

# Need for community health centre to be explored by health survey

During the past 2 or 3 months, a small group of people, including some Don residents, have been working to put together a short health survey-questionnaire. Within the next two months, this health group plans to give the questionnaire to about 300 people in St. James Town, South of St. James Town, Don Vale, South of Carlton

and Moss Park.

One major purpose of the survey is to find out what are some of the big health needs and problems, and types of health services available and lacking in the Don. Another major purpose is to discover whether or not people feel they want or need a community health centre somewhere in the Don area.

People's answers to some of the survey questions should provide that information. A summary of the results of the survey will be published in 7 News.

Community health centres are a recent and increasingly popular development in the delivery of health care services. Both Regent

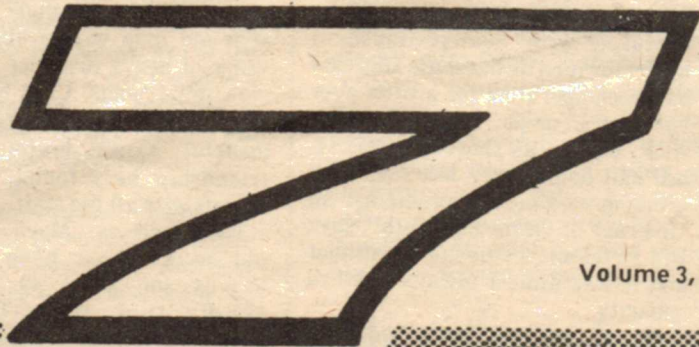
Park and Riverdale are about to set up their own health centres, which will be controlled by the community. Recently, a special Federal Government report called "Community Health Centres in Canada" has been published. It strongly supports such health centres. (You can probably get a free copy from Information Canada

at Yonge and Dundas.)

Right now, the health group needs more local volunteers to help with the interviewing. So, if you've got a few spare hours during the next few weeks and want to help, just call or leave a message for: Mike Farris or Don Weitz at the Don Vale Community Centre (921-6710).

## TWELVE PAGES °

We may go to 12 pages next issue so we need lots of articles and letters. Get them in soon. Next editorial meeting will be Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. at 80 Winchester St. Deadline for the next issue is Monday noon Nov. 6.



# NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
265 GERRARD STREET EAST

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October 28, 1972



The South St. James Town Tenant's Union have opened an office at 540 Ontario Street as a further tactic to prevent Meridian from taking possession

and demolishing the house. The office will also serve as a central focus and meeting place for the tenants in the area. (Photo by BILL RENO)

## Jaffary explains City land gifts

by KARL JAFFARY

There has been a lot going on at City Hall as the developers try to get all of their projects approved before the election. Most of the action has therefore centered on three very big projects—Metro Centre, the Royal Bank Building and the Bank of Montreal Building.

I got into a ruckus over the Royal Bank building because it looked to me as if the City was giving \$400,000.00 away to the Bank. The Bank wanted to buy a little street called Piper Street and build on it. The City Real Estate Department said the land was worth a minimum of \$157.28 per square foot, or about two and one half million dollars. David Rotenberg recommended selling for just over two million, and refused to acknowledge that City Real Estate had given any opinion as to value. The scuffle took place when I lost my temper and threw the evidence of Rotenberg's misleading statements on the table, after which Mayor Dennison hit me. When he started to fall over backwards, I grabbed him, and the whole thing was then badly blown up by the press. I'm sorry it happened, and I shouldn't have lost my temper, but I don't like seeing the taxpayers' sold out to the tune of \$400,000.00, and I don't like to hear David Rotenberg saying things that are untrue and that he knows are untrue.

The Royal Bank building was small potatoes compared to Metro Centre. There the City is trading land with the railways. John Sewell estimates that the City is losing 56 million on the deal. I don't know how much the city is losing, but I think Sewell is at least partly right. The disgusting thing was that the City has NO appraisals of the lands being traded, so nobody knows whether the City is losing money or not. I tried to get City Council to defer the final decision on the trade until we got appraisals, but only four or five people thought that was worth doing. Maybe the City loses 56 million. Maybe, as I suspect, it loses about 25 million. Maybe, as Rotenberg says, the whole thing is a good

deal. Nobody will ever know, not even Rotenberg, because nobody has ever appraised the land.

There wasn't much anyone could say about the Bank of Montreal's building, at Bay and King. It is going to be 70 stories high, and will make the Toronto-Dominion Centre look like a shed. I'm glad to say that eight of us voted against it on the grounds that it was just too big. As is usual in these cases, there was no study of the project by the City Planners.

Two things have particularly affected Ward 7. One involves Dundas Street. City Council is on record as opposing any widening of Dundas Street, and most of the arguments were about the part between Bay and Yonge, beside the new Eaton Project. On October 17th Metro Council agreed that there would be only four through lanes of Dundas Street between Bay and Yonge.

However, the day before, on October 16th, the Metro Transportation Committee approved an eventual widening of Dundas to six lanes between Jarvis and Spadina. We all know what that will lead to. At least nobody is proposing an early start on it all.

The other Ward 7 issue involved Fred Braida's proposed two apartment towers on Sherbourne north of Dundas. The Municipal Board killed that project, on the grounds that the City couldn't call the roof of a commercial building "landscaped open space". That seemed sensible to us, but City Council has voted to appeal the decision to the Ontario Court of Appeal. There was some discussion of it all at the South of Carlton Working Committee on October 10th because Mr. Braida was considering demolitions and people wanted to know what he might build. It became clear that Mr. Braida would have to consult with some other people before a final decision was made, but he did say that he, personally, would recommend no demolitions until a building permit was issued for some new project. The Working Committee passed a motion requesting Mr. Braida not to demolish until he had a building permit.

