

# Regent Park finally signs contract with Ontario Housing Corporation

by ULLI DIEMER

The Regent Park Community Improvement Association (RPCIA) has signed a Tenant-Management Contract with the Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC). The agreement is the first official contract that gives tenants a say in the management of public housing. For this reason, the contract is considered a breakthrough for public

housing tenants' groups across Canada.

The contract creates a Management Advisory Board made up of four tenants and four OHC representatives. It also provides money for administrative and office expenses.

The signing followed lengthy negotiation between RPCIA and OHC. There was disagreement over the make-up the Manage-

ment Advisory Board, over the eligibility of tenants in default of their rent, over money, and over the administration of the contract. RPCIA are not totally satisfied with the contract, but feel that it provides a workable basis on which to proceed. The contract only covers one year. A new contract is due to be signed in 1977, and negotiations on it are expected to start almost immediately.

According to the RPCIA, the ultimate goal is to put the management of Regent Park into the hands of its tenants. The current contract is a step in that direction, although there is still a long way to go, thanks to the reluctance of the OHC. However, the future of the concept now depends on how well the RPCIA and the tenants of Regent Park use the current program.



## NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
265 Gerrard St. East 920-8632  
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## 24 homeless from 3 fires

Four people were sent to hospital and fourteen people are homeless as the result of two fires in two days in Meridian owned properties in South St. Jamestown.

Three days later, a fire gutted the interior of 338 Sackville Street in Don Vale, leaving two large families homeless. No one was injured in that blaze as no one was home at the time. Children playing with matches are thought to have been the cause.

When the first fire broke out at 205 Wellesley Street East at 9:30 a.m. on Wed. May 19, Linda Abotossaway grabbed for the fire alarm but it didn't work. She then ran to the apartment of Mrs. Audrey Vecchiola in the same house and shouted, "Hold my baby, my house is on fire!"

Carmen Vecchiola, age 14, said, "I was at school and I saw the smoke. I knew it was my house."

No one was injured but the apartment was completely gutted. Five people were made homeless when the two apartments had to be boarded up. The Fire Department is investigating the cause of the fire alarm failure.

Residents of Rose Avenue were awakened at 1:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 20 by the screams of Mrs. Helen Govereau of 56 Rose

Avenue.

Brian Doucette of 45 Rose Avenue said, "I heard someone shout 'Fire, fire!' I ran out. There was a woman hanging from the second floor window. Her head was obscured by black smoke. I found a ladder but it was too short. People from the house were wandering around in a daze."

"When the fire truck came, the fireman started to unroll their hoses. I pointed to the woman hanging out the window. A fireman grabbed a ladder off the truck and ran to the house."

Mrs. Govereau, the woman hanging out the window, said, "I told the firemen to go around to the back and help the people there." "Angel fell out of the second floor window at the back," said Andy Solomon, who lived on the second floor.

"The fireman dropped his ladder and ran around the back," said Brian Doucette. "I put it up, but it was too short too. Then the firemen came with an extension ladder."

"My brother-in-law, Hubert

Comer, saved the kids," explained Mrs. Govereau. "Allan is two and little Walter is only six months."

Firemen carried Walter Govereau and Gerry Cook out of the house unconscious. They were rushed to Wellesley hospital along with Mrs. Govereau. Another woman, "Angel," was examined and discharged by the hospital.

Although damage to the very large house was restricted to one room, City Inspector Mr. Henrika ordered the house boarded up. Nine people were left homeless.

City by-laws state that if a family shares a house with more than four people, the house must be registered as a rooming house and smoke detectors and fire alarms must be installed.

Number 56 Rose Avenue was not registered as a rooming house and contained no smoke detectors or fire alarms. Mr. Henriks, the City Inspector on the scene explained, "I have checked the house several times and there were only two families living there."

However, a check of the occupants showed that Andrew and Evelyn Solomon and their two years old son shared the ground floor with Andy's cousin Wally since December.

Gerry Cook lived on the second floor since January. Mr. and Mrs. Govereau and their two children moved in around the 1st of May. Thus in addition to the three members of the Solomon family, there were six other rent paying tenants in the house.

There were three other adults also sleeping in the house at the time of the fire.

A concerned neighbour, Robert Olsen of 281 Wellesley East feels there was an obvious violation of City by-laws. "I thought both Gerry and Walter were dead when they were carried out. I don't think the City intends to make an investigation. I think that they will cover the whole thing up as quietly as possible."

Clarence Ivary of 62 Howard Street was the landlord of both the houses in South St. Jamestown which caught fire. The fire damaged house on Sackville Street was owner occupied.



Photo by Steven Evans

508 Parliament Street. Its yearly Christmas decorations won it an award in the recent "Beautify Toronto" campaign.

## Tenants win house award

Tenants, because they have no equity involved, are generally considered to have no concern with the aesthetics of their accommodation. And tenants who are concerned are blocked from taking action because their rent will be raised if they do anything to spruce-up their unit.

It is therefore delicious irony that a tenant-occupied house in Ward Seven should get a "Home owner Award" in the 1975 Beautify Toronto Campaign.

The house is located at 508 Parliament Street (the northern most of the four houses between Raxlan Clinic and the Liquor store) and the award went to the principal tenants, Steve and Janet Black.

The house received the award because of the Christmas lights and decorations that beautify it every

yuletide season. Well-known to passersby in the area, the house last season had a Christmas card in lights on the lawn, a Santa Claus on the roof and 27 sets of lights framed the verandah and windows.

The house occupied by the Blacks is also famous for its look in the spring, summer and fall. Around the 24th of May of each year, the Blacks put in a luxurious, well-trimmed lawn, decorative lawn ornaments and beautiful flower beds and potted plants. By comparison, the front lawns of the houses to the south of them look like disaster areas.

The Blacks have lived at 508 Parliament for 16 years and seen three owners come and go. The house is presently owned by the City of Toronto and was part of a recent purchase from Meridian.

### NEWS ROUND-UP

## Dixon Hall to hold street dance in June

The fourth annual Open House of **Chester Village** is being held on Saturday, June 5, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 717 Broadview Ave. For more information call **Mary Macdonald** at 466-2173.

A multicultural **Spring Festival** will be held at **Morse Street Public School**, 180 Carlaw Avenue on Sat. June 5 from 3 p.m. on. Sponsored by the Riverdale Intercultural Committee, this community celebration will have performing artists and cultural displays with music, dances, art, food and audio-visuals presented by different ethnic groups in the Riverdale area.

Children between the ages of 3 to 12 wanting to go to the **Dixon Hall Day Camp** can register at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street between 9:30 and 5 p.m. on Mon. June 21.

Central Neighbourhood House is celebrating its **65th birthday** on Sept. 18, 1976. Special events to be held during the summer months

are in the planning process. Former CNH members or people who know of any are asked to contact CNH at **925-4363**.

