

NEWS

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WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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PLUMBERS' UNION PITCHES IN SOUTH OF ST. JAMESTOWN

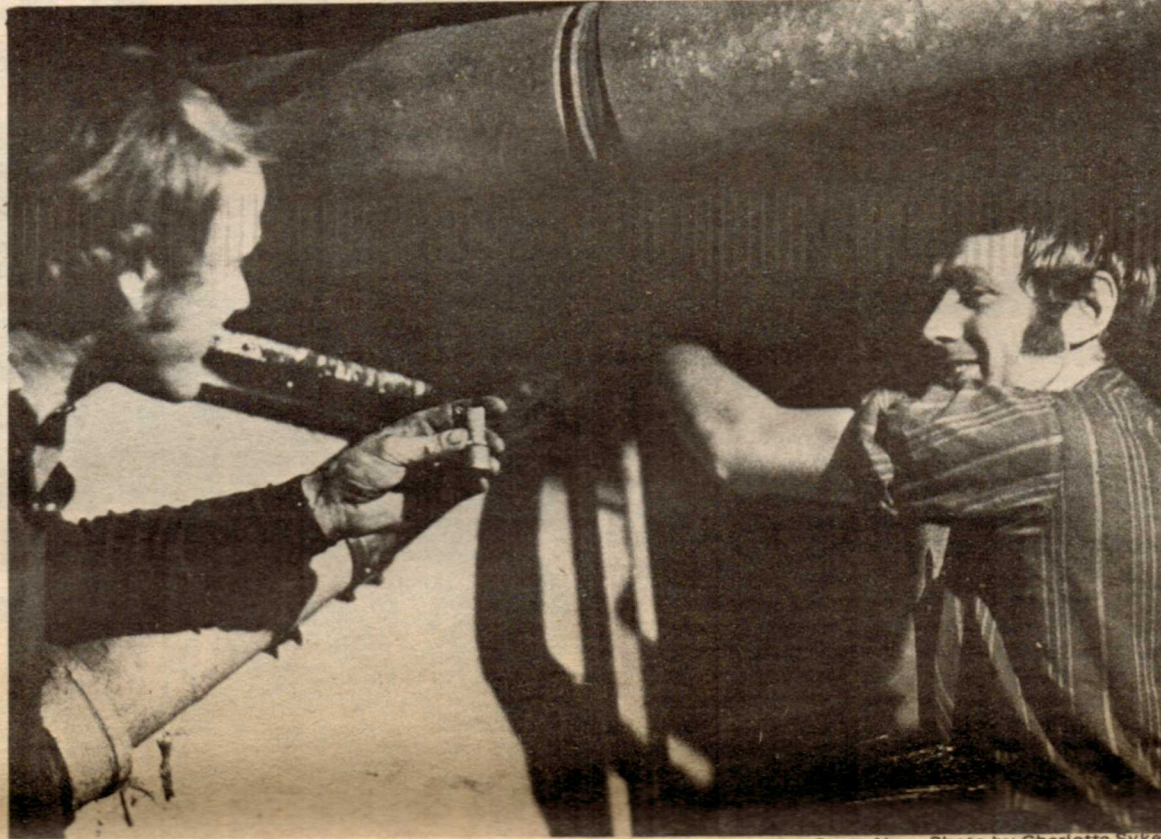
The Plumbers' and Steamfitters' Union Local 46 have given a big boost to the Tenants' Union South of St. Jamestown. They have offered to supply labour, out of their Local's funds, to fix and replace plumbing in several of the Tenants' Union houses. And they have made arrangements with the Building Contractors' Association to supply the necessary materials. The work began on Monday, November 2.

These are houses that the Meridian Development Corporation wanted to tear down last summer. They are now being fixed up and rented by the SSJ Tenants' Union.

The help from Local 46 is a major breakthrough for the Tenants' Union for two reasons. First, more houses become rentable more quickly, thus supplying housing for more tenants who want to get out of the Meridian-middleman bind. Second, it shows that Local 46 is not afraid to invest money and labour in support of local neighbourhood control. Hopefully, other unions will follow the example of Local 46. If this happens, it means that the concept of dislocating whole neighbourhoods, so dear to the City Executive Committee and the Meridian, is going to meet some very stiff opposition.

Bruce Snead, the Local's business manager, visited the Bleecker and Ontario St. houses to see what was needed to be done. He was impressed by what the Tenants' Union was doing and recommended very strongly, with the support of Stan Newmarsh, the Local's president, that the membership supply the necessary labour. This recommendation has been carried out.

This aid given by Local 46 is a good lesson for those who think labour unions are self-centered and unresponsive to social needs. Hopefully the example of Local 46 will encourage other labour groups to join the fight to fix up housing through neighbourhood control. Already the following companies have volunteered free supplies: Canada Wire and Cable Co. Ltd., Phillips Cables Ltd., Pirelli Cables Ltd., Canada Cement, Sherwin-Williams Co. of Canada Ltd., Toncraft Paints Ltd., Perma-grip Co. Ltd., CEB Ltd., Temco Electric Mfg. Co. Ltd., and TCE Ltd. (scaffolding).



Seven News Photo by Charlotte Sykes

Mystery Meeting

E.T.D.C. of S.P.C. of M.T.!!

by Vern Burnett

Would you sign a legal document without understanding what you were signing?

Would you vote for something which might drastically affect your area, not understanding what you were voting for?

Less than 200 citizens, supposedly representing interested East Toronto citizens, were being asked to do just that at the Oct. 22nd meeting of the East Toronto District Committee of the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto.

The meeting, held in Earl Grey School, was sponsored by the City of Toronto Planning Board. Mr. L.A. Oxley, Chairman of the Board, chaired the meeting.

Early in the meeting it became evident that few of those attending had copies of the proposal or plan which evidently had been read by Mr. Sutton of the Planning Board. During the speeches which followed Mr. Sutton's presentation, much of what he had read became lost.

There is little doubt that a great deal of work has gone into the making of the plan or proposal, though the audience was never sure what the plan or proposal was.

Many attending expected to discuss a definite plan. They were told it was not a plan, it was a proposal: then the speaker would then go on to discuss the plan. If you are confused, so were those attending who didn't have a copy of the orange-covered book which was a Proposal for the Toronto Eastern Planning study. There were no agendas to help enlighten the uninitiated.

The Toronto Eastern District extends from the Don River on the west to Victoria Park on the east, north from the lakefront to the City limits. One hundred and fifty copies of the proposal had been mailed to different groups in this area. Few of these copies were in evidence at this meeting, arranged specifically to bring about involvement of the citizens in the planning processes of East Toronto.

It was clear from the speeches of Executive members of the East Toronto District Committee that their desire to have wide spread citizen participation is sincere. Mr. I.E. Davey, past chairman, stressed the number of well-organized groups already involved. Mrs. Dorothy Donovan, Chairman, gave an animated, detailed account of the Committee's efforts and future hopes in getting citizens to participate. Vice-Chairman Ernest F. Arnold reiterated the same theme.

Alderman Beavis referred to the possible development of the Pape-Gerrard and the Danforth-Broadview area, and added that "the people and the

business people should have some say in the type of development that might go on in the particular area". But will they?

An East Toronto Advisory Board is to be appointed by City Council, on advice from the Board of the Social Planning Council and the Development Department of the City of Toronto. Alderman Jaffary, in referring to the proposed Board, said that he "was a little worried" about how much effect this advisory board would really have in decision making, how much attention would be given to their advice to the planning staff. He praised the efforts and aims of the planning study group, and seemed to suggest that, though it would mean much hard work by many people, the answer lay in reaching and involving those directly affected in any given area.

Alderman Reid Scott mentioned the Main-Danforth Development and the difficulty in getting citizen participation. It is pretty difficult to arouse residents who have known that corner always as railway yards, coal and lumber yards. Over the years there have been proposals and rumours of proposals; now people are waiting to see definite proof before getting excited.