## WILL MONEY WIN?

# Ward election hinges on the uncommitted

by NORMAN G. BROWNE

The outcome of the aldermanic elections in Ward Seven could be a key factor in determining the future makeup and direction of City Council for the next 3 years.

And because of its key position, the Aldermanic fight in Ward Seven promises to be one that is hot and heavy.

Ward Seven is important because at present it's aldermen, John Sewell and Karl Jaffary form the core of the reform-opposition at City Council.

Should they be defeated, and the make-up of City Council remain substantially unchanged after the election, then the reform-opposition movement could quite easily wither and die.

Should reformers be elected across the city but not in Ward Seven, the new aldermen at City Hall could find themselves leaderless and unprotected.

Ward Seven is also key because in it have been fought some of the biggest battles against continued high-rise redevelopment. Sewell and Jaffary have naturally fought in these battles and in the process incurred the wrath of Phillip Roth, executive vice-president of Meridian.

Mr. Roth has pledged to support any credible candidate who will run against Sewell and Jaffary. Richard Kirkup, who is running against Sewell and Jaffary was at first reported offered \$5,000 by Meridian towards his campaign and this figure has since been raised to \$11,000.

Two other potential candidates, Don Ray and Frank Faubert have said that they had been approached by developers to run in Ward Seven in an effort to oust Jaffary and Sewell. Both have so far declined.

The only other serious contender for the aldermanic posts at stake in Ward Seven is variety store owner Sam Rotenberg who announced that he would be a candidate last week.

It is interesting to note the factors that will make this election different from the last one. First of all, in the last election Jaffary and Sewell were largely unknowns, elected on "speculation" after a strong campaign.

In this election, both are very well known after three years at City Hall and it is quite likely that there would be very little difference in the votes they would get if an election were held today as against a month from now.

The second big factor is the non-voters or "uncommitted". Jaffary and Sewell were elected by only 10% of the electorate. They were each elected by a little over 5,000 votes. There were 4,000 votes against each of them.

But there were 37,587 voters who didn't vote at all—66% of the electorate.

The coming Ward Seven aldermanic election could quite easily be a battle between money (supplied by developers to oust Sewell and Jaffary) and manpower (which is relatively all that Sewell and Jaffary have at their disposal.)

And it could be a fight for the uncommitted, apathetic voter.

## Free athletic leadership course offered at Woodgreen

A generous grant from the Province of Ontario Youth and Recreation branch has made it possible for Woodgreen Community Centre to offer a Community Athletic Leadership Training Programme.

The purpose of this special project is to develop a community athletic leadership resource which will enable the development of sports activities on a broad community base.

Participants will be provided, free of charge, with a complete course in athletic leadership and teaching skills. The course will take one evening a week for 40 weeks. Those satisfactorily completing the course will receive an Athletic Leadership Certificate.

There are a limited number of openings in this training programme for members of either sex both in the youth section (ages 16 to 19) and in the adult section. Preference will be given to community residents.

For more information contact Morry Macleod at Woodgreen Community Centre, 835 Queen St. E., phone 461-1168.

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## Seaton Detox Unit to relocate in area

by DON WEITZ

Last Friday, the Seaton "Detox" Unit at 325 George Street died. It closed down because of "a staff shortage", according to Bill Peterson, coordinator of Detoxification and Rehabilitation for the Addiction Research Foundation (ARF) in Ontario. The Seaton Unit was conveniently located next door to the City Welfare Department.

The Seaton Unit (not to be confused with Seaton House, a hostel for men at the same address) had been operating for a little over two years, under the direction of ARF. During its short life, this 14-bed unit helped over 2000 men with drinking or alcoholic problems: an "average of 100 men a month", says Bill Peterson, came for treatment and it was almost always filled to capacity.

Bot Carpen, an ARF staff person at the unit, stated the unit's chief purpose was "... to detox the guy and get him sobered up." He added that most of the men who walked through its doors were "skid-row types, they have no place to go; they all say they want to get off booze, they were free to leave anytime." Whenever a bed was vacant, a man could walk in anytime, day or night, stay a day to a week but many returned soon after hitting the streets. A minority of men voluntarily came in by themselves (about 20%); most were referred by social agencies or brought in by the police.

The Seaton Unit offered alcoholic men medical care as well as psychological and social support, and it was all free. For example when a man walked in off the street, the staff gave him a bed, clean clothes, pyjamas, and three meals a day. If necessary, some men were also sent to St. Michael's Hospital for special medical or emergency treatment. The ARF staff also offered individual counselling every day and group discussions three times a week.

Before being discharged from the Unit, many men were referred to ARF or St. Michael's Hospital for further treatment or counselling, or to AA. Although the Unit itself did no follow-up, referral to and from

St. Mike's was relatively easy and efficient because of the Unit's close working relationship with the hospital.

Both the two staff people and three former patients I talked with unanimously agreed that **LONELINESS** was the biggest problem facing men with drinking problems (It's a common problem throughout Ward 7 and most cities.)

Take Gil, for example. He's a 46 year old man with a history of 20 years of heavy drinking, alone and with few friends. Gil's been in the Unit "2 or 3 times"; he sounded thankful, almost grateful for the friendship he's found. "I made friends with all the staff."

Then there is "Mac", a 56 year old man who's been drinking heavily for about 40 years. He simply told me, "This is a wonderful place," but his slow, depressed tone of voice and bleary-eyed, piercing look spoke thousands of words. He added, "We need more half-way houses." (There are only two halfway houses in Toronto, one run by ARF at 10 Madison Ave., and Renascent House at 39 Beattie Ave.)

In its current expansion program, which has city and provincial support, ARF plans to open 5 more detox centres in Toronto (for a total of 6, including the all-male, 18 bed Central-West End detox unit which Toronto Western Hospital has been operating over a year on Ossington Ave., near Queen St.). ARF plans, according to Bill Peterson, to open 10 detox units in Ontario within the next two or three years; each will be run as a "satellite clinic" of a local general hospital with a half-way house attached to it. ARF's chief role will be to train and develop the detox staff.