A **Pedal Power Workshop** for teens and adults will be held in the basement of 265 Gerrard St. East on Thursday June 3 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be **T. A. Sandcliffe** from Sandy's Cycle Shop.

A **street dance** will be held in front of Dixon Hall at **58 Sumach Street** on Fri. June 25 starting at 6 p.m. There will be two bands plus games, a bake sale and a rummage sale. All are welcome.

More VIP's: Former Argonaut football player **Mel Profit**, now with Global TV has recently moved into a house on Berkeley Street just south of Gerrard.

The Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Club has been awarded a Ontario grant of **\$1,533** for the purchase of boxing equipment.

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street

Continued on pg. 5

## Seven News celebrates birthday

The next issue of SEVEN NEWS will be Volume 7, Number 1 — which means it is our sixth birthday. As in previous years, the back page of that issue will be a

giant Birthday Card wishing us a Happy Birthday and it will contain the names of all the people who want to wish us a Happy Birthday.

If you would like to see your

name in the paper, wish us a happy birthday, and help us out financially, give us a call at 920-8632. The deadline is June 7 and the cost is only \$5.00.



is a community-owned newspaper published every other Saturday by Seven News, Inc., 265 Gerrard St. East. Editorial offices are located at 80 Winchester Street, phone 920-8632. SEVEN NEWS does not support any political party or individual and invites all members of the community to write for it. Any opinion expressed in SEVEN NEWS are those of the individual writer and do not represent the views of the staff or publishing organization. Where errors of fact are brought to our attention, we will print a suitable correction.

PAID STAFF: Managing Editor, Norman Browne; Business Manager, Ulli Diemer; Distribution Manager, Phil Jalsevac; Production Manager, David Ruppel; Volunteer Co-ordinator, Ulli Diemer; Advertising Manager, Jim Fulton.

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# LETTERS



## School objects to photo

Dear SIR:

I am writing on behalf of the staff of Our Lady of Lourdes School to express concern regarding a picture which appeared on the front page of the May 1st issue of Ward 7 News. As a group working with children in the area in which these papers are distributed, we find it difficult to understand why such a picture was chosen as a winning photo, and why it would appear in a paper which has been, and is, of such value in this com-

munity. We are trying to teach values which will prepare our children to live effectively as good citizens in today's world. The printed word is vital in helping to instill such values.

**Sr. Moira & Staff, Our Lady of Lourdes School**  
(EDITOR'S NOTE: But values aren't static — they change. The Danforth Library and Seven News are only reflecting those changed community values.....NGB)



Controversial photo

## Wrong date for birthday

Dear Norman:

My heartiest congratulations to your paper on your sixth birthday. Maybe you didn't notice but Volume One, Number One is dated May 29, 1970 — the same month and day as this issue. I hope both you and I are around to wish you a happy twelfth birthday.

Good luck and keep up the good

work.

**William Bryan Wyatt Walk.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for point out a fact that was completely overlooked by our staff — that this and not next issue is our birthday issue. However, it's too late and we will have to go ahead and celebrate our birthday next issue as planned.....NGB)

An unique opportunity exists for an independent individual to work in a community law office, Parkdale Community Legal Services, as a lay advocate.

Work will include community legal education concentrated in the areas of welfare, workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance as well as legal services in the same areas.

We are looking for someone with a commitment to community law who is prepared to assume responsibility. Previous experience in dealing with bureaucracies would be useful. Knowledge of other languages is an asset. Preference will be given to residents of the Parkdale community.

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible to:

**PARKDALE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES,  
1267 Queen Street West,  
TORONTO, Ontario.  
Attention: Ms Mary Hogan  
Call 531-2411 for more information.**

## Nellies Hostel faces funding crisis

by PAULA FAINSTST

Nellie's Women's Hostel, on Broadview near Dundas, attempts to reduce the brutality on women's lives by providing a place where women can come when they need a place to stay and don't have enough money in their pockets to be able to afford a place of their own. More and more women are leaving intolerable home situations to find themselves with little or no money of their own after years of hard labour in their homes. And now, as more women feel the effects of the cutbacks in their pockets, the service Nellie's offers becomes even more crucial. As it is, there are 600 emergency beds for men in Toronto, while there are 68 for women and 80 for families.

The shelter has been struggling to survive as a 24 hour a day emergency housing centre for women since it opened two years ago. The problem of adequate funding and a manageable world and has been a constant crisis for the staff.

Now the government's cutbacks have thrust the staff at Nellie's along with the many women who use the service even further into crisis. Nellie's financial situation is more precarious than ever, which means that the shelter continues to be understaffed and the staff overworked while the budget runs at a deficit. Metro Social Services has a purchase of service contract with Nellie's, by which they recognize the need for a women's shelter but will not cover more than 80% of the operating costs. And the shelter never knows when it might be next on the list of Metro's "restraints".

Other funding sources are donations and short term grants which are constantly being sought but which have not been able to fill up the gap adequately. For the coming year, Nellie's needs an added \$20,000 simply to maintain its present level of operation.

Nellie's is hardly alone in facing a financial crisis. Along with the many other social services in similar precarious situations, the seven staff at the shelter see the daily implications of the cutbacks on the women who stay there.

Women come to the shelter from many situations. Many women, including battered wives, are leaving or have been kicked out by a husband or boyfriend; some have been evicted illegally or their gov-

ernment cheques are late; some have been discharged from government institutions or hospitals with no money, some are teenagers trying to make a go of things on their own only to find that there are no jobs and that they are no longer qualified for welfare assistance.

Many are simply women who can't find a place to live which they can afford, as reasonable housing for older women, women with children and women with psychiat-

ric histories is especially difficult to come by.

The cutbacks in welfare along with a lack of jobs and daycare means that it becomes more and more difficult for women to get and hold on to money of their own.

Nellie's Women's Hostel is located at 275 A Broadview Ave. Women who need a temporary place to stay or would like more information should phone the hostel at 461-1084.

# OPINION!

## Wrong budget priorities

by ALAN DUDECK

The Ontario Government has, in recent months, been citing the need to demonstrate spending restraint and responsible government, as the primary rationalization for the substantial reductions it has proposed in the area of social services and health care.

The most recent Queen's Park proposals and antics relating to health care costs clearly illustrate the Tories' reluctance to seriously evaluate the ways in which they will spend nearly 3 billion dollars on health care. To suggest that financial responsibility was the reason for Frank Miller's hospital-closing visits is preposterous both in terms of the way the Health Minister was going about his chore and more significantly in terms of the effect of his actions. The potential savings of \$50 million dollars on hospital spending out of over \$1.5 billion is in itself not very much. Although critics have long chastized the Province for putting so much of the health care dollar into costly institutional care, the callous closing of hospitals on a basis unclear to the public, in order to save a few dollars, does not come close to meeting the deserved criticism.

