

FREE



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER  
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FREE

SEPTEMBER 24, 1977 VOLUME 8, NUMBER 9

## Cultural festival a Cabbagetown hit

By MARY ROSEN

The month of September, symbolically and literally expressed in Biblical times as the gathering in of the harvest of the fruits of the year's labors was brought to us, spilling over into a cornucopia of talent, in the Cabbagetown Festival held from the 15th of September to the 18th. The ingathering of so much talent must surely be unique in all of Canada. One neighbourhood presented its heart and soul for the first time to others and everybody applauded its merits, its love, beauty and its sense of humanity.

A great deal of the attention must be focused on people such as Mary Augustine, a very versatile person who was Festival Director. A great number of people were involved in this "first" and it was largely through their efforts, and to Mary's direction, that talented people became interested. They made this Festival the success that it turned out to be in spite of the rain.

Some of the dignitaries present at the opening ceremony were Mayor David Crombie, Jim Perry and Adrienne Clarkson.

Dennis Lee, a Toronto poet and novelist read from his "Garbage Delight" to the joy of children on

Friday in the Town Square at Carlton and Parliament which was the focal point of many interesting and varied events.

A stroll through Cabbagetown presented many delights and sales where anyone could pick up bargains. Streets were festooned and the atmosphere of gaiety pervaded. Haggling was done in a spirit of fun.

Saturday afternoon, David Rea sang with gusto at Wellesley Park. Tunes included Catfish Blues, Maverick Child, Warm and Free, Mrs. Johnson and some from his new album all of which were enjoyed by the gathering. Sound was provided by the Westbury Group of which Ted Macdonald is the leading technician.

Down at Parliament St. Library, a hive of activity buzzed. First-time entrepreneurs sold their wares on the lawn, and the Library had good soft cover books at ten cents and hard covers going at twenty-five cents.

Alexander Jeffries put on a One Man Show Saturday afternoon at the Library House. It was a kind of prologue to multiculturalism, a warm up to all the ethnic groups participating in the

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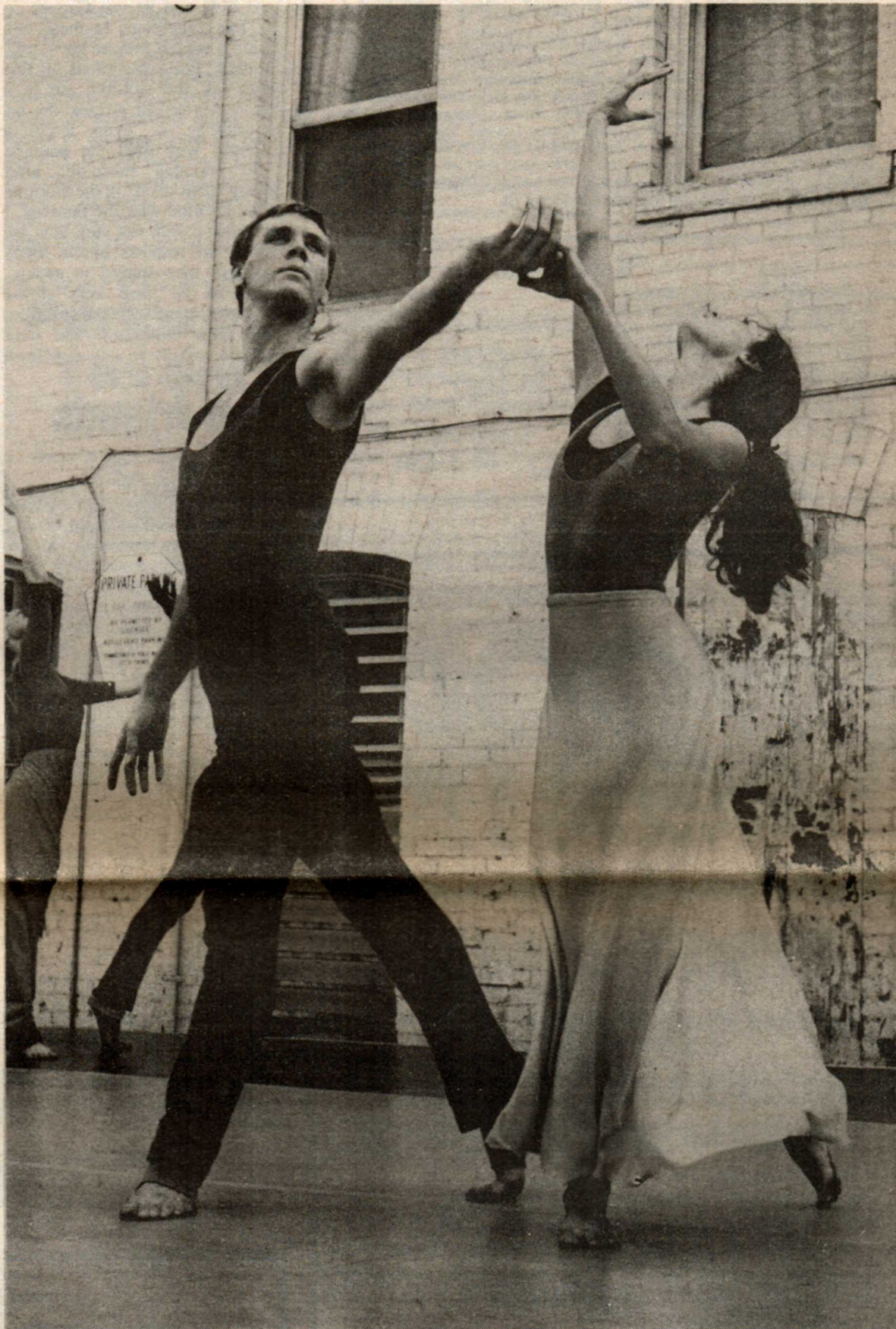
## Oak St. meeting set

A community meeting to discuss how the Oak Street site should be developed is planned for Wednesday September 28 at 7:30 pm in Regent Park United Church. The Oak Street site is a two-acre parcel of land bordering on River Street and Oak and Cornwall Streets owned by the Toronto Board of Education. In the late 60's, fifty-two houses were demolished to make room for a community school that was never built. Since that time the site has remained undeveloped and underutilized.