A detox is scheduled to open in December or early next year to replace the Seaton Unit. It will be located somewhere in the Don, administered and staffed by St. Michael's Hospital as an extension of its Outpatient Department. It also will have 20 beds, but for men only. The latest word is that Sister Ann-Marie Carey will be its Director.

Of course, the openings of these detox units and half-way houses is good news, because this city—especially Ward 7—has always been in desperate need for many, more humane treatment facilities where people with serious drinking problems (and there are thousands) can get the medical, psychological and social help they need without fear of being rejected and preached to (which unfortunately still happens).

Yet, despite the fact that the new ARF-Dundas St. detox will accept and provide beds for 6 women and the fact that there are now 8 beds available for women at Streethaven, there still are not enough beds and treatment facilities for women alcoholics in this city.

For example, if it weren't for Streethaven (87 Pembroke St., just west of Sherbourne between Gerrard and Dundas), women alcoholics in the Don or Ward 7 would have no humane place to "dry out". So, women with serious drinking problems are still being therapeutically deprived or discriminated against. Although it is common knowledge that there are many more men than women alcoholics (about "22,000" men and "900" women were arrested last year for drunkenness), ARF Coordinator Bill Peterson believes the 6 beds for women at the Dundas detox should be sufficient for all women in Toronto.

## Letter protests confrontation at City Hall

Dear Sir:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a telegram that we sent to Mayor William Dennison after his confrontation with Alderman Karl Jaffary.

We would like your readers to know that there are many of us in Ward 7 who will not condone this kind of outburst.

Yours truly  
Walter Pajak, Pres.

Home Owners for High Density  
South of St. James Town.

(I imagine that there are a lot of residents of Ward Seven who are getting sick and tired of having their Ward Aldermen physically attacked by other members of City Council. - The Editor.)

**7 NEWS**

SEVEN NEWS is a bi-weekly community-owned newspaper. Its mailing address is 265 Gerrard St. E., phone 368-5101. 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.

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## JUSTICE

## A law for the rich and a law for the poor

A LEGAL COLUMN  
by PHILIP ZYLBERBERG

Anatole France, a French philosopher, once said that "The law, its majestic impartiality, forbids the rich as well as the poor, to sleep under bridges, beg for bread, and steal purses." That is just as true today as it was 100 years ago. The content of the law protects property above all. Rich people feel no need to steal small things, yet poor people often need them to survive. Theft is, though, one of the most serious offences in the Criminal Code. In itself it carries quite a number of years: when combined with breaking and entering, it carries 14; when combined with weapons, it can carry life imprisonment with it (and, until July of this year, whipping).

## KEEP POOR IN PLACE

The fact that the criminal system is designed to keep the poor in their place is made even more obvious by going down to the courts to find out where people come from. Almost all of them come from poor parts of town, primarily from the Don District, but also from the Spadina area and Parkdale. This is because life is more violent to Cabbagetowners than it is to Forest Hill residents. There are more theft oriented crimes as people that need are more likely to steal than people who have (within the legal definition). There are more assaults, because it is harder on the poor in this society than on the rich, and you are likely to turn out more bitter. There are more drug cases, both because the police are not as interested in searching mansions as in searching hovels, and because when the school channels you into a life without much possibility for advancement and for satisfaction, when there isn't all that much to eat, and when you're stepped on at work, etc., you are more likely to want to find oblivion than other people. There are more prostitutes, as women who have sufficient other financial resources are less likely to charge.

There are also direct ways in which the content of the law will mean harassment for Cabbagetown offenders but not for wealthier offenders. Rich alcoholics have nice homes to drink in, while the skid row kind have only the streets and sometimes the bars. They are therefore a lot more likely to be picked up as common drunks than wealthy alkie. Wealthier prostitutes will generally have their clientele come to them, diminishing the chance of arrest, while prostitutes in our area have to hang around the bars and the restaurants, which is a lot more dangerous.

## HARASSMENT BY POLICE

Not only is the content of the law aimed at keeping the working class down, but its administration is also very biased. A whole variety of factors serve to favour one class over the other. First, police in poor areas tend to be rougher. Because youngsters are more likely to have a record for the reasons talked about above, the police are more likely to know them and they are more likely to get arrested again. I myself have been stopped at street corners in Cabbagetown by police who just want to harass me. Indeed, police presence and a certain degree of harassment is part of the everyday life style of the working class.

Once arrested, poor people are likely to spend more time in jail before trial. The court has to decide whether to release you or to hold you on bail. The factors involved in this decision include your previous record, the crime complained of (what about "innocent until proven guilty?"), and the type of environment to which you will be released. If you will return to an area the judge feels uneasy about, like Ward 7, then that goes to whether you'll stay in. Also, bail is highly unfair. A rich person can raise it and go free, while a poor person will just sit in jail until trial. It's an organized and sanctioned way of buying your way out of prison. Many poor people plead guilty because they can't afford bail and don't want to wait in the Don until their trial. Further, it takes 5 or 6 court appearances until your trial if you choose to plead not guilty. Each of those involves missing a day or a good part of a day from work, for which you are not recompensed. This is fine for the boss or even for the professional, but very difficult for the ordinary worker.

## COURT TRIALS BIASED

Once your trial comes up, there is still bias. Certain witnesses are more likely to be believed than others, and these will be people towards whom the judge feels more warmth and sympathy. Since the judge was once a lawyer, and therefore probably came from a well to do family, and since he is earning over \$20,000 a year, he will have more in common with a rich witness or accused person. Also, the judge will have sympathy with young people from and moving into the richer classes, and not want to spoil their lives with a conviction. An example: over the summer I was arrested for common assault. I defended myself and did a fairly poor job. When it came to the judgment, the magistrate first told me that he didn't feel my witness' testimony had been very valuable. However, I had stated in my testimony that I was a law student. He felt that it would probably cost me my career to get a conviction, and he therefore dismissed the charges. Would this have happened for a son of a welfare mother whose career was to be a factory worker?

