

REGENT PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. 6 NO. 7

MAY 4 1977

REGENT PARK MAKES HEADLINES

The Stigma of living in Ontario Housing is an endless story of small incidents that lead to major frustrations in many of the Residents of Regent Park.

The off hand remarks of potential employers, the assumption that all residents of the area are on Welfare, the reputation of being a "tough" place to live all the cliches that jump quickly to the mind of Torontonians when Regent Park is mentioned. This affects people in a very significant way. It is the same process that nourishes bigotry and prejudice.

Anyone who is constantly being put down for a geographical fact of life is less likely to look outside of his own neighbourhood for a job, education or even entertainment.

The Reluctance of Regent Park youth to look for jobs outside the area may be attributed to the attitude of the rest of Toronto to those "Welfare Bums" who live in Regent Park.

Even though Regent Park youth excel in Sports and other school activities. The greater Stigma of living in Regent Park is fueled by the media and know nothing outsiders.

The affects of a ghetto like existence on any group of people has been well documented- from the Jewish ghetto of Warsaw to the ghettos of Harlem and Watts. A ghetto is used as a way of containing a group of people deemed less in worth than the power brokers of the majority.

This ghetto psychology is very self-fulfilling.

Neighbourhood heroes make a great impression on child's mind. If all his neighbors are alcoholics or on welfare and get an inordinate amount of media coverage for being so, this life style seems normal and praiseworthy.

The makeup of Regent Park should be balanced with an equal number of working people, welfare recipients, unemployed single parent families etc. Otherwise we put an impossible burden on the youth of Regent Park to rise above their surroundings and become healthy productive adults. All the Social workers in the world cannot stop a child from his natural inclination to immitate his parents life style.

OHC is no longer building massive projects like Regent Park for this very reason. Now the plan is to distribute public housing tenants throughout the community by supplementing their rent in private housing. This fact aside we still are left with 10,000 residents of Regent Park who deserve a fair chance to break the bondage of innuendo gossip and slander that is so programmed into the Editors of local newspapers and commentators of T.V. and radio.

When was the last time you saw something positive printed about Regent Park in the local media?

Toronto can't afford to dehumanize 10,000 of its residents and we can't afford to let it happen!

The Toronto Sun has in the last week done its usual bit of sensationalism by writing (Wednesday the 27th on the Front Page.) an article which stated that a woman on Sackville Street felt threatened by Vandals in her hallway and that she carried a baseball bat at all times to protect herself.

Morris Black Senior Area Supervisor stated that this type of hysteria was not uncommon. The affect of this type of journalism (reporting an isolated incident as commonplace) is for the general Public to view Regent Park as an armed camp.

The same day the story appeared, a film crew from CBC Television came to interview Harold Jackman Manager of the Tenant Management Program. Mr. Jackman stated that this woman had never contacted anyone in the Tenant Management Program for help in solving her problem. The CBC people also filmed a Unit Rep meeting where Janet Ross stated she has lived in Regent Park for 17 years and has never had to arm herself to feel safe while in Regent Park. Included in this news clip was an interview with the woman who made the original claim to the Sun and a Police Officer.

This program showed the tenants capability of solving their problems themselves. It didn't show the vigilant tactics of arming oneself as necessary as stated in the article in the Toronto Sun. This film clip was shown once only on CBC Television at 6:00PM and was not repeated on the 11 O'Clock News. Why?

Friday Morning the 29th a Feature Story by Kevin.

Scanlon the same reporter who wrote the article Wednesday in the Sun, told of an OHC tenant who owned a Florida Condominium. The story in the Sun Wednesday made OHC look bad. The story on Friday made OHC look victimized.

With this kind of reporting prevalent. Is it any wonder that the people who pull strings to get stories in print always make people in OHC housing take the brunt of Public ridicule.

I invited Kevin Scanlon to visit the RPCIA office to show him the work we are doing to improve tenant involvement in Regent Park. He stated he was busy.

When will we in Regent Park get a fair shake from the petty beurocrats playing politics and the newspapers who feed on individual paranoia to increase circulation.

Editor



A Unit Rep Meeting at 44 Blevins was attended by all the Unit Reps in the Park to discuss Contract Negotiations with OHC.

JOIN THE RPCIA

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



The Christian Community Centre Summer Program

July 5 - Aug. 12 there will be an activities program running from Tues. to Friday weekly. There will be day trips during the week to Conservation Areas

around Toronto and on Friday there will be family picnics. 10- 12 pm will be reserved time for grades 1 - 6 and 1:30 - 4:30 pm will be reserved for grades 7 - 13.

