

South St. Jamestown Saga

RESIDENTS ASK CITY TO STOP DEVELOPER

Picketing City Hall



The High-Rising Tide

Meridian Property Management's St. Jamestown looms above private dwellings (since demolished) on Wellesley St. Residents

South of St. Jamestown are organizing to prevent similar takeover of their neighbourhood.

Like Waiting for Godot

"People" try to deal with "Politicians"

How does an area that in 1965 was declared structurally sound by the City Planning Board (the Don District Appraisal, Supplementary Report, page 16), become designated for high-rise density, with no new studies, in the official plan of that same planning board? Political pressure on the planners and slumlord tactics on a grand scale.

The South of St. Jamestown Residents' Association of homeowners and tenants, who do understand this question, appealed to the Executive Commit-

tee of City Council, July 8, with three simple requests: (1) Eviction and demolition to stop immediately; (2) Meridian to agree to a phased development so that people now living in the area will be able to stay there, in housing suitable for them, especially families; (3) Meridian to stop renting to middle-men.

Meridian's present strategy is to evict the tenants, demolish the houses, and then announce a plan. The group asks, is this citizen participation? City Council

promised, after St. Jamestown, that tenants would never be treated this way again. Yet neither Meridian nor the City has given any indication that the people now living in the area will be served by any future development, though confidential meetings between the developer and the planning staff have taken place.

The outcome of the meeting is that no action will be taken on any of the residents' requests. Alderman Rotenberg coyly asked

whether there was existing legislation to deal with any of these problems. While the City Solicitor reflected, the residents answered that they knew there was no legislation, but that they were asking two things; a word to Meridian and a report from the City Solicitor on their three requests. At this point, before any other Alderman had spoken, Mr. Rotenberg announced that the Executive Committee had previously decided not to ask the Province for new legislation in this area. Each Alderman was then allowed a question, and then Mr.

Fifty angry residents from the South of St. Jamestown area marched in front of the City Hall Wednesday, July 8, carrying picket signs accusing Meridian of destroying neighborhoods, and demanding that the City save Blecker and Ontario Streets.

From 10.00 a.m. until noon the group distributed over 600 leaflets outlining the history of the area and describing the present conditions of Meridian-owned buildings.

At noon the delegation made a presentation to the City Executive. A resident of the area read a brief for the South of St. Jamestown Residents' Association demanding an end to eviction and demolition, a phased development so that people now living in the area will be able to stay there, in housing suitable for them, especially families, and the removal of "irresponsible middle-men".

Slides were also shown comparing Meridian-owned houses and owner-occupied homes.

Alderman Rotenberg told the delegation that there was no legislation by which the city could stop Meridian from tearing down houses.

The delegation stated that the Housing Standards Department had been lenient with Meridian and that stricter enforcement was necessary.

A representative of the Housing Standards Department said that Meridian had complained that the department had been too strict.

The residents laughed.

The motion to enforce stricter housing standards was withdrawn and the City Executive agreed to write a letter to Meridian requesting closer supervision of middle-men.

Rotenberg, not yet tired of the game, or of manipulating the Executive and the Mayor, offered a deal: "We could enforce housing by-law standards and Meridian would rip down your houses, or we could let them continue to degenerate, as they are." [Some deal, though it shouldn't surprise anyone by now]. And for an ironic sequel, Mr. Rotenberg spent the next five minutes convincing the Executive that high-rise did not fit into the structure and character of his ward. He then bid farewell to his somewhat dazed Executive, and left for vacation.

Open Letter to June Marks

I read your letter to the editor in one of the big dailies, Mrs. Marks. I hope you'll forgive me for speaking up, too. I don't expect that you'll listen, but I have to take the chance because you're missing the point. You've overlooked the most significant thing about the People's Power movements, the demonstrations, the marches, the confrontations and the name-calling.

I can't blame you. You have principles. You have certain things you believe in, like law and order and representative democracy. Well and good. But you're wrong to react to what's going on from the fortress of your principles.