### Priorities for health care

The debate should be in terms of the priorities for health care in this province. Advocates of extended and much more comprehensive primary health care as opposed to increasing institutional care, will find no solace in the current hospital closings. The closings come with nothing else. Rather than point to the need for proper funding and development of localized clinical and preventive health services, the Minister of Health in his earlier musings about spending restraints reflected on the emerging community health centres as a questionable priority. This question in the Minister's mind, when in all of Ontario last year, only 18 community health centres (of which only nine are community-directed) were funded with less than 3 million dollars.

There are a number of reasons why hospital spending is taking too much of our health dollar. The introduction of universal hospital insurance took place ten years before medical coverage was implemented. Canadians had an incentive to be hospitalized, and to benefit from free drugs and surgical supplies. Private insurance coverage which then existed, generally covered physicians' services in the hospital but not necessarily in the office such that the physician also had an incentive to hospitalize patients.

### Millions of dollars

The above factor together with the tremendous outlay for capital construction during the 60's meant and continues to result in insufficient import given to appropriate and accountable primary health services. The expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars to private practitioners on a fee for service basis does not necessarily provide adequate primary care. Local ventures such as the Don District Community Health Centre have been very useful both in its benefit to the community and in terms of direct experience with the inequities within the overall health system. Among the problems faced by the Centre and the public generally are the following:

- a) Refusal of the Province to fund the range of services which are badly needed, thus minimally funding only clinical functions, i.e. the services of physicians and nurses.
- b) Continuing fragmentation of services at all levels including the unnecessary confusion and ineffectiveness between functions of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- c) Unwillingness of the Province to develop its spending and programme priorities in terms of users' needs. Health needs are being expressed by members of the public, but rarely does the Province implement programmes designed to accommodate such needs.

The above points are not cited to argue against a role for hospital or institutional care; however, the assertion is being made that without proper development of localized, accountable and comprehensive clinical and preventive health services, the taxpayer will continue to spend vast sums on the institutional alternatives.

By virtue of the Tories' desperate attempts to control the flow of funds, health care and its costs are presently very much a matter of public discussion. That in itself is valuable. Rather than considering the question of closing hospitals in isolation from the overall health picture, pressure should be on Queen's Park to realign its health priorities such that the public is getting full value for the tremendous costs of health care.

## Youth boarding house planned in Regent Park

Plans are underway to set up a youth boarding house in Regent Park for young people 16 years of age and over with no visible means of support.

A committee with members from churches and agencies based in Regent Park has been meeting to plan the project and get it started. They describe the purpose as being "to provide a stable living situation for these youth for a period of 4-6 months, enabling the helping agencies to better provide service, eventually returning them as productive citizens in the community." They would all be past or present residents of Regent Park who have been displaced from their home for one reason or another.

The house would be staffed by a live-in youth worker. The initial set-up cost is estimated to be \$3,680.

## Mission sets up house for ex-skidrow men

Fred Victor Mission has bought a house located at 149 Seaton Street and plans to use it as an experimental, non-institutional means of rehabilitating ex-skid row men.

One of the purposes of Fred Victor Mission is to deal with and try to eliminate skid row. Many of the men they deal with want to get out of skid row and a network of community service people has been created to deal with the skid row problem.

On the fourth floor of their building at 139 Jarvis, the Mission has put together what they call a "short-term community program". Intensively screened men, wanting to get off skid row, are housed there for a period of six weeks, undergo counselling and are given as much help as possible.

The house at 149 Seaton Street has been set up as the next step in this program. Designed to take six or seven men from an institutional to a partial family setting, the house is presently undergoing renovations with a planned opening



Photo by Steven Evans

in late June or July.

The house was bought last summer for \$62,000 from Marion

Service who ran it as a communal rooming house. Renovations are estimated to cost around \$15,000.

In explaining the concept behind the house, Dave Bowman, Outreach Representative of the Mission said it was a first for Fred Victor and would be under continuous evaluation.

Mr. Bowman stated that Fred Victor Mission didn't want to be just a large institution going it alone with the skid row problem. The house, he said, "would be an example to the community and other institutions."

The men who move into the house will have their own bed-sitting rooms and use a communal kitchen and washrooms. The tenants will run the house themselves in consultation with staff of the Mission. Their length of stay is open-ended and they may live there up to two years.

Initial reaction from neighbouring homeowners has been negative but Mr. Bowman feels that greater consultation with the community will help solve this problem.

## Student exchange trip a success

by MARY CHANG

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Recent news items in 7 News stated that Rose Avenue Public School was fund-raising to send some of their students on an exchange trip with students from a school in Pittsburgh. We asked the teacher in charge, Steve Koning, to do a story on the event or get his students to do so. He submitted reports from 15 students — the best of which is printed below.)*

A few days ago the kids from Rose Avenue Public School (in Toronto) had an exchange with the kids from Boyd Elementary School (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). The exchange was a big step for the grade sixes.

There were at least 95 kids in-

involved in the exchange. About 44 students were representing Rose Avenue and about 51 students were from Boyd Elementary.

When the Torontonians went to Pittsburgh, they had a ball there. They saw the Duquesne Incline, Aqua Zoo, Twilight Zoo, Fort Pitt, Gateway Clippers and went on a ride on the Ohio River. When the students from Pittsburgh came here, they saw the Science Centre, Casa Loma, the Royal Ontario Museum, toured City Hall, the T-D Centre and Centre Island.

When we went there, we had a five-day trip but three days were spent visiting at other places on the way down and back. The students from Pittsburgh stayed here three days. When we went there and when they came here we stayed

over at their homes and they stayed at our homes.

The three teachers who were in charge of the exchange were Steve Koning and Stauffer Smith of Rose Avenue School and Mr. Dittner from the Pittsburgh school.

I am sure this trip was a challenge for all or most of the kids. The Rose Avenue kids spent about \$2,069.31 to make the trip. I can imagine the Pittsburgh kids also spent a lot of money and effort to make the trip a memorable experience. All of the students from both schools should thank their teachers for a lovely trip.

Also, we picked the right year to go to Pittsburgh because it is their country's Bi-centennial birthday. So to our American friends, who may read this article, "Happy 200th Birthday".

## Alpha school seeks area students

by RON AUSTIN

Alpha, the only publically funded alternative elementary school of its kind in Toronto is located here in Ward Seven. It was established four years ago by a group of parents who were concerned with the quality of education offered their children in the regular public schools.

Located on the third floor of the Broadview YMCA, just south of Gerrard Street, Alpha's physical setting and size are two obvious contrasts with other public schools.

About forty children between the ages of five and twelve attend the school. The Toronto School Board pays the salary of two teachers and a part-time co-ordinator. Parents of the children attending the school are expected to assist the staff in the day-to-day activities of Alpha.

The children attending the school are expected to make responsible decisions concerning their work habits and other activities. Besides the basic skills of mathematics, reading and writing, art, language studies, dramatics, free play and outings are part of the program.