The president of the Hogarth-Dearbourne Ratepayers and Residents Association, Tony Barclay, voiced the cynicism of many in mentioning the problems of his specific area and the lack of communication between local residents and officialdom.

The feeling of a majority attending this all-important meeting, supposedly arranged to allow the Planning Board to get a sense of the feelings of the people, could probably be summed up in

(cont. p. 8, col. 4)

City Hall Won't Block R.C.O. Grant

by Consuelo Leslie

Mayor William Dennison is raising money for Riverdale Community Organization (RCO) whether he likes it or not. A certain Toronto citizen gave \$1000.00 to the group because he was so angry at Mayor Dennison when he read newspaper reports of what he had said against RCO at the City Executive Committee meeting (Oct. 21st).

At this meeting the Executive Committee of City Council voted 4 to 1 in favor of a motion by Alderman Fred Beavis (Ward 8) that they "have no objection to RCO." By the time the motion got to City Council a week later, on October 28th, the vote was reversed on Alderman Tom Clifford's (Ward 8) motion not to support RCO in any way, with Alderman Beavis the lone supporting Executive vote. Only he recognized, apparently, what was the best political decision.

At issue is RCO's request for funds from the Federal Government. The Feds "prefer" to have municipal approval of projects they fund. RCO did not ask the City for funds but only for approval. This was to ensure a favorable decision in Ottawa in case their "prefer" should become a "policy".

Early in the day on October 28th it appeared that the Executive Committee's recommendation of "no objection to RCO" would pass in Council. However after only a few hours of debate in "committee of the whole" it was clear that Alderman Beavis was in trouble with his motion.

At least five motions for and against RCO were made in the midst of Aldermanic chaos. The following were the motions that were rejected:

(1) to receive the Riverdale request and take no stand at all
(2) to tell the Riverdale group that the city opposes any grant being given by any government.

(3) to refer the issue back to the Executive and Urban Renewal Committee

(4) to tell the group that the City does not oppose it seeking aid from other sources

(5) and that the city does not support the group.

"Committee of the whole" decisions have to be ratified by Council at the end of the meeting before they are valid. In "Committee of the Whole," Council members had voted in favor of Alderman Clifford's motion not to support RCO. But by the time the vote came up in Council about an hour later Aldermen Karl Jaffary and John Sewell (Ward 7), leaving no Aldermen unturned, had turned up three who had not been in the Council Chambers earlier; they got them present and voting to defeat Clifford's motion and to win a motion, introduced by a new coalition of Aldermen, to the effect that the RCO brief be

(cont. p. 7, col. 5)

TREFANN MEETING

by Dale Macleod

The Trefann Court Working Committee met for the 6th time on Tuesday, Nov. 3. It was the second meeting with the Committee's new planner.

The meeting ran smoothly, for the most part, with a few moments of heated debate. There was an air of general nervous seriousness as the group began working its way through the agenda. This may have been due to the rather slick and easy manner of Alderman Crombie,

and to the extensive knowledge of the intricacies of the system displayed by Paul Ringer from the Development Department.

The new planner, Howard Cohen, dealt rather well with two issues on the agenda. The first was not to make any decisions about buying land until everyone had a better idea of the type of plan that they would develop in the coming months. He felt that this perspective would give the group some idea of how many properties they wanted to buy, and why.

(cont. p. 5, col. 3)

Cheese and Checkers

An Interview with Joe Cassar

by Ted Plantos

To most people who see him, shopping bags stuffed with newspapers and meeting notices under his arms, storming through the streets on his way to a checker match or meeting, Joe Cassar is just another Cabbagetown character. Dismay of dismays to you labelers, however, because Joe, baggy trousers and quaint grin, is a very real person. Joe, like a lot of other people in our community, has not had a very easy life. He came to Toronto in the early fifties, after serving five years in the British Navy, and thought he'd find the streets paved with gold. Joe was born in Malta.

He has just managed to survive by doing odd jobs and working as a janitor at different factories since he has been here. He has also managed to make a few dollars, here and there, playing checkers at tournaments. Joe is the former 'checker champion' of Toronto.

Speaking about checkers and checker players Joe says, "Checkers is considered an ancient game, and they ignore it." "They think it is a poor man's game." "We want to do our own thing, same like everybody else."

Ted: Some people have called you 'a walking information post'. What do they mean, Joe?

Joe: Well, I cut out information from the newspapers to give to different clubs and groups; information that is of interest to them and the churches. I also cut out things for myself. Like checker pieces. And also information that is beneficial to other community centres in the area.

Ted: What kind of information do you get from newspapers that would be of interest to community groups in the area?

Joe: Oh, for example, something about poor people; something about Welfare; something about pensions I give to old men, to a drop-in centre for old men. That's why I keep a razor blade in my pocket. You see, I cut these things out.

Ted: You're very concerned about the more basic social problems in our society; you're concerned about poverty, pollution, and the inferiority of mass consumer foods. What is the connection between these concerns and your life as a vegetarian?

Joe: I like anything that's good in life, not only for my body but for the environment in which we live.

Ted: Then what is your opinion of the kinds of food that are being mass-produced and consumed by our society?

Joe: I'm afraid... well, I'm afraid I'd have to use the term 'garbage'. Garbage is the food that is chemically made. And this is not meant as an insult to people. But it is the way I see it.

Ted: What kind of food does a vegetarian eat?

Joe: I eat vegetables, some cooked and some raw, and fruit and nuts. I eat two meals a day. In the morning I eat cheese, and sometimes boiled eggs, a raw tomato and an apple or orange, and in the evening a combination salad.

Ted: You said that you ate cheese in the morning. What kind of cheese? Processed cheese?

Joe: No! Imported cheese.

Ted: Listen Joe, it must be expensive to live like this. How can you afford imported cheese?

Joe: No. Because I get it at Honest Ed's. Swiss cheese is, for me, the best cheese in the world; no chemicals in it or colouring. They put colouring in processed cheese, and chemicals.

Ted: Why do they do that?

Joe: To make it look nice, and also they put preservatives in it to keep it long. And the preservatives get in your body. They do the same with meat. They paint the meat and put preservatives in it. I have a butcher friend who could back me up on this. And they put salt petre in it, which does harm to your mind. I'm not against meat as such. I'm against the garbage they put in meat. That's why I'm against the meat of today; not for its own sake. Not because it is meat but because it is filled with junk.

Ted: How do you support yourself, Joe?

Joe: I work at cleaning jobs in factories, and I do odd jobs.

Ted: What kind of social life do you have?

Joe: I go to drop-in centres and church forums.

Ted: What's it like living in Cabbagetown for you, Joe?

Joe: I'm afraid I find it a little tough right now. The most important problem I find around here is housing. That's the number one problem in this area. I don't think there's enough being done about housing. I think what is being done is for other purposes... for people other than those who are low income. The Government, from the Federal right down to the City Hall, is catering to private developers. They're looking for profit, money. They disregard the poor man altogether. This is a very important problem to me. I am very much disturbed by this.

Ted: You live in a rooming house, don't you Joe?

Joe: Yes, and right now I've got no heat. We were gassed out on the street twice.

Ted: You what?

Joe: Gassed out! They turned on the furnace and instead of heat we got gas. And the house belongs to Meridian.

Ted: That's certainly no atmosphere to play checkers in. What about your preoccupation with the game of checkers, Joe?

Joe: I'm playing by mail. I'm playing 40 games by mail now.

Ted: 40 games? That's incredible!

Joe: Incredible, but it's true. Some people think it's a poor man's game. It's a much deeper game than chess. There are many more ways to win in checkers. In chess there are only a few ways. Right now I'm playing people in Ireland, France, England, Australia, Italy, Canada and New Zealand.

