

Plans announced for redevelopment of Parliament St.

by NORMAN G. BROWNE

The Parliament Street shopping area will become a chic, trendy, tourist attraction in three to five years, according to a plan presented and approved by Parliament street store owners at two recent meet-

ings.

The Parliament business area will be called "Old Cabbagetown" and the remodeled storefronts and streetscape will evoke a sense of nostalgia for an era roughly between 1890 and 1918.



Pictured above is Sherral Garner of Booth Avenue, one of a of Riverdale youth, age 12 to 17, taking part in a mini-bike program this summer. The program, organized and supervised by Frances Stephen of WoodGreen Community Centre, teaches road safety, bike maintenance and riding skills. The bikes are on loan for the summer from the Honda Motor Company and are being operated on property owned by Domtar Fine Papers in the Don Valley.

— photo by J. Sfutt

South St. Jamestown plan aids Parl. redevelopment

The negotiations between Meridian and the City of Toronto over the eventual disposition of South St. Jamestown surfaced at an opportune time for the Ward Seven Businessmen's Association.

Stepping into the middle of the fray at City Hall, Parliament street lawyer Carl Orbach won important concessions from both sides in return for full support by the businessmen's association.

Of all the groups negotiating for changes in the city-Meridian plan for south St. Jamestown, it was the businessmen who exerted the most leverage and got the most modifications.

Mr. Orbach, together with Karl Jaffary, Bart Davis, Jim Renieris and Sol Wayne, constitute the Board of Management for the Parliament Street Business Improvement District. The concessions they won from the City and Meridian were ones that would help restructure and renovate the business community and streetscape of Parliament street.

Mr. Orbach first met with Mayor Crombie and Michael Dennis, the housing commissioner and got an agreement in principle to upgrade,

change and improve the services on Parliament street. He also got the city to turn over the use and services of a full time planner who would help in the redesigning and planning for an improved Parliament street.

Next he met with Phillip Roth of Meridian and won a number of concessions:

- The commercial component on Wellesley street would be reduced so as not to draw people away from Parliament street businesses.

- Public parking would be provided in the development to serve customers shopping on Parliament street.

- The focus of the development would be east — toward Parliament street rather than north, west or south.

- The design of the development would be co-ordinated and combined with the redesigning of Parliament street.

The details both with the City and Meridian have yet to be worked out as both the Parliament redevelopment and the redevelopment of south St. Jamestown are still in the talking/planning stages.

The changeover is expected to be a long, gradual one and will cost thousands of dollars — most of it still to be raised or definitely committed.

The suggestion and plan for Old Cabbagetown is the brainwork of two consulting firms: Allen Cupples Associates and Charles Slater Associates. They were retained to come up with the study by the Board of Management of the Parliament Business Improvement Area, a five-man group of local businessmen.

Initial finances for the project have come from a \$12,000 loan by the City being recouped by an extra 9-mill levy on the taxes of the businesses in the area.

The consultants' report points out that new people have been flocking to Cabbagetown and buying houses and restoring them to symbolise the old Cabbagetown when it was in its hey-day.

The report states, "It was an era of front stoops, friendly neighbours, ice wagons, band concerts in the park, the neighbourhood butcher, greengrocer and fishmonger. Shoemakers were cobblers and people went on Sunday

picnics."

The idea is that the business district should be changed in keeping with the changing neighbourhoods it serves — and along the same lines.

"The Cabbagetown that once was, is still there. Over the years it has fallen victim to clutter. Garish display signs have popped up to hide the beauty of old architecture. Parks have become parking lots. Paint has peeled and razmataz retailing methods have been used in a scramble for the diminishing dollar."

The consultants' report adds: "It is our recommendation that the historic aspects of the street should be thoroughly studied and a team of architectural consultants be engaged to plan a restoration of the original mood and feeling."

Other suggestions contained in the consultants' report are:

- Special Cabbagetown street names to replace standard signs.
- Plaques for historic buildings in the area.
- Window decals and promotional streamers for store windows.
- Sidewalk to sidewalk cotton banners over the street.

- Locate a permanent display on Cabbagetown in the area.
- Print and sell postcards on historic Cabbagetown.
- Include a supplement in SEVEN NEWS to be called "The Cabbagetown Gazette".

Funds to put the plan into effect are being sought from a number of sources. The funds being raised through a special business tax will act as "seed money". Individual storeowners will contribute by re-designing their stores and storefronts. The City will be tapped for a large public works program and financial help will also be sought from the Provincial Government.

Just as the redevelopment of the surrounding residential areas has forced out the poor and the tenants, the redevelopment of Parliament street will likely force out tenant-run businesses and the marginal, over-duplicated types of businesses. Estimates are that in five years time, over half the present stores will be gone.

The irony is that many marginal stores will be paying a special tax that will be used to increase the value, assessment and taxes of their property and thus force them to move — or to under.



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
265 GERRARD ST. E.

JULY 20, 1974

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VOLUME 5, NUMBER 4

newsroundup

Peter Akehurst to run for alderman?

The Don Vale Property Owners Association will sponsor and mount a display on the Don Vale area as part of the Simcoe Day celebrations being held in Nathan Phillips Square on Monday, August 5th. . . .

The South Cabbagetown Housing Project needs a workman with plastering and brickwork experience. Good wages. Phone Noreen Dunphy or John Gavin at 368-9403. . . .

Alderman Karl Jaffary has persuaded Metro Executive to lease some land in the King-Parliament area to the city for \$1 a year so that a footpath can be built on it for neighbouring residents. The footpath will run from the end of St. Paul street to the land running between St. Paul and Bright streets. . . .

GRANTS: Woodgreen Community Centre has received a grant of \$15,000 from the province. . . . Don Vale Community Centre has been awarded a grant of \$7,000 from the United Community Fund. . . .

The Sherbourne one five five Recreation Association is sharing a New Horizon's Grant that was given by the Federal Government to St. Luke's church. . . .

The Friendship Centre at 315 Dundas St. E. will soon be starting classes in leatherwork, knitting, sewing, needlepoint, etc., and offer a course on small appliance repairs. . . .

The City of Toronto Planning Board has recently produced an informative booklet titled *Local Social Services and Community Organizations in East Toronto*. Copies are free from Roda Contractor at 367-7607 or 367-7333. . . .

Neighbourhood Information Post is re-evaluating its position in

the community in light of a recent turnout by the United Community Fund for a grant. . . .

Ontario Housing Corporation is interested in the purchase of 295 and 297 Carlton street in Don Vale. Both houses are presently owned by Don Area Co-op Homes. . . .

Those students sitting out at major intersections in the Ward and the city are monitoring local neighbourhood traffic flows and patterns. . . .

A Jogging Group is running every morning at 10 a.m. from the Cabbagetown Boxing Club, 4 Lancaster Ave. Participation is free. Phone 923-3528 for information. . . .

A group of University of Toronto business students are operating a Small Business Consulting Service for the summer. The help they offer is comprehensive and free and one of their recent clients is SEVEN NEWS. Phone them at 928-5097. . . .

John Gladki is a new planner who has been added to the staff of the South of Carlton Planning Office. . . . Paul Unterman is the new Director of the St. Jamestown YMCA. He replaces Alex Owen. . . . Also new on staff is Jay Hooper, a youth programmer. . . .

