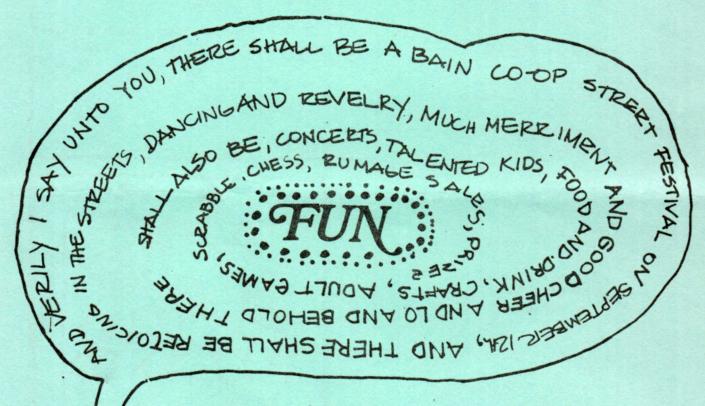
BAINCO-OP NEWSLETTER

4

AUGUST





BAIN NEWS 81

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 3.....Talkin' Tofu

Page 4....Bain Street Festival

Page 5....News

Page 6

and 7.... Making Ends Meet

Page 8

and 9.....Two Books from

Pollution Probe

Page 10

and 11....Good Enough?

Page 12

and 13.... No Room at the Inn?

Page 14....Residents' Council

Report

Page 15

and 16.... Gossip, Gossip, Gossip

Page 17

and 18.... Gardening

Page 19....Grapevine/Editorial

Page 20.... Calendar



Kittens will be available in mid-September. For further information contact Betty-Anne -48 The Oaks.

FOR SALE

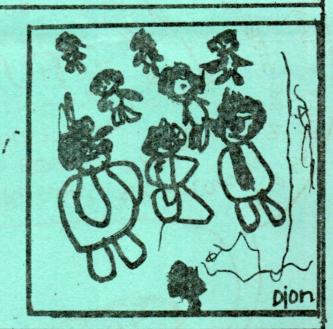
1 Pair Frye's Boots, Women's Size 5 Excellent Condition - \$50.00

1 grass mat. 5' x 8' \$15.00

Call 465-5774

Contributors:

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Peter Tabuns
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RELIABLE CHILD CARE NEEDED

I will be attending Univeristy this fall on a part-time basis, and I will need child care 2½ days per week for my five-year old son.

I need someone reliable who has an interest in and experience in taking care of children.

Please call Sharon

465-2331



talkin' tofu

Tofu Goes North America from 'The Organic Kitchen', Organic Gardening, June 1981.

People who have never tried it feel that tofu is weird; the strange name, to begin with (and is bean curd any better?). And it has almost no flavour.

Tofu is an ingredient, not an out-of-hand food. Plain flour is pretty yucky by the mouthful, but can be made into good foods. So can tofu, similarly.

You don't have too master Chinese or Japanese cookery either.

Tofu is cheap, low in calories, high in protein, low in fat, and has no cholestorol or salt. It is easily stored, and will keep ten days in the 'fridge' if you change the water daily. If it does go sour, it can be refreshed by parboiling.

Scalloped Tofu au gratin

4 T butter
1 small green pepper, sliced thin
3 T whole wheat flour
1 t dry mustard
3½ cup tofu, diced ¼" cubes

1 large onion, sliced thin
1 cup milk
½ t white pepper, ground
1½ cup cheddar cheese (grated)
2 T soft bread crumbs

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Melt 1 T butter in a saucepan. Saute onion and green peper until tender. Reserve. In the same pan, melt another 1 T of butter, and lightly saute the tofu (about 5 minutes). Reserve. Melt the last 2 T of butter in the same pan, and stir in the flour. Cook lightly, stirring constantly, until smooth and bubbling. Slowly stir in the milk, in small additions, cooking on low heat and stirring constantly until thick and beginning to bubble. (Congratulations, you have just made a roux.) Take the white sauce off the heat. Stir in the pepper, mustard and 3/4 cup of the cheese. (That's the white, not the bell pepper.) Butter a shallow, 9" ovenproof casserole. Layer in half the tofu, half the sauce and half the vegetables, and repeat. Top with bread crumbs and the rest of the cheese. Bake 20 minutes, until the top is bubbly and brown. Yields 4 servings.