The first week of August there will be a magic show by Mister E.

Camping trips will be interspersed within these 6 weeks. The length of the trips will vary with the age of the campers.

The Christian Community Centre is located at 270 Gerrard St. East - 929-9614

Yonge Street Mission Coffee House provides entertainment and rap sessions for youths 16 - 30 every Fri. Sat. and Sun from 8 - 11:30 AM. Phone 929-9614 for more information.

Wednesday, May 4

La Troupe folklorique de Toronto - French folk dances and tales, with emphasis on Canada's French cultures. 7:30 p.m. free, in the Ice House at York Quay. New members welcome.

Wednesday Night at the Movies - This week's free Canadian feature film is I Heard the Owl Call My Name, starring Tom Courtenay and Dean Jagger. 7:30 p.m. Harbourfront Cafe.

Thursday May 5

Open Sing - Amateur folk and blues artists are invited to perform every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in the Harbourfront Cafe. Free admission.

Friday May 6



St. Lawrence Market

Saturday morning scene at St. Lawrence brings back the aromas and vitality of old style farmers market, in downtown Toronto. Fresh produce and home baked goodies, jams, jellies, and cider are all for sale by the farmers themselves. Every Saturday morning from 6am to 3 pm. St. Lawrence Market corner of Front and Jarvis St.

Square Dance- With a live caller. \$1.00 membership in the Harbourfront Square Dance Association, 50¢ raffle, instruction for beginners. 7:30 p.m. in the Harbourfront Cafe.

Saturday May 7

Apres-midis recreatives pour enfants - A French- language crafts programme for children 6 to 12 years, twice monthly until June in the Harbourfront Craft Studios from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This week: modelling in clay and drawing.

Multicultural Night - Presented by Etobicoke Polish Folklore. Music and dance by the M.M.I. Czechoslovakian Dancers, Ontario Bhangra Association, Estonian Gym Club, Italian Abruzzi Dancers, Etobicoke Polish Folklore, Portuguese Canadian Centre of Culture and Spanish Dance School. Concert followed by open dance, food and refreshments. 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., free, in the Harbourfront Cafe and Theatre.

Sunday May 8

Family Programme - Painting, drawing, modelling with clay, family board games, children's films when available. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., free in the Harbourfront Craft Studios.

Films - Film shorts about whales, including Beluga Days, In Search of the Bowhead, Whales and The Whales are Waiting, from the National Film Board: And God Created

the Great Whales, from the CBC; two Jacques Cousteau films, Whales and Sharks. Free 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Harbourfront Cafe.

Harbourfront Jazz Club - Traditional jazz and dixieland with guests Jim Galloway's Metro Stompers. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., free in the Harbourfront Cafe.

The Cafe, Theatre, Exhibition and Art Galleries and Craft Studio are all located in the Direct Winters Building at 235 Queen's Quay West 1/2 mile west of the ferry docks. Parking is available. For more information call 369-4951.

Surprise Party for Jim Houston

Friday May 6/77 7:30 pm. at the Community Secretariat 203 Oak St.

Please Submit your special events notices to the Community News, 44 Blevins Place.



Marg Mays, Felis Einhorn, Myrna Marston, Lisa Hill and John Piper discuss the Job situation in a meeting of the Employment Sub- Committee which was formed out of the Inter -Agency Workshop sponsored April 6 by the RPCIA.

Contact ROLAND BURNELL for Job Counselling at 364-2909.

JOBS

L & M Home Improvements, telephone, canvassing, phone Mr. Malone, 694-3560 commission basis.

Towers Food Service, Hourly and or commission, 630-1320, food survey.

Cash & Carry Florist, 76 Nelson St. 362-4729 selling fruit & Flowers \$15.00 a day for fruit, 20% comm. for flowers.

Arctic House, 651-1963 \$3.00 an hour to start, installing insulation, chauffers licence required.

Sell advertising for the Regent Park Community News, 20% commission all ads sold-Phone 364-2909.