Something's going on that none of us understands. I suppose the French court felt that way back in 1789. They certainly didn't think that they were what the agitators were calling them. After all, there was a thing back then that anyone who was sophisticated enough to be accepted in the inner circles of government believed was Gospel truth — they called it "The Divine Right of Kings."

I know you already understand about the Divine Right theory. You, just like the rest of us, would probably laugh your head off if someone stepped forward today and claimed to rule because he had been anointed by God. What Louis XVI felt strongly enough to go to the guillotine for has become a silly joke.

So much, then, for principles, Mrs. Marks. I think you get what I mean. What you consider unrelinquishable today will be forgotten tomorrow. There might not be a guillotine this time; maybe not even a revolution — the State today is formidably armed. But why create an unhappy situation? Why use "principles" to shield yourself from the fact that everything we believe in must be called into question?

Change — that's what life is about, Mrs. Marks. Not hanging on; not making rules; not holding back — but plunging in. We all have that to learn. Even if poets have been saying it for thousands of years.

I don't question your integrity, Mrs. Marks. I question your wisdom, which I would, I believe, have the right to do if you were an alderman or a housewife. You must never assume that you, even though you are elected, have sufficient wisdom to fulfill the functions of your office. If you do, then you're falling for the oldest trap in the book — Overweening Pride.

Please consider these things very carefully, Mrs. Marks. Is a set of principles, quickly established and tenuously held, as any mortal's are, worth the anguish that will result from their imposition on the two million people living in Toronto?

I rather think not.

Bob Barraclough

Lots doin at the RPCIA July 1 Fun Fair

A Fun-For-All was had by young and old at the Fun Fair held by the R.P.C.I.A. A lot of hard work and enthusiasm was put into the fair to make this event a success. Just to mention a few of the workers: Emily Bartley, Helvi Therian, Betty Strand, Mary Bilan and Many Others.

In the pony rides, Robert McFadden had trouble staying in the saddle as he is only 2 years old.

In the fish pond young Janet McCrossin, age 5, hooked a big one to win a prize.

At the Bingo, which was a great attraction, Mrs. Mary Hope and Mrs. Sally Clayton were two of the many winners.

During the afternoon races were run with the Parks and Recreation Dept. Staff at Regent Park picking the winners, such as Sandy Woodgate age 2, Anthony McDonald age 2. Special prizes were given to the smaller boys and girls who fell after they left the starting line. Lawrence Forham and Kim Gillen, Cathy Neave, Diane Snider picked up prizes in the older class.

In the late afternoon the rain came down to dampen the events, but the executive and workers stayed with it. During the rain, young Debra MacDougall, age 9, was a winner at the Bingo and Sam Rotenberg presented her with the prize.

Even with the clouds and rain, Sherry Allen and Carrie Ann Allen were still fishing with their shoes off inside the Fish Pond.

In the evening, there were live band groups, such as The Suns, The Atlantis, Brick Raod and the Prisoner of Soul Revised. There were over 500 pre-teens and teenagers dancing to the music of the groups playing.

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City's record re. community action

A history of hostility, hedging

Citizen's groups are now sure that City Hall wants to destroy them. City Hall is hostile to groups of people interested in making their neighbourhoods better places to live.

People in Trefann Court learned this a long time ago. So did people south of St. Jamestown. But now the problem is much worse.

The final blow has come just as three community groups have been trying to get money to finance their activities.

In Don Vale, some people started talking about a Community Centre in St. Enoch's Church. They approached the Federal Government for \$6,000 so that total elections for the Board of Directors could be held.

The Federal Government said it would give the money, so long as the group got a letter from the City saying it wouldn't object. The City won't send a letter to Ottawa and Ottawa does not want to offend City Hall by going over its head.

The City has made sure that the project has been stalled and it appears the group won't get the money to run a community centre.

It's the same story in the Spadina-Kensington area. There, a group of people applied to Ottawa for a three-year grant totalling \$170,000. They want to set up a neighbourhood Corporation to help local residents and to make a closer connection between residents and City Hall.