And next, there is sentencing. Often this takes the form of a fine. Fines are not imposed in proportion to what you can afford; they are imposed by the judge for other reasons. There's often a flat rate from a particular judge for a particular offence. Possession of small amounts of marijuana usually costs you about \$125 in fine. Now, someone who earns \$10,000 a year can pay \$125 a lot easier than someone who collects welfare and earns \$115 a month, or \$1380 a year, but the fine is still the same.

## PAROLE LESS LIKELY FOR POOR

If not fined, you may be jailed. Jail terms are not always served to the end, though; you may be paroled. Parole boards have very wide discretion as to when to parole you, and some of the factors they look at are your family situation and the environment to which you will return. Families in Cabbagetown break up very often, as the pressures of poverty are often too much for a family to take. Also, if you will be returning to an area with a lot of crime, i.e. any poor area, you are less likely to get paroled.

## Don Vale Community Centre to be controlled by tenants under new plan

by Norman G. Browne

Despite objections by a local minister, who works in the area, the Don Vale Community Centre board of directors has approved a plan that would cut down the amount of community participation and control in the running of the Centre.

The original plan presented to a meeting held recently called for each of the ten groups working out of the building to appoint one member to the board of directors and seven more members, including the chairman, would be elected at large.

Reverend John Metson of the Christian Resource Centre pointed out that this would effectively put control of the Centre in the hands of its tenants.

Outgoing board member Norman Browne said there was nothing wrong with this concept provided that people recognised that the building was no longer a community centre but rather a community office building co-operatively run by its tenants.

After considerable discussion, it was decided to modify the original proposal slightly so that 8 people would be appointed by projects in the building and 9

people would be elected at large.

Rev. Metson also strongly urged that the appointees be users of the services of the project rather than staff members of the projects.

The groups using the building who are now required to appoint a member to the Board of Directors are: Don Vale Youth Project, Seven News, Don Vale Co-operative nursery, Crunch Employment Service, Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Parole and Injured Workman's Consultants.

Following the approval of this plan, nominations were held for the post of Chairman and 8 members-at-large from the community. Nominated for the post of Chairman was Leith Piper. Nominated as members at large were: Bob Katz, Mary Agnew, John Barber, George Hill, Barry Morris and David Mercer.

Nominations are still open and can be made in writing or at the beginning of the election meeting which will be held at 8 p.m. on November 9th at the Community Centre, 80 Winchester St.

## Meridian highrise tenants feel attacked by articles on South of St. Jamestown

Dear Editor:

The average inhabitant of the St. Jamestown complex probably feels as alienated to the trials and tribulations of South St. Jamestown, as do the people living in other parts of the city. Once one's own interests and desires are significantly satisfied, seldom does the individual look to help others satisfy their self interests.

Within the fortified walls of Meridian's towering structures, the likelihood of responsiveness to the plights and frustrations of those south of Wellesley, are extremely small. How many inhabitants of South St. James Town ever shop south of Wellesley and Parliament? Except for the liquor and beer stores on Parliament, few probably find any reason to leave the inner city Meridian has created for them.

The feeling seems to be that an article written against the developers of St. Jamestown, also creates a feeling of being against the people that live there. When something is said against Meridian it is also taken as being anti-St. Jamestown.

The people of St. Jamestown have closer contacts with Meridian than with South St. Jamestown. They live in their buildings, swim in their pools and attend their YMCA programs, etc. One of the reasons for speaking out against Meridian is because they are high rise developers. They also represent a

style and a way of living. There are people living in those high rise dwellings.

Therefore it would almost seem that any articles written against Meridian and high rises are also written against the tenants of St.

Jamestown.

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— Tenants in St. Jamestown are welcome to write articles for us praising Meridian. — The Editor)



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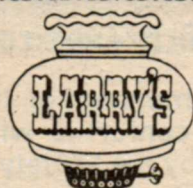
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# The Open Door women's drop-in is a pleasant place to visit

"THE OPEN DOOR" Centre at All Saints' Church (corner Sherbourne and Dundas Sts.) has been in operation for nine months (since the beginning of February) and is now well established. The quiet, peaceful, pleasant atmosphere makes it a nice place to visit, just for a little rest, a cup of coffee and a chat with someone. Here, there are people to talk things over with if you have a problem and want some friendly advice or help.

The Centre was opened with the Ladies in mind, and is a Women's drop-in. The card tables are attractively covered and set up in cafe style, while the two lounge areas have couches, comfortable chairs and coffee tables. The workers do their best to make the Ladies feel welcome and wanted, and will give them their personal attention if they require it.

The program is very casual, and one can watch T.V., play a game of cards, scrabble, etc., or just sit and read or rest. Every morning at 10.30 A.M. the Ladies can join in the Yoga exercises followed by a friendly cup of coffee. On Monday afternoons, there is someone to trim and set hair, (shampoo at home, please). Tuesday afternoons

at 1.30 P.M. a card party is held for anyone wishing to play, while Thursday afternoons are given over to a friendly game of Bingo.

A Rooms Registry Service in the Centre keeps listings of rooms, flats, & apts. for rent, to help tenants find a place to live and phone calls from landlords who have clean rooms, flats, apts. or houses for rent at reasonable prices, are welcomed. The phone number is 366-4319, and the service is free of charge and available to anyone who needs it.

Free Legal advice can be obtained on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m., and The Mobility Counselling Service have a representative here to help people from the Atlantic Provinces who need help or advice - Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

The Centre is happy to welcome any of the Ladies of the Community and would be pleased to hear of any constructive ideas as regards new programs they might be interested in.

