

REGENT PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

Vol. 7 No. 1

JANUARY, 8, 1978

When we listen to the news on the radio or the T.V. the words Human Rights are repeated many times, but mostly in the news from the third world countries, where it is very common to learn about the violation of human rights. But what are human rights and why are they considered rights? Why do we only learn about problems with human rights in other countries but not in Canada?

Let us start at the very bottom of this story. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was set up and signed by all the nation members of the United Nations in 1948 after the second World War. It was created to establish a code of the basic rights of human beings, that should be respected by all countries that signed it. Rights such as the right of liberty and security of person; not to be held in slavery or servitude; or the rights of recognition everywhere as a person before the law; protection from torture among others, were declared the minimum as basic rights to permit human beings to develop as human beings.

When we talk about these human rights we can see why so often in the news appears violations of them in the third world countries we can accept why we are not told about human rights violation in Canada: more over, when we hear about human rights in Canada it is because Canada has taken a position to defend the human rights of people in a country where they are being violated.

It is good that public opinion motivates us to support human rights everywhere. I feel we can do much more about human rights, if we not only are concerned about them in other countries, but that we learn more about them, and care about human rights in our own country; because there are other rights besides the right of not to be tortured, or private; or freedom because of political reasons. This is only a very restricted and pathetic vision of the human rights. Very necessary but limited.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND OUR EVERY DAY LIFE

Let's talk about the every day life and it's relationship with human rights, then we will see that they are not so much our lives as they appear, and that we have a lot to do for human rights. e.j.

e.j. Work: Our every day task. In the article No. 23 of the Declaration it says, "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment", then adds: "Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work". It mentions also the "right to a favourable remuneration enduring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity", and that "Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for protection of his interests". The next two articles are related as well to work the right to rest, and the minimum standard of living that every human being should have.

Do we have something to do for human rights here in Canada; in our very Province, in our city? Let's think about it.

We are now living in a situation that has to deal with a large unemployment problem. Thousands of people do not have work, or do not have the opportunity to choose work. The situation is so imperative that it forces them to take whatever they find. The continuous movement from one place of work to another does not afford them holidays with pay, and sometimes it is hard to take a reasonable period of time to visit. Because of the unemployment situation, different wages are paid for the same job, depending on the sex of the person, or on what is called experience. Lets stop for a moment and think about this "experience". It appears as the (just) conquest of the workers. That's true.

It is a conquest of the worker, but, be careful. Using that reason, a boss that was paying \$5 or more an hour to a "experienced" worker, because of the possibility of lay off, can lay off the worker, and hire a "non experienced" worker (even though experience is required), and pay him or her \$3 per hour less. He assures the worker that he or she will have the opportunity to work over-time; but what about the need to rest, and the need of being with his or her family?

We can continue looking around us and finding a lot of facts that we live every day, and tells us that we have a lot to do for human rights but here in Canada

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44 BLEVINS PLACE,
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The Regent Park Community News is published twice a month by the Regent Park Community Improvement Association with the help of a group of volunteers and staff from The St. Christopher House. We welcome any letters, comments, poems, photographs, or notices from groups or individuals. All correspondence should be addressed:

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NEWS NATIONAL

External Affairs Minister Told a Canadian Council of Churches seminar in Ottawa that Canada must be selective in dealing with human rights cases, because "our case will be stronger where the offence is greater and if the weight of Canadian and world opinion is behind our presentation." He noted that international human rights machinery is cumbersome that other countries may have different human rights standards from Canada's, and that he is willing to consider such pressures as suspension of aid only where it is shown that such action is effective and does not deny food to the needy.

INTERNATIONAL

The major industrialized western countries are holding a summit in May in London, England, to face the need for wholesale economic restructuring. In the next 30 years the world has to find ways of feeding, clothing and housing an additional population equivalent to the present total. The present economic structure can't even master present difficulties. Oil country surpluses have been a deflationary factor, kept at by industrialized countries who are reluctant to institute expansionary policies, and pushing off problems onto the Third World countries least able to bear them. These countries have gone into debt, and must divert to debt servicing the resources that would otherwise have been used for development. Hopes for restructuring are not encouraged by the Carter administration's lack of enthusiasm thus far for new economic order proposals. The advanced countries need a new order as the rest.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tenant Management News Laundry Room Service:

We wish to inform Tenants of what action the R.P.C.I.A. has taken in attempting to assist the tenants in the improvement of the laundry service due to frequent breakdowns of machines, and the total destruction of other machines by vandals. The R.P.C.I.A. has written a letter to 101 Bloor Street recommending that there be one attendant per building in North Regent instead of the laundry attendant serving two buildings as is the case at present. The Tenant Management Programme Area Co-ordinators have also submitted a letter of support in respect to the recommendation of one Laundry Attendant per building. We have also been contacting O.H.C. officers and the Concessionaires whenever breakdown of machines occur.