The City has delayed this grant by asking the Federal Government for a chance to comment on the grant. It appears the City is doing all that it can to make sure the grant never comes through.

And it's much the same with the Riverdale Community Organization, in the area South of Gerrard, East of the Don.

In June, Mayor Dennison said that the grant last year to a coalition of churches to hire community workers for that area has been a misuse of public funds.

In early July, the 50-odd groups in the RCO finally got the Mayor down to a meeting, where

he softened his stand, although it is easy to see that he and other members of the Executive Committee are uneasy about groups like the RCO, which get out and try to change things.

The RCO is in the process of applying to the Federal Government for money. If the past is any indication, it looks like the City will again try and stand in the way of a grant.

Why are those in power in City Hall worried about these community organizations? It's because they realize that when people get together, they don't like taking "no" for an answer, and they begin challenging City Hall. It is then that people see clearly just how little City Hall is doing about the real problems of

this City; it is then that people think about changing politicians so that people get what they want rather than what the politician wants.

What's the answer? It seems that people are going to have to get together in even stronger numbers to show that City Hall can't afford to forget them. And groups are going to have to start pinning down politicians — as the RCO did — just to show them that they won't put up with such tactics.

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Opinions

Sir:
Concerning your publication in SEVEN NEWS, Vol. 1, No. 3, I am a resident occupying a suite in 730 Ontario St., and I have just finished reading your article concerning 700 and 730 Ontario.

Unfortunately most of the things that were said about recreation facilities are true, along with the paint and decorating complaints. What is not true or fair was your sentence, and I quote, "The exterminators are always busy keeping the cockroaches on the move." This is not true. We have lived in this building for two years and I have yet to see a cockroach in my apartment or anywhere in the building.

I am sure that I not only speak for myself but also for everyone in this building and in 700 Ontario St., when I say that an apology would be considered fair, concerning the subject of cockroaches.

To this day I have had only one incident with the exterminators and that was for silverfish, not cockroaches.

Mrs. D. Linhares.

The article you mention was contributed by Raymond Carlton. I don't know anything about conditions at 700 and 730 Ontario, except what I read in this paper. Thank you for setting things straight. Is it possible that cockroaches didn't move in because they knew what the YMCA and Meridian were brewing up? -Ed.

Dear Sirs:
Do not bother sending me any more copies of your paper - I have no intention of subscribing. I have read your article re the "Barbara Apartments" where I live. I have been here for six years. The accommodation is absolutely wonderful for the rents which we pay. I have never seen a cockroach nor do I know anyone else who has. However the disgusting way in which many tenants handle their garbage is certainly asking for trouble.

If the tenant's association would try and upgrade the behaviour of the tenants, it would really be doing something worthwhile.

I have no sympathy whatever with the causes which you are interested in, so, as you can see, I do not appreciate your paper.

Marion J. Clarke.

Marion! Marion! Who said SEVEN NEWS has a "love it or leave" policy? We print articles people send to us. We really are interested in the causes of every person in the community, and want to see them in the paper. Instead of withdrawing, why not send in something of your own? -Ed

School Personnel Interviewed

by Terry Tettman

Ed. note - Terry Tettman is a student at Lord Dufferin School.

Mr. Wilson is the guidance teacher at Lord Dufferin School. He is a very nice person; you can talk to him and he will listen to you.

Terry. If you had the authority to change anything in the school, what would you do?

Mr. Wilson. Yes, I would do much more counseling. I would very much prefer working with smaller groups.

Terry. Do you think it's right to have so many portables at one school?

Mr. Wilson. Portables are a function of over-crowding periods. I think it is a better alternative than teaching in shifts.

Terry. What do you think of the drug problem of students today?

Mr. Wilson. Research indicates such a problem today is on the increase and particularly underestimated.

Terry. What is your opinion of the strap?

Mr. Wilson. I think it is archaic.

Terry. Do you find your work difficult?