Alpha considers learning through experience more valuable than abstract learning. For example, the children operate a snack bar and store where they gain practical experience in writing and



A child at Alpha School modeling clay.

math.

Alpha tries to give the children a reasonably non-sexist orientation through the role examples set by the adults. It also refrains from making artificial distinctions between boys' and girls' activities.

A high value is also placed on what the children can learn from each other in the course of their social interaction and much of their time is spent in this way. Disputes among the children are resolved by a committee of their peers with

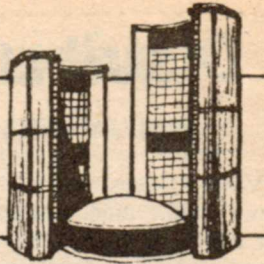
very little adult interference. The committee changes regularly to give each child in the school an opportunity to participate.

There is also an emphasis placed on getting the children out of the school and into the community for direct experience in the world at large.

General meetings of parents, staff members and volunteers in the school make decisions governing the operation and philosophy of the school. As well, students and staff meet regularly as a group to discuss and plan the daily activities of the school.

Although Alpha is located in Ward Seven, most of its students come from outside the immediate area. However, it is anxious to draw new students from the area. Anyone who feels their child might benefit from going to Alpha or is interested in visiting Alpha should contact the co-ordinator at 461-4056.

## city hall report



# City must provide more decent housing

by JANET HOWARD  
Ward 7 Alderman

When the City Housing Department's 1976 Policy Review and recommendations came to the Committee on Neighbourhoods, Housing, Fire and Legislation recently, those of us in the Reform Caucus made some substantial changes to it.

The Policy Review is a document put out by the Housing Department setting out what has happened over the past year both as to what they have achieved and what is new in the whole realm of housing, and what they think they can and should accomplish in the coming year.

It is a brave exercise. Given the difficulty of making Federal and Provincial housing programmes fit the needs of large cities, the department leaves itself open to heavy criticism if it cannot achieve the targets set for itself. Some members of City Council — mostly a group known as the Old Guard, leftovers from the days when city government was a rubber stamp for big developers — want all housing to come from private, profit making industry.

The rest of Council believes the City has an important function in filling the gaps left by private industry, and some of us, including both Ward 7 aldermen, feel strongly that the private developers have done too many people too much harm over the years for us to let them determine what gets built for whom.

If you look around Ward 7 you will see there is no shortage of houses for people to buy. The shortage lies in people with enough money to buy them, after speculators have puffed up the prices. Similarly, in spite of the much discussed low vacancy rate in apartment buildings, I have yet to hear of a person with enough money to pay a high rent who cannot find an apartment (unless the person has children.)

The Reform Caucus wanted the City's housing policy to work for three things: put some real strength into its commitment to a non-profit programme for Toronto, through both the City of Toronto Non-Profit Corporation and private non-profit groups; clearly state the worsening situation for half of the population of Toronto with regard to housing; and pose alternatives to all levels of government which show the extent to which private industry cannot solve problems of housing people in the lower half of the income range, or cool down speculation in land.

Companies are in business to make money. The lower half of the income range is not the group that will contribute the highest profits, and therefore developers do not build for them. Most government programmes are geared to help the developers build profitably, and therefore the housing provided under those programmes reach middle income people at best.

### Access to decent housing

The City's job, on the other hand, is to see to it that all of its residents have access to decent housing. There is to reason to believe that at this late date developers are going to solve that problem for us. So the question arises: Should we continue to accept a worsening situation for half of our residents and make do with the existing ways of getting housing built, or should we come out fighting and make it clear to the development industry and senior levels of government that Canada's second largest city has too great a responsibility to its residents to allow housing policy to be determined by the amount of money developers can make?

The majority of Council isn't quite ready to fight. For example, Council voted down the committee's amendment to ask the province to continue rent control beyond 1977; voted down our deletion of targets for developer-built housing; voted against a policy to allow profit-making builders to build only if half the units would be available to households with incomes below the median; and voted down our statements that housing should not be treated like any other profit-making commodity. The fact that some of our amendments carried in Council and we have had some successes in changing housing policy over the past couple of years to reflect the urgency of housing the lower half of the income range show that even fans of the development industry are having to admit that developers are unable to do our job for us, even if they wanted to.

But by the time the majority of City Council gets around to taking a very strong stand, economic conditions will make the problems harder to solve and an awful lot of people will have been hurt.

### 7 NEWS REQUIRES A DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

This is a full-time position until June 25, 1976. It is part-time after that date. Salary is \$132.00 a week. The successful candidate for the position:

- Must have a car or access to one.
- Be a self-starter.
- Should be familiar with the Ward Seven area.
- Should have other newspaper skills and experience.

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## Distributor of the week

by PHIL JALSEVAC

Vince Geddes is one of Seven News's more unique distributors. On delivery day, Vince will be dropping off literally thousands of copies of the paper to people's homes, local merchants, community centres and social service agencies.

If this sounds like a big route, you're right, for it covers practically all of Ward 7.

Of course, the catch is that the youngster will drop off anywhere from 25 to 300 copies at each single delivery point which admittedly is not the same thing as going from door to door with a single copy for each home. Nonetheless, no matter the size of the bundles, it is no small feat for a young fellow

to help get close to 20,000 copies of Seven News out to the residents of Ward 7.

On our newspaper, Vince is what we call the "hopper". He drives around with our distribution manager and hustles and bustles at each stop to get the papers into stores and onto our other distributors' doorsteps.

Though other hoppers have been used on occasion, and their efforts are appreciated too, Vince has been the most consistently available for this work and volunteered to help on many delivery days over the months.

Admitting that though schooling isn't exactly his favourite hobby or most active interest, the blond-haired youth still has some ambitions to one day become a lawyer. He admits he'll have "to work a little harder though" to do this.

Some days you'll spot Vince enjoying the TV at the Don Vale Community Centre, and occasionally lending a hand to the maintenance man there also. He has a wide array of friends on and around Metcalfe St. where he lives, where the local "gang" is often found engaging in that perennial Canadian past-time — road hockey. Other times, he gets together with his buddies at an in-



Photo by Steven Evans

formal boys' club — a gathering place made available by a young gentleman the neighbourhood kids affectionately refer to as "Riggy". There they can watch the hockey games on TV and listen to music — sometimes live, as Riggy and his friend Jim also happen to be veteran country and western songsters.

### New NIP board

Not many organizations can have two annual meetings within a year! But the Neighbourhood Information Post had its second annual meeting (within a year) on Wednesday May 19th.

The Neighbourhood Information Post is an information and referral service for Ward 7. The coordinator, Susan Seaby, remarked that the past few months have been very busy ones for N.I.P. Many new volunteers have been recruited, lots of information given out, and during tax time, over 1400 tax forms were filled!