The Toronto Board of Education is now interested in developing the site in a manner that would be

"compatible with the needs of the community", according to Doug Barr, Chairman of the Board of Education. A number of ideas on how the site might be developed will be discussed at the meeting. This community meeting provides an opportunity for people in the area to have input into the decision-making regarding the site's development. It is expected that a steering committee of residents will be formed to develop suggestions offered at the meeting.

Residents of the area, particularly the Regent Park Community and the residents of 210, 220 and 230 Oak Street are encouraged to attend.



Members of the Toronto Dance Theatre, shown above, perform "Mirrors" at the Town Square stage last Saturday afternoon during the Cabbagetown Cultural Festival. The Dance Theatre has found a new home in the Donvale Community Centre on Winchester Street.

Photo by Cherry Hassard

## Macdonald announces he's leaving politics

By FRANCES WATMAN

Finance Minister Donald Macdonald announced that he is resigning from the Trudeau cabinet and will not run in the federal election expected next year.

Citing "personal and family reasons" for his resignation, Macdonald is expected to retain his seat in the Commons only until a job outside the political arena becomes open.

Last Friday Trudeau named Jean Chretien a ten year cabinet veteran, as Macdonald's successor to the finance post.

Macdonald's political career began with his election to the House in 1962. He entered the cabinet in 1968 and became Minister of Defense in 1970. As minister, he was one of the key figures in the decision to implement the controversial War Measures Act following the FLQ kidnappings of British diplomat James Cross

and Quebec Labour Minister Pierre Laporte.

He became energy minister in 1972 during the Arab oil boycott and scored points for his battles with the oil companies and the Alberta government in an attempt to hold prices down and to keep the federal finger in the energy pie.

Macdonald took over the difficult finance portfolio in 1975 and soon introduced wage and price controls. To his critics, Macdonald became known thereafter as "the man who brought you wage and price controls." Having brought in controls, Macdonald's major goal seemed to be to replace them with the possibly more publicly palatable voluntary controls. Big business and labour, united for once in their loathing of controls, refused Macdonald's invitation to compromise. A control is a control, business and labour were saying to

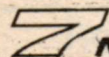
Macdonald, and putting the adjective "voluntary" in front of the word "control" doesn't make the situation any more acceptable. How Chretien handles the dilemma of wage and price controls may say much for his future success as finance minister.

It is a difficult time to become finance minister. Over 8% of the work force is jobless and a million people are expected to be unemployed before the end of winter. Inflation is coasting at 7.4%, the Canadian dollar has fallen to 93 cents U.S. and the Gross National Product continues to drop quarterly. Macdonald's attempt to handle the deteriorating economic situation resulted in his bringing in two conservative budgets that did little more than maintain the status quo.

Maclean's magazine summed up Macdonald's success as finance minister this way, "Amazingly, he left things worse than he found them."







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#### LETTERS

## Fund begun for Grant St. family

Dear 7 News:

I want to share with the readers of Seven News reflections on the brutal shooting two Sundays ago of the two children Russell (Chiki) John (14) and Wayne Groves.

I feel very close to these two children even if they are not "my" children. For some of us on this street, all the children are to a certain degree our gift and our responsibility — even if in a different way than the parents.

So Monday morning, after having spent till six in the morning at the hospital with the families, I and others were not sure how we wanted to respond to the many reporters who started to appear. Some of us have very strong feelings about the risk of exposing these two children's and their families' agony to any degree of

sensationalism and superficial reporting.

At the same time we recognize that if the press reports human pain and tragedy with compassion and respect (refusing to indulge in the more profitable sensationalizing) then we all can have an opportunity to stop and reflect with a little depth on the meaning and causes of these brutal events of our City. And we could possibly learn ways of becoming the kinds of neighbourhoods, streets and neighbours that can prevent such tragedies.

Because of the degrading and destructive way that the *Toronto Sun* can sensationalize and therefore cheapen such events (in order to make a bigger buck) I asked them to give me a guarantee that they would not sensationalize this story. They debated my request for a while among themselves. Then they told me they could not promise me that. Couldn't promise me what? They actually saw a problem in guaranteeing a citizen that they would not sensationalize a story involving the possible permanent

blatantly obvious: the *Sun* is composed of very shrewd people who know how to manipulate headlines such that they appeal to that sick kind of curiosity that all of us are capable of indulging in. The *Sun* exploits and satisfies that part of us which prefers instant, superficial, and dramatized news. That way you and I do not have to ask too many basic questions and yet can still be sold a cheap sense that we "know" what is happening "in the World". Just tell me how many bullets and how often and where and how much blood — so that I don't have to go beyond the reaction to some human response of understanding why, of questioning the assumptions made by the reporter, of facing the whole complex picture of any human event (e.g. in this case, what of the suffering of the wife and 11 year old child of the man? Next to the children and their friends are not this woman and child the greatest victims? And what are the social conditions that come into play in all of this? How to deal with talk of revenge?

Finally I ask you to consider helping Chiki's family meet the expense of his paralysis with whatever donations you can afford.

Len Desroches,  
62 Grant Street,  
466-5415.

## Pen friends

Dear 7 News:

Please forgive me for taking up your valuable time. I am a teacher of a high school in Seoul, Korea. My pupils are very eager to find pen friends in your country. I am writing to you in the hope that you can help them get in touch with the youth in your country.