Ted: So your checker arm is reaching across the sea, symbolically speaking.

Joe: I give instructions in restaurants, and to children. Checker playing is a substitute for friendship. I have lots of people I know but they're not close friends. Some of them are married. But they don't invite me to their places. So therefore I have to find a substitute. That's why I get immersed in a checker game. And I shouldn't be blamed for that. Some people think I'm a checker nut. But they don't understand. I do it as a substitute for friends.

Ted: Joe, one more question. Will you come over to my place for dinner some night?

Joe: Yeah, sure, and I'll bring my checker board. Do you play?

Ted: Only on winter nights.

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Parents to Have Say in Running of

New Oak St. School

by Gundi Jeffrey

A new public school is due to open in Ward 7 on Oak St. in the fall of 1972, and for the first time, the parents of the prospective students will have a say in how it is going to be run.

At a meeting held in the Oak St. United Church on October 21, a group of Regent Park parents, the new principal of the school, Mr. Robert Holmshaw, school trustees Graham Scott and Gordon Cressy, and Liberal MPP Tim Reid, got together and evolved some ideas on how the new school should be organized.

First of all the parents want a say in the hiring of the teachers, and then frequent contact with them — perhaps by having them visit the homes of the students. It was also felt to be a good idea that they actually live in the development for a while, and get acquainted with the peculiar problems of the area.

All this would be necessary for the parents to be assured the teachers were doing their proper job. Due to the economic problems in the area, there is apparently a higher number of emotionally disturbed children, than in other parts of the city. This could cause special problems in handling the teaching and discipline of the children.

It was also suggested that schooling start earlier — perhaps at age three — with a possible boarding school set up so that the younger children would be provided with a varied environment at least during the week.

It was felt smaller classes — perhaps with 20 students — in the earlier grades would be a good idea, so that there would be more attention paid to the child in his formative years.

Holmshaw said a portable classroom would be opened on the site October 26, and he would be available to see parents for one day and two nights a week for further discussions. He also suggested groups could visit other schools to see the latest learning facilities.

REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REGENT PARK?

by Peter James

Walter Kehm, of Project Planning Associates, presented the landscape concept for North and South Regent Park to the Parks Committee at City Hall, October 29. The presentation was the result of an attempt by the Ontario Housing Corporation and the tenants of Regent Park to work out a scheme for landscaping the area. A diagram of the proposal appears to the right.

Positive suggestions during the meeting involved a recommendation by Aldermen Brown and Wardle that the possibility of underground parking be investigated.

Alderman Sewell felt that the best part of the plan was that people could participate in its development.

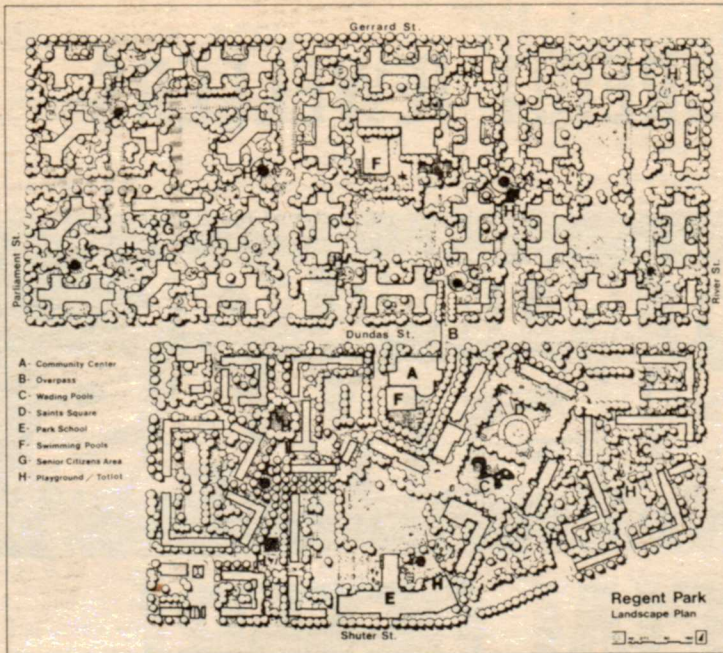
Walter Kehm, the planner, urged that Dundas St. not be widened; he felt the widening would seriously affect the environment by further separating the two halves of Regent Park.

Some discussion followed indicating that the committee was concerned about pedestrians, both children and adults, trying to cross Dundas St. At present the only proposed walkway is the rather spindly link by the community centre (see diagram, point B). Hopefully a more comprehensive look can be taken at integrating Dundas into its environment, perhaps by building over and under the roadway itself.

Small stores and shops within the buildings were also discussed, bringing up the point that "landscaping" should involve more than planting trees; at question are all the physical qualities that make up the area, both inside and out. What the tenants and OHC are looking into is really the whole environment of Regent Park.

During the discussion, it was suggested that the Social Planning Council be involved in the area. The response of Alderman Grys to this idea was that if they are involved, "you won't get the project going for 20 years," Mr. Grys later suggested that the area of Regent Park ought to be expropriated, but was reminded by Alderman Rotenberg that it was already publicly owned.

In reference to the proposed scheme, Mr. Kehm stressed that it was a concept only, and that some time would be required to develop it. Hopefully the committee will look below and above the trees, at all aspects of living in the area before the plan is completed.



How About Community T.V. For Ward 7?

by John Piper

A Ward can have a newspaper, a baseball team, a Ward Council, and elections, but how about its own community television channel? The implementation of Cable TV makes this a possibility; concerted action by the citizens of Ward 7 and the cablecaster in the Ward (Rogers Cable) can make it a reality.

Speaking at a Media Workshop on October 25th, Mr. Phil Lind, Director of Public Affairs with Rogers Cable TV, said the company is interested in investigating ways of involving residents of Ward 7 in planning and programming material for cablecasting to the Ward. Discussion centred around one time slot per week on a cable-casting channel.

A community-based organization known as Intercom is into a similar bag.

The idea of community television is that the community formulates its own programming and provides information, happenings, and feelings about and to itself on television.

Usually, community television works as follows: A Board or Committee representative of the community sets the policy and decides on the programming in conjunction with the various elements in the Ward. The Cable Company, or media producer, works with the Board and the community (a crew of professionals and residents) to package the programmes — programmes which are then cabled back to the community for viewing.

The number of possible programmes is limited only by the imagination and input of the people of the Ward and the physical restrictions of cablecasting: ball games, public

Community Programs at Holy Trinity

by Pat Moses

Holy Trinity Church in Trinity Square, which is part of early Toronto history, may be old in years but not in her approach. The main body of the church is now available, free, to any group in Toronto for programs of public interest.

Here is space with good sound equipment, cable coverage and a place to produce shows. Through "Intercom" it is hoped that community groups can produce their own programs. To help, a free publication will soon be available on "How to use Cable Television for Community Programs". With the experience and enthusiasm of Bruce Lawson, the Church and its programs will expand with community needs.

The first meeting took place October 28, with 150 people in attendance discussing the War Measures Act.

Starting November 5th and every Thursday at noon, a hot lunch at moderate cost will be served with informal one-hour discussions. People participate in a most relaxed atmosphere. The month of November is booked as a month to talk to your representative, or anyone else you meet there. William Archer will be there November 5; Karl Jaffary, November 12; and David Rotenberg, November 19.

For any extra information, contact Angie Pritchard at Holy Trinity Church, 362-2595.

meetings, education, services, and so on. The list could be endless, especially if everyone contributes their own ideas.

Interested citizens should get together and talk to Rogers Cable TV and Intercom. There's a vacuum with an offer to do something. Ward 7 can move to fill it.