The \$200,000 Neighbourhood Improvement Program for the South of Carlton area is in limbo. The Province has yet to set a policy as to how they will participate in the plan and CMHC is cool to the idea of seeing the money used to buy housing in the area. . . .

LEARNER STREAKER? . . . A woman, standing on the north side of Dundas, near Sherbourne, is reported to have taken off all her clothes, stood there for five minutes and then put them on again.

We're curious as to when (and where) she will try Lesson Two. . . .

Reverend Bruce Howe, active in the Don District community for many years and a pastor at Fred Victor Mission has transferred to a new parish at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. . . .

SEVEN NEWS has received a grant of \$1,500 from the Province of Ontario Council of the Arts. The original grant request was for \$12,000. . . .

Parents without Partners, an international non-profit, educational organization, is organizing a new chapter in St. Jamestown. For info, call Mr. King at 925-4731. . . .

Carolyn Barber has rejoined the staff of SEVEN NEWS as advertising manager. She replaces Carol Finlay who has held the job for the last eight months. . . .

A Don Vale tenant, David Scott, is the newly elected chairman of the Federation of Don Area Residents' Associations

MOVES: Downtown Action Project, formerly at Gerrard near Parliament has moved to 155 Spadina, number 26. . . . Operation Springboard, formerly at 297 Carlton, is now located on the 6th floor at 801 Bay street. . . .

Rumour has it that Peter Akehurst, a Don Vale resident, will run for alderman in Ward Seven in the upcoming municipal elections. . . .

The Board of Directors of SEVEN NEWS, INC. has set a goal of \$6,000 to be raised from the local community in their annual fall fund-raising drive. . . .

Senior citizens in the Riverdale area wanting free help for errands, gardening, small painting jobs, etc., can get it by calling To Aid Senior Citizens (TASE) at 461-1238. . . .



'Roomers are dirty'

Dear Editor;

During the past couple of months, there have been volumes written about roomers, a good percentage of it by young, socialistic, middle-class social workers who spend the hours of 9-5 "feeling sorry" for low income people.

Before I continue, I might as well make my position clear. I am on an income of about \$6,000 a year, and by thrift and good management have been able to do what most Canadians earning \$12,000 a year seem to think is impossible, i.e. buy a house.

Naturally, in order to meet the mortgage payments, I have to rent two furnished rooms, and that is where my involvement in the rooming-house question begins.

Now, it seems to me that most of the people who write about roomers cannot have much day-to-day contact with them, otherwise they would not have such a one-sided view on the question.

After renting now since last October, I have come to the conclusion that roomers are on the whole a dirty, noisy, inconsiderate lot who don't deserve anything better than what they got from Meridian.

In saying this, I must beg forgiveness from my present tenants, who, contrary to all past experience, are clean and considerate, and have to some extent restored my faith in this section of humanity.

I don't expect human beings to be perfect, but I find roomers come at the bottom of the scale, and that is rather low for me.

My first tenant spent the majority of her time writing me anonymous letters accusing me of being a sex pervert, and telling me to go to the Immigration Office to be deported. The rest of the time she stank the house out by boiling food on a full gas for two or three hours at a stretch, till it finally boiled dry and burned.

Not surprisingly, I evicted her, and for that I'm supposed to be a bastard.

My next two tenants smoked like chimneys, and left cigarette ash all over the place, so that one lived in continual fear that the house might burn down (do I detect a similarity to 5 Maitland Place?).

In fact, one smoked so much that the room still stinks of smoke three months after he departed. The other one drank heavily too, sometimes with her buddies, one of whom would stagger around the house muttering endless gibberish to anyone she could grab hold of (usually me) and once blocked up the toilet with reams of paper. This tenant took a good assortment of crockery, cutlery and towels when she left.

The next tenant brought two kittens along without asking me before renting if I allowed cats. When I told him that I could not allow cats because one member of the household was allergic to them, he suggested in all seriousness that she leave rather than the cats.

I shan't go on with any more grisly details, but when I finally get the house paid off, if a roomer doesn't burn it down beforehand, there will be a sign on my front lawn, "Roomers for Rent".

Simon Rook
Hamilton St.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: As a roomer and a consultant on roomer problems, I would like to take issue with some of your statements:

1. The "volumes written about roomers" exists by reporters in the media. I don't know how you know for a fact that these reporters are "young, socialistic, middle-class, social workers".

2. However, it also is true that the media has for the most part ignored the fact that a hard core of "problem roomers" exists and that these walking wounded of society cause problems to themselves, other tenants and the management of the houses they live in. I am trying to persuade city Hall that there must be a better solution to "problem roomers" other than ignoring them or letting them burn themselves to death in their rooms or houses.

3. I don't think that all your bad roomers were "problem roomers". Most roomers are free-thinking, individualistic and non-conforming. You are classing them as bad because they don't conform to your rather rigid morals, ethics and standards of conduct. You must be extremely naive and self-centred to expect everyone else in the world to meet your standards of conduct and life-style. You must also be a poor judge of character to allow those people into your house in the first place.

4. My solution to your problem would be to blacklist your house amongst the roomer community and have them boycott your accommodations. But this would prevent you from paying off your mortgage and maybe force you to sell your house and maybe become a roomer yourself. And that would be ironic. - Norman G. Browne)

Seven News 'enjoyed'

Dear Norman;

I have enjoyed reading SEVEN NEWS very much during the past four years, and I compliment you on your efforts. Would it be possible for the paper to be mailed to me, at the above address? I have bought a home in Ward Nine.

I shall miss my association with Ward Seven. I have lived there as a tenant in two St. Jamestown apartments and a Don Vale house. I have taught in four of its schools.