Carob Tofu Pudding

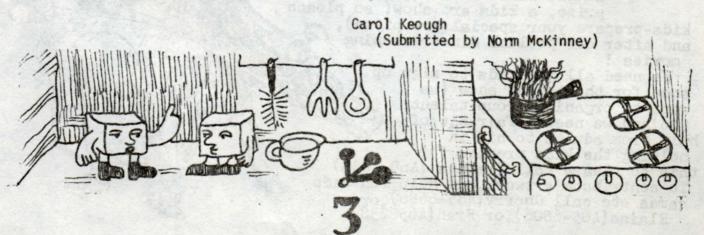
2 cups soft tofu, in 1" cubes

4 T carob powder

3 medium bananas, frozen, cut into 2" pieces* 1/2 cup cold soy milk (or dairy milk)
1 t vanilla extract

Puree all ingredients in a blender. Serve well-chilled. Yields 4,5, or 6 servings.

* Note: peel the bananas before freezing them.



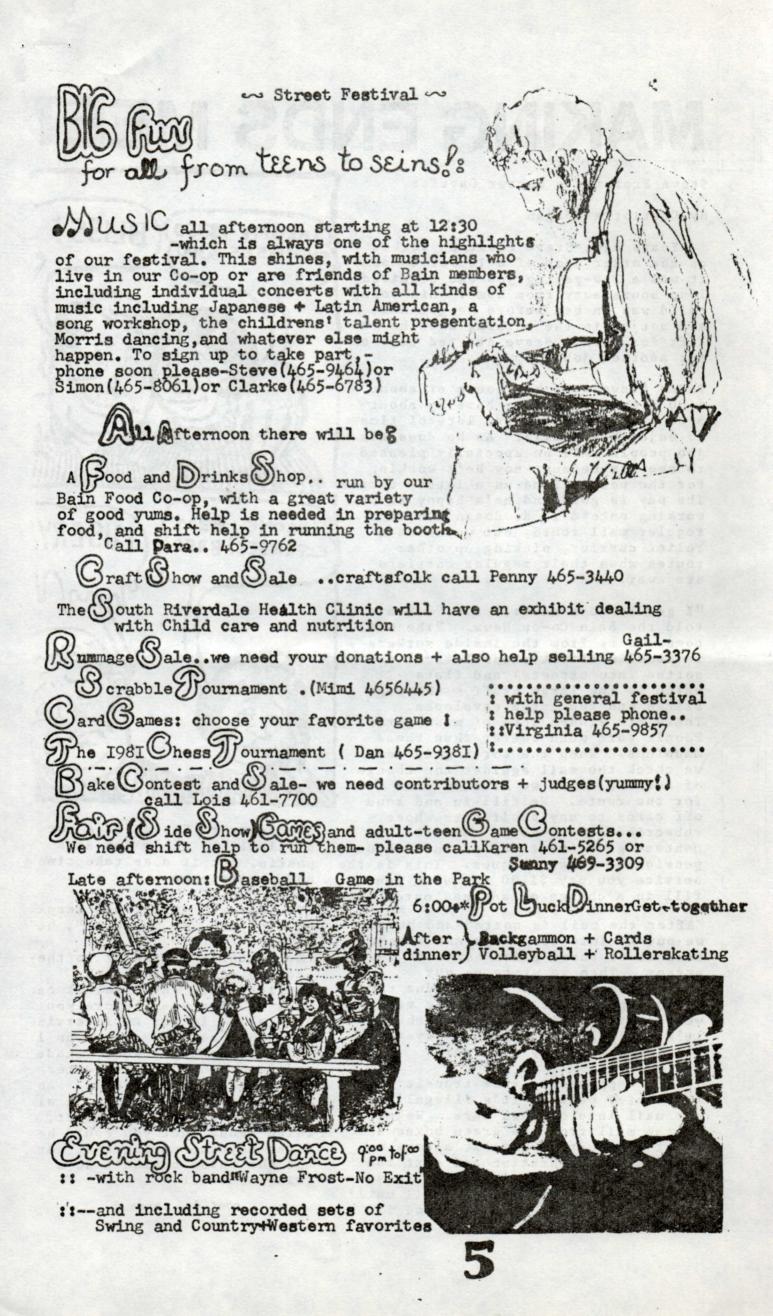


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help from adults to aid in

helping the kids prepare for this so please call Freddie (469-1838)

To contribute artwork, and help run kids games etc call Cherry (465-6686), or Elaine (465-6806), or Fran (4658238)



MAKING ENDS MEET

Steve Fruitman - Letter Carrier

by Charlotte Morgan

Years ago, Steve Fruitman worked on the order desk of a lumber company. It was a low-paying job and required long hours away from home. His young child was in bed before he got home and not up in the morning when he left for work. Steve started to look for another job.