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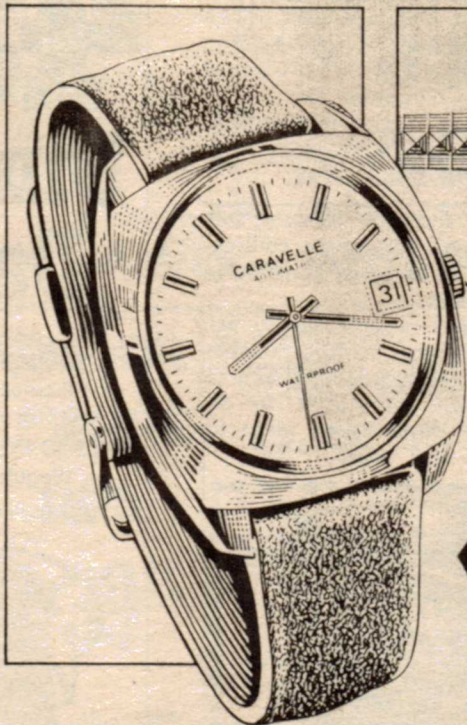
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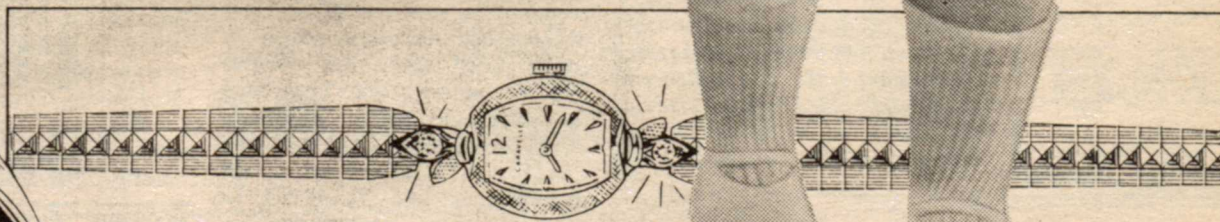
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Around the Ward

by Gordon Cressy

(1) S.P.I.C.E., a new group with initials standing for Students and Parents for Initiating Change in Education, has been formed within the Riverdale Youth Project. The group tries to identify problems within the school system and then solve them. Teachers are welcome. For further information contact Harry McKay at the Riverdale Youth Project at 465-8106.

(2) The Education sub-committee of the Riverdale Community Organization will be meeting shortly to discuss the extension of hours for TTC youth fare car tickets. For further information contact Dale Perkins at the R.C.O. office at 466-2148.

(3) The Home and School Association of Frankland Public School will be meeting Wednesday, November 18 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the drug situation. The resource person for this session will be Mr. Barry Tulip of the Y.M.C.A. Mr. Tulip is the director of the North Toronto Drop-In Project and a former youth worker in Regent Park.

(4) The Home and School Association of Withrow School will be meeting Tuesday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m. to discuss its priority for a new school or renovation for its present structure. The school inspector and trustees from Ward 7 and 8 are expected to attend.

(5) After school programs, funded in part by the Toronto Board of Education, are in effect at Rose Avenue School and Dundas School. The program at Rose Avenue, now in its fourth year of operation, reports the Parents Advisory Council in partnership with the Y.M.C.A. The Dundas program which is just beginning has exciting possibilities which involve both neighboring schools, Owen Alexander and St. Anne's. The parents group in co-operation with the school and the Y.M.C.A. is busily at work. If you would like to get involved call Paul Bridgeman, Principal at Dundas School at 466-8233.

(6) The York Montessori School is beginning a program free

of charge for pre-school children at Sackville Public School. For further information call Carl Head, Principal of Sackville at 364-8026.

(7) A recent meeting of the Community Boosters helped set the stage for citizens partnership in the planning, philosophy and organization of the new school to be built on Oak Street. A portable classroom is already on the site, and Bob Holmeshaw, the Principal, says he will be happy to talk to residents any day about education. The portable classroom will be open two nights a week.

(8) A lively meeting of the School Board Advisory Committee took place recently at Park School. A Parent-Teacher Council was proposed by Mrs. Noreen Gaudette, a candidate for trustee in the last election. Miss Sissons, one of the new principals at the school, invited parents to visit the school during the day to see what was going on. A mother's club has already started but apparently this fact was not known by all. Some parents suggested teachers visit their homes. A good idea throughout the ward, no doubt. Invite a teacher to visit you this week.

At the Board of Education:

The chief issue at the Board is the Task Force on Education to be discussed at the Education Centre, 155 College, Thursday November 12th, at 8:00 p.m. This Task Force, which is largely in response to the Trefann Court mothers' brief on Opportunity Classes, will take a long hard look at community involvement in education and how the inner city program can be improved. This Task Force will be the most important project of the Toronto Board this year. The results could largely determine the future of the education system for our children and ourselves.

School trustees Gordon Cressy and Graham Scott will be writing an Education Column for Seven News from now on on a fairly regular basis. If you have any questions you can get in touch with Gord Cressy at 921-3720.

Ward Council Resumes After Summer Break

The Ward 7 Council was started last spring in the hope that closer liaison could be provided between the aldermen and school trustees and the voters of the ward. It has now been resumed after the summer, and meets every second Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. at Regent Park United Church, on Oak Street at Parliament.

The Ward Council is a two way street: it is a chance for people in the ward to provide direction and criticism to the politicians elected in the ward — it's also a chance for the politicians to find out how people feel about particular issues that have come up or are coming up. And together, the politicians and the people can get working on community issues.

The Ward Council is informal — everyone is invited to come and talk about what they want, though it is not a session for people to discuss individual problems that are not of interest to the community at large. If it works well, and that depends on people in the ward, it is a good chance for people to begin to exercise some direct control over the people they elect.

The Council has no structure, which means that meetings are whatever people want to make them. Some future dates are Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 22.

Trefann

(cont. from p. 1 col. 2)

Earlier in the meeting Alderman Sewell stressed the importance of finding out how much money would be needed to rehabilitate some of the houses. Both City and private estimates will be obtained.

There was general discussion and agreement on both these points.

The second issue dealt by Mr. Cohen involved a sketch plan of how a typical area could be dealt with if only a few buildings were to be removed. He was careful to explain that this was only a very rough first draft; however the sketch depicted low-rise housing and seemed to win the confidence of the citizens if not of the City representatives.

The suspicion that exists between people and groups within the Committee is a challenge to everyone who is trying to make Trefann a success. Aldermen coming late and leaving early (Pickett), or not coming at all (Jaffary, Piccinnini), will not help to bring the group together. Statements in the heat of debate (if we can't get more reasonable "we'll pack him (Cohen) up and send him back to Winnipeg, and we'll sew up Trefann" — Crombie) will only serve to widen any differences between the people of Trefann and the City. They reflect the power that certain people feel that they have within the Committee, and amount to a way of down-talking to the rest of the group.

People like Ray Tomlinson, Edna Dixon, Marg LeMay, and the residents of Trefann Court have invested too much not to want to co-operate, but threats aren't the way to achieve co-operation.

One particularly positive note emerged in the course of the meeting: the Trefann residents, who are issue-oriented and have to live with the various problems, are on their way to a real understanding of planning and implementing a better one in fact than that of the outside representatives who are concerned with the system and carry it along with them.

"Put On"

Historical Perspective

A SATIRE COLUMN
by Norman Browne

Archaeologists and historians have recently come up with a workable theory to explain the meaning of certain ruins and artifacts found some time ago in North America. The ruins date back over 500 years to the late 20th century and consist mainly of flat, oblong fields surrounded by high-density viewing structures. The purpose of these fields and related objects has been the source of considerable conjecture for some time.

At first, the thought was that the structures were used for the mass viewing of some animal spectacle as such shows were common amongst the ancients. As examples, lions were used to entertain the people of ancient Rome and fighting bulls were used by peoples of ancient Latin countries.

The fact that references to "pigskin" as well as dried pieces of pig leather have been found near the sites seemed to bear out this argument.