## Don Vale residents to elect executive

Janet Howard was elected President of the Don Vale Homeowners and Residents Association at a general nominating meeting held recently.

Also elected to executive posts were Ellinore Moore as Vice-president, Debbie Samuel as Corresponding secretary, Marg Haliburton as Recording secretary and Duncan McPhee as treasurer.

There was no competition for these jobs and all were acclaimed to their posts.

A total of 18 people were nominated to fill the 15 positions for members - at - large. Nominated were: Tom Wickett, Norman Browne, John Barber, Bruce Lawson, Peter Akehurst, Maureen Morrison, Catherine Wolfe, Diana MacArther, John Wilcox, Peter Oosthurzen, Kate Stevens, Gillian Brooke, Fran Chadwick, John Barrie, Tom Wilson, Brian Milan, Pat Walker and Michael Yates.

Elections for these positions will

take place at a general meeting to be held at 8 p.m. on Nov. 8 at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester St. All Don Vale residents have a right and a privilege to attend and take part in the meeting.

## THE POOR

*Years ago the poor were told  
they were the needy  
then a little later  
they became the under privileged  
and now  
they are the culturally deprived  
and tomorrow they will be  
the disadvantaged  
tho' they will still have  
no more cash  
and it seems  
if you sit on top  
of the mountain  
you can't help  
but get  
an elevated  
education.*

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# Sewell book is passionate, prophetic and searing

UP AGAINST CITY HALL

by John Sewell

Published by James Lewis  
Samuel

REVIEWED BY BARRY MORRIS

I took "Up Against City Hall" to read on a long-hoped-for trip into part of Quebec's wilderness. By the camp-fire, then by candlelight in tents and cabins, I pored over the long galley pages provided for me by the publisher.

I say this for while the desire to read in rain and even snow flurries was low, Sewell's intense autobiography on his entire political venture as one of our Ward 7 aldermen was too much to put aside.

Once into the first paragraph of the preface, I was on the John Sewell journey, equal to the canoe trip (compliments of Hugh Taggart and Family) that Marc and I were struggling to realize.

"It would be nice to say that I wanted all my life to be a politician. That, of course, isn't the case. Looking back on my last six years, it appears that I am on a tangent from the real course I had set for myself, namely to be a man of reflection, a man of letters. I still think of returning to that state, although it is becoming more and more impossible. I feel I am caught in a maelstrom that I must see out, no matter where it carries me." (From preface.)

**There is much to think deep and hard over, in just this first paragraph. Immediately we hear John speaking to his constituents, who have come to think of him as our dedicated radically self-giving, super-ordinary man at City Hall.**

On a deeper vein, John opens his inner self, at once, to his host of critics - for every Sewell action has had bitter, equally forceful reactions. If John has, indeed, been on a "tangent" from his original purposes in life, then his Ward residents, and most strongly the whole city of Toronto, have been recipients of the unexpected; maybe the unintentional and the undeserved as well.

Nevertheless, "Up Against City Hall" is more: the nine chapters cover many trails and many pit-falls (John's early optimism and naiveness of what to try to expect at City Hall). It marks out for the reader, just how John has come to stand forth in his appointed role as a searing, relentless prophet among, but also to the politicians and their self-annointed well-preserved power structures.

One must use the label prophet carefully. On two points, John demonstrates the force and the passion of a prophet. First, he unmasks the demons that make for evil control and unjust decisions, favoring only the chosen few. The three specific, well-documented chapters on "Metro Centre: The Railway Swindle" (Ch. 6), "The Grys Affair: A finger in the Pie" (Ch. 7), and on "South St. Jamestown: The Fist of Meridian" (Ch. 8) come down crushingly hard on where and how, the City Hall club reeks of cancerous selfishness.

**Through Sewell's patient probings, however, and with solid help from trusted allies, the scalpel unveils the tumorous growths of David Rotenberg, Bill Dennison, Ben Grys and Phil Roth.**

**You emerge from these chapters feeling the sweat and the smell of ripped open skin.**

The second purpose a prophet serves, once having specifically debunked or uprooted a shallow, corrupt state of men and their affairs, is to point the way. This is when the guns come firing back - for non-repenting sinners, after their pronounced judgements, either change or lash back with maximum vengeance. To this extent, it is no accident or mere exceptional outburst of temper that Ald. Horace Brown or Mayor Bill Dennison are two of the most self-righteously hurt but nonetheless violent enemies of Sewell.

**Both men, once strained after the hard ideals of democratic socialist politics, and then fell in sweet love**

**with the flowery gimmickry of soft City Hall politicking. Neither are open or willing to change; so they must lash the man who is the too-near - symbol of their judgment.**

For John to point the more just, patient, democratic way is, at once both his skill and his chief source of frustration. It is his skill, because he patiently worked with Trefann Court people on a slow but sure door-to-door, small group meeting basis. His digging out detailed information for every question on people's minds, gave an early vision of what people could do. (Though at the time, Sewell honestly had stubborn differences on how to help people to change their life style.)

"I chose the role of someone who regards people as the best interpreters of their own interests and who assists them in whatever way is possible to implement their decisions and achieve the things they want. This is quite different from saying that you will work for people and assist them only when you and they agree completely not only on goals but on the means, or from insisting that they do things your way in return for getting your resources and assistance."

Alas, to illustrate alternatives - thereby, out-bidding the seriously theatrical skills at City Hall - has been at the centre of the brooding heart of Sewell. The guts of chapter five, "Working out a Strategy" cover a number of examples of the freshman Alderman pushing and stretching to forge better and saner ways to justice politics.