An election was held for a board of directors. The Neighbourhood Information Post is controlled by a board of nine members, the majority of whom must be residents of the community. Re-elected to the board from last year were: Harold Bennett, Arthur Channer, Rick Sagara, Susan Seaby and Pat Travis. The new board members are: Krishna Ghandi, Florence Lewis, Gerry Solorsh, and Greg Young.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped on this issue.

## Body Politic

Gay Liberation Journal

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# SURVIVAL!

## No pat answer to problem of rape

by DEBORAH BLACK  
Toronto Rape Crisis Centre

Both men and women in today's society have been socialized to view "rape" as one of those nasty untouchable events that happen to "women who have been asking for it". But this just isn't so! I work at the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre and from my experience there and my readings about the phenomenon known as "rape" I've learned that a myth about "rape" is being perpetuated in our society. It is a popular belief that women cry rape for revenge against their boyfriends. This is false; in fact, in a recent FBI study statistics show that only 2% of reported rapes are false, the same as all other crimes. The crime of rape is shaded by all types of misconceptions.

Contrary to popular belief, a vast number of rapes are not committed by a stranger who sees a woman in a dark alley and is sexually aroused to attack her. Oh no, rape has frequently proven itself to take place between people known to each other. One can be raped by the janitor of one's building, one's employer, one's ex-boyfriend and even one's husband. There are no "pat" scenarios or circumstances for rape. Women who are sixteen or sixty-five can be raped. They can be beautiful or ugly, have a good figure or a bad figure.

There is not one type of women who is assaulted. Contrary to myth, wearing short skirts, low cut tops, lots of make-up or no bra does not make women an easy "mark". Rape has proven itself to be a violent crime rather than a sexual crime.

The experience of being raped is traumatic. Unfortunately there are no golden rules to follow to avoid being assaulted. Tragically, no solution to the problem of rape in today's society has been discovered. Extensive community education about rape must be given. For now, women must simply use their common sense.

The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre began services in 1974. It provides a "post facto" service for women who have been assaulted or raped. The Rape Crisis Centre is an organization of women who operate a twenty-four hour crisis line. We try to provide through our service, above all else, a non-judgemental support for the women involved, her family, her husband or boyfriend.

### Fear of Pregnancy

At the Rape Crisis Centre we offer advice on what to do after the rape and about potential prosecution of the rapist. One of the most important things for a woman to do after she has been raped is to go to the hospital. She should not wash or change, but go directly to the hospital and be examined for evidence of semen (even if she does not wish to prosecute, she may later change her mind and without evidence of forcible intercourse a case is labelled unfounded), and have venereal disease and pregnancy tests. Fear of pregnancy and venereal disease is high in a woman's mind after being attacked and going to the hospital for these tests will rid her of this fear. Appointments are usually made for follow-up tests.

As far as prosecution or laying charges with the police is concerned it is up to the individual woman. Caseworkers from the Rape Crisis Centre will accompany women to the hospital or police station for the medical and legal investigations which can often be as traumatic as the rape itself.

Not all women who call the centre have been recently assaulted or raped. The Rape Crisis Centre receives calls from women who have been assaulted or raped in the past and are only for the first time talking about their experiences.

Unfortunately, rape has not been arrested. In fact, rape is on the increase. Between 1963 - 1973 there was a 314% increase in reported rapes to people. In 1975, 204 rapes were reported. The police estimate that 60% to 90% of rapes go unreported. There are 1500-2000 rapes a year in Toronto. This may be a conservative estimate.

The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre is a small organization. We're trying to do many things: provide individual counselling, rap groups, push for reform in the Canadian rape laws, and try to create a better relationship between the women who have been raped, and the hospitals, the police and the community at large. But it's a big job and we need support. Financial support is always needed, but support entails so much more. We are constantly in need of volunteers and are eager for new blood. Additionally we would like letters of support. If you are in favour of what we're doing, write us and tell us. Letters are also necessary to other social organizations and above all else letters to the Canadian Law Reform Commission in favour of reform in the rape laws are a viable means of showing support.

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## CRC moves to new location

After over six years at 297 Carlton Street in Don Vale, the Toronto Christian Resource Centre is moving. As of June 1, this experimental inner-city ministry will be located at 20 Spruce St.

Both their new and old addresses are owned by Don Area Co-op Homes (DACHI) but because 297 and 295 Carlton Street didn't fit into the overall plan for the co-op, they have been long up for sale.

The sales have now been completed with 297 Carlton going for \$130,000 and 295 Carlton selling

for \$95,000. Both the new owners are expected to do extensive rehabilitating to both the exterior and interiors of the houses.

The Christian Resource Centre, looking for someplace on a semi-permanent basis hope to arrange a long-term lease with an option to buy on 20 Spruce Street.

The Annual Meeting of the Christian Resource Centre will be held on the evening of June 18. An Open House, to show off their new quarters, will be held in conjunction with it.

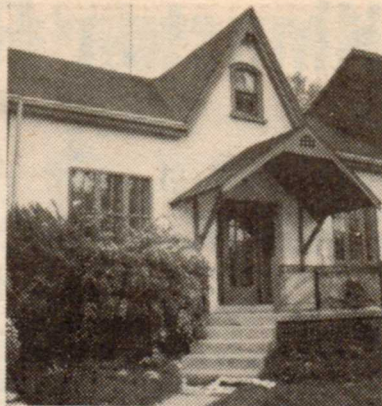


Photo by Steven Evans

New home of Christian Resource Centre

## Seven News will survive

Seven News will survive and continue publication despite the fact that its Local Initiative Program (LIP) funding will run out at the end of June and it faces a \$6,000 deficit between now and October.

When LIP funds run out, the paper will have an accumulated bank balance of \$2,500 from revenue earned before it went on LIP. The sum of \$5,000 is owed to 7 News by the business community for unpaid advertisements and a grant of \$3,000 is being sought

from the Ontario Arts Council.

To be on the safe side, the Board of Directors of 7 News ordered a staff cutback of one person and the staff at the paper is presently undergoing a re-organization to accommodate this.

To keep the paper going after October, when the new Board of Directors takes over, the annual 7 News lottery will be held. Because of delays, tickets will not go on sale until mid-August with the draw expected around the end of September.

Seven News will have a combined general meeting, Open House and Pub Night at the Don Vale Community Centre, 80 Winchester Street on Friday night June 25. Special guests at the meeting will be the 150-odd adult volunteers without whose help the paper would not be possible. Admission is free and you're all invited.

## Local poet shows interesting style in book



The name Norm Craven is a familiar one to long-time readers of Seven News. Norm's byline has appeared extensively through the years on both prose and poetry. Norm was also on the first Board of Directors of Seven News and in those bygone early years helped extensively with the editing, layout and paste-up of the paper.