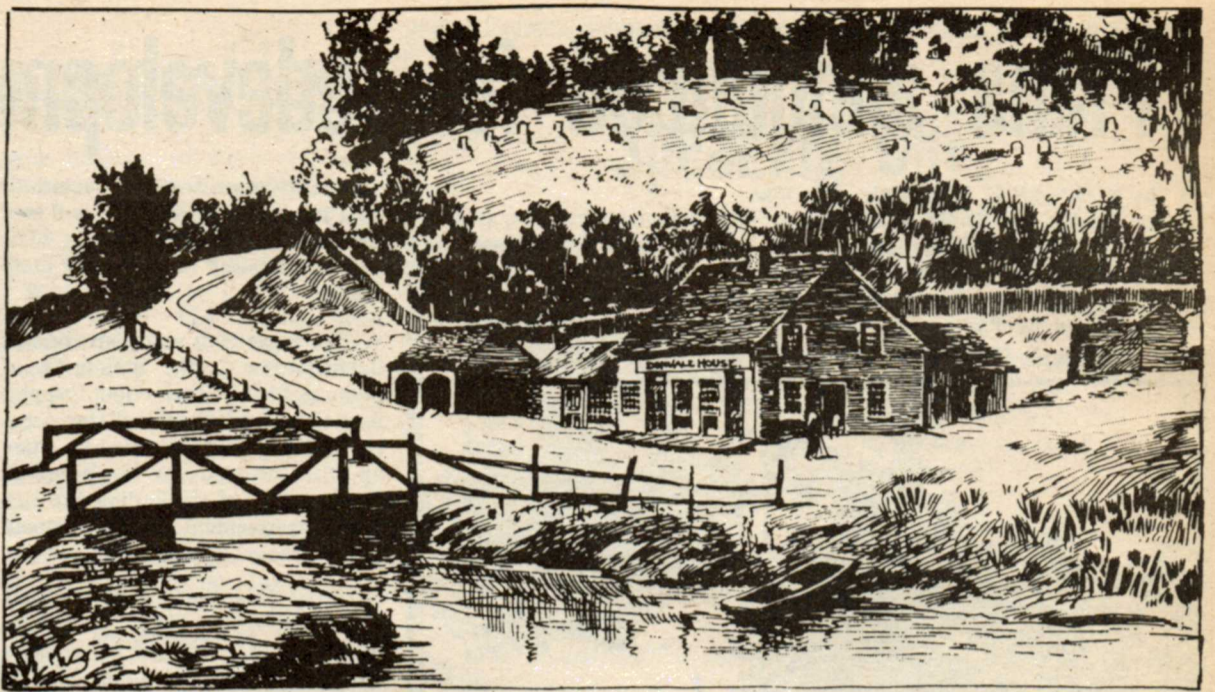
And my interest in SEVEN NEWS goes back four years to those first Sunday afternoon meetings on Parliament street.

I enclose a small cheque to help with your expenses, and wish you continued success.

Bill Weldon
9 Bowmore Rd.

THREE WEEKS

SEVEN NEWS is running on a staggered schedule during the summer. The next two issues will be three weeks apart. Deadline for the next issue is August 2 for publication August 10. And how do you like our new front page "look"?



DON VALE HOUSE, 1870.

Tavern gives name to neighborhood

A Historical Column
by ROBERT RUSSELL

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In this issue, SEVEN NEWS starts a new column on the history of the Ward Seven area. Although Mr. Russell has agreed to write a number of columns, anyone in the Ward is free to write articles for this series. Contact the SEVEN NEWS office or Mr. Russell if you would like to contribute a column for this series.)

The accompanying cuts show the Don Vale House in 1848 and in 1870. The location of the house is extremely obvious from the cuts - the banks of the Don River at the foot of what is now Winchester street.

The Don Vale House was once the frequent resort of the sporting fraternity in the city, and where many contests in the now obsolete sport of cock fighting were not only arranged but conducted in the sheds adjoining the tavern.

The Don Vale House tavern was erected as a dwelling house, towards the end of the 1840's and was turned into a public house soon after.

In 1855 the landlord was David Priestley and the thoroughfare where it stood - the north side being a continuation of Winchester street - was known as the Don Road.

No other houses were near. Mr. Priestley's nearest neighbour was a widow named Mrs. Moore who lived in a cottage about one hundred yards distant.

Mr. Priestley continued to occupy the tavern until 1860; he was then followed by John Hogg, who was the proprietor for about five years.

After Mr. Hogg gave up the tenancy, the tavern passed on to George Fox, who in addition to keeping the tavern, was also a roof-slater and contractor.

In 1870, Mr. Fox gave up the tavern and moved his business to 68 Queen Street east. For a considerable time, the house remained untenanted until eventually, around 1875 or 1876, it was pulled down.

of the tavern, decided to call it Don Vale.

This old time hostelery was one of a class of taverns common in the suburbs of Toronto around 1860. They were places where men went in the evenings, after the long day's work. They were usually just far enough removed from the centre of the town to give their patrons a short walk to reach them.

There was always a certainty of patrons imbibing and enjoying the ease of life afforded one within the tavern walls.

Boxing contests were often in order in some of them, in the Don Vale House especially, which was always the resort, more or less, of sporting men.

Another of these suburban taverns was the Queen's Head on Queen Street west and Dundas street.

John Ross Robertson, the compiler of the now famous Landmarks of Toronto, said in 1898: "Nothing was ever alleged against either the taverns or their proprietors, although possibly some of the scenes enacted within their precincts would now be deemed illegal and unsuited to the times.

"But alas, the last fifty years have seen many changes - none greater, perhaps, than the conduct of the proprietors and frequenters of taverns, both in town and country."

In future columns: an eyewitness account of life on the Danforth at the turn of the century by a resident still living there; and an article on the Booth-Coulter Copper and Brass Company that was located on Sumach street.

Mementos of Yesteryear

All that remains now, is a wooden sign, recording that on that spot - the extreme north-east corner of Winchester street to the south east of the Necropolis - stood the Don Vale House.

Of interest is the fact that the existence of the tavern, and its name, became lost in the tides of time, until 100 years later when City Planners, looking for a name for the residential area to the west

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News Across the Ward

Parking lot may take another year

Plans for the development of an off-street, City-owned parking lot for the Carlton-Parliament area have been set back three months to a year pending the outcome of a consultant's report on the best use of the land.

It has been three years now, since the idea for buying two properties on Carlton street and converting the back lots on Aberdeen into a 50-car lot, went before the City Council.

The lot might have been a reality by now had not the pressure for more housing in the downtown core area caused City Council to examine the property it owned with a view to getting the maximum use out of it.

A request for having "mixed use" studies done on Parking Authority lots was sent to the Parking Authority and they, in turn, have hired a number of consulting firms to carry out the actual studies of a number of properties that lend themselves to that type of approach.

The Aberdeen lot is one of them.

Under the "mixed use" concept, the Aberdeen lot might combine parking with residential housing for the aged. The parking lot would occupy the basement and ground floor area and three floors of apartments would be built over the site on stilts.

Thus there would be both more parking and more housing provided for the area.

The consultants have yet to report. If their report recommends a mixed use for the lot, and City Council agrees, it would be another year before parking is available there.

Explosion rocks Cabbagetown

At 1:12 a.m. on July 2nd, an explosion occurred in the garage on the north side of Carlton street next to the Parliament Lane in Don Vale. The explosion lit up the interior of the garage and completely blew out the plate glass window of the near by shoe repair shop.

Witnesses report that a man, using a key, entered the garage shortly before the explosion. Police theorize that he started some oily rags on fire and then left and the explosion occurred when the fumes in the air ignited.

Another witness states, however, that he saw a man walking up the lane as the explosion occurred. At the point where the man was seen there was a hole in the side windows with the glass on the inside as if an object such as a bomb had been thrown into the garage.

Two suspects were later arrested by the police.

Only damage was to the ceiling and window of the shoe repair shop. The owner stated that he was partially insured and that this was the third time in five years that an explosion in the garage has damaged his shop.

New Play opens

A semi-autobiographical play about Cabbagetown, written by Robert Windsor, a native of the area, is being performed at the Central Library Theatre by the Performing Theatre Company. Entitled *The Only Way To Live*, the play deals with Mr. Windsor's experiences in the Cabbagetown area. Actors from Toronto's east side have been chosen with this in mind.

The play, which runs through August, is being presented Monday through Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. at 20 St. George Street. Ticket prices are \$3, \$4 and \$5 and discount flyers are available at the Don Vale Community Centre. For more information call the box office at 924-8950.

