Citizens--long waiting lists guarantee months of delay getting into homes for the aged, no new homes for the aged to be built. Unemployed--no job creation programs announced, LIP cut-back. OFY, Company of Young Canadians no longer exists. Welfare assistance eligibility tightened. 5.5% ceiling on expenditures regardless of increased employment. People refused assistance by the Welfare agencies re-definition of the clauses "reasonable Con't Page 4.

Food Co-op

Resounding Success

The temperature hovered around the -14C. mark when the Regent Park Food Co-op opened for business for the first time at 10 AM. Friday Jan. 9, 1976, in the school portable at Oak and River Streets.

Mrs. Virginnia Gibbons and Norman Therien were the first customers.

Con't. Page 4.

Artists Introduce Performing Arts To Youngsters

In 1969, a volunteer group started by sending a poet, a percussionist and a small theatre company into twelve elementary schools. The aim was to provide the city's children with communication through the arts, a powerful tool in the effort to rid our society of it's voicelessness, isolation, and depersonalization. The Inner City Angels is a group dedicated to culturally enriching the lives of the 60 thousand school of Toronto's inner city. This is a large and challenging undertaking. The Inner City Angels exists solely on public and private donations. Inner City Angel's members came from the fields of education, communication, business, the professions, housewives, parents and artists. Marian Heller, President of the Inner City Angels said "basically our purpose is to introduce the children to the world of theatre and to the "theatre of the world" music, drama, dance, painting, sculpture and the language arts." In some cases the Inner City

Angels have underwritten and sponsored artists programmes at the schools, by 1974, close to forty artists, actors, poets, and musicians had established person-to-person relationship with down- con't Page 4.



Mary Smith and Hendrick Beckman, driver, show first truck-load of food.



First customers, Virginia Gibbons and Norman Therien at opening, Irene Kitson bags onions in the background.

SPECIAL EDITION!

In about ten days, the Regent Park News will publish a special

edition with further news about the cut backs in government spending, how it will effect hospitals, housing, education.

There will be more on the landlord tennant admendments. SO WACH FOR IT!

Law Group Aids Community

Law in the Community is a Local Initiatives Programme located at 257 Seaton St. The program started on December 1, 1975 with training sessions organized by Neighborhood Legal Services, also located at 257 Seaton St. The three staff members are developing general para-legal skills in the area of poverty law and beginning to familiarize themselves with the overall legal needs of the Don District and which organizations currently exist that require assistance. The areas of poverty law that will be concentrated on are: Landlord-Tenant Act, Unemployment Insurance, Public Housing, Welfare, Pensions (DVA, Canada), Criminal Compensation Board, Employment standard and advice on how to get legal aid.

The basic goal of the project is to aid community organizations in developing the capacity to give legal advice on matters of concern which their groups ordinarily encounter. It is hoped that assistance to health clinics can be provided to understand welfare and old age pensions problems. Tenant associations will be contacted to broaden understanding of landlord-tenant law, related legal problems and possible solutions. Law in the Community will encourage community organization to develop advocacy programmes suited to their particular goals and direction, by training of para-legal workers in their groups that do not have a large enough staff to include a full-time lay advocate. Such work is crucial to bringing awareness of law into a poor community, where such work is not being handled by a law office at this time. It can best be carried out by groups who already have a base and constituency in the Don Community.

The educational format for this programme will involve workshops and seminars; people from other Community legal services will be used as resources and key speakers, if necessary. The types of groups that would participate in such a programme would be existing community based groups such as tenant associations, information posts, ethnic centres, community and recreation centres, community health clinics, church organizations, and professional groups, such as doctors and public health nurses.

Law in the Community staff Sharon Pirnak, Peter Lancaster, and Wendy Honickman may be reached between 10 and 5, Monday to Friday at 924-9593.