Today Steve left his house at about 6:00 a.m. and will be home by about 3:00 p.m. He will have lots of time to enjoy his family. As he does his job people will be specially pleased to see him because now he's working for the post office as a letter carrier The pay is good and he's happy to be working outside. He doesn't have a regular mail route, but works as a relief carrier, picking up other routes when their regular carriers are away.

"I get to work at 6:30 a.m.", Steve told the Bain Co-op News. "The mail comes to us from the inside workers in bundles (first class letters are sorted into streets) and flats which is the large stuff - the magazines and the large envelopes. There are always lots of miss-sorts. · People sort much better than those machines. When the sorting is done we check the mail against the change of address cards we have on file for the route. We fill-in and send off cards to any publishers whose subscribers have moved, as well as contact government departments about pension or other cheques. This is the service you pay \$1.00 for when you fill in a change of address card."

"After the mail is sorted and bundled we put it into drop bags and trucks take it to those green boxes on the street. Then we write up our registered mail and postage due cards. If postage is due on business mail we have to put in I.O.U's. Otherwise it's strictly on the honour system. This mail we carry with us."

"We're supposed to take transit to the route, because it's illegal to put mail into our own cars. We pick up the mail from the green boxes and start the route. When it's done we go back to the station and sort the afternoon route. We're not allowed to leave with that route's mail until noon, but once we've delievered it we can go home".



According to Steve, it's not difficult to get a job as a postie, but it does take time and persistence.

"You have to apply, and keep on applying, to Manpower", he said. "Every three months or so they seem to clear out all the applications. Even so, it car take up to a year before you get called in for an interview Then they ask you questions li 'what's the capital of Canada' and 'can you sort ten letters into alphabetical order'. And that's it. You're in on a six month probationery contract, which means that you could be fired anytime during that peri and the Union couldn't do a thing about it."

cont'd...page 7

As a relief carrier Steve works in postal stations across the City and has a pretty good idea of the character of each. "It's the supervisors who can make or break the Station as a place to work. There are a couple of stations in Toronto nobody wants to work in - they get all the junior and probationery people. I think it's important to have a good mix of experienced and inexperienced postal workers, young and old, working together.

The post office adheres strictly 'to a seniority system, and this applies to everything from applications for promotion or transfer to allocation of holidays.

"Because I'm still a fairly new employee I can't take Summer holidays - they're all taken by people with more seniority than me."

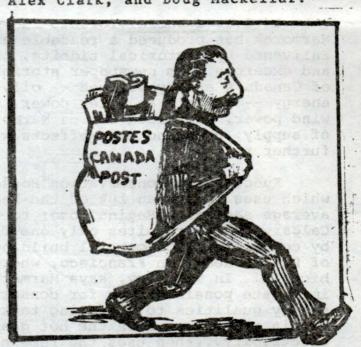
Steve feels fairly positive about the fate of the post office when it becomes a Crown Corporation.

"For a start, we'll be under Federal Labour Relations Legislation. At the moment I'm classed as a civil servant and that imposes certain restrictions on bargaining rights. I see it as a move to de-politicize the post office. Under the Crown Corporation the person running the post office won't be responsible to an electorate. The Liberals

don't want to take the heat for postal problems. It could be a big help to have someone running the post office who knows what they're doing, instead of some Montreal lawyer who got the job in a cabinet shuffle."

Steve, who has lived at Bain for 3 years, likes his job and says that after work he still has time and energy for other activities, such as the Bain Food Co-op, of which he is an active committee member, and time to spend with wife Maggie and children Dawa and Tenma (the names are Tibetan),

Other members of the Bain Co-op also working for the post office are Liz Piccolo (also a postie), Ron Tanner (clerical worker, Alex Clark, and Doug Mackellar.



William Parket

energy sources - is shared by on the strengmonts br. Abvid Arocks, an orbawa Energy Pr be real than Arockled to Bro our approach in the past has been a deside-down concentration on increasing spangy supply -- Alberts tar sheds oil Arotin and -- inther than reducing energy demand. Zerr Energy Gross

energy probe books



TWO NEW BOOKS FROM ENERGY PROBE

OVER A BARREL: A GUIDE TO THE CANADIAN ENERGY CRISIS by Jan Marmorek (Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1981) \$9.95 paperback, 283 pp.

ZERO ENERGY GROWTH FOR CANADA by David B. Brooks (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1981) \$19.95 hardcover, 304 pp.

In Over a Barrel Toronto Energy Probe researcher Jan Marmorek has produced a readable energy guide for the layperson. Enlivened by historical tidbits, photographs, cartoons, and excerpts from newspaper stories, Over a Barrel is a survey of Canada's energy sources -- oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear energy -- as well as water power, solar energy, biomass and wind power. For each source Marmorek supplements an analysis of supply, uses and side-effects with good suggestions for further reading.