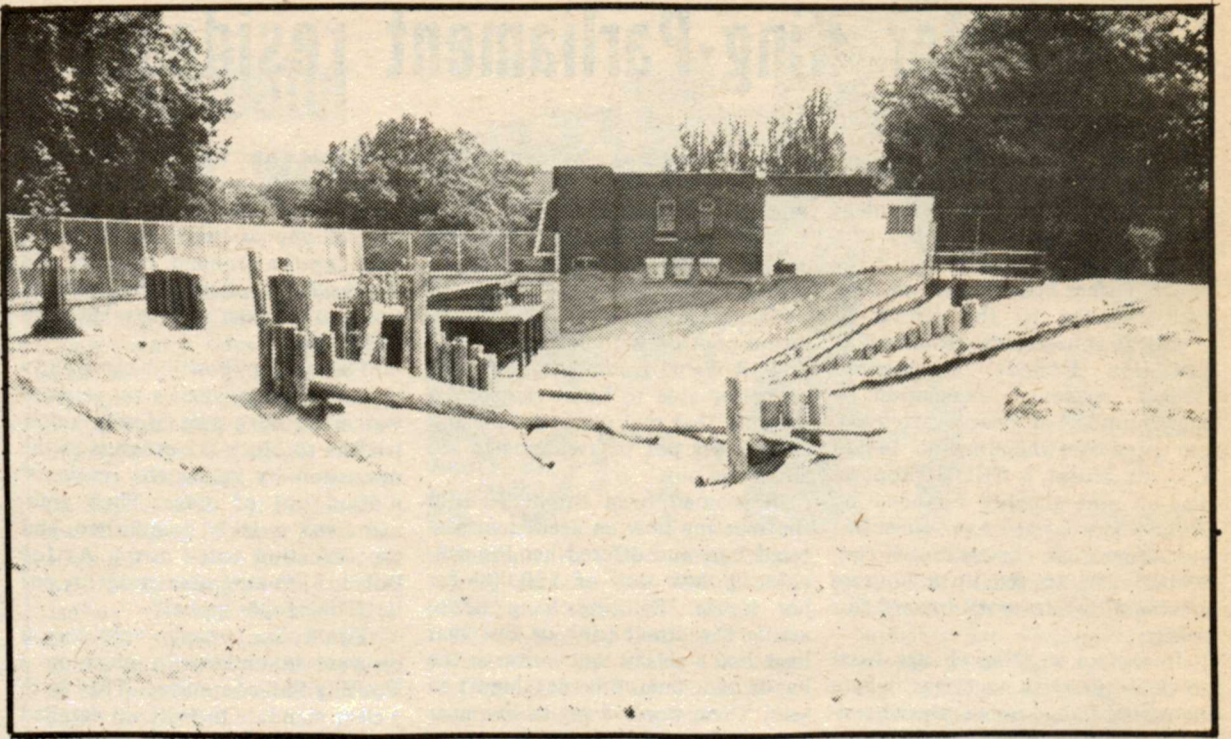


photo: p. patterson

Withrow residents stop playground orgies

by Wendy Fletcher

The adventure playground in Withrow Public School is to undergo remodelling. Work will begin within the next two weeks and should be completed by August 31.

Since its opening last year, small gangs of teenage vandals have been using the playground as an all-night rendezvous and are a constant source of aggravation to nearby homes on Bain and Withrow Avenues.

It is the tiny log house which has been the downfall of the well-intentioned adventure playground. Squatting in the deep hollow, it affords privacy for a gang's evening of entertainment — a drug, drink or sex orgy, or combination of all three.

For the Cunningham family at 39 Bain Avenue, whose property forms the eastern retaining wall of the playground beside the log house, it is as though everything was happening in the next room. Every sound from the playground reverberates throughout their house. To Mrs. Cunningham the log house is "the ultimate finishing school in bad language, and a lot of other things as well". Her windows and screens have been broken, and one agile intruder put his foot through the roof.

When the log house was set on fire, the Cunninghams dutifully summoned firemen, while secretly hoping it would burn to the ground. Broken beer and pop bottles are a constant hazard, and are patiently removed each morning by the school caretaker.

An effort to rid the playground of vandals was begun by Withrow Avenue resident Peter Paterson. Following a petition and a public meeting, a working committee was set up to study various solutions, finally recommending complete remodelling of the playground.

The cost, about \$22,000 is only \$3,000 less than the sum spent on installing the playground originally. All work is funded by the surplus remaining from the school's re-building budget.

The alterations will include removing 60 feet of the retaining wall along Bain Avenue to open the playground to public view and access; raising the bottom of the hollow with heavy construction sand; the addition of a climbing tower, monkey bars and tire swings; terracing of slopes with trees, sod and wood chips; trees and park benches around the top of the hollow; and

the removal of the log cabin.

It is hoped that the park-like setting will encourage parents and senior citizens to come and watch the children at play.

It is also hoped that removal of their orgy house will discourage fur-

ther intrusion by that small faction of local youth who are either too selfish or, regrettably, too ignorant, to give those younger than themselves the freedom of a playground they so badly need and so obviously enjoy.



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Victory for King-Parliament residents

by JOE BOLAND
and SHELDON J. LIPSEY

Residents of the King-Parliament area scored a decisive victory at a Planning Board meeting held at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse on June 25th. Thanks to the efforts of CHOU (Cabbagetown Housing Organization United), a recently-formed residents' association, a large number of people attended, and voted overwhelmingly - 117 to 3 - to accept a CHOU proposal that an area roughly bounded by Ontario St., Eastern Ave., River St., and Queen St. be rezoned residential, and to set up a housing subcommittee to work toward this change.

It was an exciting change from previous planning meetings, where industrialists had outnumbered residents and persistently voted down their proposals.

In a lively discussion, some of the problems of living in the area were raised, and solutions suggested that would be facilitated, or made possible, by having the area rezoned. For instance, there is a real need for new housing in King-Parliament, housing which could be built on unused and under-utilized land.

Public participation, for example, co-ops or municipal land-banking, would be needed, to ensure that a proportion of this new housing is set aside for low- and moderate-income people. But under present zoning, housing is a "non-conforming use": no such projects are possible, and the present community, far from growing, would be

further eaten away by expressway ramps, street widenings, and conversions to commercial use.

With rezoning, the present mixed neighbourhood can survive and grow. It can also press for stricter traffic enforcement and pollution control, sadly neglected until now. A stable community also may be better able to resist the sort of pressure that real estate people and speculators put on residents to sell and move out.