Senior Citizens Only

20% DISCOUNT ON ALL GLASSES AND FRAMES AT

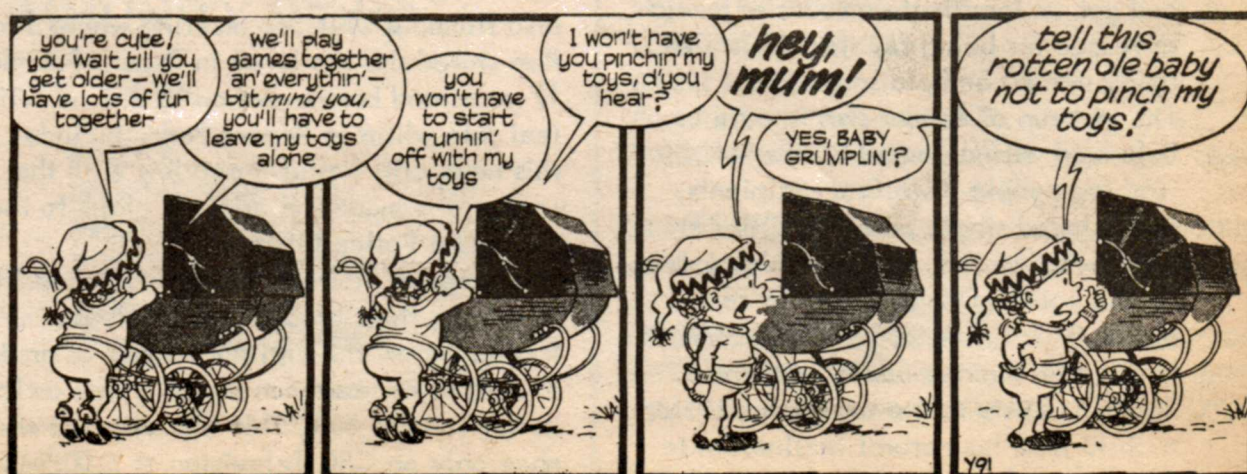


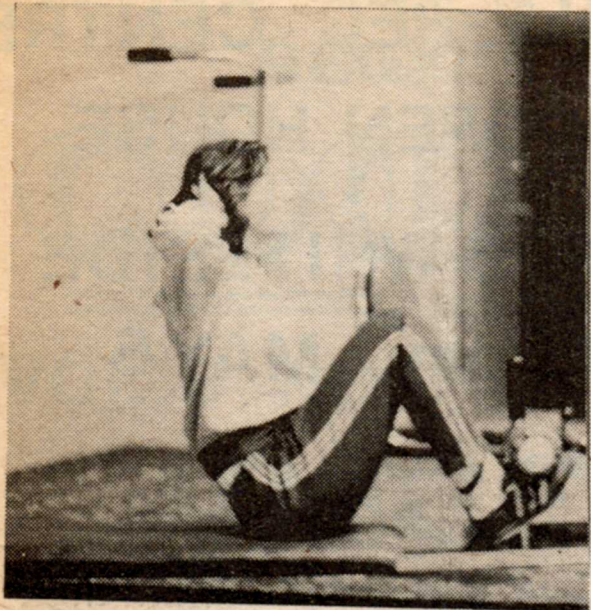
REGENT OPTICAL

424 Parliament
(opposite Woolworths)

925-5772

OPEN MON.-FRI. 1-6 P.M.
(CLOSED SATURDAY)