The *Double Helix* is the first major collection of Norm's work put together in book form. It is long awaited and long overdue. It is regrettable, however, that a commercial publisher couldn't

### THE DOUBLE HELIX by Norm Craven 56 pages — \$2.00

have done the job. Norm deserves better than a mimeographed, stapled booklet — overpriced at \$2.00.

The best way to describe the poetry style of Norm Craven is to give a sample. And the best sample is the title poem: *The Double Helix*.

*you can't help but see them  
in the laudromat  
on a Sunday morn*

*there's the skinny kids  
of the unholy poor  
dressed in damned rejects  
from the crippled civilians*

*and the destroyed  
deserted women  
who reek of poverty*

*braced by a smattering  
of plump child brides  
with distended bellies  
and big round eyes*

*and there's the lush  
with his convulsive twitch  
suffering  
in his very own private hell*

*and he steals a furtive swig  
from a concealed bottle  
and all the while  
the clothes circulate  
fifty times a minute*

*and all the proper people  
stare at the ungodly  
then go to see the man  
who has never been hungry  
one single day in his whole life*

*and he makes an impassioned plea  
for the poor of the world  
then they pass the plate  
but all they collect  
is thirty pieces of tarnished silver*

### NEWS ROUND-UP

## Riverdale NDP to hold family picnic in June

Continued pg. 1

will hold a **Bingo** on Tuesday June 1 and 15 at 7 p.m. Admission is 50 cents. **Progressive Euchure** at Dixon Hall will be held at 7 p.m. on June 9. Admission is \$1 and 50 cents for senior citizens.

A good turnout last Wednesday evening at **Frankland Public School** heard an interesting panel discuss what French language programs are and might be available for the children at the school.

A Bingo is held every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 10:30 in the penthouse at **285 Shuter Street**. Everyone is welcome, there is no admission charge and cards are reasonably priced.

The 2nd Annual **50 Cents Family Picnic** sponsored by the Riverdale NDP will be held Saturday, June 19, at **Hanlan's Point**. Races and games start at 1 p.m. Ice cream and beverage is included in the price of the ticket. Tickets are available from **Dan Burns**, 59 Bowden; **Lee Patterson**, 42 Langley; the John Gilbert Centre, 790 Gerrard East or Jim Renwick's office at 1204 Gerrard East.

PEOPLE: **Marsha Cressy** left Toronto last week for a three week

tour of Scandinavia leaving Gord at home to look after their two daughters.

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*then he calls for the water  
and cleanses his hands  
and he holds aloft the cup  
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and in its polished surface  
I see the face of every man.*

Fellow poet and critic Jack Heighton has this to say of Norm's book, "*Helix* shows a facet of Norm's poetic nature that seldom appears in his works. Here is little of the satire with which Norm usually mocks all our sacred cows. *Helix* is no feather to tickle the conscience into awareness, it is a bludgeon.

"Norm handles his subjects in the manner of a true artist and if there is any beauty to be found in the 'poetry of poverty' it is to be found here.

"*Helix* is not a book that should be read on a wet afternoon if you are feeling at all blue, and that says it all."

The official Ward Seven presentation of *The Double Helix* will take place at St. Ann's Parish Hall (Gerrard and De Grassi) on June 2 at 8 p.m. Norm will be on hand to read and present his poetry.

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# Queen Street and the Kingston Road

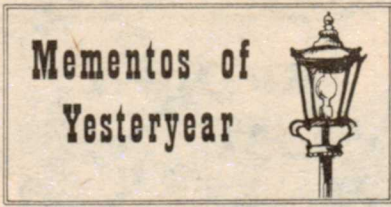
by GEORGE RUST-D'EYE

The Kingston Road is almost as old as Toronto itself. For over 170 years it has been an important access to the City from the east, and with Queen Street, its westward extension, the most important thoroughfare in Ward 7.

The first survey of the Town of York and its harbour, made in 1793 by Deputy-Surveyor Alexander Aitken for Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe, shows Lot Street (now Queen) running north of the Town of York and eastward as far as the present Woodbine Avenue.

The waterfront on the other side of the Don was included because access to the peninsula (since 1854 the Toronto Island), was from near the foot of Woodbine. This peninsula was important for strategic reasons, and was as well a popular place for riding, hunting and other forms of enjoyment for the early inhabitants of York.

Although Simcoe commenced plans for the laying out of a road from York to Kingston, it was not until after his departure that his successor, the Hon. Peter Russell, President of the Executive Council, in 1798, commissioned Asa



Danforth, an American, to build such a road. It was to cost \$90 a mile. A highway 33 feet wide was to be cleared, with the centre 16-1/2 feet to be cut smooth and even with the ground.

Bridges and causeways were to be built 16-1/2 feet wide wherever necessary, and high enough not to be washed away. Two entire townships in Norfolk County were sold to pay for the building of the road. The 40 labourers required for the project were to be given 200 acres of land each.

By December, 1799, the section from York to Smith's Creek (Port Hope) had been completed, but this "road" really was in many places nothing more than a clearing away of trees. There were very few settlers along the path of the road. Therefore, maintenance was non-existent, and rivers, swamps and steep hills continued to present serious obstacles to travellers. Even on a clear winter day (the best time to travel because the ground is frozen), a team of oxen could haul a loaded sled only 16 to 18 miles. Sailing ships would still be the major means of travel for many years to come.

In the early years of travel in Upper Canada, travellers entering the Town of York from the Kingston Road crossed the Don River by means of a scow pulled across by ropes, then later by means of a floating bridge. In 1809, the first of a series of standing bridges was built of planks.

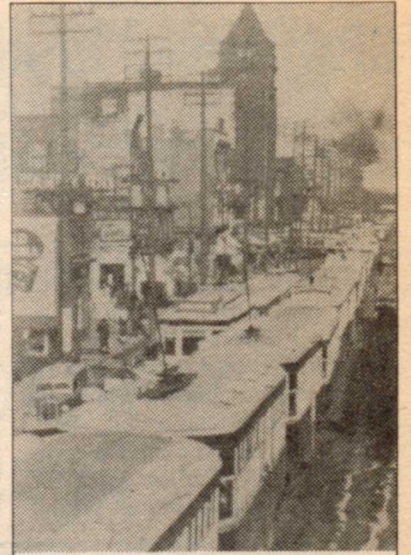
By 1816 the Kingston Road had been extended to Montreal, (there were actually two roads, the early Danforth Road, sometimes called 'Dundas Street' for it was part of a main province-wide road network of that name, and the later Kingston Road, which followed the Danforth Road in places but generally was closer to the Lake). In York Township and the City of Toronto it followed the path of the older Danforth Road. For travellers coming from Kingston it was known as the 'York Road'.