Mr. Wilson. Frequently. It is hard to help some people.

Miss B. Camm is the vice-principal at Lord Dufferin. She has been the vice-principal since September, 1969. She is very nice and kind. She is the kind of person that you can talk to without her blowing her top.

Terry. If you had the authority to change anything at the school, what would you do?

Miss Camm. I would make this school two schools, because it is so large.

Terry. Do you think it is right to have so many portables? Why?

Miss Camm. Portables are a short-term practical measure to provide space in the school and make smaller classes.

Terry. What do you think of the drug problem of students today and how may they be helped?

Miss Camm. I am not an expert on the drug problem, but I think we have to do a great deal of listening to the people who have taken drugs and to the medical researchers who are investigating them.

Terry. Do you find your work difficult?

Miss Camm. No, I don't find my work difficult, but there is so little time to work with so many students.

Terry. Thank-you, Miss Camm.

Miss Camm. It was my pleasure. Good-bye for now.

7 NEWS

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Youth, Police discuss issues

A group of thirty young people concerned about a real lack of communication between themselves and the Metropolitan Toronto Police at 51st and 56th Divisions held a meeting at Central Neighbourhood House on Thursday, June 11, 1970, at 8.00 p.m.

Arrangements were made by the Thursday Committee, a council of older teenagers representing those young people concerned. Members of the Thursday Committee are: Pauline Plourde, Peggy Plante, Axel Heinau, Doug Plante, Paul Plourde, Kirk Harris, Dave Plante and James McDowell. Some of the issues discussed were: harassment of young people, why is the 'heat' on? and do police misuse their power?

There was an open and frank discussion between the young people and police representatives, Inspector Samuel Bogel, 51 Division, Bob Coughill, police Community Relations Officer, 51 Division and Constable Dave Turnbull, 56 Division.

No general agreement of consensus was made on any of the above topics or related issues, except the need to meet again. One teen present disagreed strongly with the police representatives on one point and said that "We came here to talk and tell the truth and I don't think that you are telling the truth." A police representative

replied that "there are two sides to every story" and suggested that, had the teenager been around when the incident occurred, he might view it differently. Other teens felt that police were not giving straightforward answers in response to the questions by the teens. However, there was considerable give and take on both sides of the discussion. Teenagers listened intently to police and police listened in the same manner to the teens.

The topic of certain police officers carrying out personal vindictiveness on particular teenagers was brought up by one member of the committee. He said that he knew of a police officer who was 'out to get' at a friend of his. Police representatives agreed that this does occur, but rarely, and said that usually what happens is that an officer will be removed if too many complaints are received regarding his conduct in performance of duty. It was suggested that complaints about officers be referred directly to the inspector of the precinct.

The formal meeting ended as the discussion was going strong; however, conversations continued on an informal basis for the rest of the evening.

Plans for another meeting between young people and police are being made by the Thursday Committee for late July.

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Ward 7 sports roundup

BY JOE GANNY
210 Oak St. Apt. 306
363-6894

On Thursday June 25, one of the most thrilling Senior Mens softball games of the season was played at Regent Park.

Langs Auto Defeated Latimers Brokers 1 to zip, with Gary Caruso tossing a 1-hitter and Doug Parks smashing a double to score Frank Caruso from second base. As you can tell by the score, umpires Bill Hiltz and John Lucisero had to be on their toes at all times.

On Monday June 29, Dexters Shell defeated Active Construction 3-1. This game was a heart-breaker for the pitchers of Active Construction, Murray Bower and John Mulhall, as they shared the loss, with John Metcalf hitting a home run off Bower to give Dexters Shell the win.

On Tuesday, June 30, Ward 7 defeated Shoppers Drug Mkt, 12-4.

Hardball at Greenwood Park: Regent Pee-wees 9, East Riverdale 7.

Midget Hardball at Riverdale Park: Pape 3, Regent 1.

On Thursday June 2, at Regent Park, Active Const. defeated Latimers Brokers 9-3. Doug Stubbs of Active Const. had three hits to help his club to a convincing win.