They would like to exchange information about student life and various topics in everyday life and to discuss current international problems. I think this kind of direct communication between friends of about the same age will help both learn about each other's country. It will also help my students to brush up their English. I also think they might have fun in swapping items in their hobby collections.

I am one of the English teachers at a school which has around 2,000 pupils. The students have five English classes a week.

I am sure they will be a faithful friend and correspondent to any young friends who wish to be their pen friend.

I hope you can perhaps publish my name and address in your esteemed paper.

Byun, Young-Sun  
Box 5661  
Central Seoul, 100  
Korea

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## Big Mac praised

Dear 7 News:

Re the resignation of Donald S. Macdonald as Minister of Finance and a member of Parliament for Rosedale. He held many portfolios in government. I am greatly sad such a great and good man has left the government service who has served the people very well since 1962. Donald has been a great servant to the citizen groups and others whom he has come into contact with on a variety of issues and problems. As a former officer of the Regent Park Community Improvement Association and a former President of the Regent Park Boosters Club I am very pleased about the many good things he has done.

He has served his constituents and Canada very well. One good thing I appreciated about Donald — he was the most reasonable man to talk to. He was a person who ranks among the finest, a representative any constituent would like to have represent them. Also, I firmly believe he would have made a great prime minister of Canada.

Fred Sheridan  
Eastmount Ave.

## If you write ...

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## Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a kite!

Freddy, shown in the two photos to the right, was discovered soaring through Riverdale Park during the summer. Gliding is his hobby — and a pretty ingenious way to keep cool during an August heat wave.

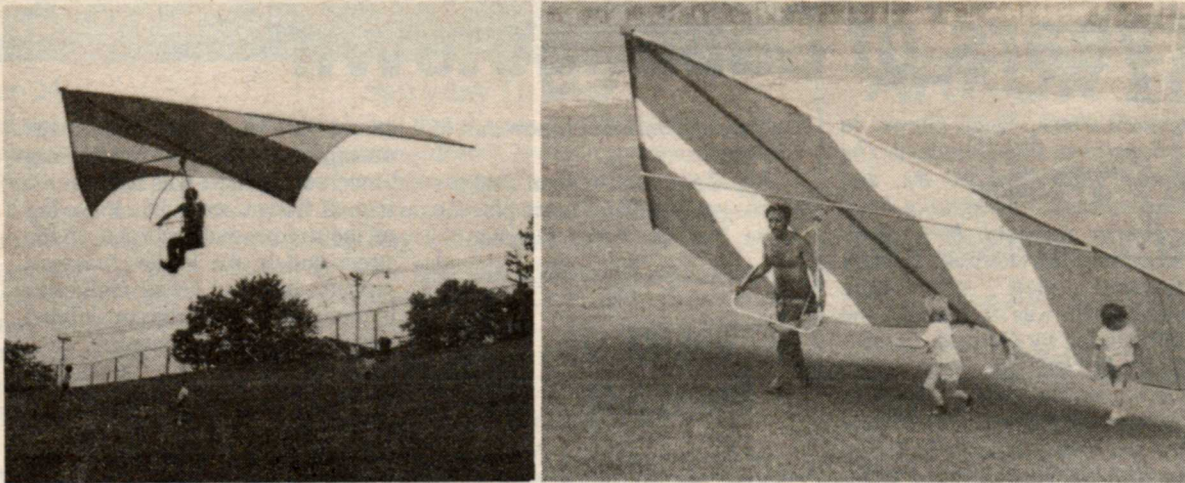


Photo by Rajan Bakshi

# Quetico homes for low income families

By JOHN SEWELL

Want to buy a house even though your family income is under \$16,000? You might be interested in a small development that's now being constructed on Berkeley and Poulette Streets, south of Dundas.

Quetico Homes is now building 16 three-storey row houses, eight on Berkeley and eight on Poulette. The original plan was that all 16 houses would be sold under the Assisted Home Ownership Plan — that's the Federal Government scheme where, if the house sells for less than \$47,000, the government will provide financial help, depending on income, for up to five years. Under the program, a family with an income as low as \$10,000, can afford to purchase an AHOP home.

However Quetico Homes ran into cost problems, and the present plan is that only eight of the 16 units will be sold under the AHOP plan. Since this change will require the consent of City Hall's Committee of Adjustment, it has been possible to get the developer to agree to give priority, until October 23rd, to families with incomes of under \$16,000.

Usually, when houses for \$47,000 are put on the market, those houses are snapped up by couples and families with incomes of \$20,000 or more. Those with higher incomes don't get any of the AHOP subsidies available, but inexpensive homes aren't easy to find. People with incomes under \$16,000 — and they are the families for whom the AHOP program was designed — don't seem to be able to get their foot in the door.

But in this case, subject to Committee of Adjustment approval, we think that we've arranged a headstart for families with gross income of under \$16,000. Purchases are subject to approval by CMHC, of course.

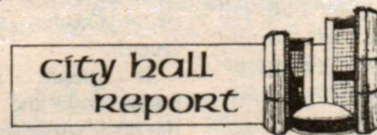
Interested? Then call Quetico Homes, at 789-7613 soon, certainly before October 23rd. If you're worried about what to do, or if you want the name of a lawyer you might consult, call either myself at City Hall, John Sewell, 367-7910, or Janet Howard, 367-7916.

We hope that families with incomes of less than \$16,000 will take advantage of this arrangement. If people think it's useful, we'll try and get other developers to agree.

### Sold to developer

As residents in the area around the Broadview Y will know, the Y has been sold to a private developer. When the developer secured the agreement to purchase the land in the spring he immediately filed for a building permit

which would entitle him to construct 198 townhouses, which would be built for sale under the government's Assisted Home Ownership Program for \$47,000 or less.



