

REGEN T PARK COMMUNITY needs

Vol.7 No. 2

FEBRUARY 3, 1978

MULTICULTURALISM

From an Immigrants point of view.

We all know that Immigrants, whether they come from Colombia, Portugal, Jamaica, Argentina, or Holland, from a farming district, a mining basin or a University town, have come here with a profound desire to better our lot, to provide a chance for our children. We don't expect it to be easy. But we do expect a fair deal. And as Canadian citizens we have a right to expect a just return for the taxes we pay, for the energy we provide, the work we do and the goods we consume. Yet so many of us have no option but to take low-profile, poorly-paid jobs with little chance of any upward mobility. Many of us have great difficulty finding adequate housing: of taking advantage of the educational potential of our children.

Too often the media paly on the situation talking of "illegals" or "dirty factory jobs" without ever going into the reasons why. This in its turn fans a red-neck mentality which blames "ethnics" and "immigrants" for coming in, taking all the jobs and lowering the standard of living. In fact, very many immigrants can get only the worst-paid jobs Canadians refuse to do. We are blamed for squeezing all the Welfare out of Canada's pockets when studies show fewer immigrants are on Welfare than Canadians in the population at large.

The problems have been obvious for a long time now. Our refusal as a society to face this issue supposes a reluctance to change the status quo. As an officer of the Employment Standards Branch of the Department of Labour once told me:

"If we close all the little factories around the city that we know exploit the immigrant worker who will do those jobs and where will the immigrants find work?"

Why should there be any discussion of whether a worker is Canadian-born or immigrant? Having fulfilled all the requirements of Canadian immigration, a woman or a man is surely entitled to equal opportunity here. Canada is one of the few countries in the world to have taken an official position of respect for the inherent cultures of all its citizens. But this respect means if it does not imply a willingness to provide an equal chance.

Men and women working in highly-industrialized Canada, trying to cope with daily life under inflation have a great deal in common. the only positive way for us now is to deal with each other on the basis of our similarities. Immigrants here from Ecuador, Portugal, Spain or any other corner of the globe share the same basic needs as any other Canadian. We all want work that will allow us to live in dignity and bring up our families with some promise for the future.

Of course there are differences among us.

There is no way we can ignore them. Nor would we want to. Our differences are the icing on the cake, the treasure of a multicultural nation. We cherish our history, our dance and our song. Our stories and legends make us strong, secure in the knowledge of who we are and where we have come from. We can teach each other about our different cultures. But first we must approach each other through what we experience in common.

Until our government, our social services our educational system, and our daily press begin to deal with us in this way and realize that our similarities are a lot more important than our differences, immigrants and other minority groups will remain at the bottom of our society.



RPCIA JOB VACANCY

Area Coordinator

Please apply at
44 Blevins Place

or call

364-8902 for more
information

TEENS

Over the past four years, Regent Park Has won 13 city championships in various sports. Which goes to show you that Regent Park has more than its share of athletes. But there seems to be a small problem in this, the only people who know about this are few in number. In fact, only a handful of people know of the conquests of Regent Park's youth. Most of the people that are in this city are under the impression that the kids in Regent Park are nothing but a bunch of hoodlums and encourag-ables.

But from what I have seen, on the feild of athletics, our kids are more than equal to their counterparts anywhere in the city of Toronto. As far as I am concerned there are quite a few areas around Toronto that could take a few lessons in Sportsman like conduct from the kids in Regent Park.

For too many years now I have heard a lot of garbage from a lot of people in different parts of the city, and just about all the comments I have heard have been negative. Most of the people outside of Regent Park read in the newspapers that all the kids in here are constantly under the wrong type of elements, and so they feel that the kids are mean and dangerous to their children and therefore should be left right where they are. But I have in my own way put these people in their place by telling them that I have lived in and around this area all of my life. Their usual comment is, "You don't seem to be the type of person who would come from an area like that!" But that is only a few people, there are a lot of people out there who have to be put straight about Regent Park, and the kids of this area are doing one heck of a good job of showing these people what we are all about. On the Feild or off, the kids around here are no different than any other in the city.