At Moss Park Regent: Atoms 12, East Riverdale 4.

We're sorry to hear that Murph Doyle of Ward 7 Ball Club broke his arm during a game and we hope that he will soon be back in action and booming out the long hits.

The following are the teams in the Men's League: Active Construction, Latimers Brokers, Langs Auto, Dexters Shell, Shoppers Drug Mart, Ward 7. In the Ladies League: Fine Line Stationery, Ernie's Roadrunners, St. Barts and Peers Pets.

The men play Mon. to Thurs. at the far east diamond and the ladies on Tues. and Thurs. on the west diamond. On July 2 in the Ladies League, Peers Pets defeated Fine Line Stat. 23-16. Delores McGuire banged out 3 hits and Donna O'Brian had two in a game that was touch-and-go for several innings.

Took a look at the Tiny Tyke game Mon. morning and found some very talented future stars, such as Randy Nivels, Billy Martin, Bob Pugsly, Jim Smart and Billy Cripps. In this game, Bob Bradley Bombers beat Regent Park N Old Boys, with Paul Szabo hitting 3 homers.

Billy Smith looks to be the outstanding player in this league, of ages 7,8,9, and 10. Mike Troitter tossed a 3-hitter and Big John Smith had 2-for-4 hits with a home run to aid Ward 7 in a 6 to 0 win over Langs Auto. Frank Lucisero had 3-for-3. In competitive Baseball, Adam Beck Pee-wees 2, Regent 0. Regent Midgets 1, Adam Beck 0.

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT ROUND UP

Ward Seven Calendar

SWIMMING

Outdoor Pools: for further information telephone City Parks and Recreation, 367-7251. Open 7 days per week to September 7 (10.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.) — Greenwood Park, Monarch Park, Riverdale Park, a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) — Greenwood Park, Monarch Park, Riverdale Park, and Donald D. Summerville. Adults only 6-6:30 and 8:30-10.

Indoor Pools: A complete swimming programme for the whole family. For further information, call: PAPE RECREATIONAL CENTRE, 9 3 Gerrard St. E., 461-3531; JOHN INNES RECREATIONAL CENTRE, 150 Sherbourne St., 366-0767.

Schools: For complete information, call Board of Education. 362-4931, local 315. Pool hours: Mon. to Fri. 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. to August 22. Saturdays, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon; 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. — LORD DUFFERIN, 303 Berkley St; EARL GREY, 100 Strathcona Ave.; QUEEN ALEXANDRA, 181 Broadview Ave.

Wading Pools: for boys and girls 10 years of age and under — open to Sept. 7, 7 days per week, 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Allan Gardens	Moss Park	Regent School	Riverdale West
Sackville	Shuter	Donmount	Greenwood
Kew Gardens	McCleary	Monarch	Morse
Pape	Riverdale East	Withrow	

*Sprinklers at Regent Park Recreational Centre, 415 Gerrard Street East; telephone 363-2955.

SUPERVISED JUNIOR PLAYGROUNDS

For boys and girls 10 years of age and under — SCHOOLS: Monday to Friday, to August 28, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. LORD DUFFERIN; ROSE; ST. MARTIN'S; JACKMAN AVE; MORSE.

Park Locations: to September 4 — 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.: SACKVILLE; SHUTER; DONMOUNT; MCCLEARY; RIVERDALE EAST.

SUPERVISED SENIOR PLAYGROUNDS

Schools: Monday to Friday to Aug. 28 — 9.30 a.m. to Hydro Lights: PARK; REGENT; WINCHESTER; EARL GREY; QUEEN ALEXANDRA; WITHROW.

Park Locations and Recreation Centres: to Sept. 4 — 9.30 a.m. to Hydro Lights: GREENWOOD; MORSE; WITHROW; REGENT PARK; PAPE; JOHN INNES.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING SUPERVISED PLAYGROUNDS CONTACT CITY PARKS AND RECREATION: 367-7251.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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Parliament Library House, 265 Gerrard St. E., Informal French Conversation: Mon., Thurs. 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Yoga on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. (all ages). Poets' Workshop on Saturdays at 2.30 p.m.