On development issues, Sewell urged the creation of working committees of all parties and people concerned, and on some proposals, he showed precisely where the project could benefit people (vs. quick profits) more. At the Building and Development Committee meetings, John introduced a short, useful form, listing crucial points for elected politicians to consider (eg. "Have residents been consulted?" "Will tenants be compensated for displacement costs?" "Will there be a net reduction in the stock of low-income housing in the area?")

**However, here too, the prophet aflame in Sewell ran into entrenched stubbornness:**

"The public had an inkling of what was going on. It began to occur to me that perhaps I was not really hitting the key issues... who were the politicians working for? Comparec to that issue

everything else was peripheral. If I talked about that, maybe people would begin to see what was really happening at City Hall... perhaps they would begin organizing against it since the enemy would be easily identified."

**On this theme, the turning of energies on the corrupters of what should be open, democratic decision-making, John stimulated the real creation of an alert, up-front opposition:**

"I saw it as a polarization - a drawing of lines which would force the other politicians to stand on one side or the other. I hoped to polarize things to such an extent that there would be no middle into which the weaker or smoother aldermen could drift. The argument would be based mainly around planning issues, and would have two prongs: that different treatment was given to middle-class and working class communities, and that most politicians supported developers as against citizen groups. Both prongs would help tie me to people - the former to the working class base of Ward 7, the second to community groups throughout the city - and that in turn would provide the organizing base which I felt I lacked. I could then begin to assume a position which approached that of a delegate who was instructed to carry out certain tasks."

**In this nutshell, we hear John Sewell's philosophy and practice. And from this springs hope.**

But the prophet's life can be a terribly and dangerously alone task. Standing smack in the heat of heavy controversy, forcing every day contradictions into the open, the man can be cut off from needed, self-critical support.

**Sewell senses this utterly basic dilemma - indeed, Up Against City Hall is also Up Against Myself.**

Comparing the possible horror of selling out like the once radical Bill Dennison, John writes:

"I took it that the innumerable teas and cocktail parties, the secret conferences, and the ever present advice, had worn down all his (Dennison's) defences; and rather than appear vulnerable and weak, he simply left himself in the good graces of the industry. Surely the pressures were great enough that I could not expect to stand alone and remain unmoved by this power. (Therefore)... politicians like myself who want to make change, must have a base, a strong group of people they are responsible to... The



way to survive, I have found, is to be responsible to definable groups of citizens who tell me what to say on their behalf... As an Alderman, I represent real people and do what they want after they have had a chance to discuss it among themselves. Democracy isn't about "the common good" or the developers' good, but rather about having a voice in decisions so that politicians do what they want."

One could raise criticism of John's philosophy at this point. For instance, can an Alderman easily figure out which citizen group to listen most to, assuming that groups do disagree? (homeowner groups do not easily, or often support tenant's or roomers' interests).

What happens when resident groups oppose a good idea - like the East York group that opposed an experiment in the treatment of law offenders by the Law Reform Commission of Canada? What does a politician do in the stark, naked absence of any organized citizen groups? Must he hope what he does is really for the good of the issue or crisis?

**Sewell knows of these frustrations. Yet I feel long lonely**

walks are ahead for our alderman. Hopefully, concerned persons will give John their tested and tried experience. And hopefully the methods and lessons of mass organizations like Riverdale Community Organization will come home clearer and help balance off the individual agonies of a Sewell. Finally we hope that he will endure in the truth he has held true to - the people of his ward:

"... I see the duty of a politician to do as much as he can to encourage strong groups of citizens to get involved: they can challenge those who are making decisions, and take on that function themselves."

This book is worth anyone's energy since almost every page of Up Against City Hall is filled with the immense detail of John Sewell's passion.

**Sewell asks the intense, rhetorical question - the question asked by every thinking Torontonian - will we be able, ever, to love our city and justice... too?**

(Barry Morris is a United Church Minister who works full-time as a community worker in the Don District of Ward Seven.)



A fascinating behind-the-scenes documentary of Toronto city politics. Toronto's most controversial aldermen records what really happened in some of the most important civic issues of the last three years. He provides the first-ever account of the Grys affair, including details of Ben Grys's fascinating court testimony. He exposes the brutality of Meridian in their dealings with South of St. Jamestown tenants. The full extent of what he has called the Metro Centre "land swindle" is spelled out.

In *Up against City Hall* John Sewell's last three years on city council are put in the context of his upbringing in The Beaches and his initiation into city politics as a community organizer in the Trefann Court area.

## Up against City Hall by John Sewell

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# Hey, Mom!

A CHILD CARE COLUMN  
by CATHERINE VERRALL

Home-made toys can be as good for the child as expensive, store-made ones - and more fun for you, because you did it yourself, from scraps. So start hoarding precious junk, such as:

**SPOOLS** (empty). Paint with enamel (indoor) or acrylic paint, as many colours as you can get, or mix. Or let sit in non-toxic dye such as used for Easter eggs.

(1) Spool-Toy (for under-2's) String spools on elastic tape, knotted to make a ring, or arranged in a clown figure. A large bell, or leather tassles, securely fastened, make it more interesting.

(2) Beads (for 2, 3, 4's) The child can string the spools onto a shoelace. The hard threading end can be lengthened by dipping in melted wax.

(3) Spool-board Onto piece of wood (at least 7/8" thick, and whatever shape you can find), hammer nails (small head), in rows, far enough apart for spools to fit side by side. Child can arrange spools on nail-pegs.

**TIN CANS**, various sizes to fit inside each other (at least 5 widths are in common use). Smooth edge with a good can-opener. Paint with enamel paint. (If you make the cans all the same colour, the child has to really pay attention to the different sizes, without using colour clues, to nest or pile the cans.) Clothespins (painted the same colours as tins), can be clipped onto the edges. Spools (or bottle caps) can be dropped inside.

