

REGENT PARK

COMMUNITY NEWS

Vol.6 No.20

DECEMBER 28 1977

OUR COMMUNITY

We are to say, that we live in a community, we see ourselves as a community, and other people refer to us as a community, but have we ever thought seriously of what it means to be a part of and to belong to a community?

A community is more than a group of people living in the same neighbourhood, who meet each other every day, and who get organized because they happen to live in the same place.

Community means to have something in common. We are a community when recognizing that we live together we also recognize that we have common problems, common concerns that affects us all.

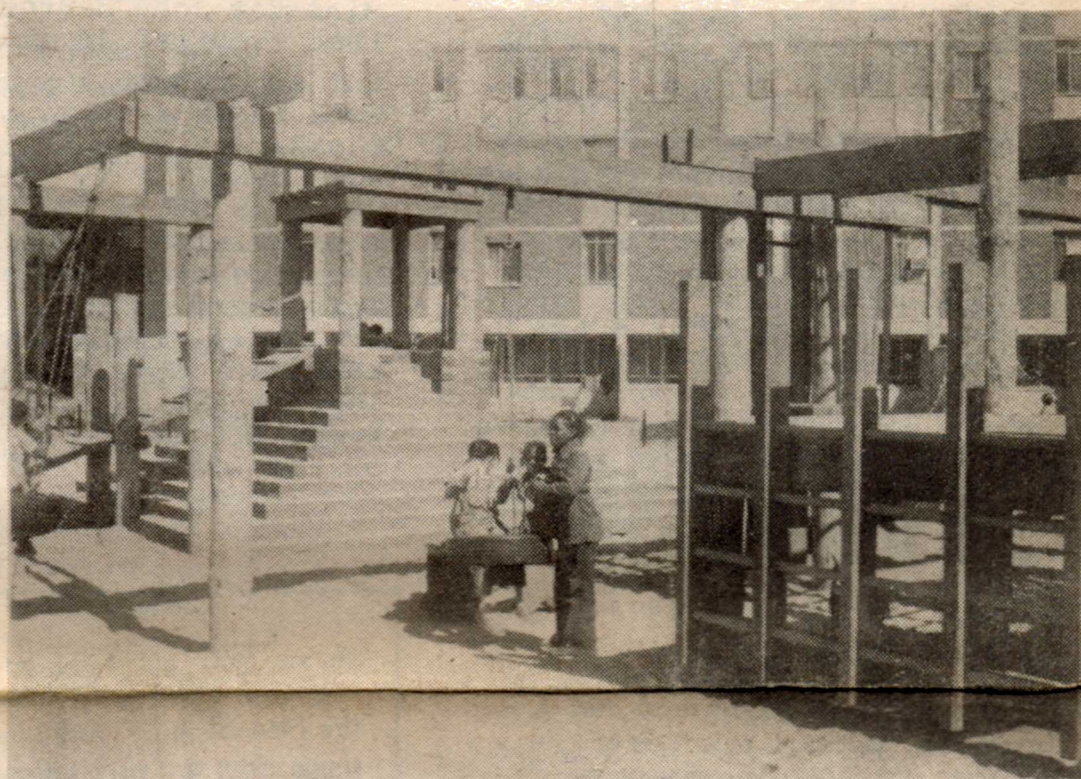
The community becomes alive when we get together and attempt to deal with our issues, our concerns, and our problems.

We give birth to a community when we accept the problems of the community as our own problems, and when we realize that the solution sometimes lie within ourselves, within our community.

Experience has taught us so much, though we realize there is still much to learn. Nobody knows better about our problems, than us. Nobody knows better about our strengths than us.

Together we will continue developing this community, not only to have an organized community, but also to have some control on our lives and destiny.

The quality of our organization will depend on the amount of people's participation and interest.



JOIN THE RPCIA

Become involved in your community,
Join the RPCIA. Ask your Unit Rep or
Phone 364-2909.

TENANT MANAGEMENT NEWS

As you are all aware, the New Tenant Management Program is off and running and with it three Area Co-Ordinators have been added to the list of employees. Two of these co-ordinators are all ready familiar faces to many tenants and residents in the park. One is relatively new. I would like to take this opportunity of introducing all three to you.