Immediately two large public meetings were held in the area to attempt to establish negotiations with the developer to see if we could improve on what he wanted to build. A working committee of 12 local residents was formed and meetings were held every week with representatives of City Planning Staff and Development Department Staff in attendance. These meetings appeared to be as productive as the City Staff, ward aldermen and the residents got what they considered to be considerable concessions from the developer to secure some basic changes in what he wanted to build.

The site is a difficult one since it only has access to Broadview and on the other three sides abuts back yards on Allen, Boulton and First Avenues. Most people on First Avenue wanted to see a back lane installed so that they could have automobile access to their rear yards. Several people on Allen Avenue also wanted back lane access, as well as three houses on Boulton Avenue.

### Road system improved

The committee managed to work out an agreement which would ensure that these lanes were built as part of the revised development scheme. As well, we totally reoriented the internal road system to ensure that it would help to serve the needs of people living there. Finally, the developer agreed to construct 172 units rather than the 198 units in his original building application.

The committee also looked at the form of building that was proposed and got agreement from the developer to build two and three storey attached townhouses so all houses had a back yard. A small park in the middle of the development for the use of toddlers was included in the new plan.

This amended development plan was taken to a community meeting for approval. The vote was 68 to 2 to approve it. At this point we thought we had the support of all of the city staff who had been involved in the discussions since at the meetings we thought they fully agreed with the trade-offs we were making in

order to ensure that the 198 unit development was not built.

However, we were wrong in thinking simply because City Hall Planning and Development staff had participated in negotiations and appeared to consent to the agreements we were making, that in fact City Hall would approve the development. Instead, to the shock of many of us, various City departments, including the two departments involved in the negotiations, wrote reports on the development which indicated that what we had negotiated was pretty lousy. A report was submitted to the Committee of Adjustment which gave very limited approval to the negotiated scheme. The Committee of Adjustment is still considering whether to approve the variances required to permit the new scheme with its reduced number of housing units of much better housing design, back lanes serving neighbours, and an improved internal plan. At the time of writing, a number of us are worried that the Committee of Adjustment, not having real approval from City Staff, will not agree to the revised plan. We'll probably end up with the original plan filed by the developer for 198 units.

This seems to be a really good example of City staff having no respect for the arrangements that communities try and work out in co-operation with ward aldermen, developers and members of staff departments. It makes a mockery of the whole idea of community planning and instills a basic distrust in local residents about whose side City Hall is really on. It would have been possible, for instance, for the City staff who attended the negotiating meetings to indicate that they were unhappy with the new plan that was being negotiated. Perhaps the community would not have been happy about that but at least they would have known where City staff stood. As it is City, staff withheld all of their objections until the committee had finished negotiations.

### Sewell appalled

As an alderman, who was heavily involved in the negotiations and as a politician who is somewhat responsible for the actions of City staff, I am appalled. City Planning and Development staff owe some apologies to Ward Seven residents.

However, I suspect that those apologies will never be forthcoming since the majority of Council do not seem to care all that much about the time and energy local communities put into improving their neighbourhoods.

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serigraphs  
"Formulation: Articulation" 1972

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lithographs  
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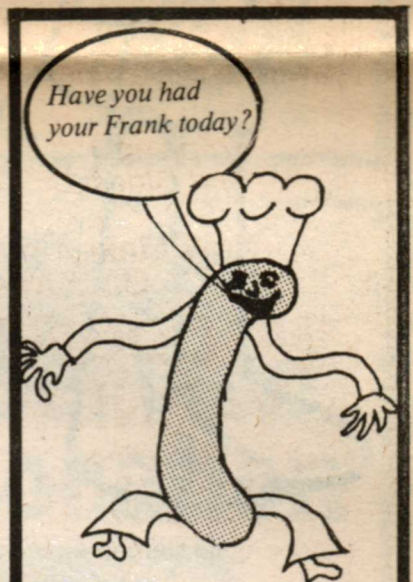
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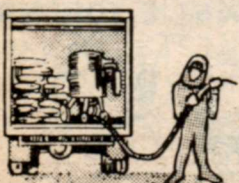
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# The 'golden years' of Cabbagetown

By GEORGE RUST-D'EYE

It seems that everyone has his or her own image of what Cabbagetown was — or is. To most Torontonians, it's the area east of Yonge Street where the old houses are; to old-timers in Ward 7, it's 12 blocks on the north side of Queen; to some real estate agents, it's anywhere where there is a house with gingerbread; and to many of us, it's a part of Toronto's history, — a way of life and an association with a particular kind of place that older folks among us talk about with affection.

The earliest mention of 'Cabbagetown' which I have been able to find is the reference by John Ross Robertson in Vol. I (p. 447) of his *Landmarks of Toronto* (1894). Aside from this, there is little contemporary writing on the subject. It seems that people were to busy living to write very much about it.

In the descriptions of Cabbagetown written since 1950, there has been a wide divergence of opinion as to where Cabbagetown was, even among those who lived there. J.V. McAree, in his book, *Cabbagetown Store*, Hugh Garner in *Cabbagetown*, Rae Corelli, in *The Toronto That Used To Be*, and Graham Fraser, in *Fighting Back — Urban Renewal in Trefann Court*, have all adopted a fairly restrictive view of where Cabbagetown was — namely, the area bounded by Gerrard, Queen, Parliament and the Don. J.V. McAree asserts that "claims to have been old citizens of Cabbagetown put forth in later years by persons living beyond these boundaries have been properly disallowed and resented."

Later writers confuse the issue even more. In 1970 an article in *Toronto Life* said that Cabbagetown refers to the area south of Bloor and east of Jarvis. Meanwhile, James Lorimer, in *Working People*, states that "most city residents use 'Cabbagetown' to refer to Toronto's Anglo-Saxon, working-class 'slum' areas, and probably if they have thought about it would realize that Cabbagetown in their sense of the term moved north, south and then west as its original area was demolished. Used in that sense, they are

right and [Don Vale] is now part of Cabbagetown."