Vaughan Monague
283 Wellesley St.E.
Toronto, Ontario
M4X 1G9

CABBAGETOWN OLD STONEWALKER

BAND NOW CABBAGETOWN

NEW J. C. & COMPANY

Playing at dance February 4
Union Hall 43

NEWS NATIONAL

WOMEN FIGHT BANKS'DISCRIMINATION
Delegates to the first contract conference of the newly-formed United Bank Workers, a section of the Service Office and Retail Workers Union (SORWUC), propose the base wage rate be increased to \$1,140 a month or \$7.50 an hour. It is now about \$600 a month. The proposed rate is based on the fact that it cost a single parent with one child about \$1,050 a month to live in Vancouver without a car or savings. The size of the of the increase reflects the fact that banks have long discriminated against women workers. The average wage for a women worker is 57 per cent of a man's. National Secretary of SORWOC, says the banks "are fairly surprized about our demands but the bank's profits are phenomenal so they can afford it". UBW has 140 members at branches of the Toronto Dominion Bank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal. Canada's other bank workers union, the Ontario-based Canadian Union of Bank Employees (CUBE) is currently preparing its contract demands. Kenneth Rogers, CUBE secretary, says the firts task is to replace the disparities in current salaries with standardization. Thus, any increases would not add to the disparities. CUBE has 40 members at three Bank of Nova Scotia branches and one Canada Trust branch. It is an offshoot of the Canadian Chemical Workers Union.

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA AGREES TO NUCLEAR CURBS

In a pact aimed at curbing the spread of nuclear weapons, Canada and 14 other nations have agreed on rules over export of their nuclear technology. The agreement, reached in London last year, bars customers of the signatory countries from using the nuclear plants and technology for making bombs for either military or "peaceful" purposes. Countries subscribing to the code include the U.S, the USSR, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, U.K., FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, JAPAN, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, ITALY, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND.

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. MICHEAL'S-	360-4000
MOUNT SINAI-	596-4200
SICK CHILDREN'S-	597-1500
TORONTO GENERAL-	595-3111
WELLESLEY-	966-6600
DONAL S. MACDONALD-M.P.-	366-2300
MARGARET SCRIVENER M.P.P.-	964-8663
ALDERMEN	
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
HOME HELP SERVICES-	366-0110
COMMUNITY GUARDIANS-	924-7754
HOMEHELP SERVICE	- 366-0110

NOTICE TO READERS OF REGENT PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

As the Community News is now coming out on the same week as Ward 7 News and also is a bi-weekly paper there was one extra week between this edition and the last that we might be coming out on alternate weeks to Ward 7 News. We hope this extra weeks wait for our paper does not inconvenience anyone.

Volunteer Staff of the
R.P.C.I.A. NEWS.

TENANT MANAGEMENT NEWS

To the row houses especially: You have already been told the days garbage is collected. Please do not wait until after garbage is collected to throw your garbage unto the lawn or sidewalks. Remember there are stray dogs that would take pleasure in bursting these bags making just around you very untidy. Should you see such happenings please inform your Co-ordinator or phone 364-2909 immediately; we will know how to handle the situation confidentially. Pets mostly dogs are soiling our stairways and hall ways. And if this continues the Right Authority's will have such law breakers get rid of such pets. Again your Co-operation is badly needed and please do not say that this does not concern me. Let us see drastic changes in the months ahead with your support.

T.M. Programme.

APPLICATION FOR UNIT
REPRESENTATIVES IS
NOW BEING ACCEPTED
BY THE
TENANT MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM

If interested please
come to the office at
44 Blevins Place or
call 364-8902

RIVER OAK DROP-IN CENTRE A FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE.

There is a light blue portable about 11 m x 15m at the corner of Oak and River Streets that houses the type of friendship and warmth that can easily be compared with a close and caring family. The place ? Oak Street Drop-in Centre. Its open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 to 1:30 for kids and parents or gaurdians to experience and enjoy the inter-action between themselves and others in a group setting and, its free.

The atmosphere is gay, with many activities, anything from dress-up to plasticene or monkey bars to painting with hands and feet, though quite unstructured. The only thing that happens like clock-work every day (by popular demand) is a neat little time slot for a few songs, a snack and maybe a story.

For Marissa a little almost 3 year old girl who I care for going to the drop-in centre one, two or three times a week is a welcome outing. At first she was shy and clung very tightly to me but within days she began to look forward to the days when we are able to attend. The exposure to other children of her age in a setting outside the security of her own home has been good for her, especially in developing her understanding of sharing toys and people.