Kudos go to Conservation House in Regina ("Wonder House") which uses less than 10% of the heat energy needed by an average same-size Regina home; to the Gulf Canada Building, Calgary, which requires only one-fifth the energy consumed by conventional commercial buildings; and to the community of Davis, near San Francisco, where 40% of all traffic is by bicycle. In industry, says Marmorek, "cascading" energy opens immediate possibilities for conservation by matching differing energy qualities to differing tasks. "If an industry burns oil in a furnace, uses the hot gases to turn a turbine for electricity...then uses the remaining heat to make steam for high temperature industrial jobs, and then pipes the leftover heat into a nearby building", a barrel of oil is much more useful than a barrel burned directly to produce space heat (p. 80). In the latter case, a high quality energy source is used for a job which requires only low quality heat, and much available work is wasted.

Marmorek's goal -- a conserver society based on renewable energy sources -- is shared by geologist/economist Dr. David Brooks, an Ottawa Energy Probe researcher. According to Brooks our approach in the past has been an upside-down concentration on increasing energy supply -- Alberta tar sands oil, Arctic gas -- rather than reducing energy demand. Zero Energy Growth advocates a society where the annual rate of total energy

cont'd...page 9

consumption remains the same from year to year. Low energy growth would not catapult us into a depression: a high standard of living and an industrialized economy would be maintained. "(R) ather than thinking of the 1930's it would be much more relevant to think in terms of the energy economy that we had around 1955 when, on a per capita basis, Canadians consumed only half of the energy they consume today" (p. 63).

Zero Energy Growth is a scholarly study with a good section on conservation techniques and an emphasis throughout on economics and cost analysis. Brooks marches bravely into the energy pricing battle, the current hot topic. He feels conventional energy sources (oil, gas, electricity), traditionally heavily subsidized by government, have an unfair advantage in pricing over conservation and renewable energy sources. Artificially low, conventional energy prices must rise to reflect their real cost to society before investment is attracted to conservation and renewable energy. In the short term, low-income earners would be protected from higher energy prices by grants for conservation, by conservation projects undertaken by community-based construction firms, and by direct transfer payments. In the long term, the poor would benefit from a lower energy economy which would bring higher employment and lower inflation, and result in a more equitable distribution of income.

An authoritative reference work, Brooks' Zero Energy
Growth as a bonus contains a short, clearly written
appendix on Energy Measurement and Energy Efficiency.
(You too can astound and delight your friends with your
explanation why electric resistance heaters are wasteful under
the Second Law of Thermodynamics.)

If you can read only one of the above books, Marmorek's guide is recommended -- it's more accessible. It's also the book to consult if you have the oil pipeline debate confused with the natural gas pipeline debate and want to sort them out. Both books are available from Energy Probe, 43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto M5S 2C3 (416) 978-7014).

Cherry Hassard



Good Enough?



3 The Pines 100 Bain Ave. Toronto, Ont. 31 VII 81

Maintenance Committee
cc: Property Manager
Construction Supervisor
B.A.C.I. News

re: Porch & Balcony Repairs

1. Good new deck planks are being installed over rotten stringers. This is wrong. It positively ensures that the new decking will rot out at a faster rate than the old. Rots are caused by fungi which spread faster by contact than by airborne spores.

If the Co-op was not prepared to do this job properly, it should have been delayed until the preparations--including financing--were complete. This would also have included the complete rebuilding of several of the porches, and the purchase of 'Wolmanized' lumber--which does not rot in under 35 years, at least, by which time it would have paid its costs off at least twice. As it is, the material, time, labour and money are being wasted, in such cases.

In the October 1980 Newsletter, Adam Czerechowicz (an architectural technician with Lantana Co-op Homes) pointed out several relevant standards that the Committee could--and; in my view, should--have adopted, e.g.:

"All repairs should be made in keeping with standards set down by recognized restoration or heritage institutions" and it should not permit

and it should not permit

"The 'jury rig': workmanship,
materials, and techniques which
are contrary to modern construction thinking, and sometime
contravene the Building Code."

Putting new decking on rotting stringers is just such a contravention.

2. It should also be noted that the Co-op has not applied for or received a Building Permit for the porches--so is legally liable in case of complaint to the City by any member. The City undoubtedly has the power to force the Co-op to tear out unsafe or otherwise unsatisfactory work, and have it done over correctly. Failure to secure a Permit is itself a summary offense.

cont'd page 11

The major cause of rot in me wood of porches and balconies persistent dampness in the pod. Porches which get better intilation because their underides are open to a backasement areaway suffer notably ess rot than enclosed porches. imilarly, balconies last longer.