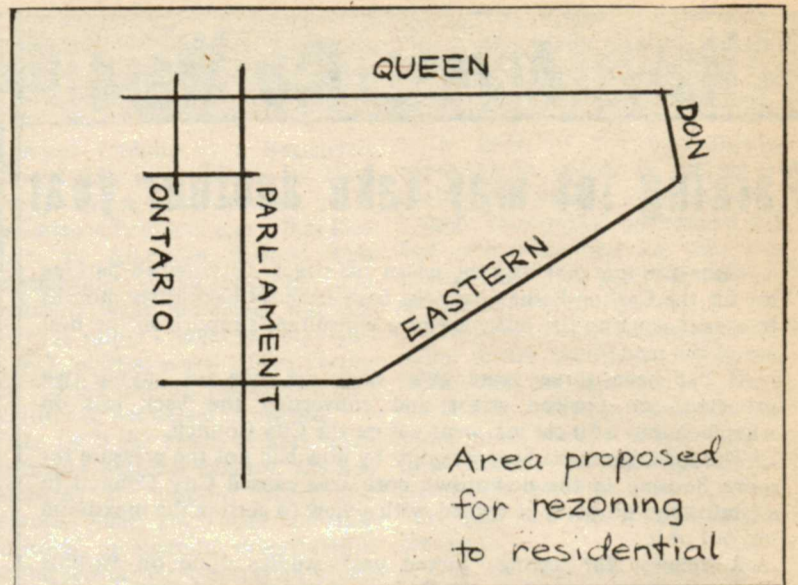
A woman from Bright St. told the meeting how an agent had pestered her, and offered her the ridiculously low sum of \$20,000 for her house. Pointing to a house across the street (one of five that have had a sleazy renovation at the hands of a small-time developer) he said, "You don't want to live near those rich people, do you?"

To which she answered, "They can live on *their* side of the street, and I'll live on *my* side of the street!"

People at the meeting also agreed that present industry in King-Parliament, with the exception of one or two noxious industries, is *not* a problem. Industry and the residential community can continue to co-exist, as they have for many years.

The only opposition came early in the meeting, when a sly attempt was made by a pair of wily industrialists to block the progress of the discussion by ruling the residents' motion out of order. Their argument was quickly demolished, and the objection voted down. As Joe Boland, life-long area resident, put it, "The people spoke!"

Twenty-six people volunteered or were nominated to serve on a Housing Sub-committee. They have a clear mandate to work on detailed proposals for a zoning change, to suggest ways of ensuring a supply of low- and moderate-income housing in the area, and to work to preserve the existing character of



the neighbourhood.

As members of CHOU, we were very pleased with the interest shown by all those people who attended the June 25th meeting, and we'd like to hear more from area residents. Actually, CHOU is very informal and easy to "join" - all you have to do is be interested in keeping our neighbourhood, and

let us know what you'd like to see happen in the area!

Your ideas and suggestions will be taken to the Planning Board through meetings of the King-Parliament Housing Sub-committee. You can find out more about CHOU by calling Sassy Waddell (366-0079) or Joe Boland (366-1798).

Education report

Provincial report affects Ward Seven Schools

by GORD CRESSY
and DOUG BARR

On June 18, 1974, the Report of the Lowes Commission was tabled in the Ontario Legislature. Written by the Ministerial Commission on the Organization and Financing of the Public and Secondary School Systems in Metropolitan Toronto, the report contains 90 recommendations which, if passed, could have a definite effect upon the education of Ward Seven youngsters.

At present the report is being studied by officials of the Ministry of Education, and following a two month period of reaction, it is expected that much of the report will become legislation in the autumn of 1974.

Perhaps the two most significant recommendations of the report are that the two-tiered (Metro and Area Boards) structure of educational governing be retained and that the powers of the Metro School Board be modified with all individual powers and responsibilities remaining with Area Boards (Area Board simply means Toronto, Etobicoke, Scarborough etc.).

The report recommends that the boundaries of the present Area Boards be adjusted to increase the

size of the Borough of East York and the Borough of York and reduce the size of the Borough of North York and the City of Toronto.

With regard to the number of trustees and the size of the wards, the Commission recommends that an Area Board of Education have a minimum of 10 trustees and a maximum of 20 and that the practice of East York, Etobicoke and Toronto of having two trustees elected by all the voters in a ward be discontinued.

The report states that the number of wards in East York and Toronto should be increased for educational purposes and that each new ward in an Area Board's jurisdiction be represented by one trustee. It also feels that where feasible, a local trustee should be elected from natural community or family of schools.

An interesting twist to election expenses is the thought that a candidate for school trustee be granted a sum of money, not to exceed four cents per eligible voter in his ward, for the purpose of conducting an election campaign.

A quick calculation indicates that this would mean about \$2,700.10 per candidate.

The Commission also stated that trustees' honoraria were too low and recommended an increase (In Toronto the present rate is \$300 a month; the report recommends \$600 a month.).

In addition to several recommendations regarding various financial weighting factors, the Commissioners state that the Ministry, through grant regulations, should determine the separate grant and expenditure factors for each of the six Area Boards of Metro Toronto.

In keeping with its overall thrust to strengthen the autonomy of the Area Boards it recommends that the Province continue to provide local fiscal autonomy for all school boards in Ontario by permitting a discretionary local levy. A Board would be authorized to make a discretionary levy only after its expenditure ceiling had been reached.

The report also includes a phasing recommendation to assist Boards which are struggling with a rapid decline in enrolment. It suggests that the Ministry of Education should take over the health-related

costs of special education programs now being borne by the Ministry of Health.

What does all this mean for the education taxpayer in Ward Seven?

The general thrust of the Lowes Commission Report appears to bring the control of the bulk of educational concerns closer to home by strengthening the Area Boards, abolishing the Regional Office of Education, and restructuring the wards to allow greater accountability between trustees and their local communities.

While we have some serious concerns about specific recommendations (e.g. That the Metro Board make the ultimate disposition of vacant educational space) all in all, we feel that the Report is moving in the right directions.

However, for us to make a responsible and representative response to the Report, we would very much appreciate your comment.

If you would like a copy of the report or would like to respond to it, contact us before the end of August. (Doug - home, 690-3352; work, 924-1411. Gord - home, 921-3720; work, 923-6641 local 283).

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by ROSEMARY ALLERTON
of "Green Earth"

To most ordinary people, gardens are something of a mystery. "How'd you get all those plants in there?" they ask in fascination. And indeed, a big demi-john with a neck opening of only two or three inches, brimful of jungly, thriving plants, is a bit like a ship-in-a-bottle.

There's a secret to the whole thing.

No, you don't plant seeds and wait for them to grow. You get yourself a few simple tools and a whole lot of patience, and you begin to build your garden-under-glass.

Here's how to do it, step by

step, and remember the chief ingredient is patience!

First, you need a bottle. Get anything you like; an old wine jar or pickle jar, a fishbowl or an aquarium! We'll pretend you're using a big wine bottle (a demi-john), which you've found at an Italian grocers or at a wine supply house.

You're ready to lay down the first layer of your terrarium. This is the drainage layer. You can use pebbles, marbles, old clay pots crushed up.

You need to have a layer two inches deep. Get the drainage through the hole by poking it through a funnel made out of tin-foil or by cutting an old javel bottle in half.

Put the pebbles into the funnel and poke through with a stick. (I use a long piece of bamboo for this). You can even out the drainage layer in the bottom, using this stick.

Your next layer is a thin one of charcoal. You can either buy a special horticultural type or just use broken bits of lump charcoal. This is used to keep the soil (and the air) in the terrarium "sweet". It serves as a filter and purifier. You get this in the funnel the same way, using the funnel.

Now add the soil. Use a fairly light commercial potting soil (it's sterile!) designed for tropical plants. Pour it in through the funnel until it's about three inches deep. Smooth out.