Tenants have to appreciate the fact that the R.P.C.I.A. is not responsible for repairing machines. This is the responsibility of the concessionaires and O.H.C. As soon as Tenants phone the Tenant Management Programme's office the matter is given quick attention by the Area Co-ordinators or the Manager. The Laundry Attendants are always willing to assist Tenants in any problem existing in the laundry rooms. We are looking forward to an early improvement in the laundry rooms. Because of our discussion with O.H.C. tenants are asked to continue calling our Area Co-ordinators about the laundry room problems. We are sure we will see a very satisfactory laundry room service soon.

Tenant Management Programme

NEIGHBOURHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

Opened its office doors on Seaton Street in April of 1975. The initial feasibility study for a community controlled law office was done by several community people back in 1972. From 1973 until 1975 a small group of people were meeting regularly to make a plan for the office to look for funding and to direct several smaller scale community education and organizing efforts. Some of these projects were:

- Roomers Rights
- Welfare Information on Services
- Seminars for first offenders at the Don Educational at Eastdale Oak Street School and
- The Winchester.

In 1973 NLS began with a staff of 3 Community Legal workers and one lawyer. At that time the funding came intermittently from various sources- The Federal Department of Justice, the United Church, and the Law Foundation. By the Spring of 1976 Neighbourhood Legal Services and other legal clinics that had been operating in the city (Injured Workers Consultants Parkdale, Tenant Hotline) were in grave danger of closing because of lack of money. (Infact, NLS did have to close it's doors in the last few months of 1975). The Ontario Government amended the Legal Aid Act to allow for interim funding for legal clinics, and they have been our primary source of funding since that time. Though it would appear that we are financially more secure, there are problems. Ontario Legal Aid Plan is interested in processing the largest amount of cases for the least amount of money. What does this mean for legal research test cases organizing for change community education? People who are rich don't have to worry about how much money they are spending on their legal services- they can take every advantage of the legal system. Neither is the Ontario Legal Aid Plan really committed to the idea of a community based, community controlled clinic where the users decide what sort of services are required from the staff. Neighbourhood Legal Services is now located at 316 Ontario Street. It has grown to include 5½ Community Legal Workers, 2 Lawyers, 2 researchers and a person who spends half time keeping all the finances straight. We still only take clients in three areas of law- Welfare and Family Benefits, Unemployment Insurance and Landlord and Tenant. (tenants only)

This means we are prepared to answer question's about your rights under the Family Benefits, UIC or Welfare legislation and the Landlord and Tenant Act. We may be able to give you information about benefites you may not know are available under FBA and GWA. We will go with you to appeal Boards if that is required. We will bring test cases to Court if that is necessary. We will help you obtain your rights as a tenant. This can happen in many ways- in dealing with repairs, heat problems rent increases, evictions. We will represent tenants in Landlord and Tenant Court. We are only too happy to hold training sessions or educationals in these areas of law.

Quite often the problems facing people in these three areas of the law are very great and create many problems for people. The laws in these areas are very bad and people suffer from these bad laws. Because of this we are committed to working with groups of people who want to see that there are changes in unfair laws and practices. Sometimes we feel pressure to expand into other areas of law such as Family Law or Consumer Law. Presently we don't feel we have enough people to take that on. But people needing information in these areas should call us and we will see that they are connected to someone who can help.

Our phone number is 961-2625. From 9:00 am til 1:00 pm. This line goes through an answering service. The answering service will take your message and we will get back to you. After 1:00 pm the line rings right through to the office. We do this to allow the staff time for meetings - staff educationals and to get some of the inevitable paper work done.

REGENT PARK ADULT RECREATION CENTRE

605 Whiteside Place # 101
364-4915

To all tenants and members and other people living in the park and surrounding areas, we at the Adult Recreation Centre would like to inform you just what we have going on at the centre.