Porches regularly kept free of now also last longer. I pointed his out several years ago in the ews--remarking at the same time hat porches kept clear of snow re necessary near fire exits and the Maintenance Policy thereore includes such a proviso; of ourse, present Committee is gnorant of this, and cares not to enforce it).

Any member injured by a rotten oard in a porch or balcony s/he as persistently refused to keep lear of snow has him/herself to lame, first and most; everyone nows that untreated wood will ot.

4. The Co-op is far overdue to adopt and enforce high maintenance standards. Anything tess is not only insufficient, but demonstrably too costly. The quick fix' is not only futile, but guarantees an accumulating backlog of Work Orders.

Cathy Rideout's researches
last year showed that our present
practices in repairs are wasting
29% of our understaffed maintenance department, in recalls to
finish ro repeat; this is very
nearly criminal waste. What have
we done about it? Nothing basic,
to my knowledge. I say nothing
about the wasted materials. We
cannot afford this! "Good enough
is NOT good enough.

Co-operatively, Norm McKinney

August 4, 1981

To Newsletter cc: N. McKinney

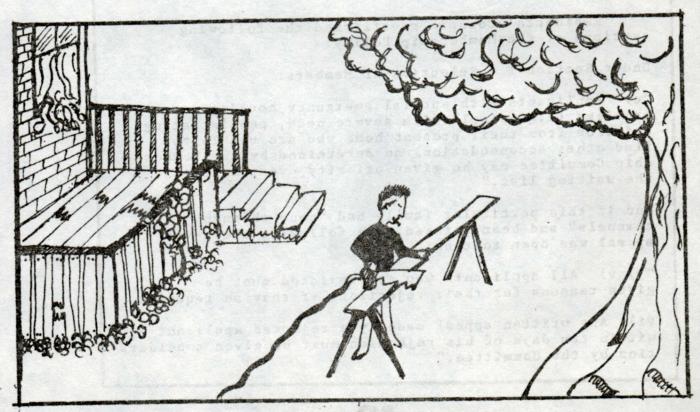
Re: Norm McKinney's letter "Porch & Balcony Repairs".

With reference to Item 1, we are replacing any rotten stringers we find with new wood. We have found few.

Item 2. Our work, which is simple repair, requires no building permit.

Item 4. Norm isn't incorrect; however, other tasks, primarily inventory organization, overshadow this for 1981.

Peter Tabuns



no room at the inn?

EMERGENCY HOUSING

From: the Membership Committee (Brenda Storey, Raffi Newman, Martha McGuire, Sally Yaeger, Mimi Shulman, Barb Fraser, Para Watts, Chair: Helen Sutherland)

Residents' Council asked the Membership Committee to prepare information about the Committee's functions and actions around the question of emergency housing.

It is important to understand how subsidies work in order to understand why the Committee works the way it does.

Under the terms of agreement with the provincial government when the Co-op was set up, we

all share in a subsidy towards our rent from the provincial government. This year, for example, we received \$7000 a month to reduce all our rents. In return for this help, we promised the provincial government that we would keep half our units for people who would need some help with the rent. This could be \$60 say, or it could be the full rent. The province decides who is qualified to get this help, and Carole Milon helps people with their applications for it and does the paperwork. These applications are processed in order of date of application.

Finally, the Co-op itself has an emergency fund of about \$1000 set aside each year to help people living in the Co-op who cont'd...page 13

Recently, a situation evolved at Bain where the Membership Committee was by-passed, and a plea for emergency housing was brought directly before a General Meeting. As a result of the decision of the General Meeting, a family was placed at the top of the waiting list for a unit of the required size.

Residents Council was then asked by Membership Committee to re-assess and re-affirm (if it deemed the present Policy appropriate), the Emergency Housing sections of the Membership Policy as they presently exist.

Residents' Council re-affirmed the following sections of the Membership Policy:

Under Section I - Selection of Members:

"c) Applicants with special emergency housing problems (e.g. people with severe need, people facing eviction from their present home who are unable to find other accommodation) as determined by the Membership Committee may be given priority over those on the waiting list."

And if this particular family had "gone through channels" and been refused, the following avenue of appeal was open to them:

"j) v) All applicants who are rejected must be given reasons for their rejections if they so request.

vi) Any written appeal made by a rejected applicant within ten days of his rejection must be given consideration by the Committee."

emergency housing (cont'd)

are in unusual and temporary difficulties financially. People can apply for this fund of up to \$50 a month towards their rent for up to six months.