All of the plot in Juan Butler's *Cabbagetown Diary* takes place in Moss Park or Allan Gardens.

## Mementos of Yesteryear



Meanwhile H.B. (Bill) Hambly, writing in 1969 in *The York Pioneer*, says that "Cabbagetown in my mind, is a tradition. . . I believe that Cabbagetown is that part of the City east of Sherbourne Street, and south of Winchester Street, because this is where the people claim the Cabbagetown tradition."

To those seeking to find out where Cabbagetown was, I would commend Bill Hambly's definition, since it emphasizes the tradition — the feeling — which Cabbagetown imbued in its sons and daughters. It is this feeling which marks the true Cabbagetowner and distinguished him or her from the rest of us who didn't live through the 'golden years' in that part of Toronto known as 'Cabbagetown, wherever it may be.

The reference to the 'golden years' of Cabbagetown brings up an important point — the distinction to be drawn between the time before the Great War (particularly 1904-1914), and the later period (1920-1950). Vern McAree, who loved Cabbagetown, and commemorated it in *Cabbagetown Store*, the best commentary written on the subject, lived there in the earlier period, as did Bill Hambly. Hugh Garner, who called it "the world's largest Anglo-Saxon slum", and who complained of bedbugs and social workers, lived there later. The remainder of this article describes the earlier period — the 'golden years' of Cabbagetown.

The area of Toronto east of Parliament and south of Bloor, known as the 'Park Reserve' was not settled until the 1840's. By then the great influx of immigrants from the British Isles, particularly Ireland, was making itself felt. Many of the poorer settlers ended up in this area, which was despised as a source of the ague, a fever carried by mosquitoes, which bred in the swamps at the mouth of the Don.

The houses were small, many starting off as mere shacks. By the turn of the century the area south of Gerrard had filled in with houses. Larger additions were added on to the front of the shacks as the family grew more prosperous.

Market gardening developed as a source of food and of income, and this fact, symbolized by the large leafy cabbages grown in the yards around the houses, gave the area its name.

What was it like to live in Cabbagetown? It meant that one worked hard for his wages of \$10 a week. Houses were bought, or built, by instalments. The purchase of fixtures for an indoor bathroom was a major step. Cabbagetown meant shopping on credit in small corner grocery stores with wooden awnings out over the sidewalk. It meant working 10 to 12 hours a day, probably in the neighbourhood, — at the gas works, the Firstbrooke stock yards on Sydenham Street, or at Kemp Steel, Dominion Envelope, the Dominion or Rheinhardt breweries, or the Rober Bros. Bottle Co. It meant

caring if your neighbour was unemployed or ill, and extending him credit until he was back on his feet. It meant cedar block paving on the streets, and gas lights on the street and in the home. It meant grocery, ice and bread deliveries by horse-drawn wagons or sleighs; potatoes at 50¢ a bag, sugar at 5¢ a pound, butter 37¢ a pound, coffee 60¢ (or 40¢ if it contained chicory). Derbies cigarettes were 5¢ for 10, or you could smoke Athletes, Sweet Caporals, Macdonald's Blackstrap, or Beaver Cut Plug. It meant keeping pigeons, buying rye whiskey at Greenshield's store at Berkeley and King, for 50¢ a gallon, or beer at one of the many saloons, at least until prohibition. It meant buying milk at Clark's dairy on Ontario Street, or groceries and meat at Meech's, Dove's or McAree's, on Parliament Street, or at Davies or Rodcliffe's on Queen.

It meant horst cars on Parliament, and water carts to lay the dust; street fights and the Black Maria; cats and terriers to catch mice, and rat traps.

It meant regular 'club' meetings at the barbershop. For many it meant Orange parades, military pageants, God, the Queen, and the Tory party, (south of Queen, in 'Corktown', it meant Roman Catholicism and the southern Irish tradition.

It meant family attendances at church, and family excursions to the Don Flats, to the Island, to the Belt Line, to High Park, or to a cottage in the Beach area. In fact, it meant a lot of family activities and a lot of 'togetherness', for at that time few people owned a car, and the television set had not yet been



Meat was 9 to 18 cents a pound in Davies Store on Queen Street.

invented.

Cabbagetown was for kids! For them it meant skinny-dipping in the Don; learning to swim with pieces of cedar blocks which had once been part of a street; marble-playing, baseball, football, and fights on vacant lots and in school yards, or on the Don Flats. For everyone it meant lacrosse, and riding free on the horsecars if you were carrying a lacrosse stick. It meant playing catch, tag, prisoner's base, follow-the-leader, duck-on-the-rock, and hares and hounds. It meant going to Dufferin School or to Park. It meant School or to Park. It meant getting Boy's Own Paper or Boy's Own Annual for Christmas. It meant playing shinny on the Don or on the rinks at Oak and Parliament or in Moss Park.

It meant catching suckers in the Don, chasing the fire reels on Wilton (Dundas) Street, going barefoot in summer, riding the Belt Line, and eating 1¢ ice cream cones.

Most of all, it meant pride in one's family, one's city and one's country, and particularly pride in being from Cabbagetown.

Some Cabbagetowners became mayor of Toronto, such as Francis Medcalf, Bob Fleming, Emerson Coatsworth, Joe Oliver, Tommy Church, Tom Foster, Jimmy Simpson and Bert Wemp. Others attained prominence in other fields: Milton Cork (President of Loblaw's); C.W. Jefferys and George Bridgen (artists); the Milnes of Milnes' Coal; John Rennie of Rennie's Seeds; L.J. McGuinness (McGuinness Distillery); Walter Alward (sculptor); and Joseph Sedgewick (lawyer); as well as the writers McAree, Hambly and Garner named above.

Continued page 7



Cabbagetown was for kids! Without cars, television sets or organized activities, the kids had to make their own fun, and had a great time doing it.