In those days it was a 'corduroy road', characterized by logs laid crosswise across the roadbed, with gravel or cement between them. Although some improvement over the simple cleared trails through the clearings, these roads were

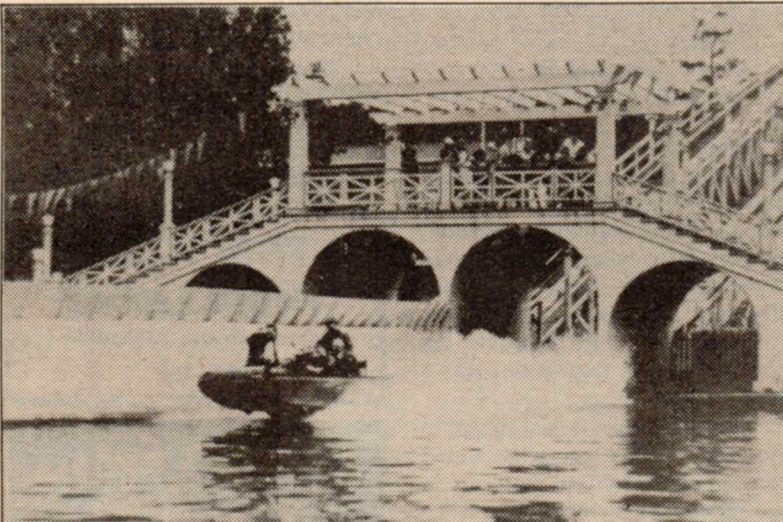
often rendered quite dangerous by logs flipping up at one end, causing cracks between them into which a horse's hoof might slip. Also, they were not built for the comfort of stage-coach passengers, such as the early patrons of Samuel Purdy's stage service, which commenced operations in 1817. By 1831 the road was considered impassable for wheeled vehicles.

Before long, with increasing settlement at York, conditions began to improve. By 1836, the Kingston Road had planks, laid from Toronto to the Rouge River. Wagons and sleighs could be hauled on this road all year round. William Weller began to run four and six-horse teams to pull his coaches from Belleville to Toronto, and the ride was much more comfortable.

When the City of Toronto was incorporated in 1834, it included all land south of Queen Street as far as the present MacLean Avenue, in the Beach district. The Kingston Road formed that part of Queen Street from the Don River, through Don Mount and Leslieville to



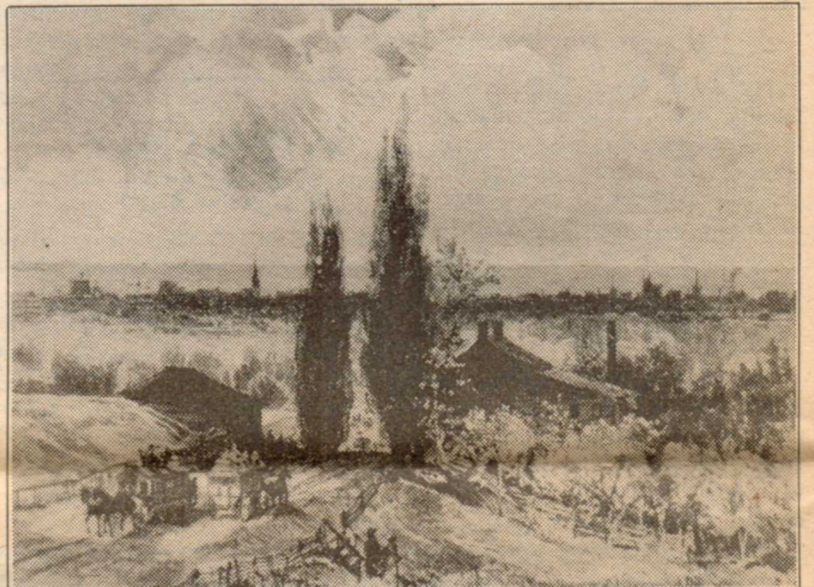
Heavy street car traffic on Queen Street west of Broadview, 1943. Three types of street car can be seen in this picture — in the foreground the Peter Witt cars, then the old wooden Toronto Railway Co. car, (centre), and the new P.C.C. car turning right off Broadview. Picture from 'Passengers Must Not Ride on the Fenders', Filey, Howard, Weyerstrahs, 1974, Green Tree Publishing.



Riding the 'chutes' at Scarborough Beach Park, 1923. Operated from 1907 to 1926 by the Toronto Railway Company, this was one of Toronto's largest and most popular amusement parks, particularly accessible to residents of Ward 7 by means of the Queen Street Car. From 'Toronto, Reflections of the Past', Mike Filey, 1972.



Enjoying a day's outing on a road built for buggies. No trip was complete without at least one stop to pump up a tire.



Toronto from Kingston Road, 1882, a well-known print from Picturesque Canada, by G.M. Grant. Kingston Road in this period had become "macadamized", which in this case meant that it was a dirt road topped with gravel. It did provide a smoother ride for stage-coach passengers than did the early log or plank surfaces.

Woodbine, where it turned to the north-east to pass through Norway. The new planking was partially paid for by toll-gates erected at these centres. The Kingston Road remained a toll-road until the turn of the twentieth century.

In 1850 the Kingston Road and the other 'York roads' Dundas and Yonge Streets, were transferred to private ownership after the province found them to be a losing proposition, but by 1863 the Gov-

ernment was forced to resume them. In 1865 York County purchased them for \$72,500.

By the 1890's the Kingston Road became a dirt and gravel road, and was finally paved, in the 1920's.

As early as the 1880's, street cars ran along Queen Street, as that part of the Kingston Road had come to be called, as far east as Munro Park, near the east City limits. The Toronto and York Radial Railways gave extra-fare service on the Kingston Road between Queen and the City limits.

Shortly after the turn of the century, automobiles began to appear on Toronto streets, and Queen Street and the Kingston Road became crowded with street cars and motor and horse-drawn vehicles. Old-time residents of Ward 7 may remember taking the Queen car to Scarborough Beach Park, south of Queen between Leuty and MacLean. It was in operation from 1907 until 1926, and was one of Toronto's largest and most popular amusement parks.

With the recent building of alternative forms of access into the City, Queen Street and the Kingston Road have lost their importance as a major access route into the capital of Upper Canada. Today they are crowded shopping streets, and aside from the fact of their existence, bear almost no signs to remind present-day residents of Toronto of their former glory.

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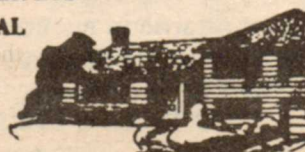
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# Christ is alive and well in Riverdale area house

by TOM CORBETT

Dick Renshaw, age 36, is a part-time taxi driver and a full-time priest. Long haired, bearded, dressed in jeans, he belongs to the Order of the Holy Cross and truthfully says, "I am not a typical member of the Order."

Although part of this old established Catholic society, Dick, as most people know him, is not financially supported by the Church, thus to provide a living he drives a taxi two days a week. He treasures this financial independence from the Church which allows him to follow his own conscience which may not necessarily follow his Order's ideas.