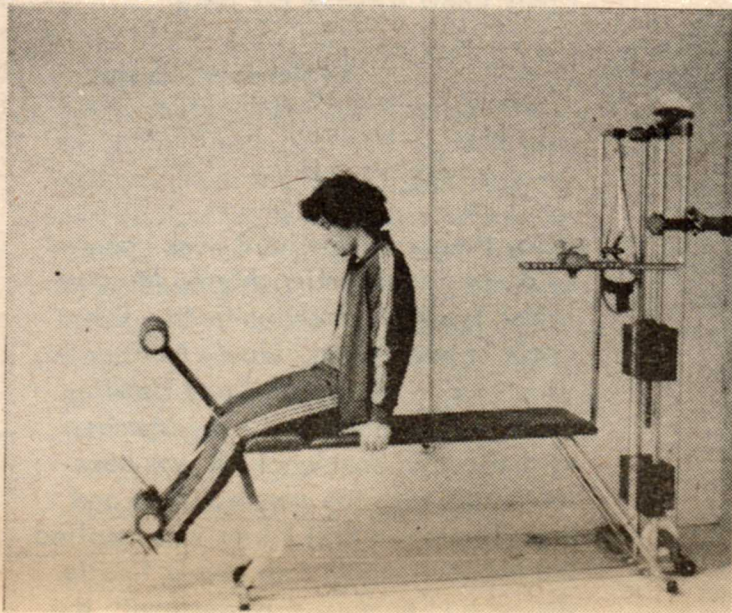
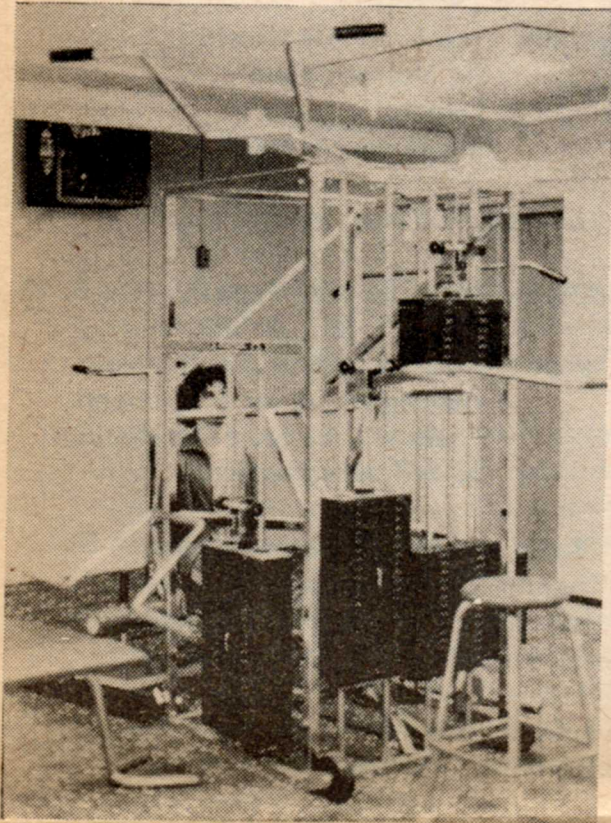
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ITNESS OR YOUR UTURE

The Salvation Army is now accepting registrations for the Regent Park Fitness Centre. The Centre officially opened on April 13, 1977 and includes:

- Fitness Screen test
- Individualized Programs
- Showers
- Sauna
- Sun Room
- 15 piece Universal Gym
- Rythmic Calisthenic classes for women
- Jogging Club for men

Members will pay no more than \$30.00 for three months (graded fee scale according to income). All persons must be 18 years of age or over--16 & 17 year olds will be accepted if accompanied by a parent/guardian.



TEMPORARY BOOKKEEPER WANTED!

The RPCIA- Tenant Management Program seeks an experienced Bookkeeper to work during the regular Bookkeeper's leave of absence. Applicant must be experienced in Payroll, Financial Statement, etc.

The successful applicant will work 40 hours per week @ \$3.60 per hour, commencing the ending of May, 1977 to January 1978.

If interested please apply at 44 Blevins Place- RPICA Office or call 364-2909 for more information.

MAYCOURT CLUB
NEARLY NEW CLOTHES
AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
605 WHITESIDE PL.
THURSDAY
10:15 ----- 11 a m

Bingo every Wednesday
at 44 Blevins Basement
Prizes, Household
goods, lots - a fun
for everyone.

D.V.A. Recipients
GLASSES AND FRAMES
AVAILABLE AT

REGENT OPTICAL
424 Parliament
(opposite Woolworths)

925-5772
OPEN MON.-FRI. 1-6 P.M.
(CLOSED SATURDAY)



ANITA'S HAIRSTYLING
239 CARLTON st.

Shampoo Set----\$3.00 Tint-----\$8.50

Hair straightening Ear Piercing

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special uniperm Medical Scalp treatment for Psoriasis

Complete line of Beauty Supplies, Wigs and Hairpieces Medical Skin Scrub Facials

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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.

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363-8821





To all Laundry Attendants

From Harold Jackman
Manager- TMP

Re: Duties and Responsibilities

Laundry attendants are again reminded of their duties and responsibilities. (1) Must remain in the buildings to which you have been stationed. (2) Must not go tenants apt. during working hours to drink coffee. (3) Must not permit children under 14 years to use machines. (4) All residents living in Row Houses must be allowed to use laundry facilities, they are bonafide tenants of Regent Park. (5) Laundry rooms must not be closed earlier than 15 minutes before stipulated time of closing.- Mon. & Wed. 11 to 9PM, Tues. & Thurs. 9 to 5PM, Fri, Sat. & Sun. 9 to 6PM. Laundry rooms must closed during lunch hour; 12 noon to 1PM and 5 to 6 PM on late closing days. (6) All machines should be cleaned before closing time. (7) Attendants are not permitted to leave their place of work unattended for lengthy periods without permission. (8) No tenant should be permitted to use more than 2 washers and 1 dryer at anytime.