NEW LANDLORD ADMEND

1. Rights of Tenants

2. Problems

A County Court Judge may refuse to grant a writ of possession:

1. If he is satisfied having regard to all the circumstances that it would be unfair to do so.
2. If he is satisfied that:
 - i) the landlord is in breach of any responsibilities under the Act or any material covenant in the agreement.
 - ii) the landlord is bringing forth the application because
 - a) the tenant has complained to Government re housing or health by-laws
 - b) the tenant has been trying to secure his rights
 - c) the tenant is a member of a Tenants' Association.

open to considerable interpretation

IMPORTANT new provisions but may not go far enough in balancing the rights of tenants and landlords.

A Tenant Association may appeal to the County Court Clerk an appeal on behalf of a tenant. Ward 7 Association organizing a tenants association to represent tenants in court. LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT 1975

Length of notice for termination of:

1. weekly tenancy
not less than 28 days
2. monthly tenancy
not less than 30 days
3. year to year tenancy
not less than 60 days
(Sections 100-103a)

The key new Provisions are:

1. At the end of a fixed term tenancy agreement a tenant may enter into a new agreement or automatically continue his previous agreement as a monthly tenant.
(Section 103 C)

2. The landlord has to satisfy the county court that one or more of the causes for termination apply before a writ of possession may be issued. (Section 103 G)

Lots To Do at Club

We believe in the next generation, and we're doing something about it.

For boys and girls 7-17 years of age. Programs are all sport activities including: ball hockey, cosom hockey, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, gymnastics, swimming activities including: lessons, synchronized, water basketball, water volleyball, springboard diving, aquatic games.

There are also crafts, woodworking table games, chess club, photography, cooking, sewing, self-improvement, library, quiet study area, bowling, specials, dances, & movies.

Metropolitan Downtown Boys and Girls Club at 540 Dundas St. East, Phone no. 367-0648

Tenant Management Evaluated

Kitchener Based Ontario Public Interest Research Group researcher Michael Gordon is now conducting evaluation of the Regent Park tenants' involvement in the Parks management. Regent Park tenants have been involved in management through the Tenant-Management Advisory Board and a system of Park wide unit reps.

Michael will be interviewing one hundred tenants in the project, thirty-five in South Regent and sixty-five in North Regent, to gather their opinions on the successes and problems with the tenant management programme.

The study to be completed in March will be used by the RPCIA to help improve the management programme. OPIRG, if the RPCIA approves, will release the report for publication across Canada to help other public housing tenants learn from Regent Park

AND TENANT ACT MENTS

TERMINATION INITIATED BY THE LANDLORD DURING THE TERM OF A TENANCY AGREEMENT. 1975 AMENDED ACT

1. Causes for Termination

A landlord may terminate a lease for the following reasons or causes:

1. His desire to demolish, convert or repair the premises.
2. Non-payment of rent by tenant.
3. Damage inflicted on the premises by the tenant.
4. Use of the premises by the tenant for illegal purposes.
5. Conduct of the tenant interferes with reasonable enjoyment of the landlord and other tenants.
6. Safety or any other bone fide right of another of another tenant is interfering with by the tenant.
7. Number of persons occupying the premises violates a housing or health by-law.
8. A tenant of residential premises administered for or on behalf of the Government of Canada or Ontario or a municipality or any agency thereof or forming part of a non-profit, limited dividend housing project financed under the NATIONAL HOUSING ACT (Canada) has knowingly and materially misrepresented his income or that of other members of his family occupying the residential premises.

120 days notice is required for cause #1 and 20 days notice is required for the other causes. If the tenant rectifies the problem within 7 days, the proceedings may be dropped. A longer period of 14 days is allowed for payment of rental arrears.

2. Problems

- open to considerable abuse
- no comment
- no comment
- no comment
- open to considerable interpretation
- no comment

Mother Led Union

'Mothers; Unite!'