As well as her ability to play with, other kids rather than side by side or just in the same room.

For me, the centre means not only an idea of what to do when my mind fails me in attempts to provide creative and new things to accupy our (Marissa's & my) time together. It is a place to express feelings of every day frustrations which occur in a childs case, its a source of information about some of the better ways to develop happy healthy children. Its friends.

In short, there is nothing bad that I can say about it, and at least in this case

the old sayings " Good things come in small packages " and " The good things in life are free " are very true.

Miss Tenaj Da Costa

Regent Park School

As a result of the pre-school registration programme organized by SCORE, an inner-city project sponsored by the Toronto Board of Education, a number of parents of Kindergarten children from Regent Park School have been meeting together with the Kindergarten teachers and the vice-president on Thursday mornings at the school. We're interested in Child Development- how our children grow and learn and how we can help them at home.

Marg Deeth, the Consultant for Early Childhood Education, came to our last meeting and brought some puzzles and toys which we took home to use with our children. At our next meeting we'll discuss how the children played with them, e.g. did they use the dominoes as plain blocks or did they match them up by the dots. Marg is also helping us by setting up a book-and-toy-lending programme, so the children will be able to use many different toys and books.

So far the meetings have been useful in helping us to understand our children better. As we share together with other parents and with teachers, we're learning that children go through various stages of development and that they do so in their own time, and also that children need to be exposed to situations where they can use as many of their senses (touch, sight, smell, hearing, taste) as possible.

Although the meetings started with Kindergarten parents, parents of all children are welcome to join us, including parents of pre-school children. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 2, 1978 at 10:30 a.m. at Regent Park School. For further information, please call Jean Brown at 362-4054 or Ron Auckland at 363-3441.

PARK SCHOOL

A good number of parents turned out to Park School on Monday, January 23, 1978 to elect parent representatives for the school's Staffing Committee. Every elementary school in the city must have at least one parent representative on their Staffing Committee and not more than 50% of the total staff representation on the Committee. At the meeting, it was decided that four parents could be elected and the following people agreed to be the parent representatives on the Committee: Greita Buck, Helen Caunce, Harold Jackman and Helvi Therien.

The Committee's responsibilities include the consideration of how many classes there will be in the school and how large the classes should be, how many teaching and non-teaching periods there should be and how long these should be, and how students will be supervised when they are not being taught.

At the next meeting of the Parent Group at Park School, the role of the Staffing Committee will be discussed. All parents and other interested people in the community are encouraged to attend this meeting which will be held in the school Staff Room on Monday, February 6, 1978 at 7:30 P.M.

A New Tenant Asks O.H.C.?

Please tell me Sir when receiving permission to live in Regent Park why either O.H.C. or the Bell Telephone does not tell you (the tenant) that O.H.C. has to give you a letter permitting you to have a second phone upstairs.

"The Situation" I moved here the Monday before Christmas requesting the Bell to install my phone with two jacks one upstairs & one downstairs.

As I have medical problems and often need the phone at night.

Nothing was then said about needing a letter of consent from O.H.C. for a second phone.

However I did take sick a few nights later and passed out at the top of the stairs.

The next day I called Mr. Dunlevey & went over and got my letter. I now have my extension but at a cost of \$30.00 instead of the original \$15.00. Why the slip up? O.H.C. or the Bell. Please notify prospective tenants so that others will be saved the hardship and cost of the Bell Telephone coming twice at twice the cost.

Florence Jolicoeur
42 Blevins Place
Apartment 602

Letters

A THANK YOU LETTER

I am writing to thank my Unit Rep the R.P.C.I.A. and all the people who made it possible for me to receive help when I needed it most. Due to the efforts of a great many people my daughter and I were able to accumulate much needed pieces of furniture, such as: bed, mattress, end table, chairs, living room chair etc. Because of their assistance I have now been able to get myself together and purchase new things. The furniture given me however, did not go out in the garbage but was passed on to two other needy families.

Out of your efforts to help one family in need came help for 3 families.

I am sure I speak for all 3 when once again I say THANKS SO MUCH!

Cecilia Rowe
42 Blevins Place
Apartment 1309

Reply

On calling Bell Telephone for their policy on installing two telephones in building is that it is not their policy that calls for the letter of permission from O.H.C. and that the responsibility should be put on them to notify prospective tenants of this situation.