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**7 NEWS**

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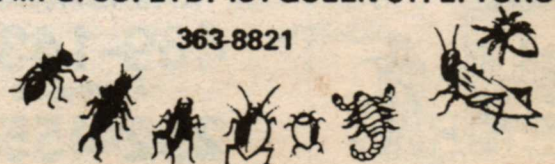
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Saturday September 24

You are invited to attend a **special one-day event** on Planning and Implementing Community Alternatives to Institutions today at The Education Centre, 155 College Street. This seminar is co-sponsored by the Ontario and Canadian Associations for the Mentally Retarded. Recognized specialists in the field will make audio-visual presentations and answer your questions on community service programming for severely retarded persons which is being provided elsewhere. Registration is \$7.50 per person or \$10.00 for couples. For more information, call Mrs. Rowsell at 661-9611.

## Monday September 26

**Children and Youth programs** begin today at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street. Come in and find out all the details about the afternoon and evening activities.

A leading fur coat manufacturer in Toronto is offering a **special sale of top winter coats and hats** for older women at extremely low prices. This fall flea market takes place today at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Brand new winter coats will be sold at prices that range between approximately \$20 to \$50, large and small sizes. Free refreshments and a free gift with every purchase. For more information, call Josie Berlin at 863-0499.

The staff of Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre is happy to announce that its **Fall and Winter Program** starts today. A large variety of programs will be offered to all age groups. Programs include boxing, ballet, martial arts, gymnastics, swimming, yoga, square and round dancing, teen and pre-teen drop-ins, sports, crafts, shuffleboard ice hockey, ringette, roller skating, and more! All programs are offered free of charge to city residents. For more information, call the staff at 461-2550, or drop in and visit the Centre at 870 Queen Street East.

## Wednesday September 28

Simpson Avenue United Church's Social Club is holding **dart games every Wednesday** night from 7 to 10. Other games to start include euchre. Simpson Avenue United Church is located at Simpson Ave. and Howland Road.

The City of Toronto Planning Board will be holding **public meeting on the King-Parliament Preliminary Neighbourhood Plan** tonight at 8 pm at Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street.

A **Community Meeting** is planned for September 28 to obtain suggestions from local residents as to how the Oak Street site may be developed to best meet the needs of the community. The Oak Street site is two acres of land on the corner of Oak and River Streets which has been vacant since the Toronto Board of Education had to abandon plans to build a school on it as a result of declining student enrollments. The Board is interested in having the site developed and is keen to involve the community in the planning process.

The Community Meeting will be held on September 28, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. at Regent Park United Church. Chairperson will be Doug Barr, Chairman of the Toronto Board of Education.

## Friday September 30

The Ontario Mental Patients Association (OMPA), a self-help group established a little over a month ago in Toronto, is holding its first dance tonight from 8 pm to 1 am at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street. The dance is open to everyone who has had psychiatric treatment inside or outside psychiatric institutions, to all OMPA members and their friends and relatives. There'll be plenty of good refreshments, good music and good vibes. Alcoholic beverages will **not** be served. There is no admission charge. So help make our first big social event a success by coming to the dance!

## Saturday October 1

Did you know that the penalty for killing a cat in ancient Egypt was death? Today, cats depend upon people rather than ancient custom for their protection. The proceeds of the **Toronto Humane Society Tag Day** will be used to provide this protection for cats and other unwanted and abused animals. It takes a lot of people to hold a Tag Day of this size. Drivers, captains, and taggers are all required to help out today. If you are willing to help, call 922-1191 and volunteer now!

## Monday October 3

The Christian Resource Centre resumes its **Sewing Class** tonight. Now in its ninth year, the class will be held at the CRC, 20 Spruce Street every Monday evening from 7 to 9 pm. The class is for girls aged 8 to 15. Any donations of fabric or notions would be most welcome, as all materials are provided free and there is no charge for the class. We are also short of volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please call Rosemary Rochester at 922-7391.

## Friday October 7

The Friendship Unit of Regent Park United Church is having a **rummage sale** tonight starting at 6:30 at 40 Oak Street. Come for some great bargains.

## General

**Fall fitness programs** are now available at the Salvation Army's Regent Park Adult Fitness Centre. Pay only \$5 to \$10 per month according to income. Centre facilities include sauna, showers, bicycles, 15 piece universal gym, and fitness testing. For more information, call 864-9364.

Teens at Dixon Hall are having a **newspaper drive** for the next three months. Please save all your papers and deliver them to Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street or just give Dixon Hall a call and they'll pick them up for you. The goal is to go to Disneyland, so please help.

The Rooming House Tenant Project will be opening a **dry house on Homewood Avenue** in the middle of October. The house will be for those who have had alcohol problems and are on the road to solving them. If you have been dry for six months or more, and feel you could benefit from living with others going through many of the same problems as yourself, we are now taking applications. Many people who have gone through the programs at the various halfway houses could find this experience of great value. The goal of the house will ultimately be tenant management. If interested, call R.H.T.P. at 922-3416 or drop in to see us at 20 Spruce Street. Ask for Steve, Purcell, Gary or Jeanette.

Canada Permanent Trust Company has just released the rules and regulations governing its **11th Annual Creative Writing Contest** which is open to all high school students from grade 9 up. Students must write up to 2,000 words on any subject which can be fiction, non-fiction or any form of prose (poetry is not eligible). Entries must be written during the current school year. The closing date is December 15, 1977. Judging emphasis will be on writing ability, imagination and originality. Cash prizes of up to \$1,000 will be awarded. Copies of the rules have been sent to school principals and additional copies are available from the Permanent's Public Relations Office, 320 Bay Street, Room 1502.

The 519 Church Street Community Centre will be holding its **First Fall Festival on Saturday October 1** from noon to 1 am the next morning, rain or shine. The "First Fall Festival of Five Nineteen" features a ferris wheel, flying trapeze, fashion show and fun for young and old alike. In over 30 different events, this festival will display all the regular programs at the Centre, have a special surprise auction and provide a wide variety of games for children. Come out and see a neighbourhood grow in downtown Toronto!