**CLOTH SCRAPS**

(1) Felt Board Cover one side of board (thin wood or heavy cardboard) with plain flannelette (fasten with tape or glue on back). Cut interesting shapes from felt scraps (best) or cloth, such as strips, circles, triangles, squares, capital letters... use your ingenuity. Child can arrange his own designs.

(2) Collage Box Gather variety of cloth, or paper, with interesting "feel" (texture), such as velvet, sandpaper. Cut into various shapes. Child can glue these onto cardboard (cut from several boxes), with paste (powdered wallpaper paste; mix only a little at a time).

One Christmas holiday, we had eight solid days of rain. But our three young children were happy and busy—and learning—the whole time. Playing with their fancy presents? No indeed! They were cutting up old catalogues, arranging the people and furniture in pretend homes, all over the floor. All they needed was blunt scissors, old catalogues, a few boxes, a wastebasket—and freedom to make a mess. And then... we tidied up, together.

Let's give them a bit of ourselves. (Catherine Verrall is the wife of Rev. Art Verrall, Minister at Regent Park United Church. She is a former nursery and public school teacher and a mother of four. This is the first of a series.)

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## Ward Seven news roundup

Don Vale has asked that a height restriction of 38 feet be placed on all future building in that area. The request was made by the Don Vale Association of Homeowners and Residents and will go to the Ward Aldermen for implementation...

**Pollution Probe** now has a subscription to the Teela Real Estate Service and can make up to 15 items of information available to anyone on every real estate transaction in the city. There is a street by street listing up-dated monthly. **Pollution Probe** also has access to files of all real estate transactions back to 1936.

**Elizabeth Radiant** has been hired as Secretary-Bookkeeper for the Don District Community Secretariat. She is starting work immediately and will work out of temporary quarters until a permanent storefront can be found for the Secretariat.

**ELECTION NOTES:** Larry Solway will moderate an all-candidate Mayoralty discussion at St. Lawrence Centre at 8 p.m. on Nov. 1. Free admission... All candidate meetings for Ward Seven are set for Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. in Committee Room One, City Hall; Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. at Sprucecourt School and Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. at Withrow school... Armand Siksa of Jones Ave. has announced that he is running for school trustee in Ward Seven.

Two nights of **Laurel and Hardy** films, 6 films in all, are being shown free Nov. 16 and 17 at 8 p.m. at the Parliament Library and Library House. Admission is free... **Regent Park United Church** is starting an adult drop-in on Nov. 9. Hours are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. South of Carlton Community Action annual General meeting is Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Central Neighbourhood House... St. Clement's Church is

holding a bazaar on Sat. Nov. 4th. They're located at 175 Jones Ave.

**MORE FILMS:** The Parliament Library has 6 Charlie Chaplin films showing Nov. 2 and 3 and the Riverdale Library has a film night Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. All free.

**Woodgreen Community Centre** is holding a **Pub Night** from 7:30 to 11 on Nov. 2 and 16. There's entertainment and beer is 50c a bottle... **Frankland Public School** on Logan just south of Danforth is looking for adult volunteers to work in their classrooms. Phone 463-2900 for details... A free legal clinic with a qualified lawyer is held every Tuesday night at the **Don Vale Community Centre**, 80 Winchester Street.

**PEOPLE:** New staff at Dixon Hall are **Nancy White**, senior citizen worker; **Eve Gilmour**, social co-ordinator; **Alice Williams**, group worker; and **Karen Bradford**, dental nurse. They replace **Bev Hunter** and **Sandy White** who have left for greener pastures... **Christine McDougall** reports from Dixon Hall that the staff there all plan to vote for **Richard Nixon**.

## Donate \$10

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Please accept our simple token of appreciation and gratitude for the good work you are doing in the community.  
We would also like to congratulate your staff for their noble venture.

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: This group sent along a \$10 donation to SEVEN NEWS. Have you made your donation yet? Any amount will be accepted as a donation. Subscriptions are \$5 a year.)

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# Regent Park brief asks for rent reduction and home ownership

The Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA) has recently published a 14-page brief asking for sweeping changes in the rent structure and method of administration of their project.

Titled "A New Deal for Ontario Housing Tenants", the brief is well researched and cites numerous examples to show that Regent Park is getting a raw deal under present Ontario Housing Corporation policies.

The two major recommendations of the brief are that no tenant in Regent Park pay more than 20% of his net income for rent and that a plan be set up to allow tenants in Regent Park to buy their own units.

Surveys in Regent Park show that 60% of the tenants would like to own their own units. If they were allowed to do so, the report states,

the ghetto aspect of Regent Park would be eliminated to a large extent.

The report also adds that as long as people are forced to pay rent geared to income they have little incentive to work. Wives will not work and children leave home when they get a job so as not to boost the family income and thus also the rent. There are other cases, says the report, where members of a family get a job and don't report it, so as not to boost the rent.

"This dishonesty is demoralizing to the families concerned and also to the community as a whole," says the brief.

Other recommendations in the brief include:

—Workers on strike should have their rent reduced to correspond to their income.

—Allowance should be made for the special needs of senior citizens in determining their rent scale.

—Tenants from Regent Park should sit on a rental advisory board.

—Tenants from Regent Park should sit on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Housing Corporation.

It is planned to circulate the brief widely over the next few months to gain support and publicize its recommendations. Copies will also go to the Royal Commission investigating the OHC.

The brief was written and prepared by Pat Barrett, Henry Francis, Virginia Gibbons, Sheila Holmes, Jerome Murray, Neil R. Tanner, Helvi Therien and Percy Torrens.

## Thanksgiving at Dixon Hall

On Monday, October 9, the Senior Citizens at Dixon Hall held an afternoon Thanksgiving Dinner. The event was a huge success with about 75 people turning out for turkey with all the fixings. Three gigantic turkeys were prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Truckle and Mrs. Helen Moore, all of Shuter Street.