In South Regent Park, we have Mr. U. Callender. Mr. Callender is a gentleman who has spent several years devoting much of his time and talent to the services of people here in the park. He spent 3 years as a Unit Representative at 407 Gerrard St. and also gave much time and consideration to the function and operation of the Adult Recreation Centre. I would like to wish him all the best in his new position.

In North West Regent Park (from Parliament Street eastward to the west side of Sackville

Street) we have Barbara Soules. Barbara has spent seven years as a resident of the Park, one and half years as a Unit Representative in South Regent and One and Half years as a Resident Visitor in North Regent. She is well liked and a friendly person but is a very capable and strong lady. There is no doubt in the mind of anyone who knows Barbara that she will do justice to the task of Area Co-ordinator and that her position was a well-earned one. Congratulations Barb.

In North East Regent Park (Sackville St. East Side to River Street) there is me. My name is Sandra Langille. I have lived in Regent Park for two years and am pleased to be part of the Tenant Management Program. Although, I have not had a great deal of involvement in the Park until now, I bring to my job the experience and skills I have accumulated through involvements in other areas of the city, I have always been extremely interested in my Community and have done many organizing and social service jobs: ranging from Craft Groups, Single parent woman's group, Tenant

Organizing, Children's Aid Work, and Resident Work.

I'm sure, I speak for each of the Co-Ordinators when I say we hope to serve well in our present position and believe that as a team, with the co-operation and help of

all the people concerned can make the Tenant Management Program become a program to be respected and admired by fellow housing projects in the province.

If successful, and we are sure it will be, our efforts will go on to be implemented in other projects. Regent Park has a lot to be proud of and has a lot of firsts in its history. The present Tenant Management Program with the help of all the Tenants, Laundry Attendants, Unit Representatives, Area Co-Ordinators and Manager will surely become another first in successful accomplishment for the people of Regent Park.

Sandra Langille
Tenant Management Programme

LABOUR

SOME MORE LAYOFFS

Newfoundland: Alcan has announced it will layoff 400 of its employees in the mine at St. Lawrence.

Hamilton, Ont: about 300 workers in the steel recycling industry will be laid off because of a sharp drop in the price of scrap metal.

Peterborough, Ont: In the past two years, 2,000 jobs have been lost, with another 225 threatened. The two majors employers are Canadian General Electric and Outboard Marine Corp. of Canada Ltd. Each of them has laid off over 1,000 workers.

Nova Scotia: CN Express offices have been closed across the province and the largest is the express operation at Sydney. The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers stated that there is good reason to believe that most of CN's lay offs in recent years have been caused by an undue emphasis on profit-making, at the expense of service to the public.

WORKERS HELPING UNEMPLOYED

Bell Canada workers are angry at having to put in so much overtime when many Canadians are out of work. Members of the Communications Workers of Canada, representing 13,500 installers, repairment and linemen, have walked out in two locations on wild-cat strikes. Peter Klym, vice-president of the union says, "Bell would have to provide jobs for significantly more people if its oppressive overtime policies were eliminated. Klym has sent a letter to federal Labour Minister John Munroe asking that overtime in excess of the eight-hour day and 40-hour week be made voluntary at Bell Canada. At present the law says overtime is voluntary after 48 hours, but Bell has been allowed to average its overtime over a year's period. This means in any given week employees may be ordered to work more than 48 hours as long as their yearly average keeps within the standards of the law.

One of the Liberal government's schemes for getting more people back to work has been to give incentives to large corporations for expansion. The argument was: the companies expand, they hire more workers, more money is available (through their expenses of expanding---construction and buying machines) to purchase goods and services, more money goes into the economy, and more workers are needed---so the spiral circulates upwards and out of the current threatening depression.

It didn't work. The government gave the corporate sector of the economy \$1 billion in tax concessions to encourage expansion. But the companies spent less than predicted, about 1.6% over the previous year, according to the Globe and Mail of November 17, 1977. The corporations pocketed the money but aren't hiring the workers.

This is just one more example of the Liberal government philosophy that if the workers' money is used to help big business, big business will help the economy. How they expected this to happen when about 20% of the existing capacity was lying unused is hard to understand. But it is easy to understand how big government and big business are helping each other---and more workers are being laid off every week!