Now you're ready for plants.

Distributor of the week

The Tettman Family has been living in Regent Park for 8 years. Consequently, Mrs. Ruth Tettman and her 5 boys are no strangers to Regent Park residents. The entire family is active in local events and issues.

Mrs. Tettman's three youngest boys, David, 14, Douglas, 12 and Michael, 10, have been distributing 7 News for a year as well as the Regent Park Community News. Michael and Douglas attend Lord Dufferin School and David will be starting an art program at Central Tech come September.

One can usually find Mrs. Tettman at Regent Park's Adult Recreation Centre where she is



treasurer. As well as doing office work for the Rec Centre, Mrs. Tettman is on the Board of Directors of the Community Services Unit. She is also a member of the Regent Park Community Improvement Association's hiring committee, formed recently to employ Regent Park residents to help manage the buildings.

Mrs. Tettman finds community work "fascinating". "There's so much you can learn about the thoughts and feelings of other people. Everyday I deal with all kinds of people. It's enjoyable to know that I get so much out of my work and the people I come in contact with. As much, maybe even more than I give."

Pick ones that really like humidity — i.e., maranta, nephthitis, ivy, maidenhair fern, heartleaf philodendron, pothos, dwarf dracaena, palms or baby tears. Don't try to use flowering plants — with the exception of African violets. Get plants in two to three inch pots.

Knock them out of their pots by turning upside down and giving a couple of sharp thumps. Gently

remove some of the soil from around the roots — just sort of shake this away, and separate roots a bit with your fingers.

The best way to get each plant into the bottle is to simply drop it through the neck. Then reach down with your stick (ever so gently) and poke the roots down into the soil. This is the really tricky part of terrarium making, so don't lose patience!

Manoeuvre each plant into position, from the outside edge inward, leaving it enough room to grow and spread, and gently pile up soil so each is upright. A very large bottle can take only 6 or 7 plants. Arrange them artistically, so a tallish one is perhaps in the centre, and trailing ones surround. You can finish off the design with shells, stone, glass or bits of driftwood.

A long, soft paint brush can be used now, to get dirt off the leaves, and clean things up. You can spray down inside with a mist-maker.

There are probably bits of dirt on the sides of the bottle, too. You can clean these off, and moisten the terrarium at the same time. Using only one half to one cup of water, pour it down inside of the glass, tilting and rotating the bottle so the

water rolls down the sides and under the soil.

And there's your new garden, to be placed proudly for everyone to see and admire!

It's important to remember a couple of things, though. First: a closed bottle garden is a miniature rainforest, a self-sufficient environment which continuously re-cycles water and air through the natural processes of the plants. It theoretically does not need watering — ever!

But we advise you to keep some fresh air in the garden, so this means moisture will escape through the opening, because you are not using a cork. And that means you will have to water, occasionally.

When? Well, watch the glass for condensation. If this disappears entirely and the soil begins to look "lighter" and dry, you can give cautious amounts of water. Use no more than a cup at a time so the soil is kept slightly moist (never dry or soggy). You can freshen the foliage by spraying inside with your mist-maker.

Remember never ever to over-water your bottle garden. Plants will rot and die just like that!



A sparkling new Ashby Place was officially opened Friday night with a ribbon cutting ceremony by long-time residents Marge Parslow, Jack Fortune and Joe Boland. A private street for more than a century, and suffering from neglect. Ashby was recently expropriated and paved by the City. To celebrate and

officially open the street, residents threw a hot dog and beer party attended by many neighbours from the surrounding South Cabbagetown community. After the ribbon cutting and hot dogs, street dancing continued well into the night.

photo: carol hepburn

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K.P. WALSHE

photo: e. kolompar

Local poet's work reflects her struggle

by DAVID RUPPEL

Katherine Patricia Walshe was born in the county of Tipperary, Ireland, twenty-nine years ago. One of eight children in a strongly Irish Catholic family, Katherine Patricia, or K.P. as she prefers to be called, enjoyed a happy childhood amidst mountains, meadows, babies and history.

The memory of her parents is warm, mother emerging as the disciplinarian, firm but loving and father as teacher, comforter, advisor.

Between the ages of 9 and 11, K.P. began to display an interest in writing poetry. Her early poetry speaks to her emotions, her loneliness, and her need for occasional solitude.

After training as a Registered Nurse, K.P. left Ireland for New York, where she worked in a psychiatric hospital, and fell in love with an American doctor. This relationship ended abruptly and tragically when her fiancé was killed by a sniper's bullet in Viet Nam.

K.P. started a new life in Toronto, moving into St. Jamestown and continuing her career in nursing.

In 1970 she began to have some difficulty with her balance. She was admitted to hospital where she learned that she had 'multiple sclerosis', an incurable deterioration of the central nervous system which affects muscle co-ordination.

As her condition deteriorated, she went from crutches to a walker, and finally into a wheel chair. Her speech by this time had become slow and sluggish.

During this period of physical deterioration, she picked up the poetry she had used in her childhood. She maintained the same straightforward style she had used as a child, repeating the basic rhyme and stanza form throughout.

But now her poetry became a form of emotional therapy, and initially an outlet for her depression.

"And if you come at night, oh Death

*How I will welcome you
I'll be your lover, on our flight
As lights fade from our view"*

She felt distraught about the changes in her physical condition, which continued to deteriorate.

*"And have you seen me crawl
the floors
And know I'll never walk?
And have you heard me slur my words
When I begin to talk."*

The physical deterioration finally stabilized in late 1970. At this point there is a noticeable change in her willingness to try to adjust, and this is reflected in her poetry.

"I learned to adjust to my condition, but not to accept it. I will never accept it. I realized that I could be worse. I hadn't become totally disabled and disfigured. My mind was still intact. And I could write poetry."

'Courageous' best describes her more recent poetry. Courage and a sense of humour save her poetry from degenerating into self-pity. She pokes fun at herself as well as other people.

*I take my 'wheels' along with me
Whenever I go out
It's not a fastback, but a chair
Cause I cannot walk about*

*Sometimes the kids ask 'who I am'
(Oft times a cheeky lad)
I tell them "Fanny Ironside"
The T.V. Chief's my dad!*

In spite of the adjustments, appearing in public in the wheel chair is still painful. "People gawk. I think they would understand if I had a cast on my leg. But I'm young, and wheel chairs are always associated with older people."

Her current poetry reflects the more secure world of her apartment, and the sights, sounds and mechanical devices around her which more mobile people seldom think about - the balcony, the fire alarm, the elevator, old T.V. reruns, and the construction across the road.

One of the few topical local issues which is mentioned in K.P.'s poetry is the building of West St. Jamestown. Submission of the poem below prompted this story. K.P. has nothing but praise for Meridian the Property Manager. But there is no love lost with Meridian, the Developer.

When she felt the early symptoms of M-S, some young boys who saw her swaying on the street thought she was drugged, and sang a line from a Beatle's song, "I'll get high with a little help from my friends".

They were, of course mistaken. But nonetheless, the song is appropriate. For K.P. has been able to make a difficult transition, to get by, with the help of her inner strength, an abiding love of poetry, and "a little help from her friends."