After dinner everyone took part in a good old-fashioned sing-song. Music was provided by Miss Hess at the piano and Mrs. Marjorie Carsey at the Organ. Mr. Carsey also entertained by singing a number of beautiful songs.

As they left, everyone agreed it had been a great afternoon. It is hoped that Christmas dinner at Dixon Hall will be just as good.

# DIXON HALL PROGRAMMES

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

Day	Time	Programme
MONDAY	4:00 - 5:00	Jolly Jumpers (boys & girls 2 - 5)
	4:00 - 5:00	Games (boys & girls 6 - 10)
	4:00 - 5:00	Cooking (girls 9 - 10)
	5:00 - 6:00	Cooking (boys 6 - 8)
	7:00 - 8:00	Creative Dancing (girls 9 - 10)
	7:00 - 8:00	Arts & Crafts (boys 9 - 10)
TUESDAY	4:00 - 5:00	Jolly Jumpers (boys & girls 2 - 5)
	4:00 - 5:00	Games (boys & girls 6 - 10)
	4:00 - 5:00	Arts & Crafts (girls 6 - 8)
	4:00 - 5:00	Cooking (boys 9 - 10)
	5:00 - 6:00	Arts & Crafts (boys 6 - 8)
	7:00 - 8:00	Scouts (boys 10 - 14)
WEDNESDAY	4:00 - 5:00	Jolly Jumpers (boys & girls 2 - 5)
	4:00 - 5:00	Games (boys & girls 6 - 10)
	4:00 - 5:00	Good Grooming (girls 9 - 10)
	6:00 - 7:00	Brownies (girls 7 - 10)
	7:30 - 9:00	Guides (girls 10 - 14)
	6:30 - 8:30	Floor Hockey (boys 8 - 10)
THURSDAY	4:00 - 5:00	Jolly Jumpers (boys & girls 2 - 5)
	4:00 - 5:00	Games (boys & girls 6 - 10)
	4:00 - 5:00	Floral Design (girls 9 - 10)
	6:15 - 7:30	Cubs (boys 8 - 10)
	6:30 - 7:30	Cooking (girls 6 - 8)
	6:30 - 7:30	Gym (girls 9 - 10)
FRIDAY	4:00 - 5:00	Jolly Jumpers (boys & girls 2 - 5)
	4:00 - 5:00	Games (boys & girls 6 - 10)
	4:00 - 5:00	Arts & Crafts (girls 9 - 10)
	7:00 - 8:00	Sewing (girls 9 - 10)
	7:00 - 8:00	Story Hour (boys & girls 6 - 8)
	SATURDAY	9:00 - 10:30
11:00 - 12:00		Movies (boys & girls 6 - 10)
12:30 - 2:30		Bowling (boys & girls 6 - 10)
1:00 - 2:00		Jolly Jumper (boys & girls 2 - 5)

Please contact Mike Britton or Alice Williams at 863-0499

### PRE-TEEN PROGRAMMES

TUESDAY	4:00 - 6:00	Arts & Crafts (boys)
	4:00 - 6:00	Billiards (girls)
	6:00 - 8:00	Arts & Crafts (girls)
	8:00 - 9:00	Floor Hockey (boys)
WEDNESDAY	4:00 - 6:00	Cooking (girls)
	4:00 - 6:00	Rap Session and Billiards (boys)
	7:00 - 9:00	Bowling (boys or girls)
	7:00 - 9:00	Gym (boys or girls)
THURSDAY	4:00 - 6:00	Drop In (boys and girls)
	7:00 - 8:00	Drop In (boys and girls)
FRIDAY	4:00 - 6:00	Cooking (boys)
	4:00 - 6:00	Good Grooming (girls)
	7:00 - 9:00	Co-ed Group Club (out-trips, etc.)

Please contact Alice Williams or Raynette Coker at 863-0499

### TEEN PROGRAMMES

MONDAY	7:00 - 9:00	Inter-Agency Floor Hockey (girls)
TUESDAY	4:00 - 5:30	Teen Drop-In
	7:00 - 9:00	Group Club
	7:30 - 9:00	Arts & Crafts
	9:00 - 10:30	Gym (boys)
WEDNESDAY	4:00 - 5:30	Group Club
	7:00 - 9:00	Teen Drop In
	9:00 - 10:30	Gym (girls)
	THURSDAY	4:00 - 5:30
7:00 - 9:00		Teen Drop In
7:30 - 9:00		Girls Gym
9:00 - 10:30		Boys Gym
FRIDAY	4:00 - 5:30	Group Club
	7:00 - 10:30	Dance
SATURDAY	11:00 - 12:30	Self Defense (boys & girls 12 - 18)

Please contact Raynette Coker at 863-0499

### SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMMES

MONDAY	1:30 - 3:30	Ladies Club (The Busy Bees)
TUESDAY	1:30 - 3:30	Men's Club

Please contact Nancy White at 863-0499

### Services

LEGAL AID CLINIC	MONDAY 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (or appointment any time)
Family Councillng	Monday through Friday i.e. Budgeting Housing, Welfare, Emergency Assistance Nutrition, etc.

Please contact Eve Gilmour at 863-0499

DENTAL CLINIC By appointment only

Please contact Karen Bradford at 863-0499

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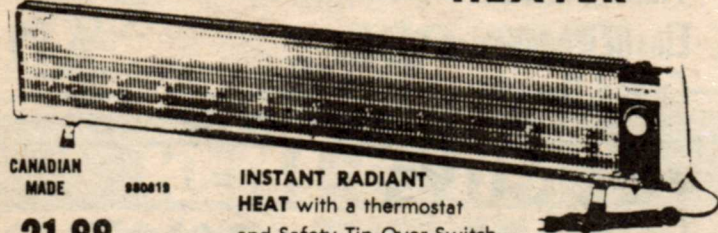
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