Do you have something you want to share with your Community in this section of the Newspaper? Any kind of ideas or suggestions are very welcome.

A CHALLENGE

IMMI CAN

THE TALK OF THE TOWN

Give a man a chance and he will show you what he can do - This is exactly true of Immi-Can, originally started in October 1976, then known as Regent Park Youth Project (RPYP). This project was realized as a direct result of the racial tension experienced in the summer of 1976, brought about by the limited avenues for self-expression within minority groups.

With the assistance of Community Workers and several agencies, space in the form of a basement was provided by Dixon Hall, where cultural activities could be developed. In addition, RPCIA donated \$50.00 to the youths to assist in the purchase of material. Things picked

up slowly, with the youths offering voluntary services and receiving somewhere between 2 to 10 dollars per week to assist in travelling expenses.

After much frustration and request for assistance, a grant was provided for a survey to be carried out on the feasibility of the project. During this time many of the youths though frustrated still held on to that little glimmer of hope and encouraging words from well-wishers until September 1977 when it was finally realized that the RPYP had an abundance of latent talent and creativity just waiting to be poured out into the community.

Thus we have Immi-Can, situated at 234 Parliament St., with an inviting boutique, displaying highly placed workmanship in wood carvings, posters, graphic prints and jewellery of all kinds.

It is a challenge for these youths to be handling their own business but they are meeting it with lots of confidence, a strong sense of discipline, and respect.

Business hours are from 9 a.m to 5 p.m.: from 3:15 to 5 p.m. their educational program is in progress: this consist of Technical Skills such as, carvings, typing, and spot checking. Management Skills: book-keeping etc., Analytical Skills: History, Understanding of present day society, and cultural experiences. Literacy Skills: reading, mathematic and writing...

This is evidence that Immi-Can is not only a business but that is an instrument to develop social education programmes through the use of films, community discussions, forums, exchange visits etc., that would facilitate Black Youths to develop a better understanding of the Canadian Society and its' environment.

To establish community job adjustment, training programmes, to assist youths in the fields of Arts and Craft, Sculpture, Carpentry, Graphic Arts, Painting and other related vocational studies. Immi-Can contributes positively to the development and growth of the community: Immi-Can means Immigrants and Canadians can work together: Immi-Can means that Immigrants shouldn't hide their cultural identity.

The community is pleased with the progress and accomplishment of these once termed "unemployable and disadvantaged" youths.

The young people at Immi-Can will experience their share of trouble, this is no pie in the sky; but one employee, Henry Davidson, who has been with the project since its birth, mentioned so wisely: "not maybe, not might-be, but slowly and surely we are getting there". This goes to show that if you give a man a chance he will show you what he can do. ----

PARK SCHOOL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Parent participation has a long history at Park School, one of the large Elementary Schools in our community. Those of us who were around six or seven years ago and can cast our minds back to that period, will remember a time when parents and teachers met together regularly at the Park School Community Council to discuss a topic of great interest and concern to all - the student's education.

The parents and teachers at Park School are still interested in coming together to help one another provide the best education possible for the students. Although there is not a formal Parent Teacher Association in the school, a group of parents has been meeting regularly every two weeks since October and, at their last meeting, met with some teachers to discuss the subject of discipline. Everyone agreed that close communication between home and school encourages children to know that both their teachers and parents share a concern for them and helps develop a feeling of security. At the next meeting, the group intends to discuss ways of encouraging positive behaviour.

In what other ways are parents and teachers working together? One parent is actively involved in Grade 1 classes, assisting the teachers with the day to day routine of the classes, and working with small groups of children who need a bit of extra help. Other teachers would really appreciate volunteer parents in their classrooms. If you are interested at all in this kind of involvement, give Gail Egerton a call at 366-8786 and she will give you more details.

Some parents are concerned about children coming home from school and sitting down immediately to watch television, so a few of them are getting together to compile a list of recreational resources in the community.

Parents, too, have a need to meet and relax together and so a group of parents have formed a Craft Club, using the facilities of the Home Economics and the Industrial Arts Rooms at the school. All are welcome.