However, historians now feel that the sites were for mass religious rallies and that pigs were probably used as sacrificial animals only. Supporting this theory is evidence that two groups of heavily padded men, simulating the forces of good and evil, held a "sham" battle on the field. The sacrifice of the pig was probably the climax of this ceremony.

That this was a very formalized

religion is borne out by evidence of a highly structured priesthood. The high priest was called a "referee" while lesser priests and acolytes were "linesmen" and "coaches".

Those attending the ceremony were allowed to participate verbally through mass chants and responses to the litany. One such response that has survived to this day is the phrase, "Hold that line!!!" Although its meaning is obscure, its constant use throughout the service shows its deep religious significance.

There is also no doubt that this was a popular religion. Many thousands attended each service and many more thousands of shut-ins were brought views of the ceremony through a primitive form of electronics surveillance apparatus.

There is considerable evidence that this religion was divided into various branches and sects, with each sect celebrating its own religious high holidays. A branch in the north called its major religious event "Grey Cup Day" while in the south there was a series of feast days called "Bowls".

Having solved this problem, historians and archeologists are trying to deduce why the ancient North Americans used frozen water as a flooring in large buildings near major urban population centers. A report on this phenomenon is expected shortly . . .

Lost Innocence?

THE WAR MEASURES ACT

by John Sewell

It would be difficult to pass by the War Measures Act without comment. Canada has finally lost its innocence, and it is difficult to see how the country can ever be the same. If there has ever been a myth about Canada, it is that Canadians tend to look at political problems without too much emotion, and that problems will be solved in the long run without people getting too hysterical. It is almost as though Canadians have a practical apathy, and never get too worried about how people think in political terms. But now that's all in the past.

What the imposition of the War Measures Act means is that people are now busy looking in closets to make sure that everyone there is right-thinking. The era of relaxation, of freedom of political thinking seems to be coming to an end, even if it was not intended. We find that FRAP, an opposition party advocating people power and opposed to Mayor Drapeau's machine has been caught in the web. We find that we are in the same situation as all those far away countries we read about in

Towards the end of the meeting Mr. Cohen came up with a proposal that met with little response. The idea was to set up three sub-committees, one to develop a questionnaire, the second to collect physical data, and the third to generate ideas. The first two are unfortunately old hat, if not superfluous, for Trefann. The issue-oriented quality of the group would seem to lend itself to collecting information that related specifically to problems, rather than general information *per se*.

However, an ideas committee may well be on the way to get at the problems confronting the residents both within their area and in their dealings with the levels of government.

the papers, with martial law. We find that there are troops in the streets as we have an election. We find that the government has withdrawn civil rights for reasons that can't be released to the public. And it makes one wonder just whose government it is.

Perhaps most frightening, we find that there is nothing which people can do about the situation: there is no way that one can get at the government to force them to change their mind, and reconsider what has occurred. It is almost possible to say that the government is out of control, and that there is nothing we can do about how it wants to act until we can have an election. It all points up just how distant the government is from the people. It is the body which decides; the only chance one has to control it is every five years, and only then if one can wade through the election material. It becomes easier to see just how easy it might be to have a dictatorship, so swiftly have we seen the government invoke the Act.

Equally frightening is the response of the man in the street to what the government has done. It seems most people support the government. Are we that casual about our liberties? Isn't the whole theory about democracy just a bit too fragile to be treated this way? Can a democracy be protected by taking away civil liberties?

The effect of the War Measures Act will not end when it is revoked. It goes much deeper than that — perhaps along the lines of some of the thoughts set out above, perhaps along other lines. It is not a matter about which one can be absolute, but with careful and close thinking, maybe people can consider just what this country and its political machinery is all about, and whether or not we are beginning to close off options which in the past had been open to us.

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Parents to Have Say in Running of

New Oak St. School

by Gundi Jeffrey

A new public school is due to open in Ward 7 on Oak St. in the fall of 1972, and for the first time, the parents of the prospective students will have a say in how it is going to be run.

At a meeting held in the Oak St. United Church on October 21, a group of Regent Park parents, the new principal of the school, Mr. Robert Holmeshaw, school trustees Graham Scott and Gordon Cressy, and Liberal MPP Tim Reid, got together and evolved some ideas on how the new school should be organized.

First of all the parents want a say in the hiring of the teachers, and then frequent contact with them — perhaps by having them visit the homes of the students. It was also felt to be a good idea that they actually live in the development for a while, and get acquainted with the peculiar problems of the area.

All this would be necessary for the parents to be assured the teachers were doing their proper job. Due to the economic problems in the area, there is apparently a higher number of emotionally disturbed children, than in other parts of the city. This could cause special problems in handling the teaching and discipline of the children.

It was also suggested that schooling start earlier — perhaps at age three — with a possible boarding school set up so that the younger children would be provided with a varied environment at least during the week.

It was felt smaller classes — perhaps with 20 students — in the earlier grades would be a good idea, so that there would be more attention paid to the child in his formative years.

Holmeshaw said a portable classroom would be opened on the site October 26, and he would be available to see parents for one day and two nights a week for further discussions. He also suggested groups could visit other schools to see the latest learning facilities.

REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR REGENT PARK?

by Peter James

Walter Kehm, of Project Planning Associates, presented the landscape concept for North and South Regent Park to the Parks Committee at City Hall, October 29. The presentation was the result of an attempt by the Ontario Housing Corporation and the tenants of Regent Park to work out a scheme for landscaping the area. A diagram of the proposal appears to the right.

Positive suggestions during the meeting involved a recommendation by Aldermen Brown and Wardle that the possibility of underground parking be investigated.

Alderman Sewell felt that the best part of the plan was that people could participate in its development.

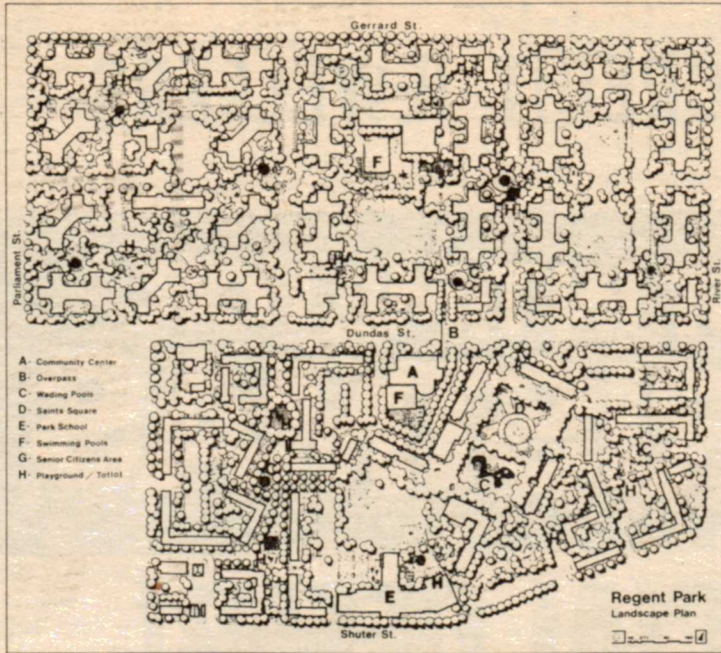
Walter Kehm, the planner, urged that Dundas St. not be widened; he felt the widening would seriously affect the environment by further separating the two halves of Regent Park.

Some discussion followed indicating that the committee was concerned about pedestrians, both children and adults, trying to cross Dundas St. At present the only proposed walkway is the rather spindly link by the community centre (see diagram, point B). Hopefully a more comprehensive look can be taken at integrating Dundas into its environment, perhaps by building over and under the roadway itself.