Danforth, 701 Pape Ave., 465-1221. Children's Library: Tuesdays to Aug. 11, 2.00 p.m. Hobbies, Arts, Crafts and Poetry. Thursdays to Sept. 3, 2 p.m., Films. Saturdays, 10.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Story Telling. There will be a special Puppet Show ("Sleeping Beauty") on August 8th at 2.00 p.m.

RIVERDALE LIBRARY, 370 Broadview Ave., CLOSED DURING AUGUST.

1970 TORONTO SUMMER FESTIVAL

July 24-26, Toronto Islands, Mariposa Folk Festival.

July 26, 8.00 p.m. City Hall Square, Pops Concert.

July 27, and every Monday at 8.30 p.m. to August 10th, Ramsden Park, Square dancing.

July 27, Greenwood Park 8.30 p.m., Johnny Lombardi Show.

July 28, 7.15 p.m., Rose Avenue School, Children's Theatre "Cinderella".

July 28, 8.30 p.m., Withrow Park, each Tuesday to Aug. 25, Square dancing.

July 28, 8.00 p.m., Allan Gardens, Military Band.

July 29, 8.30 p.m., Riverdale Park, Country and Western Program.

July 30, 8.00 p.m., City Hall Square, Johnny Lombardi Show.

Aug. 1-9, Toronto Islands, Island Tea House at Centre Island Ferry Docks, "Caribana '70". (Dancing Fri. and Sat. nights, Tea House, 8 p.m.)

Aug. 2, 8.00 p.m. City Hall Square, Pops Symphony.

Aug. 3, City Hall Square, CIVIC HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.

Aug. 4, 8.00 p.m., Allan Gardens, Military Band.

Aug. 5, 8.30 p.m., Riverdale Park, The Haines Sisters.

Aug. 6, 8.00 p.m., City Hall Square, Dance Band.

Aug. 11, 8.00 p.m. Allan Gardens, 48th Highlanders.

For complete programme phone City Parks & Recreation: 367-7251.

REPORTS FROM WOODGREEN CENTRE

The Dunlop Credit Union has relocated in the Woodgreen Community Centre. The Credit Union's new name is "The Woodgreen Credit Union of Toronto". It has assets of over half a million dollars. Membership is available to all residents of the local community; small businesses are also welcome.

The MARS program is making available to all homeowners and tenants the use of any machine, equipment, and tools for home repair needs, at the nominal charge of \$1.00. MARS will also facilitate the purchasing of materials such as paint, plaster, lumber, etc. Anyone requiring this service, contact Mr. Bob Bender at 461-1168.

Eight boys in the Youth training program at Woodgreen, who are on probation and have never had the opportunity to travel before, will be visiting boys' clubs and settlement houses as far west as Vancouver for two weeks.

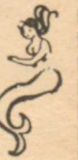
COMMUNITY MEETINGS

July 21 8 p.m. Citizens Forum Committee, Room No. 1, City Hall. July 27 and August 24, 8.00 p.m., Riverdale Community Organization, Broadview YMCA. July 22, 8.00 p.m., St. David's New Democratic Party meeting, 49 Salisbury Avenue. There are two vacancies on the Executive. Elections for these positions will be held.

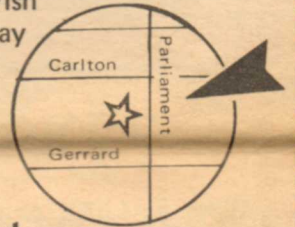
NOTE: Anyone interested in the community activities of E.M.B.O. at Queen Alexandra and St. Anne's Schools, contact Gary Pender, 469-1234.

Is your organization holding a meeting? Any organizational news? CONTACT Seven News, 265 Gerrard Street, East. Phone: 922-9175.

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