Park School staff and parents welcome the involvement of other parents and community members. The school is part of our community and if you would like to participate in any way, please call Len Sidorchuk, Principal, at 364-7979, Gail Egerton at 366-8786 or Irene Kitson at 364-4624.

A PLACE FOR PARENTS, INFANTS & TODDLERS

River-Oak Parent Child Centre is located at 203 Oak St. (at the corner of River St.) in the blue portable. It is a centre for parents and their pre-school children. Any child under 5 years of age.

This is a place for parents to get involved with their children's activities or to take a break from their children.

It is a place where parents can meet other adults who also have young children: a place for parents to talk together about the fun times they have with their children and about the very difficult times they have, as well.

Children have many new experiences here also: meeting other children their own age, painting, singing, playing with a variety of toys.

At River-Oak Parent-Child Centre, there is no fee - just come and bring your children.

The Centre is open on:
Tuesday
Wednesday (9:30-1:30)
Thursday
for more information call
Kathy or Hildi at 363-9884
during the above mentioned
hours.

Letters

Love letter from a stranger.....

Saturday
Chicago, Ill.

Sweetheart;

On a day as this, what I need is you- to hold your hand and stroll along the lake front, enjoying the chilly 40 degree wind and telling you all the things I didn't get a chance to tell you last weekend.

I miss you, very much in fact, so often have I wondered, where have this girl been all my life! In reflection I remember your walking into Sherry's place that first time, and I knew right then that you had walked into my life too.

Of times I inquire of myself- what is it? I'm not sure. At least then I wasn't. Now, I think I know.

It's you, just all you. The softness and puzzling quality about your eyes. The easiness of the way you move. The aura of woman-ness - my word - about, sort of fresh, desirable, sexual in an elegant way, without meaning to, your entire body seem to say - I can make love to you and your life will never be the same.

It's been a long, long time since I have felt such a complete need for a woman. You're lovely, for more reasons than I can detail here - and I want you.

Be the sole reason for my next trip to Canada and maybe we will both find something we've been searching for. Love with fondness from a stranger who love you.

1. Preheat oven to 325F. lightly grease a 1½-quart, shallow baking dish.

2. In large bowl, combine corn, eggs, and onion; mix well.

3. Combine flour, salt, pepper, sugar, and nutmeg. Stir into corn mixture.

4. Add butter, cream, and pimientos; mix well. Pour into prepared dish; set dish in pan. Pour hot water to 1-inch depth around dish. Bake, uncovered, 1 hour, or until pudding is firm and knife inserted in centre comes out clean. Serve hot. Cut into squares.
Makes 8 servings.

TO ALL TENANTS OF REGENT PARK

Dear Tenants of Regent Park, the Recreation Committee of the RPCIA would like to take this time to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

We would like to see some tenants come and get involved in 1978. Let's make it a good year for all concerned.

We would like to thank all who helped at the Xmas party and a special thanks to Isabell Scullion who has been my backbone this year, and who will hang in this year I hope.

Audrey McPherson
Chairman, Rec. Com.



RECIPES BAKED CORN PUDDING

2 pkg(10-oz size) frozen corn, thawed and drained
3 eggs, well beaten
1 teaspoon grated onion
¼ cup unsifted all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon white pepper
1 tablespoon sugar
dash nutmeg
2 tablespoon butter or margarine, melted
2 cups light cream
1 can(4-0z) pimientos, drained and coarsely chopped



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



HARBOURFRONT NEWS

Wed. Dec. 28/ Wednesday
Night at the Movies: 7:30 PM
in the Cafe.

Hunger, the award-winning
animated film which contrasts
hunger and super-abundance.
Diet for a Small Planet explores
the protein debate.

Let's Eat Food, a film which
explores our eating habits,
especially our high sugar
consumption.

Face of Famine, a 1975 BBC
documentary focussing on
Famine and the present world
food crisis.

All films are free and are
provided courtesy of the
Metro Toronto Library
Board and the National
Film Board. Program subject
to change. For more in-
formation call 364-5665.

Thursday Dec. 29/ Four
Day Frolic: A holiday
break program for children
continues today and to-
morrow Friday 30th, from
1 to 4 p.m.