The ordinary procedure that happens before someone moves in

to the Co-op is:

- They call the office and ask Lou France when the next Open House is. The office can only accommodate 20 people, so after that number is reached, people are told about the date of the next month's Open House.
- 2. After attending an Open House, filling out an application form, an income verification, and paying \$10, people go on a list to be interviewed.
- At least two members of the Membership Committee conduct the interview, and report back to the entire Committee which votes to accept or reject an applicant. If rejected, an applicant has ten days to appeal. If rejected again, then no further steps by the applicant may be taken. If accepted, then the applicant is placed on the waiting list for the unit size they need in order of date of application.

Our waiting lists are long, which brings us (finally!) to emergency housing.

Right now, there are 90,000 people in Toronto who can't afford to pay full market rent for the housing they need, according to the Metro Planning Department. This comes as no surprise to our office staff. Lou France receives well over a hundred calls a month from people who would like to live here. these, initial enquiries show that a third of these people are in urgent need of housing. That is, they are:

living in cramped quarters;
 facing eviction through

no fault of their own;

3. in danger of losing custody of their children because of the quality of housing they are pro-

living in situations that are not safe or healthy for them or their children;

5. not able to both pay the rent and buy food adequate for themselves and their children.

Any one of these factors, or a combination of these factors, with the exception of #5, means that the Membership Committee can move someone to the top of the waiting list. This is provided for in our by-laws. And, the Membership Committee has done this several times on its own initiative.

If, however, a person in one or more of the circumstances listed above cannot pay full rent, then the Committee has to wait until there is a subsidy freed up for that person. And very few of our members now receiving subsidy choose to leave the Co-op. This means that there are some people who have been in ongoing misery for two years, waiting to move in here, and nothing can be done to accommodate them.

If someone would like to be considered for emergency housing, quite apart from the usual initiatives of the Membership Com-mittee, they and/or people on their behalf should come to a meeting of the Committee and talk to us. We will then, more than to us. We will then, more than likely, place them as a priority. And since we meet every week, and since move-outs are so few, no one could be housed in less than a week anyway. The Committee will inform the applicant and/or those acting on their behalf of the Committee's decision. Committee, if it rejects the application, will still allow for an appeal of its decision if it comes within ten days. Otherwise, the decision will stand.

The Membership Committee agrees with Residents' Council that it is a good idea to keep them up-to-date on the activities of the Membership Committee, and especially with regard to emergency applications.



RESIDENTS' COUNCIL REPORT

Residents' Council meetings over the past month have been dominated by two pressing issues:

- (1) Asbestos Encapsulation;
- (2) Budgetary shuffling to find the funds to afford asbestos encapsulation.

At the July 28th meeting, and in the interest of clarity, the Co-op's financial position in relation to the Capital and Operating budgets for the present fiscal year, it was requested by Residents' Council that both these budgets be revised by the Finance Manager and the Finance Committee and re-submitted to Residents' Council at its meeting of Thursday, August 6, 1981, such budget submission to reflect all the changes and re-allocations of funds recommended and passed by previous General Meetings and by Maintenance Committee. It was stipulated that these revised budgets should contain a detailed forecast regarding the financial position of the Co-op for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Revised Capital and Operating Budgets were submitted as requested to the Residents' Council Meeting of August 6th, and a General Meeting Agenda Item for the August General Meeting resulted from discussions of these budgets.

Also at the Residents' Council meeting of August 6th, a proposal from Doug Macdonald re: Asbestos Project was discussed. Doug suggested that Residents' Council recommend to the membership that encapsulation of the asbestos in the back basements be deferred for one year, which would result in a saving of \$17,000.00. Residents' Council felt that it could not make such a recommendation because of the added costs involved in doing asbestos encapsulation in two parts.

These issues will be on the August General Meeting Agenda.

Submitted by Stephanie Grace.



Ever have fantasies? Ever see yourself climbing mountains, diving for treasure, cracking down on international terrorism? Or better yet, perhaps, you're the one doctor on the medical team who, in a lonely act of pure ethical courage, "inadvertently wires permanently shut the jaw of our beloved chairman, Mr. Paul Godfrey?

You have, you say? Well, step right in.

Our very own Ed Unger, formerly known to the world as Mr. CBC Radio, has switched media and is now working on a television program in which guests will be invited to act out their favourite fantasies, no matter how outrageous. It will appear on Channel 9 starting in October and scripts are being prepared now. So, if you've got a fantasy and a whim to be on the tube please contact Ed before next Monday.

At this very moment, we understand, Ed's looking for someone interest in leading a fleet of tanks up University Avenue and then making their own unique political statement by systematically blowing apart the ontario legislature building. He's convinced that the sight of smoking red rubble where once stood the squat symbol of tory ontario is bound to make great tv.