The MLU is a group of women on welfare and "mother's allowance" (Family Benefits) who have been working for over a year to organize poor sole-support mothers to bring pressure on the provincial government to change its attitudes about and policies towards welfare mothers, and to bargain for better benefits, both in terms of money and services.

The Union has established an office in Regent Park in the house at Oak St. and River St. just behind the portable the Food Co-op, and hopes to be able to establish a drop in centre for women and children there. It believes that women on welfare must work together to improve the deal they're getting from the government. This is especially true with the cutbacks being imposed on Social Services by all levels of government. If you wish more information or have some time and energy to get involved, you can contact Mother Led thru Jill Swindell at 465-1480, Sandra Weed at 360-1156 (evenings) or Helga Steyer at 630-3434 (evenings).

Next meeting of the MLU is Feb. 16 203 Oak St. 1:30 pm.

An article on the MLU will appear in the next issue of the Regent Park News which will initiate a series of articles on the various agencies, public and private, active in Regent Park.

NEARLY NEW

605 Whiteside Pl. - Basement

Thursday Mornings

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Clothing and Household items

MAYCOURT CLUB

DALE'S PHARMACY

310 Queen St. East Corner Berkley St.

368-2121 368-2251 363-3011

FREE ALL DAY DELIVERY TO REGENT PARK

AND

MOSS PARK CUSTOMERS

LOW PRICES EVERY DAY

WE FILL WELFARE, D.V.A. FAMILY BENEFITS

BLUE CROSS & GREEN SHIELD

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A LEADER IN
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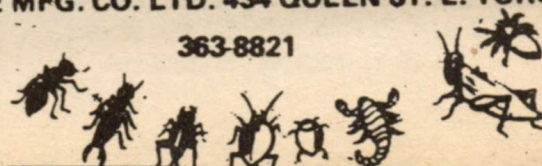
PEST CONTROL

OUR RETAIL STORE AT 434 QUEEN ST. E. (AT SACKVILLE) CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH THE RIGHT PRODUCTS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO DESTROY ROACHES, FLEAS, BED BUGS, ANTS, SILVERFISH, RATS, MICE AND ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLD PESTS.

IF YOU WISH, WE CAN ARRANGE FOR ONE OF OUR TRAINED AND LICENSED SERVICEMEN TO ELIMINATE THESE PESTS FROM YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS. FREE ESTIMATES - WORK GUARANTEED.

BIKOE MFG. CO. LTD. 434 QUEEN ST. E. TORONTO.

363-8821



The RPCIA — Who is it?

This column will appear in the next few issues of the Community News to explain how the RPCIA runs it. Names of various boards and committee members will be published so that the Community may have a better understanding of what goes on. The RPCIA will be approaching other groups and agencies in Regent Park for contributions to this column, also we feel that Regent Park residents would like to know about these people as well.

Jobs in REGENT PARK- How to find out about them and how to get them--THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

Right at this time there are 36 people working directly for the Regent Park Community Improvement Association in Regent Park. Eight of these are full-time and the remainder are part-time. Full-time positions include: Unit Rep Program Manager, Home-Help Co-ordinator, RPCIA Co-ordinator, 2 secretaries, Newspaper Editor, Home-maker, and a Food Co-op organizer. The Part-time positions are 26 Unit Reps, a Book-keeper, and a home-maker. There are also three vacancies for full-time workers at the Teen Centre, which are being filled. Every-time that a job is made available, the RPCIA lets everyone in Regent Park know about it either by a flyer or by an ad in the newspaper. The RPCIA notice usually has a short description of the job, the weekly salary, the source of funding, and where to go to get an application.