We have at this time, cribbage, coloured Television, pingpong, bumper pool, shuffle board, also we have started euchre games being played on Wed. nights starting at 7pm sharp any one interested please come down and join in the games. Also we would like to get a dart league started in the near future any one wants to play phone the above number if we can get enough people we can start. Also ladies we are having a arts and crafts day on Mondays afternoons hrs. 1pm to 3pm. Mrs. Boundy is the art and crafts lady and she has some new ideas and would like to see more women out to our arts and crafts come on in and maybe you might give us some more ideas. The centre is open five days a week from the hrs one to four in afternoons, and nights seven to ten except on Fri. its open to eleven. We also sell pop at 25 cents and tea and coffee at twenty cents. Please feel free to drop in and see us and we at the rec centre would make you feel welcome and show you around.

We are open for membership to fee is \$2.00.

Secretary
Mrs. Violet Yedon

Project Co-Ordinator and Assistant project

Project Co-ordinator and Assistant Project Co-ordinator needed to direct an employment training program for Downtown Youths. Previous experience and / or related experience an asset.

Submit resume to : Felies Ginhorn at Dixon Hall at 58 Sumach Street, Toronto, Ontario. or phone 863-0499.

Come and have a coffee break with us. If you would like to get out of the house for a few hours a week, why not come to Dixon Hall on Thursdays between 1pm and 3pm for some get fit exercises, discussions on a different topic each week (e.g: cooking, plant care, women and the law etc) and of course coffee and friendly people.

This group is for women only and begins Thursday, February 2nd. Babysitting will be available. If you would like to join us please call Felies or Mimi at Dixon Hall, 863-0499.

JOIN THE RPCIA

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

PARENT CHILD DROP IN CENTRE

The River-Oak Parent-Child Centre began in the late spring of 1977 on a Canada Works Grant, and is currently being administered by the Toronto Board of Education. The project was initiated in response to a perceived lack of services for parents or other primary caretakers who are caring for pre-school aged children in the home. In other words, although we felt that there were several facilities in the form of day-care centres and nursery schools where children receive group care. There seemed to be little in the way of programmes for adult caretakers and children to participate in together. Hence, the creation of the Centre which reflects a general philosophy of the staff who runs it.

To begin with, we recognize the value which many parents place upon a healthy mix of individualized at home care along with the opportunity for regular interaction with children in the same age group. If children do not attend day care or nursery school, there is often no setting where they may receive this type of stimulation outside of the home environment. The Centre has attempted to fill this gap.

Just as importantly, the staff believes that parents also have a vital need to interact with others who are in similar situations. From its inception, the centre has aimed towards providing an opportunity for people with children to share ideas with others about the joys and difficulties involved in raising children. The Centre is administered by two full time staff members who are devoted to helping parents and children to enjoy the quality of their lives together. As recent school graduates, we bring a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the programme.

Kathy Lance, who has been trained in Early Childhood Education, has several years of experience in work with pre-school aged children and parent education programmes. She is well versed in the areas of child development, parent-child relationships, children's toys, games, and creative craft programmes. As for myself, Hildi Wolfish, I have a background in social work with a particular focus upon work with families and mother's groups. As well, I have spent several years working with children in a variety of settings such as summer camps, day nurseries, and after school recreational programmes. In combining our different skills and experiences, Kathy and I hope to generate all kinds of new ideas to help to make the centre a warm and exciting setting.

We are both eager to meet new people and we welcome all interested people from this community to give us a call at 363-9884 or to drop in on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Hope to see you soon.

sports

DIXON HALL DART LEAGUE

	Games won
#4.--Born Losers	10
#1.--Jan's Jems	9
#3.--Roadrunners	8
#2.--N.R.F.P.T.A.	8



Letters

At a certain moment a Doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my "Death Bed" call it my "Bed of Life" and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sunrise a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain. Give my blood to the teenager who has been pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchild play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain, take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday, a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.

Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

If you must bury something let it be my faults, my weaknesses, and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my soul to God.