Others, of course, have fantasies closer to home. For instance, the nearly nude Miss Miriam basking in the sun of the south lindens courtyar wearing those two very small strips of black cloth and a collie dog at her head and feet. You go to the store four times that day, furiousl forming and rejecting a thousand opening lines. But how to get past those damned dogs?

Turning from fantasy to the hard world of fact, we attended the press conference yesterday at which Ms Shirley Spalding, leader of SMAM (South Maples Against Madness) said that her organization planned to seek a court injunction to prevent the Bain Co-op from proceeding with plans for an historic pagent re-enacting the original dedication ceremony staged by the City of Toronto on November 8, 1913.

"Its madness" she said. "And we're against it."

Ms Spalding took pains to emphasize that her group was not opposed to the ceremony simply because it will bring several thousand people, with their attendant litter, noise and pollution, into the South Maples courtyard. "This craziness is going to cost us thirty-five thousand dollars," she said "and that's the last of our capital funds. What's more, the whole thing is being done with non-union labour. We've got to stop it any way we can."

15

Total cost for the pagent, which will replicate down to the most minute detail the ceremony at which Toronto's famous "Irish Mayor", Jim O'Flannegan, officially declared open the city's first venture into the housing field, is expected to be close to \$70,000 with one half of that amount supplied in the form of a matching grant from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Representatives from co-operatives across Canada will be flown in and treated to a variety of sight-seeing tours, banquets and other diversions in addition to the pagent.

One member of Residents' Council, who refused to be identified, dismissed the SMAM complaints as "frivilous nit-picking." The member went on to say that their "grandparents probably opposed the original ceremony. SMAM is smarmy."

We can expect the debate to continue. Sometimes making democracy work is a full time job.

here at the finance meeting of the co-op that i live in because economy is the foundation for everything and well there's the chance my rent may go up and if it does i want to know what's going on and say NO!

but I should be trusting sisters and brothers
we are in the same boat but believe me
even a co-op has many decks
and i'm a bachelor in a one-bedroom city
and living alone is a luxury
and also very wierd
cos i got half-a-fridge
and half-a-stove
and half-a-countert op
and going out with a married woman
who sees me on a part-time basis
the scheduling of which i complain about
but was told
"time is finite but feelings overlap
beyond my actual presence"

which makes me wonder if my presence is really worthwhile at this finance committee meeting i mean they're friends of mine at they're not enemies yet so they wouldn't fuck me around but i'm a bachelor in a one-bedroom city and living alone is a luxury cos i pay \$200 a month and they pay \$250 a month which makes me think i should have at least 3/4 of a fridge and 3/4 of a relationship thus i have a lot of catching-up to do which is why i'm here at the finance committee meeting waiting for full-time love waiting for the revolution waiting for my rent notice

(anon.)





Plants for Shady Sites

Surface Covers.

1. Lawns.

- a. Under trees pruned high (9 m.) use an ordinary lawn mix.
- b. In any greater shade, fescues are the preferred grasses. The disadvantage to fescues is that they tend to form clumps. If the owner is not a purist, one may add 20% (by volume) of white clover to the seed mix. (Clover resists cinch bug and a number of lawn fungi, and will do well in shade. In a humid climateor a prolonged humid spell of weather -- or a moist site-- clover resists bacterial attack. It also fixes nitrogen in the soil. However, one cannot broadcast broad-leaved weed killer on lawns containing clover.)
- 2. Flagstones with Crevice Plants.

a. In densest shade, don't fight a losing battle, but set out pavements of brick, flagstone, or other masonry. Flagstone is now scarce and very expensive. Garden centres sell various patented ceramic or concrete paving blocks, some

Set low creepers between the pieces of masonry.

Table 1:

Crevice Plants for Shade

Ajuga reptans bugleweed (-flower)

z.2-3 10-30 cm W A

Vigorous; may invade lawn adjacent.

Ajuga reptans 'Variegata'

Arenaria verna coespitosa moss sandwort

z.3 (5 cm

May winter-burn.

Gallium odoratum (syn. Asperula odorata) sweet woodruff

2.4. 15 cm W

Glechoma Hederacea ground ivy (Gill over the ground)

() (W) 7.5 cm

Vigorous.