Saturday September 24 come to the library for **Pioneer Times**. The time? Two in the afternoon.

## PARLIAMENT STREET LIBRARY

Do you like puppet shows?

Then the Parliament Street Library is the place to go! The next **puppet show** is on Saturday September 24 at 2 p.m.

The library is running an after-school program Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday September 27, drop by after school at 4 p.m. for **Craft Surprise**. Wednesday September 28 at 4 p.m. come and listen to **Stories By The Hearth**. Thursday September 29 movie lovers can visit the library after school for **Fun Flicks**.

## RIVERDALE LIBRARY

September seems to be monkey month at the Riverdale Library. On Saturday September 24 drop by the library for **Curious George** crafts with paper. Fun starts at 2 p.m.

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## Kids Calendar

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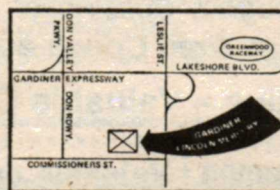


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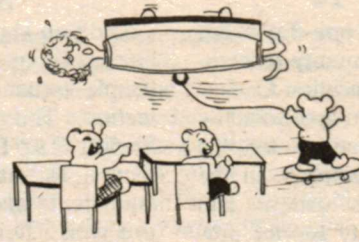
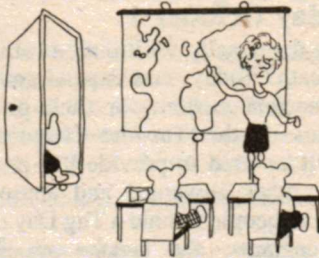
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## Festival a success despite the rain

continued from page 1

Festival. He recited works from Moliere, Dickens, and Shakespeare, some of which he is able to do in Greek.

The library also featured on Friday night, George Rust-D'Eye, a local historian who spoke and presented slides on the "Neighbourhood", past and present. The library has pictures on display from 1896 up to the present time. One interesting aspect of the visit to the library was to learn of its collection of books in Hindi and Chinese.

Elaine Dembe, a spirited follower of her profession, chiropractic, along with her colleagues, held clinics at 402 Parliament on postural evaluation, muscle testing, orthopedic and neurological examination, assessment and mobility of the spine. These enterprising people give nutritional advice, talks about stress and its effects, exercise and its benefits. The fees are covered by OHIP.

Walking northward again, Maria Shumka, was a sight to be seen. She was dressed in a lacy satin gown with eyelets and designs, looking very much as a lady of the early 1900's would have. She wandered through Town Square, making people feel comfortable and at ease as a hostess in her home would have done.

At the Town Square, Carlton and Wellesley, The Fruit Market featured tables set up, cafe style, with centre pieces of cabbages

filled with sour cream. Part of the menu consisted of cabbage rolls, a delicious and nutritious concoction of meat and rice filling, covered over neatly by cabbage leaves.

Amidst all the flurry and noise, performing clowns, and joyful banter, sat Mary Augustine, while the Royal Mime Theatre performed. Serene and regal, despite a fractured knee, Mary carried on, reading palms, giving orders calmly, and seeing that the events were carried out on schedule and well. Modest about her efforts and achievements it was learned later that she is a painter of repute and has been shown internationally. She is part of the "Seven", The Art Works at 50 Bleecker St. It is a renovated factory turned into an art gallery.

If you didn't get to visit this interesting gallery by all means do so — their hours are 11 to 6 and on display are acrylics, brush work, sculptures and paintings. "Art Works" is a unique gallery in Cabbagetown and ought to be seen. The group also promote artists in other fields such as the musical area. Saturday night, Ron

Small sang Blues and People Music.

One of a Kind on Carlton St. near Parliament is another versatile artistic place to visit — needlework is featured for all the ladies in the area inclined to this kind of artistry.

The Korean Childs Choir in native costume was also an unforgettable experience. Their humour and their delight in singing was felt by everyone, and one came away feeling lighter and happier.

A thirteen month old child rose up from his stroller, clapped his hands and began to dance to the Cochrane Cooper Band, Saturday night, a testimony to their offerings, which was soulful and gutsy. This baby was one of the many appreciative audience members.

To the many people active behind the scenes, we are grateful for the energies and tireless efforts which made the Cabbagetown Festival memorable. We will reminisce pleasantly through the months to come of what we have been a part of, and we look forward again to the "Harvest of Talent" next September.

A hearty thank you to you all.



T-SHIRT OF THE WEEK: Cabbagetown Cultural Festival t-shirts with python. BOB RHODES and MARK GIVOQUE (left) spent Saturday afternoon entertaining LUCIFER, an eight-foot python. Lucifer, who will grow to eighteen feet in maturity, was part of an unusual animals display at the Menagerie Pet Shop.

Photo by Cherry Hassard



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# A quiet walk along the Don

By HOWARD HUGGETT

You could say that in one way the Don River is responsible for the situation it is now in. For unknown centuries it provided the principal means of transport in this area. Before the European settlement the Indian used it and other streams such as the Humber to travel between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe or the Georgian Bay. It was easier by canoe than by moccasin.

When the white man arrived he transported furs by the same route. Then the settlement began and early industries were set up in the Don Valley to take advantage of the water power-saw mills, grist mills, breweries. The railroads that were built to the north were located there because the grades were not too steep. So in time Toronto became a great sprawling city, and the transportation arteries that man built, like the arms of an octopus, have encircled the little river that was the original road. All that the Don carries now is sewage.