When not operating a taxi, Dick is usually found at 60 Grant Street in the South Riverdale area. This building, known locally as Coady House, is home to him and Jim Morin. Jim is presently employed by Canadian Information Sharing Services, which is attempting to list all Canadian community groups such as Coady House.

Coady House was established in 1973 by four Holy Cross priests and all of them, except Dick, have since left.

"Primarily, we came here simply to be here and share the life of the people here," he says.

The whole idea of our house from the very beginning was to be a Christian community."

Dick's idea of christianity can only be understood if one looks back in early history to the original concept of religion which unfortunately has become somewhat diluted by time.

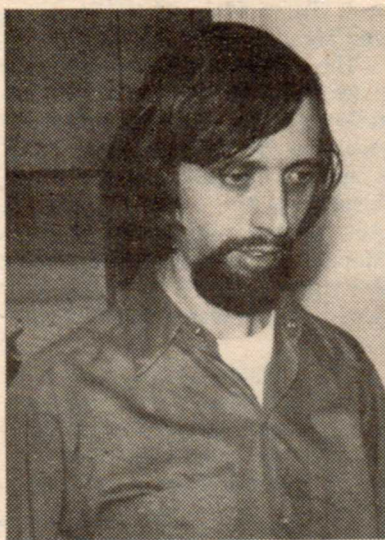


Photo by Tom Corbett

To Dick, "The gospel is a call to share."

Coady House, also known as the Riverdale Care Centre, practices what it preaches and operates a clothing exchange on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Other community services such as housing and food co-ops are top priorities and Coady House has presented forums on these topics as well as others.

While they do not always take the initiative in community projects, Coady House is supportive of them.

As for Coady House's idea of community, of which Dick speaks often, it is one "committed to a model of simple living." The closeness and sharing of earlier simpler societies has diminished in our modern age, thus Dick sees a great need to get back to earlier

times to end the many pressures of today's life style.

"We must search for a very simple life style and learn the skills of a rich simple life," he states.

Along with Coady House, Anawim House on 62 Grant Street, besides being joined structurally, is partner to the hopes and aspirations of its neighbour. Anawim House is home to five people who use their skills to benefit the community. One of their tasks is repairing homes for Riverdale residents who can't afford the exorbitant prices charged by many contractors.

By illustrating communal, co-operative living, it is hoped the two houses will set an example which will spread to the whole community and change it from the present concept of all for one to the ideals

of sharing with all.

Coady House and Anawim House are also part of an organization called the Network of Christian Communities in Toronto. This group includes over a dozen Christian communities in the city and surrounding district who share the same ideals and deep concern for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of their fellow men and women.

The network publicizes their experiences in a publication called shin-aki, which together with Coady House recently published a book of poems by local poet Norm Craven.

Dick sees the community spirit practiced by Coady House and similar entities as a necessary step in building alternate ideas strong enough to change "oppressive

structures" in today's system.

Among these chances, he sees a new outlook for the Church. "I want to see the Church become simpler and more accessible," he explains.

Towards this goal, a small room in Coady House is set up as a chapel, where neighbours regularly meet for mass and discussion. Dick feels that for most of the people who gather for religious purposes, "it is an experience of Church that isn't so heavily institutionalized."

Dick has not shut out institutionalized religion completely and regularly says mass at St. Ann Church. However he is not formally associated with any diocese or structured parish. To him, a parish should include the whole world.

According to Dick, the philosophy of this world wide parish should be, "to support the sharing of very basic needs."

In an era of large half-empty churches striving to bring salvation to all, it's gratifying to know there exists Christians interested in more than our spiritual souls.

Canadians going homeless, hungry and neglected have as the least of their concerns the choice between heaven or hell.

## Cabbagetown boxers win in pre-Olympic trial

Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Club had two representatives at the Canadian and Pre-Olympic Trials held in Sudbury early this month and both were winners.

The two lads are brothers, John and Cole Raftery, originally from Elliot Lake and now attending the University of Toronto. They represented the club in the Intermediate Class (16 to 19 years) and weighed in at 139 and 132 pounds respectively.

By a 5-0 judges score, John met and defeated David Poorman of Regina. John, who was at a disadvantage in reach and height (Poorman is 6 feet, one inches) defeated the western champ in all three rounds.

John used the old one-two combination to both the head and body and followed up with a stepping triple jab that had his taller opponent's head snapping back.

In the second round, John swarmed all over the Indian lad and he was forced to take a standing eight count. John closed the season, along with brother, in winning the Winter Games, Ontario, Eastern and Canadian titles in that order.

Cole's bout was almost a duplication of John's bout except that Cole enjoyed the height and reach advantage. Cole was unofficially chosen by the judges as the best and most improved boxer of that particular tournament.

### Education Report

## Local French school a success

by GORD CRESSY and DOUG BARR

One of the really exciting schools in our ward is the French Public school at Sackville.

Last year when the Board of Education established a French Public school, there was some misgivings from trustees and officials alike about the appropriateness of such a school.

The facts have proven these so-called doubters incorrect. The staff are incredibly competent and all have previous teaching experience in either France or Quebec.

The students, at present 158 in number, come from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures. Next year there will be 266 students of whom 99 will be at the kindergarten level.

There has been a real effort to give priority to students with Francophone parents. Already there is a waiting list of some 51 Anglophone students. Even if the student body is held to 266, three additional portables will be required.

Granted there is a beautiful new adventure playground on site, but five portables will greatly reduce the children's play space.

The parent-teacher association has to be one of the liveliest and best attended in the city. The naming of the school was one of the interesting exercises that the association took on this year.

After a great deal of discussion, they chose the name **Gabrielle Roy** after the famous French Canadian novelist who has devoted her adult life to bridging the gap between French and English cultures.

The official opening of Ecole Publique Gabrielle Roy will take place on Monday, June 21. We hoped Gabrielle Roy would be present for this opening but unfortunately she is in hospital and will not be able to attend. However, she has promised to visit the school in September.

Meanwhile, the English portion of Sackville school struggles valiantly on with an attendance hovering around the 30 mark.

### BOUNDARY CHANGES

One of the troubles with school boundaries is that they frequently overlap with defined community neighbourhoods. This is certainly the case in the Don Vale area. Depending on what street a family lives on, the child will attend Rose Avenue school, Winchester school or Sprucecourt school.

The situation is made more complex by the proposed Winchester Square development in South St. Jamestown, which if implemented will exclude most young people from the east side of Parliament Street.

At present, some parent representatives on the Winchester school council (Barrie Chavel, David Revel, etc.) are working with Board officials to develop an approach to school boundaries in Don Vale that will keep the cohesion and integrity of the neighbourhood intact.

A community meeting is being planned for early June to vote on a proposal that will be forwarded to the Board of Education for ratification.



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