The last edition of the newspaper, for example, had an ad for a Home Help Services Director trainee and two positions at the Adult Recreation Centre. The Adult Recreation Centre, part of the RPCIA umbrella, is the only place in Regent Park together with the RPCIA office that consistently advertize publically any vacancies. The RPCIA offers the use of the Unit Reps and the Community News without charge to any agency or group in Regent Park to advertize any job vacancy they know of and strongly urge them to make use of it. After the applications come in they are reviewed by the Personnel Committee and narrowed down to the most suitable candidates. These people are then invited for an interview with the Committee. The Committee consists of Ozzie Smith, 1st Vice-president in charge of administration and Committee Chairman, Marjorie Campbell, Secretary, Dick Boundy, Clara Little, Irene Kitson, Marie Niven, Harold Jackman, Janet Ross, Bill Deeley, Harold West, and Barb

Soules. The supervisor of the job being interviewed for also has the right to be on the committee to interview potential candidates. The interviews are strictly confidential and the Committee does not release any information about any person applying. Having members of the community interview and decide on the other community members is a very sensitive task and extreme care is taken to avoid conflict of interest. If any Committee member is a friend or relative of any candidate, or, if applying for any job, then that disqualifies him or herself from all interviews for the vacant position and leaves the room.

Angles

town core children. The Angels have also taken school children out of their classrooms and into the theatres, art galleries, and museums of Toronto. Many complimentary tickets for live performances of music, dance and drama are distributed. The children have seen the National Ballet and heard the Toronto Symphony. They have been to plays and other productions at the Royal Alex, the O'Keefe and the St. Lawrence Centre. They have viewed children's shows at the Global Village and seen performances by the Young People's Theatre, The Frog Print Theatre, The Toronto Dance Company and other performances. One hundred schools now have Inner City Angels programme. This is dramatic work with the deaf and handicapped children. There work shops in music, drama, film, dance, sculpture, and painting. In the heart of the Inner City stands Scadding House, home of the Inner City Angels. An historic building that was donated a couple of years ago and is being restored and scaled for children to become the focal point of all kinds of new explorations. Its going to have art studios, a gallery, a library and an underground Children's Theatre, adaptable for many programs. New worlds are opening up for thousands of young minds to explore thanks to Inner City Angels. For more information call Scadding House. 922-3239

Co-op

tomers in line when the doors opened. When the Co-op closed for the night at 6 PM., about 100 people had visited the premises.

There were 25 paid members the first day of operation, the membership now stands at about 70.

A Personnel Policy is being worked out and will soon appear in the Community News. The Committee follows all the regulations regarding Human Rights and Labour. These include no discrimination on basis of age, sex, religion or national origin. If any tenant has questions about the Personnel Committee, please call the office and ask. The only thing you won't be able to find out is why the Committee turned some one down or other such confidential information.

Cut Backs

efforts to seek employment" and expansion of the definition of employment." Mothers Allowance, frozen, no increase in allowances or shelter rates. Students--tution raised, student loans reduced. Hospitals--staff cuts, day-care budget frozen despite projected 3.1% in the number of children needing help in 1976-1977.

During the next few weeks, various organizations will be in meeting to form plans to oppose the government cut-backs.

If you'd like to work with them, please call the Coalition Against Cut-backs at 368-6800.

Co-op, con't.

One of the first members was Mrs. Hazel Butler of 220 Oak St. She was the first Senior Citizen to join the Co-op.

Mary Smith, Food Co-op Co-ordinator, reported that the staff had received lots of compliments about the quality--top rate--and the price of the produce--much lower than the chain stores.

The Co-op sells eggs and cheese and new foods will be added when it gets into full swing.

Asking for volunteers, Mrs. Smith reminds the residents of Regent Park, that "This store can only function with the help of the people. So lets all get together in helping ourselves as well as other people in the community, to bring down the cost.

A new feature of the Co-op, is that coffee will be served at the pre-inflation price of 10¢ a cup.

If you have any questions, or would like to become a member, please phone Mrs. Smith at 364-3831 or the RPCIA office, 44 Blevins Pl, 364-2909.

THANKS!

The RPCIA and staff of the Food Co-op wish to thank Mr. Frank McDonald and Mr. John Dufty for their donation of a Fridge and Chrome Table.