Response from O.H.C.

We have no policy refusing the Bell from installing two phones in the apartments and have repeatedly told them they don't need a letter.

We will in the future try to inform new prospective tenants that if they wish a second phone that the Bell requires a letter & we will give them one.

sports

REGENT PARK BOWLING

Starting Sunday afternoon September 17, 1978 at St Cyrils Church.
6 teams will be made up to 5 players.
Boy's & girl's ages 8-14.
Fee will be \$2.25 each Sunday
3 games-
We hope to have 30 boy's and girl's.
Please call evenings only.

Mrs. Bill Whalen 368-3723 Treasurer
Mr. Robert Rose 362-0430 President
Mr. John Hunt 364-8321 Secretary



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 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:

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meeting of Parent Group at Park School
Discussion topic: Role of School Staffing
Committee Monday, February 6, 1978
Park Public School: Staff Room
7:30 P.M.

All are welcome.

TENANTS OF REGENT PARK

How many tenants in the park enjoy the paper? How many tenants would like to put ads in the paper if they knew where to do this. For a small fee this is possible. We the R.P.C.I.A. have put out the paper for a few years now at our own expense but funds have run out now and we have only one solution left but to ask the tenants to help now by donating what ever they can.

Unit Rep - will be knocking on your doors for your support

Barbara Soules
Area Co-ordinator

As of January 16 1978 there has been a change in Areas assigned to the Co-ordinators.

Mr. Ulric Callander, formerly in South Regent will now be in North East Regent.

The Co-ordinator from North East Regent Sandra Langille will now be in the South.

We are sure the change will not effect the tenants in a negative way but perhaps will enhance the changes in service.

already in effect in these areas.

DIXON HALL

Winter Program has begun at Dixon Hall with various activities for all ages.

Teen drop in is still happening Mon. Wed. & Friday evenings 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. with cooking arts & crafts & gym. Teens take heed - if you have some extra time & would like to assist with a group of kids in a games room program or lead a cooking class call Gayle at 863-0499

The younger kids activities are as exciting as ever with sewing club club nites arts & crafts.

So feel free to drop in.

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

ON

RACE RELATIONS
PRESENTS

THE

STEEL TONES

FRIDAY JANUARY 27

8 P.M.

FOOD - CASH BAR

LIC. L.C.B.O.

DANCING

1 ST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION
175 ST. CLAIR AVE. W. AT AVE.
ROAD

\$ 3.00
ADVANCE

\$ 4.00
AT DOOR

PHONE 653-9329



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

MILLIE'S OPEN KITCHEN

HOT DOGS, SANDWICHES,

COFFEE, TEA, TOAST.

AND A LOT MORE GOODIES

TIME 10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

no take out service.

44 Blevins Place

MOTHER'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Kathy and Hildi of the RIVER - OAK PARENT - CHILD CENTRE will be running a discussion group for mothers beginning Monday February 6.

Sessions will be held each Monday for six weeks from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
Topics include:

"WIFE, MOTHER, & ME"
FAMILY COMMUNICATION
ANGER & CHILDREN
KIDS & SEX ROLE STEREOTYPES

PLACE 203 Oak (at River, in blue portable)

CHILDCARE available for a small weekly fee.

For further information please call
363-9884.

DO YOU HAVE A WEIGHT PROBLEM?

Do you want to help yourself?

Would you be interested in forming an Overeaters Anonymous group. This is a group of over weight people working in the same form as A.A. If interested please call Florence at 368-0294

R.P.C.I.A. ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

R.P.C.I.A. is having another dance at a new location.

On February 4 1978 at

Local 43 Union Hall
Ontario and Gerrard.

This Hall is just what we have been looking for lovely bar, nice stage, and ample parking space.

Our music will be supplied by Cabbagetown's own Rock & Roll Band J.C. and company. This group has been recognized as one of the top groups from the East End and we are proud to see talent like this in Cabbagetown. Doing an excellent job on music from the 50's and the 60's.

TEENAGERS OF REGENT PARK

All teenagers wishing to learn information about Birth Control, come to 44 Blevins Place on every Tuesday night from 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. Counselling will be held by Miss Cheryl Tucker and Barb Brunette. This information is for males also.