Harold Jackman
Manager -RPCIA
Tenant Management Program



REGENT PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

44 BLEVINS PLACE,
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5A 3M6

The Regent Park Community News is published twice a Month by the Regent Park Community Improvement Association/ with the help of a LIP grant. We welcome any letters, comments, poems, photographs, or notices from groups or individuals. All correspondence should be addressed:

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REGENT PARK COMM. NEWS
44BLEVINS PLACE
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M5A 3M6
Phone (416-364-2909)

WHAT IS THIS THING ?

The feeling that I had as I stood
In front of the door of 470's basement
Waiting for the guard to see me.
" They have taken more of my freedom
from me"

Like I was some threat if I was not
checked
What is this secret thing that
Must be locked behind a big red door?

Christianity is what they say it is
I searched and I found Jesus set men free.
And gave peace and life more abundantly.

I dare not say what is behind
The new big red door of 470's basement
I only know it is not my Jesus.

By Helen M. Bassett

Dance

Many thanks for the hard work donated by Audrey McPherson, Myrna Marston, Isabel Scullion, Marilyn Smith, Clara Little, Marg Young, Gordy McPherson, Vinette Christie and Mildred Headley and to all members and Non-Members who attended the dance. It was very successful with the gracious help and organization of Phil Eskins whosupplied the entertainment. Two lovely female singers and dancers performed with the band, they were Jan McCowan and Carol Nuclar.

Jan McCowan teaches dance with Phil Eskins at the Bristol Place Hotel. She looks and sounds like star material. Carol Nuclar, a cabbagetown girl shocked the audience with her vocal talent. She is a fine example of the hidden talent that waits discovery in Cabbagetown. The band was composed of Gary Dixon, Mick Mason, James Hartley, Doc John and Butch Cook one of the top bands in Ontario who were well received.

Lee Man
Wing Chan
and Marc
McDonald
at left
enjoy the
May Sun
to Teter- Totter

Provincial Benefit Recipients

GLASSES AND FRAMES
AVAILABLE AT



REGENT OPTICAL

424 Parliament
(opposite Woolworths)

925-5772

OPEN MON.-FRI. 1-6 P.M.
(CLOSED SATURDAY)

ADULT-REC CENTRE

OPEN HOUSE

605 WHITESIDE

1-7pm MAY 6

BECAUSE WE CARE YOU ARE INVITED!

Where: The Riverdale Hospital
St. Matthews Road
Toronto
(Broadview&Gerrard)

To What: Canada Hospital Day

When : May 12, 1977 From 2 PM to 8 PM.

Why: To find out how the Riverdale
Hospital cares for it's patients.
There will be tours and displays
of various activities.

Please come and show an interest in the
Hospital in your community.
Join us on Thursday, May 12 and get a
first hand idea of what we do.

Refreshments will be served on the patio.
(Weather Permitting)

For Further Information please phone
461-8251, EXT. 288

Phone numbers you should know

EMERGENCY	361-1111
POLICE	967-2222
FIRE DEPT.	363-2133
SOCIAL SERVICES	
(general inquiry)	367-8623
(emerg. service)	367-8600
(339 George st)	925-3131
HEALTH UNIT	364-2261.
DENTAL UNIT	364-2265
AMBULANCE	489-2111
REGENT PARK COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	364-2909
REGENT PARK SERVICE UNIT	863-1768
HOSPITALS	
ST. MICHAEL'S	360-4000
MOUNT SINAI	596-4200
SICK CHILDREN'S	597-1500
TORONTO GENERAL	595-3111.
WELLESLEY	966-6600
Donald S. Macdonald M.P.	366-2300
MARGARET SCRIVENER M.P.P.	964-8663
ALDER MEN	
JANET HOWARD	367-7916
JOHN SEWELL	367-7910
O.H.C.	
OFFICE NORTH REGENT	363-5188
OFFICE SOUTH REGENT	368-1891
EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE	789-7901
COMMUNITY GUARDIANS	924-7754