Small stores and shops within the buildings were also discussed, bringing up the point that "landscaping" should involve more than planting trees; at question are all the physical qualities that make up the area, both inside and out. What the tenants and OHC are looking into is really the whole environment of Regent Park.

During the discussion, it was suggested that the Social Planning Council be involved in the area. The response of Alderman Grys to this idea was that if they are involved, "you won't get the project going for 20 years," Mr. Grys later suggested that the area of Regent Park ought to be expropriated, but was reminded by Alderman Rotenberg that it was already publicly owned.

In reference to the proposed scheme, Mr. Kehm stressed that it was a concept only, and that some time would be required to develop it. Hopefully the committee will look below and above the trees, at all aspects of living in the area before the plan is completed.



How About Community T.V. For Ward 7?

by John Piper

A Ward can have a newspaper, a baseball team, a Ward Council, and elections, but how about its own community television channel? The implementation of Cable TV makes this a possibility; concerted action by the citizens of Ward 7 and the cablecaster in the Ward (Rogers Cable) can make it a reality.

Speaking at a Media Workshop on October 25th, Mr. Phil Lind, Director of Public Affairs with Rogers Cable TV, said the company is interested in investigating ways of involving residents of Ward 7 in planning and programming material for cablecasting to the Ward. Discussion centred around one time slot per week on a cable-casting channel.

A community-based organization known as Intercom is into a similar bag.

The idea of community television is that the community formulates its own programming and provides information, happenings, and feelings about and to itself on television.

Usually, community television works as follows: A Board or Committee representative of the community sets the policy and decides on the programming in conjunction with the various elements in the Ward. The Cable Company, or media producer, works with the Board and the community (a crew of professionals and residents) to package the programmes — programmes which are then cabled back to the community for viewing.

The number of possible programmes is limited only by the imagination and input of the people of the Ward and the physical restrictions of cablecasting: ball games, public

Community Programs at Holy Trinity

by Pat Moses

Holy Trinity Church in Trinity Square, which is part of early Toronto history, may be old in years but not in her approach. The main body of the church is now available, free, to any group in Toronto for programs of public interest.

Here is space with good sound equipment, cable coverage and a place to produce shows. Through "Intercom" it is hoped that community groups can produce their own programs. To help, a free publication will soon be available on "How to use Cable Television for Community Programs". With the experience and enthusiasm of Bruce Lawson, the Church and its programs will expand with community needs.

The first meeting took place October 28, with 150 people in attendance discussing the War Measures Act.

Starting November 5th and every Thursday at noon, a hot lunch at moderate cost will be served with informal one-hour discussions. People participate in a most relaxed atmosphere. The month of November is booked as a month to talk to your representative, or anyone else you meet there. William Archer will be there November 5; Karl Jaffary, November 12; and David Rotenberg, November 19.

For any extra information, contact Angie Pritchard at Holy Trinity Church, 362-2595.

meetings, education, services, and so on. The list could be endless, especially if everyone contributes their own ideas.

Interested citizens should get together and talk to Rogers Cable TV and Intercom. There's a vacuum with an offer to do something. Ward 7 can move to fill it.

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More About Drugs

The Chemical Society

by A.E. Kadry, M.D.

Dr. Kadry's article on The Chemical Society has been continued from the previous issue.

The whole phenomenon of drug prevalence in modern society, while in some aspects shocking and in its magnitude disturbing, can be understood in terms of sociological development. There is no doubt that the phenomenon is spreading — but why? is our society simply degenerating? As I see it, the reasons are a complexity of psycho-sociological factors:

a. Search for happiness

Throughout history man has laboured in the pursuit of happiness. Our ancestors found it through religion, the ancient Egyptians searched for it through building monuments, the Greeks sought it through philosophy, Romans pursued it through high living and orgies. In our modern established society, it was a combination of technological achievement and religion. But religion in its traditional form has lost contact with modern society and left a tremendous vacuum which had to be filled. Drugs have a quality which combines the spiritualism provided by religion and the intellectualism afforded by philosophy and makes hedonistic physical pleasures more accessible and better accepted.

b. Complexity of Modern Society

The pressures that accompanied the technological revolution with its complexity, dryness and lack of spiritual appeal, the rapidity of social change, the demands of everyday life which have proved to be too much for some to cope with have driven us to seek at least temporary escape through drugs.

c. Rebellion

The inherent lack of communication among generations is the foremost cause of rebellion. The young are almost compelled to challenge the values and modes that their parents have been unable to satisfactorily explain. Their struggle against parental authority takes the form of anti-social behaviour. Faced with parents who are emotionally dominant and physically stronger, one seeks subtler ways than frank violence to express his hostility. After all, it is much more dramatic and much easier to show one's father a needle mark on the arm than to slap him on the face. The Solution: The need for a new approach

Do not flush your valiums down the toilet and tear up your tranquilizer and diet pill prescriptions, because there is a distinct difference between drug use and drug abuse.

Do not feel guilty when you take that social drink, because to some people it is an essential part of a healthy social life. But also do not hasten to condemn your child who uses any other kind of chemical as a dirty unsalvageable degenerate. This only isolates him, widens the communication gap and provides him with further proof that his parents are squares who simply do not understand.

The do's and don'ts of social behaviour are no longer clear-cut. The "goods" and "bads" of morality are not as black and white as they seemed yesterday. We are faced with a critical, sophisticated generation which is not satisfied with simplistic answers and explanations. Above all, they do not tolerate hypocrisy and lies which we are drastically guilty of. In our search for easy solutions to a very complex situation we have resorted to telling partial truths. We have told kids that sex is dirty, marijuana sickens and speed kills. They have found out that this is not true and are unwilling to believe anything else we say. The medical profession has been particularly guilty of this.

Ignorance, shock and over-reaction are the worst enemies of those of us who are trying to deal with the chemical revolution. They only reveal our own inadequacies and we will do well to try and avoid them. Do not discuss the problem with your children unless you have full knowledge of all its aspects. Admit your ignorance if this is the case and put them in touch with someone who is in a better position to answer their often-times intricate questions.

Toronto is fortunate in having many well-organized, well-informed social agencies which have adequate experience in dealing with drug problems. These facilities are perhaps among the most sophisticated and most competent of any city in the world. In the next issue we will list these agencies with addresses, phone numbers and names of people to contact and we will discuss their various responsibilities and areas of competence.

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News in Brief

Seven News Editorial Staff Meeting, Thursday November 12, 7:30 p.m., 265 Gerrard St. E. (Parliament St. Library House.) Everyone welcome.

November 10, 8 p.m. is the next meeting of the Citizens' Forum at City Hall. Issues on the agenda are: Should Community Organizations have government support, and The Problem of Protecting Toronto's Vanishing Landmarks.

November 16, 8 p.m. 203 Sackville Green; RPCIA General Meeting to discuss approval of proposed redevelopment plan for Regent Park.

Dave Stanley was elected president of Regent Youth last week. Regent Youth is a recreation-education committee of RPCIA members living in Regent Park between the ages of 13 and 21 years. Elected with Mr. Stanley were: John Gillan, Vice-President; Marlene Canadian, Second Vice-President; and Timothy Estwick, Secretary. The group meets every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at 203 Sackville Green.

The House on Gerrard: Be part of the action. Folk and Poetry Series: Nov. 15, Cathy Arthur, Michael Foran, poets, and Natalie, folksinger; Nov. 29, Sol Mandlsohn and Rolf Harvey, poets, and Ken Stephenson, folksinger; Dec. 13, Bill Wilson and John Douglas, poets, and Ken Stephenson, folksinger; Dec. 27, Don Bailey and Jane White, poets, and Ron Komsky, folksinger. 265 Gerrard St. E., 8 p.m. \$1.00 admission. For further information, call 221-3890.