Open Sing: Every Thursday
at 8:30 P.M. in the Cafe,
folk and blues artists are
welcome to perform. Ad-
mission is free. Call
364-5665 for more information.
Each day, the activities will
include workshops and arts and
crafts. Today is Native
Indian Day, sponsored by
Ahbenoojeyung. Parents are
welcome.

Friday Dec. 30/ Square Dance:
Every Friday at 7:30 P.M. in the
Brigantine Room. 50¢ admission:
instruction is available.

Friday Night Films: at 8 P.M.
in the Exhibition Gallery.
Tonight: The Loneliness of the
Long-Distance Runner, in which
a young man examines his unhapp-
y past while training for a
cross-country race.
Admission is free.

Saturday Dec. 31/ Family
Program: Arts and crafts for
the whole family every
Saturday. Today, make your
own life-size shadow paintings;
totem poles from cardboard
boxes; mobiles or felt wall
hangings. From 1 to 5 P.M.
in the Arts and Craft Studio.
For information call 364-5665.

Ballroom Dancing: Tonight at
7:30 P.M., a special New
Year's Eve ballroom dance
sponsored by the Rainbow Club
of Toronto will be held in the
Brigantine Room. \$5.00
admission includes party favours
and refreshments. For more
information call 364-5665.

Festival of Lights: Today from
12:30 to 6 P.M. is the last day
to view electric arts in the Art
Gallery. Electronic artists
Martin Hirschberg, Don Jean-
Louis and Michael Yerex, whose
work includes neon, fluorescent
and incandescent light sources
are featured. Admission to the
Art Gallery is free. Art Gallery
hours are: Tue. to Thu. 12:30
to 6 P.M.; Fri. to Sun. 12:30
to 9 P.M.; Dec. 24 & Dec. 31:
12:30 to 6 P.M.

Sunday Jan. 1/78 Jazz at Har-
bourfront: For New Year's Day,
it's the Climax Jazz Band 7:30
P.M. in the Brigantine Room.
\$1.00 cover charge, seniors and
children under 12 free.

DIXON HALL NEEDS YOU

The Youth Programs at
Dixon Hall are entering the
cold winter months and with
the snow comes some slight
changes in the program and
a need for some talented
volunteers.

Among the programs we
need help for are a games
room program from 3:30 - 5 p.m.
plus some one to do a cooking
program and initiate some
special clubs i.e. chess club,
sewing club, etc...

Are you a lifeguard?
How about coming out Friday
evenings from 7:30 - 10 p.m.
and swim with our teens at
Lord Dufferin pool.

Our Boys Club nite on
Friday evenings requires an
interested volunteer as to our
gym programs, Mon, Wed and
Friday evenings. The possi-
bilities are really unlimited-
so feel free to call Gayle or
Fred at 863-0499

Thur. Dec. 29th - Skate-
board demonstration by the
Canadian Champ in the great
hall 10 a.m. to Noon. After
lunch an Airplane Ride, bring
\$1 and sing up early (only 12
people can go).

Airplane riders bring a
lunch. We leave Dixon
Hall at noon promptly.

Friday Dec. 30th -
Mimi's Fam - be at
Dixon Hall by 9 AM.
We'll return approx.
4 PM. Bring 25¢ and
a lunch. Only 44
people can go.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Every Tuesday at 8:30-10PM
for people of high School age.
The program will consist of
Gym Act.

Call: Doug Cunningham at
366-2530

FREE CONSUMER INFOR- MATION

Drop by..... for information
about all kinds of products --
appliances, cars, food...
whatever you might be planning
to buy.

The laws that protect you....
so that you can protect your-
self.

What you can do to make sure
you are choosing the right
product for you and your family
before you buy.

For help with - consumer problems,
we may be able to advise you as to
what steps to take to resolve them.

For resource people - our staff is
available to speak to interested
groups in the community on con-
sumer topics.

WE ARE LOCATED AT:

Gerrard Square
Pape Ave. and Gerrard St.
December 20 to January 7
Tues & Wed. 11 AM - 8 PM
Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM

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44 BLEVINS PLACE,
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5A 3M6

The Regent Park Community News is published
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be addressed:

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