A Legitimate Gripe

*It starts so darned early
That constant whining noise
For they're building now across the way
Three more brand High-Rise!
The window sills are black with dust
That loose stuff's everywhere
If this is progress Oi Gevaul!
This isn't really fair!*

*Bill Davis gave his bland ok
For this progress? to go on
He'd like to be the Premier
Of a Place that's number one!*

*I'm for expansion if it helps
But here it isn't right
There are too many people
In this overcrowded site!*

*And Asthma folks are suffering too
(Cause dust is everywhere)
The constant 'Wheezing', the 'short breaths'
It's enough to really scare!*

*Now, if you think construction will
Continue at this pace
Take heart, dear tenants, we all know
That there is no more space!*

K.P. Walshe

After Hours Clubs - illegal but thriving

by J.J. FORRESTAL

In England it's known as a "blind pig", in the U.S., a "speak-easy", but here it's a "booze can". For the uninitiated, all three of these terms refer to an after-hours club, a phenomenon not quite as uncommon in the Don District and Riverdale area as one might presume.

Margaret and Pete (names have been changed to protect the guilty - or innocent, depending on your view of LLBO standards) had been running an after-hours club in this area for a little over a year but voluntarily closed in June. Margaret guardedly explains why: "A year was enough. After turning certain people away, you run into problems."

Evidently Margaret and Pete were afraid that those turned away because they had previously proven rowdy or because they were not known to the owners or club regulars, would resentfully retaliate by "blowing the whistle".

The club was "housed", literally, in their rather nicely renovated home, where they installed a bar and a piano in the living room. With the clientele providing accom-

paniment on other instruments such as guitars or fiddles, on many nights there were low-key jam sessions. Private poker games were held regularly, with the house refusing a take. Two pinball machines rang out in the basement.

Open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from midnight till whenever, the place never had an abundantly stocked bar. Only one bottle of a variety of liquors was stocked. Thus, if raided, the loss would have been minimal. Beer and foreign wines were also available. All drinks cost \$1.25.

Various cheese and cracker type munchies were served. And on Sundays when the club was open from 2 to 10 p.m. friends would come in and cook a different dish each week.

Drugs were not allowed, and people could gain entrance only if recognized. Patrons, who usually numbered about 25 to 30, policed themselves, for they recognized a good thing and didn't want to spoil it. Occasionally fights did occur, but in the main, only when friends of friends were admitted.

Margaret suspected that the local police knew about the club's exist-

ence, and she rationalized that they failed to interfere simply because there was no reason to. The club was on the whole quiet, orderly and neighbours never complained.

"We sometimes felt paranoid, not so much about breaking the law, but about trying to limit the incidence of fights and property damage."

Clientele ran the gamut, but the most frequent customers were entertainers or media people ("CBC types", Margaret called them), seeking a quiet bit of after-hours action besides the late, late movie. Among the more infamous were blues guitarist Jimmy Witherspoon, Nova Scotia folk fiddler John Allan Cameron and actor Michael J. Pollard, plus a list of other writers and entertainers that Margaret prefers remain nameless.

Margaret remarked that she and Pete made just a small profit. Then why make the attempt? "It's not a criminal offence, or I wouldn't do it. It's only a misdemeanour," she stressed.

"I love the business. I don't think there's a decent bar in Toronto. One can't exist under present liquor laws. If you want a small bar, you need \$40,000 to \$50,000 to open. Even then you can't get a straight bar licence. You must have a dining licence too.

"In other countries bar owners are in this because they love people. Here it's just a business.

"So consequently we're trying to sell this house. We're thinking of going to Greece or Spain or anywhere we can open a bar without all the hassle."

As a footnote, there are other "booze cans" operating in this area, but, of course, their locations can't be divulged.

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY, JULY 22

2:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library (406 Parliament St.). Stories and crafts for children.
12:30 p.m. Enoch Turner Schoolhouse. The second in the series of the Schoolhouse Summer Arts program begins today.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

2:00 p.m. Danforth Library. Films for children.
7:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library House. Legal forum: Family Law with the Neighbourhood Legal Services.
7:30 p.m. Parliament Library House. Creative writing.
7:30 p.m. Woodgreen United Church (875 Queen St.). Outdoor Café — coffee and entertainment.
7:30 p.m. DACHI (267 Carlton St.). Meeting for all residents of the DACHI project.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

7:00 p.m. Parliament Library House. Legal forum: Family Law.
7:30 p.m. Woodgreen United Church. The Moving Mountain Theatre Group presents a feminist play. Free.
7:00 Parliament St. Library. Family Life Skills Workshop.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

2:00 p.m. Riverdale Library (310 Broadview Ave.). Films for children.
2:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library. Symphony Street programme — the Double Bass.
7:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library. Dr. Charles Marmor of the Toronto General Hospital will discuss adolescent developmental problems.
7:30 p.m. Woodgreen United Church. Bingo.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

9:00 a.m. Parliament Library House. Special program for teens — Field Trip.
2:00 p.m. Danforth Library. Hear a Story, Paint a Picture; for children.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

9:00 a.m. Woodgreen Community Centre. A Family Picnic for parents and kids at Boyd Conservation Area. Bring own lunch and supper will be provided. 50 cents per person or \$3.00 maximum. Bus leaves the centre at 9:00 a.m. Registration slips from the Centre.

MONDAY, JULY 29

2:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library. Stories and crafts for children.

TUESDAY, JULY 30

2:00 p.m. Danforth Library. Movies for a Summer Day — Films for children.
7:00 p.m. Parliament Library House. Legal forum: Youth and the Law.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

9:00 a.m. Woodgreen Community centre provides a day trip to Riding Stables for 60 children, ages 5-12, who have parent permission slips. Please call Linda for more info, at 461-1168.
7:00 p.m. Parliament Library House. Legal forum: Youth and the Law. "Your rights as a high school students".

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

2:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library. Films for children.
4:00 p.m. Parliament Library House. Film: "King Kong".

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

2:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library. Stories, songs and games for children.
8:00 p.m. Parliament St. Library. Friday films.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

2:00 p.m. Parliament Library House. Poetry and rap.

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Local Boxers win Prov. Championships

by PETER WYLIE

The Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Centre was the host of the Southern Ontario Championships for Juniors. Boys under sixteen years of age competed from all across southern Ontario.

Cabbagetown had seven entrants and three of these boys were eligible to advance to Sudbury, Ontario for the Junior Ontario Olympics for 14 and 15 year olds. Twenty-four boys turned out for the tournament and put on a rousing ten-bout card. Anyone who was present for this afternoon show must have come away very impressed with these little tigers who attended to show their boxing skills.

Cabbagetown had worked for two weeks solid to prepare themselves and it paid off seven-fold. This community's club came away with an unprecedented seven Champions. They were as follows:

- Dave Hilton, 65-70 lbs., 10 yrs. (class)
- Mark Robertson, 65-70 lbs., 12 yrs. (class)

- Allan Robertson, 70-75 lbs., 10 yrs. (class)
- Rheal Bosse, 70-75 lbs., 13 yrs. (class)
- Don Marshall, 90-95 lbs. (class) - eligible for Sudbury, August 1st.
- Bobby Bland, 95-100 lbs., 14 yrs. (class) - eligible for Sudbury, August 1st.
- Ricky Bland, 107-112 lbs. (class) - eligible for Sudbury, August 1st.