Workshop in Marriage Relations, St. Andrew's United Church, 117 Bloor St. E., November 28, all day; counsellors from the Toronto Institute of Human Relations. Cost: \$10.00 per couple. For further information call Rev. A.H. Harry Oussoren, 929-0811

A bazaar with a difference will be held on Sat. November 7, 12 noon — 8 p.m. at 831 Broadview Ave. (just north of the Broadview subway station). Sponsored by the Ancient and Mystical Order Rosae Crucis. There will be teacup reading, handwriting analysis, mystical books, delicious home baking, creative handcrafts, an old English tea room, etc. Everyone is welcome. No admission charge.

To celebrate the 82nd anniversary of the church, the Women's Association of St. John's Church (Broadview and Simpson) invites members and former East End friends to a luncheon after the morning service, Sunday Nov. 22. At 1:45 the church choir and organist will present a musical program, followed by an informal talk at 2:15 by Prof. Allan Farris (also the morning speaker), with music by the Riverdale Collegiate Concert Choir.

Glendon College Conference: Of interest to Ward 7 residents is a conference at Glendon College titled "The Urban Struggle". Scheduled for the weekend of November 13, 14, 15, the conference has been organized by students at the college who are concerned about city problems.

Topics to be discussed include pollution, transportation in urban regions, housing and community development. The organizers have set aside some free tickets to members of community groups so if you are interested in attending please phone 487-6189.

Writers' Workshop: Prose, poetry, musical compositions, stories, etc. We offer criticism, publishing ideas, friendship. Every Monday, 8 p.m. 297 Carlton St.

Art Workshop (for children 7-12): painting, drawing, making fun things with their hands. Every Monday 8 p.m. 297 Carlton St.

Meeting for the Committee of the Don Vale Community Centre: Thursday, November 12, St. Enoch's 8 p.m.

Hark! All ye minstrels and carollers. We are forming a group of wandering minstrels to spread Christmas cheer and song throughout the community. Get in touch with Ted Plantos — 922-7391 or 364-7859. No politics involved. Just FUN, or celebration, if you like!

Auditions and Rehearsals for Christmas Variety Show. At St. Enoch's Community Centre every Saturday 1 p.m. We are looking for all kinds of talent. Call 921-6710.

Rummage and Xmas Sale: Volunteers from 9 Winchester (a home for girls) between 12 and 3 p.m. Saturday November 21. All proceeds toward 9 Winchester.

The Trefann Working Committee has agreed to meet every two weeks. Dates for future meetings are Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 15, 29; 8 p.m. in Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach St.

Ward Council meetings coming up: Nov. 10, 24; Dec. 22; 8 p.m., Regent Park United Church.

General RCO Meeting, Monday Nov. 9; St. Joseph Parish Hall, 174 Leslie St. Alderman June Marks has been invited.

Education Committee of RCO is sponsoring area-wide action meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 8 p.m. at the Dundas St. School (near Boulton). Topics will cover the 4:30 deadline for TTC student tickets, and the 56" height limit. TTC Commissioners have been invited.

Neighbourhood groups meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10: Eastern Commerce Free Student Movement, 3:30 p.m. at St. Catherine's Church; DWT (Degrassi-West-Tiverton) Neighborhood Improvement Organization, 8 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church.

Bain Ave. Action Committee will meet Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Eucharist Church.

If your organization is holding a meeting or other function that you would like to announce in the next issue of Seven News, phone 922-9175 by Monday, November 16.

Burgers 29¢

BATTER QUEEN 478 Parliament St.

Book Review

by Norman Browne

Who Should Manage Public Housing? (Canadian Welfare Council, 55 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa 3, Ont.) Paper bound, 64 pages, \$1.50.

Last June a 3-day workshop was held in Pointe Claire, Quebec on the subject of management of Public Housing. The thirty people participating were equally divided between tenants and management and were drawn from the eastern region of Canada. Resource people were Mrs. Dorothy Thomas from the Tenant Management Committee of the Little Mountain Housing Project in Vancouver and Edward White Jr., executive Director of the New Haven Housing Authority in the USA.

The booklet, which is a transcript of the three day workshop, is interesting both for what it says and what it doesn't say. The tired cliché that "public housing tenants are not competent enough to run their own affairs," has at last been put to rest. With three public housing projects in Canada and far more in the USA being run partially or completely by tenants, the handwriting is on the wall.

Of course, for every cliché laid to rest, another pops in its place. Public housing officials now claim that they have to run public housing because only they are accountable, through the elected representatives who hire them, directly to the public.

An edited video-tape of the workshop is also available free from the Canadian Welfare Council and it is hoped that the OHC groups in Ward Seven will obtain a copy and stage a showing of the event.

R.C.O.

(cont. from p. 1 col. 5)

received.

This all meant that the Council was undecided. This indecision, said City Clerk C. Edgar Norris, meant that everything that was discussed in relation to RCO during the 6½ hours would be officially deleted from city records. It meant too that the City, while not supporting RCO was also not standing in the way of Federal Funds. And finally it meant that henceforth RCO will be proud of the way they conduct their meetings, in contrast to the performance of Council that night.

A delegation of about 35 people from RCO was in the public gallery during the evening session and heard Mayor Wm. Dennison again accuse the organization of attempting to over-ride elected officials and make threats of violence. "If they don't get their way there will be violence... They speak of solutions by whatever means are necessary" said the Mayor out of context.

In context the Riverdale Community Organization is saying that it is committed to work "by democratic process" — that is what community organization is. If goals aren't achieved by democratic process during this decade, community organization will have lost the day. The way will be open for new groups to arise and argue successfully that the time has come to work "by whatever means are necessary" to reach their goals. And regarding "over-riding elected officials", the RCO claims in a supplement to their brief that they do not "by-pass" or "over-ride" but "are getting ready so we can relate meaningfully and effectively to Aldermen".

Ward 7

Sports

Round-up

By Joe Ganny
210 Oak St. Apt. 306
363-6894



Banquets, congratulations and presentations are the order of events for this write-up, as the baseball season comes to an end. In the Mens League at Regent Park, Active Construction were the champions with trophies being presented to the following players: P. Marshall, N. Steiner, M. Bowler, J. Ellsmere, G. Chapman, F. Watson, B. McLellan, A. Dominique, J. Mulhall, L. Phillips, B. Stubbs, O. Stubbs, P. Bain, D. Mullett, E. Delaney, R. Ferguson, J. Matthews, and sponsor J. Delucry.

Most Home Runs In League was a tie between F. Locicero and D. Stubbs. Batting Champion with a .543 average was Geo. Chapman. The Runs-Batted-In Trophy went to F. Locicero with 15. Pitchers Trophy went to M. Trotter with six wins, no losses, and one tie. The Most Valuable Players are as follows: Active Const., Geo. Chapman; Ward Seven, M. Trotter; Shoppers Drug, G. MacDonald; Latimers Brokers, A. Deasley; Dexters Shell, J. Metcalfe; Langs Auto, G. Caruso. The League's Most Valuable Trophy went to Mr. Trotter who walked away with a total of three big trophies for his season's work on the mound. Congratulations to all who participated and many thanks to the League Convenor Mr. Les McCormick and the many people who worked so hard to make the banquet the success that it was.