Mazus reptans mazus

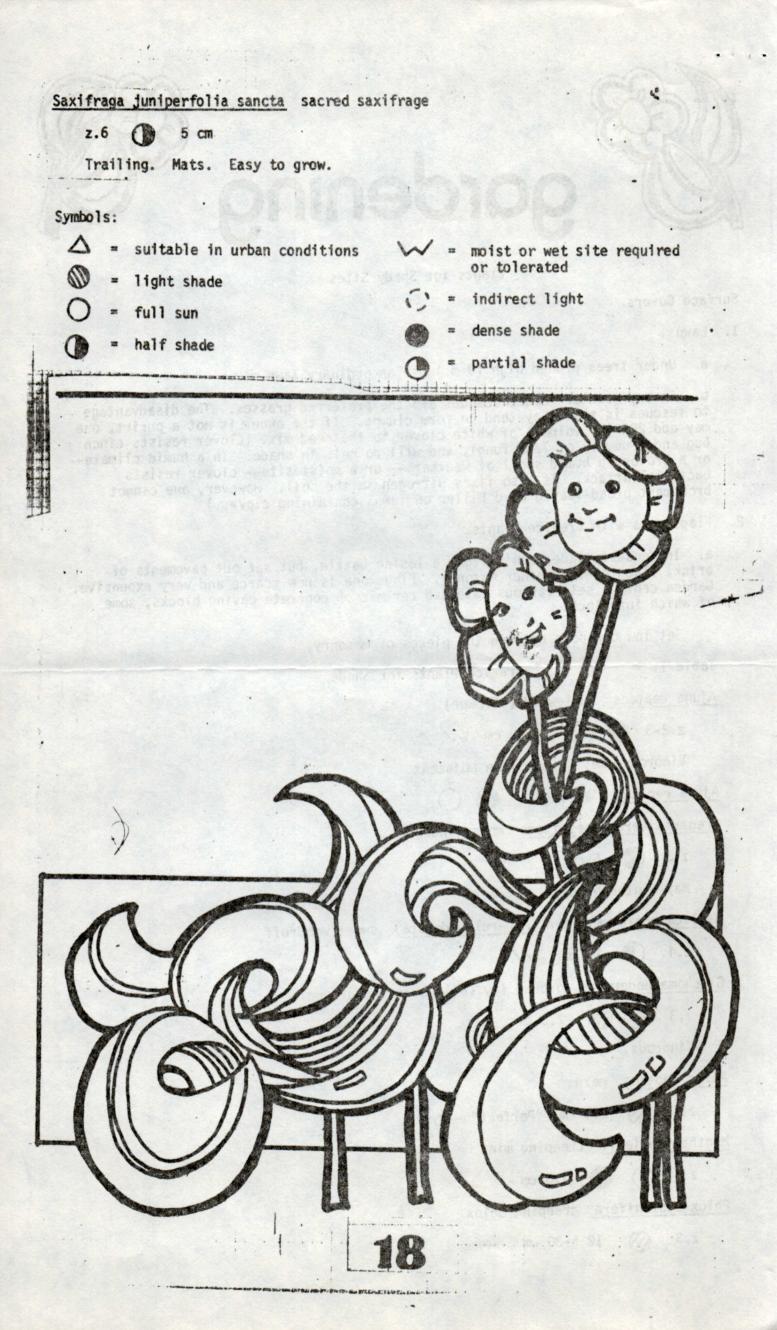
2.5 cm "Perfect" -- Wyman.

Mentha requienii creeping mint

z.6 () 7.5 cm

Phlox stolonifera creeping phlox

z.3 12.5-30 cm OB



Why are we here?

Month after month the same item has appeared at the bottom of the General Meeting agenda--Norm McKinney's proposal for a statement of co-operative principles and objectives.

Why do we keep putting off discussion?

Norm has proposed a set of principles and objectives which, if adopted, would become our fundamental law. No bylaws, policies or rules could contravene them. He has proposed that we seriously discuss the goals and objectives of this organization and set them down on paper.

His proposal must languish no longer at the bottom of the agenda sheet. It must be discussed with the thoughtfulness it deserves.

Some members have objected that the proposals are to vague. Others have said that they contradict implicit principles of the Bain. Again, others argue that the principles would unduly restrict co-operative decision-making.

Nobody suggests for a moment that reaching consensus will be an easy task. But, if approached properly, it could be a creative process, forcing all of us to re-examine our reasons for living here and our view of the Bain co-op as something more than simply an aggregate of housing units.

At the end of the process, we would be armed with principles which could be used to check arbitrary, ill-considered or undemocratic proposals and procedures. If all our laws and practices must conform to clearly stated goals of co-operation, then we will be encouraged to reflect more on what it means to be a co-op and how co-op activities should be conducted.

We all have some idea of what it means to be a co-op. Wouldn't it make sense to put those ideas down on paper and teach ourselves how to live up to them?



Dfull moon Daytime 5) * 20 general 7:30 pm 43 Committee 26 * 19 AL POTATO 27 3 **3** F 11 Olast guarter MOOM WORE & B 22 3 MACS 465-3759 m 189 0561 r 469-0834