If by chance you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

By Clara Little

Bikoe
SINCE 1929

A LEADER IN
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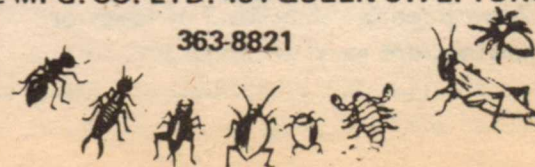
PEST CONTROL

OUR RETAIL STORE AT 434 QUEEN ST. E. (AT SACKVILLE) CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH THE RIGHT PRODUCTS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO DESTROY ROACHES, 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





COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Regent park United Church has existed in our Community for a very long time. In fact it had the privilege of having the Park built around it. As the Park grew, so has the involvement of the Church in the Community

In July of 1977 Regent Park United Church became a Church recognized not only for its unique situation of being in the centre of a housing project but also for the fact that many great changes occurred in its concept of Community Involvement and Ministry. These changes were funded by the United Church funding body. It is the first time in Toronto these changes were implemented and as far as we are aware, the only other Church in Canada with a similar program is in Vancouver.

In July all staff members changed. There are now 5 people on staff, all of whom are new. Janet Duke, a Community Worker started in July. Royston Jones, Director of Christian Education joined the staff in September; Then in November, Richard Miller the new Minister arrived. The team is made complete when we add Nancy Cleveland, receptionist and George Coxon the caretaker. George has been around for three years.

Having a Community worker on staff is very new to the Church but it was recognized as a very necessary change in keeping up with our present day society.

"It is always difficult for changes to occur, and the changes are just as difficult for us," said Janet Duke. "With all the staff being new, we are very grateful for the help so many of our congregation. They have been our strength and support throughout our beginning. We are still struggling along as we learn much of the past and try to introduce new ideas to the Community and Congregation alike."

Volunteers are a very important part of the Church and its' programs. The programs are organized and run by volunteer help and now consist of the following activities:

Monday--Piano Lessons
Tuesday--Piano Lessons--Mothers Club
Wednesday--Piano Lessons--Boys Club--Family Nite
Thursday--Piano Lessons--Choir (both Junior and Senior)
Friday--Youth Club
Sunday--Youth Fellowship, Sunday School and Sunday Worship.

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.

R.P.C.I.A.

DANCE AT

DIXON HALL 58 Sumach Street
January 20, 1978
8:00 P.M.

Members---\$1.50 each
Non-Members---\$2.00 each

ALL WELCOME

MUSIC SUPPLIED

FREE

MONDAY MOVIE
NIGHT

Show starts at 7:00 pm and runs to 9:00pm

At

WOODGREEN COMMUNITY
CENTRE

835 Queen Street East---
Phone number--461-1168

JOIN THE RPCIA

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

Special services also are held in keeping with the Religious Holidays and special events that occur throughout the year.

More information can be obtained by contacting the staff at 363-4234.

Staff is also available to meet people in their homes as well.

"We enjoy meeting people and having them use the Church," Janet says, "but we would not want our relationship with the Community to end at the Church door. The Church is a common meeting place but we also enjoy meeting people individually, and as a friend, wish to help where we can and share ups and downs alike as any friend would."

The staff would like to invite all people in the Community to drop by and introduce yourself, share your ideas and or take part themselves in any programs of interest to you or your family.

The Dixon Hall Food Co-op

The rising costs of food is an issue that affects everyone. To beat these costs

Dixon Hall for the past 4 years has held a food Co-op every second week. This past year we've decided to try to hold it every week. The Food Co-op stocks fruit, vegetables, eggs and cheese. The food is operated on a pre-order basis wherein members submit their orders by 3:00 P.M. on Monday and the food is brought in on Tuesday morning. It is then weighed out and packaged for pick-up by late that same morning. The cost to join the Food Co-op is \$2.00 per year. This money goes toward maintaining a reserve fund in the event that prices increase drastically over a short period of time. Sample prices at the Food Co-op are:

Potatoes	6¢ per lb.
Lettuce	45¢ per head
Cabbage	25¢ "
Cucumbers	14¢ each
Mushrooms	1.06 per lb.
Bananas	18¢ per lb.
Tangerines	90¢ dozen
Carrots	12¢ per lb.
Grapes	65¢ per lb.

For further information please contact Felies Einhorn at Dixon Hall 863-0499
Einhorn

Regent Park Adult Recreation Centre
Bowling League
605 Whiteside Place-Apt 101
364-4015

Ask for Violet Yedon - Treasurer for ARC

Would like to see more people come out and join the Bowling league.

We have 4 Series a year. They are:
A. B. C. D.

Bowling starts September 12, 1978

Series A Winners was Super Duds
Series B Winners was The Musketeers
Series C Winners was ?
Series D Winners was ?

Thank you

President: Robert Rose

Vice--President: John Hunt

COME ONE

COME ALL