The ladies held their special presentations on Friday, October 23 at the Baron Bying Legion and what a success it was, as the champions, Ernie's Roadrunners, picked up their trophies. Congratulations to the following gals: Ann Anderson, Ronin Parks, Pat Brooks, Brenda Reid, Debbie Strand, Carol Adley, Donna

Perry, Carol Smith, Pat Woods Diane Ferguson, Josie Lamonth, Coach Lloyd Kierstead, Manager R. Horniblow, and their sponsor Ernie Peer. The team that finished on top in regular-schedule games was Fine Line Stationery, who put up a terrific battle in the playoffs. Congratulations to all you gals. Winner of three individual awards was Mary Catherine Travers with a .675 average and the most runs batted in. There was a three-way tie in the home run department with Ann Anderson, Edie Ismaul, and Diane Kavanaugh picking up their trophies. A trophy was given out to Donna O'Brien of Peers Pets for the most stolen bases during the season. The leading pitchers award went to Brenda Reid, of the Roadrunners. The most valuable players are as follows: St. Barts, Doris Martin; Ernie's Roadrunners, Pat Brooks; Peers Pets, Charlotte Fraser; Fine Line Stationery, Diane Kavanaugh. Congratulations girls. The Most Improved Player awards went to the following girls: Regina LaCroix of St. Barts; Bev Forgrave of Peers Pets; Carol Smith of Roadrunners; and Margo Sarkisan of Fine Line Stationery. Special Award went to Margo Sarkison for the most errors in the league, but watch out for this girl next year as practice makes perfect. An Appreciation Award went to Brenda Reid from her team, the Roadrunners.



Seven News is a bi-weekly community-based newspaper. The office is located at 265 Gerrard St. E., phone 922-9175. Seven News does not support any political party or individual, and invites members of the community of all persuasions to write. The aim is to publish as much of what comes in as possible, but space limitations necessitate some selection of material. The opinions expressed in Seven News are the opinions of the individual writers and do not represent the views of the editorial staff or publishing organization. However, if any errors of fact are brought to our attention, we will print a suitable apology.

REPRIEVE FOR BERKELEY ST. FIREHALL



Seven News Photo by Charlotte Sykes

The beautiful firehall on the corner of Berkeley and Adelaide will not be torn down. Earlier this year, it seemed that a majority of City Council was going to favour demolition of this 100 year old building so that a sitting-out park could be provided. The ward aldermen argued that the building was too beautiful to be torn down, and that in any case, a park at this corner would serve no one. Accordingly, the Committee on Parks & Recreation, recommended that "the best recreational use of the property is to make it into a theatre". This was approved by the Executive Committee, and it appears that Council will not interfere with the recommendation.

The building, no longer used as a fire hall, will be leased at a nominal rent to the University Alumnae Dramatic Club, who will renovate it, and use it for a small theatre. Thus, not only will the building be saved, but it will become the first theatre in the ward.

E.T.D.C.

(cont. from p.1 col. 4)

the following dialogue:

Voice from back of Room: "Do you want a committee set up?"
Mr. Oxley: "No, not at this point. The purpose of this meeting was for the Planning Board to hear the reaction of the people to the East Toronto District Committee's proposal that this advisory board be set up."
Voice from back of the room: "Do you want us to make this decision for you tonight?"
Oxley: "Do you mean in the form of a motion?"
Voice: "Apparently you called the meeting; my friends and I have been here now for two hours. We were under the impression we were coming to see a physical layout, and to give our reaction to that physical layout. Apparently that is not so. Then I heard we were here to appoint some committee to advise the Planning Board about the East End. Fine! We'll go along with that. But now we ask about that and you say, 'No, that's not what we want'. What do you want us here for?"
Oxley: "The purpose of the meeting is to hear the public reaction to the proposal, explained by Mr. Sutton, that an advisory board be set up and funded by City Council. The only way the Planning Board can get any reaction is by going out and hearing what the people want to say."
Voice: "You haven't really

heard what the people have to say and if this is your method of finding out what the people want in Toronto, we're in trouble!"
Loud applause. Mr. Oxley replied that if anyone could come up with a better method, the Planning Board would appreciate it. (Now is your chance, folks, to do your bit for citizen participation!)

The pressure began to mount for a vote to accept the proposal put forward by the Toronto Eastern District Committee. By this time many had left, realizing nothing could be determined at such a meeting.

Alderman John Sewell, who earlier in the evening had refused to speak because he was there to listen, spoke up at this point, mentioning the 2½-hour meeting which had not noticeably clarified the issues to the audience. He thought it was unfair and wrong that a vote should be called at this time and suggested putting off any decision until a representative group, understanding what they were voting for, could get together at a future meeting. Others spoke along the same lines.

Amid an atmosphere of doubt, a motion was made to accept in principle whatever it was we were there for. The Yeas were in the majority. Did we vote to accept the complete proposal, a plan, a budget? Something seems to be lacking in communication.

CITIZENS' FORUM

by Vern Burnett

Immediately after the last Municipal election, a group of citizens felt that an informed public, supporting our newly elected officials, would tend to make Toronto a better city to live in, and so, the Citizens' Forum was formed.

Through the efforts of Alderman William Archer arrangements were made for the Forum to meet on a regular basis, in one of the City Hall committee rooms. For the first few meetings, coffee was served at his expense, and though this pleasant interlude has, of necessity, stopped, Alderman Archer's interest in the aims and objectives of the Forum continues. He is one of the regularly attending Aldermen.

Non-political in the sense that the Citizens' Forum is not affiliated with any political party, those who attend the meetings are politically oriented in their concern that the city is for people; they attend the Forum with the hope their Aldermen will be there to participate in a dialogue which might be of benefit to the representative and to those they represent.

There appears to be an unnatural fear of citizen groups on the part of the Aldermen, other than at election time; but the Forum is hopeful that in time, this fear will turn into co-operation between the elected and the electors.

There are a few Aldermen, namely, Aldermen Rotenberg, Archer, Sewell, Jaffary and Kilbourn, who apparently feel the contact with citizens is worthwhile, for they come out to

Forum meetings quite regularly.

I have seen Aldermen Ying Hope, Reid Scott, Anthony O'Donohue, Paul Pickett, Dave Crombie, Archie Chisholm and William Boychuk at meetings once or twice. We hope to see them more often.

The aims and objectives of the Citizens' Forum are to promote greater interest among the public in how their city is developed; to strive for a more politically informed electorate; to support, when deserving, the elected officials.

The following are some of the objectives the Forum has been instrumental in bringing before the public for discussion:

- (1) The *Planning Board* has previously been appointed by Council with no large-scale citizen participation. This year, City Council held the first public meeting to hear applicants chosen by citizens. No great shakes, but a step in the right direction.
- (2) A public meeting on the *Waterfront* was arranged by the Citizens' Forum. Held at St. Lawrence Hall, this meeting informed many of the importance of their waterfront, and was instrumental in forcing the topic into open discussion.
- (3) *The Belt Line* was another topic which drew a large crowd pro and con. Again the Forum helped stimulate interest in an area of major concern to the development of our city.
- (4) *The Ontario Housing Tenants*, met with representatives of the OHC at the Citizens' Forum to discuss the unfairness of the new leases. This meeting led to a better understanding of the existing problems, committees were set up, and the new leases are now

being worked upon.

(5) *Cherry Beach*, of particular interest to Ward Seven, was the subject for discussion at the last Forum. Many obstacles have blocked easy access to this beach, the main one being lack of any transportation facilities. In spite of this the beach has been used by area residents. At the Forum it was disclosed that though the sandy beach area has been cared for by the Parks Department, the Toronto Harbour Commission owns the land and it appears that their intent is to close Cherry Beach to the public.

The Toronto Harbour Commissioners' Act of 1911, has given extremely wide powers to this Corporation, run by six appointed officials. The blame for the ugly appearance of our Waterfront, probably lies with the Toronto Harbour Commission, who is not answerable to the wishes of the electorate.

Through the Citizens' Forum discussion a committee to save Cherry Beach has been formed; it is evident that if the Waterfront is to be returned to the public, there must be a public outcry. For further information, phone Dorothy Thomas, 691-2397.

The next meeting of the Citizens' Forum will be on *November 10th at 8 p.m.*: on the agenda will be the following two topics, plus the discussion of the City Council Agenda: (1) Should community organizations have Government support? and, (2) The vanishing landmarks of Toronto need protection. A representative of the Toronto Historical Board and Prof. James Acland, President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario are expected to attend. It's your Forum!

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