This reporter will be the coach of the Southern Ontario team which will consist of eleven 14 and 15 year olds who will bus to Laurentian University for the Junior Olympics. Winners of these fights will progress on to Edmonton, Alberta, August 10th-14th for the Canadian Junior Olympic Championships. Last year Cabbagetown had four boys at Edmonton and came away with one gold and one silver, along with two bronze medalists.

On July 10th Cabbagetown travelled to Leamington, Ontario with five boxers. Allan Robertson had his second bout and lost a very

close decision to Dave Hilton of Gananoque, Ontario. Rheal Bosse took on Clive Bishop who is the 1973 and 1974 AAU Michigan State Champ from Detroit and lost a split decision to a more experienced boxer (26 fights). Don Marshall put up a good fight against Juan Buckley, 1974 AAU Michigan Champ, and lost a squeaker. Don was a bit rusty and it is obvious he will improve. Rick Bender of Cabbagetown, our Light Fly Canadian Champ, defeated a good boxer in Clyde Hillman. These two will meet at Cabbagetown on our very next card on Monday, July 22nd at 8:30 p.m. Bromley Armstrong fought an exhibition with Jim French, the 1972 Canadian Champ (middleweight) and he showed he will be ready for his fight on July 22nd at the club. The boys came away with a lot of experience and are demanding a return with the Detroit fighters.

A word on Cabbagetown's other sporting activities.

Cabbagetown's girls' baseball team is in their first season and they have shown a respectable record with 2 wins, one tie and three losses. Three games were cancelled due to rain and this affected the spirit of the team as they had full turn-outs and couldn't get out on the field. The girls are managed by Suey Chin (15 yrs.) and Derek Kikot (16 yrs.), both active members of the club who are active in many sporting fields. Advisor is Mr. Rocky Walton (Mr. Baseball).

Cabbagetown's Junior baseball team is undefeated with six wins in a row. The team is made up of mostly last year's members (Champs) and are a power-house in their Don Vale league. Coach is Rocky Walton, 2nd year. Cabbagetown's senior basketball team is second in the Pape recreational league with five wins and two losses. The team is managed by John Wylie and coached by Dexter Johnston of 51 police station.

Well, that's all for now - hope to see you out for our next boxing show on Monday, July 22nd at 8:30 p.m. Come on out and see some real good fight action. I know you will like it.



Strong pitching from John Piper and Paul Fray led Don Vale to an upset victory in the Don Valley Softball Association Men's Tournament held last week-end at McLeary Park.

The duo paced the Don Vale team to the finals in which they Edelweiss 8-3. In a consolation game the Toronto Braves defeated Norm Ross.

photo: j.j.

Sports Standings

FINAL GIRLS STANDINGS

Team	GP	W	L	T	D	Pts
Dixon Hall	10	8	2	0		26
Broadview 2	9	6	0	2	1	22
Broadview 1	9	4	4	1		18
Cabbagetown	8	3	3	1	1	14
Regent-St. James	8	2	3		2	9

PEEWEE STANDINGS (as of July 15th)

Team	GP	W	L	D	Pts
Don Vale	6	5	1		26
YMCA	5	5			25
Dixon Hall	8	2	4	1	14
Newsreel	4	1	3		8
Woodgreen	5	1	3	1	8

(win - 5, tie - 2, lose - 1, default - 0)

BANTAMS (as of July 15th)

Team	GP	W	L	D	Pts
CTBC	7	6	1		31
Don Vale	8	3	5		20
Dixon Hall	5	3	2		17
YMCA	6	3	2		17
Newsreel	4	0	4		4

DVSA MEN'S STANDINGS (as of July 15th)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Edelweiss	12	10	2	0	20
Norm Ross	12	9	2	1	19
Howell Forwarding	13	8	5	0	16
Don Vale	11	5	5	1	11
Toronto Braves	12	3	9	0	6
Pretzel Bell	12	1	11	0	2

EAST CITY SOCCER (as of July 15th)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Ajax	6	5	0	1	11
Rapid Shave	6	3	3	0	6
MFP	6	2	3	1	5
Punch	6	1	5	0	2

MAJOR LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Irish Spring	6	4	0	2	10
Baggies	6	4	1	1	9
ABC	6	1	4	1	3
Ultra-Brite	6	1	5	0	2

Future Games

MINOR LEAGUE (6:30 p.m.)	MAJOR LEAGUE (7:30 p.m.)
July 22 Punch vs. Ajax	July 22 ABC vs. Baggies
July 24 Rapid Shave vs. MFP	July 24 Ultra Brite vs. Irish Spring
July 29 Punch vs. Rapid Shave	July 29 Ultra Brite vs. Baggies
July 31 MFP vs. Ajax	July 31 Irish Spring vs. ABC

Speaking Out:

Question: How do you spend your summer holidays?



Danelle Taylor, St. Jamestown
"I swim in the city pool and do recreational work with children. I'm planning on going to New York in August."

Lorie Donald, 197 Wellesley St. E.

"I take care of children for spending money. In August I hope to work in a display at the CNE."



Mr. Henry Kanarek, Eliot's Jewellers, 470 Parliament

"I went to New York for my holidays. I liked New York, but I prefer to live here. New York is a jungle."

Jackie Power, Regent Park

"I go swimming, ride my bike, stay out late at night, go to the store alot and me and my family go up to our cottage in Wasaga Beach."



Frank Douglas, 280 Dundas St. E.

"I can't afford a holiday!"

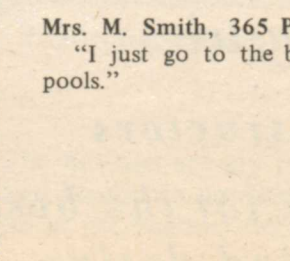
Darlene Chattman, Regent Park

"I don't do much of anything. I read or swim. I was working, but right now I'm just taking it easy."



Muriel Power, 32 West Ave.

"I work in the summer. But when I'm not working I go swimming or to the Yonge St. mall."



Mrs. M. Smith, 365 Parliament

"I just go to the beach and pools."



photo: j.j.

Avion takes over 1st place

by AL JOHNSON

Avion Blues led by the pitching skills of John Malinoski have for the first time this year gained a lead for the penant. The race for first is very close with Eclipse TV only a half game behind Avion and "the Kids" (Devers Holdings) and Anthony Cartage only a half game behind them.

Each game played can conceivably change the standings quite drastically. A win can mean first place in the standings and a loss could mean fourth place.

The individual awards race is also quite close. John (MEL) Malinoski of the Avion, winner of the most valuable player and pitching awards the past two years, has got a real battle on his hands this year with Gary Caruso of Eclipse and John Mulhall of Devers both having outstanding years.

REGENT PARK MEN'S SENIOR (as of July 15)

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Avion Blues	10	7	3	0	14
Eclipse TV	11	6	4	1	13
Anthony Cartage	12	6	6	1	12
Devers Holdings	13	5	6	2	12
CBH Cartage	12	2	9	1	5