One of those arms winds downhill from Castle Frank and Bloor and stretches out across the valley floor. As you follow it notice how the earth around here has been landscaped, how neat and attractive the grass looks. This road takes you over the CNR tracks, past the structure that looks like a wigwam, but isn't, and then over the river. Ahead is a sign that advises you to turn left for the Parkway, but don't do that. Before you get that far a road turns off to the right and points south down the valley. There is no sign to advise you, but take it anyway.

Continued from page 4

The legacy of Cabbagetown is monumental. Its memory, and the feeling felt toward it by those who lived there, enriches Toronto's history, and helps us all to appreciate the city as it is today.

I would like to thank the staff and Young Canada Works workers at the Parliament Branch of the Library for providing me with access to the material in the local history collection. Some of the sources upon which this article is based are the following:

Cabbagetown Store, by J.V. McAree

Cabbagetown, by Hugh Garner  
Cabbage Town, an article by W.B. Hambly published in *The York Pioneer*, 1969

Working People, by James Lorimer and Myfanwy Phillips  
Fighting Back — Urban Renewal in Trefann Court, by Graham Fraser

the Toronto that used to be, Rae Corelli

Almost as soon as it leaves the highway the surface of this road deteriorates. This area is evidently used for dumping certain kinds of refuse, and the roadway is probably adequate for that purpose. It stretches along the side of the river, branching out now and then and coming together again. The land is quite flat here, as this is the river's ancient flood plain. I have read that the Mississauga Indians grew corn here long ago, but what you see now, not counting the trees which are mostly on the banks of the river, is a very healthy crop of weeds. Perhaps the most plentiful are chicory, with their light blue flowers stuck like buttons on the sprawling, almost leafless stems. The roots of this plant, dried and ground up, make a brew that some people prefer to the one you get from that brown and gold and they are selling in the supermarket.

What you don't see are human beings. Right here the stream is flowing through what must be the densest population area that any river in Canada flows through. There are lots of people up there on the streets and buildings and zipping along the thruways, but almost none of them get down here beside this peaceful stretch of the river. In spite of the neglect that is so evident everywhere, this is an ideal spot to rest and relax to the quiet rhythms of nature. There are plenty of birds, including some ducks and even the occasional goose. The squirrels and groundhogs are visible; the field mice and raccoons are not, although they are sure to be around somewhere.

Southward the road leads underneath the Bloor Street Viaduct, where thousands of people rush by over-head. It ends quite a bit below there, where the river runs under a railway bridge, cutting off any further passage. Many years ago, before the Parkway was built, there was an overpass on the railroad track here and you could walk or drive underneath to connect with a road that

ran along the river bank. All that is left is a passageway underneath the tracks about ten feet high and eight feet wide as a run-off route for excess water.

At this point the north end of Riverdale Pk. is off to the east on the other side of the railroad right-of-way and the Parkway. This would be the logical place to construct a pedestrian and bicycle passageway underneath these routes, so that people could have access to this area from the park. After all, a river isn't there just to be looked at. It is meant to have people walk beside it, listen to and even paddle feet in. If ducks and groundhogs can, why not humans?

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A PUBLIC MEETING for Ward 7 residents will be held on Monday October 3 at 8:30 pm at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street to discuss the TTC fare increases. A8-9

FLAT WANTED for single woman in the Cabbagetown area. Call Rosemary from 9 am to 5 pm at 922-7391 or evenings at 922-0905. B8-9

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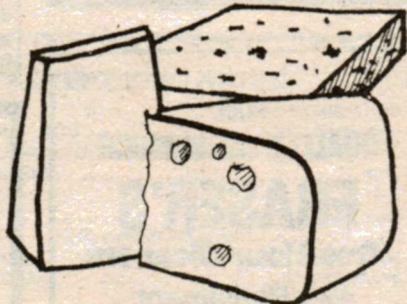
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## Groups work to serve the needs of the Black community

By CHRISTINE STEPHENSON

For those involved in working with the Black population, the concerns move beyond the voicing of sentiments and suggestions to the adoption of policies and the undertaking of actions to overcome the difficulties. Over the past ten years a number of groups have been established, each undertaking to fulfill what it perceives to be the basic necessities. Here is a small sample of these organizations.

BRIC is the Black Resources and Information Centre. It is a grass-roots organization serving the Black community. It was formed in October 1975 by a group of concerned community workers, leaders and students.

Some of their aims and objectives are "To collect, analyze and disseminate information and resources in a manner that the majority of Black people can relate to and read. To facilitate communication between the Black community and other racial and ethnic groups. To work tirelessly for full recognition in the Canadian society and to achieve complete acculturation and total equal treatment and provision of opportunity given in Canadian society."

They provide a legal service from 6 to 9 pm on Wednesdays, open to everyone. There is no appointment necessary.

Their media project helps kids gain experience in an area not usually open to them. Among other things, it sponsors a program called Black Focus. It runs on Rogers Cable TV on a 13 week rotating schedule.

The Resource and Information project provides information to the Black community and attempts to put people in touch with resources. Their goal is to develop a collection of Black resource material for Blacks in Canada and in the rest of the world.

In 1968-69 the tenants of Regent Park banded together to solve their problems and the Regent Park Community Improvement Association was established. After much hard work the Tenant-Management program was begun to provide a vehicle for social change, and to promote understanding among all groups.

The tenants are the number one priority, and they are organized to meet their needs. They deal with a multiracial group assisting with social problems. A committee of responsible people choose the unit representatives and these are the eyes, ears and mouth of the RPCIA. They work very closely with the tenants and the management. The association has expanded its role into many different areas such as home help for senior citizens, an adult recreation centre and a number of community services.

The Jamaican Canadian Association is trying to establish a community centre at Danforth and Pharmacy. It serves the whole Metropolitan area, and its membership is open to all West Indians and Canadians.

A group of influential Black leaders established the group under the direction of the first president Roy Williams. Their objective is: "To promote a good image of the Caribbean peoples to the Canadian society, helping new Canadian people to integrate into the Canadian society, maintaining a strong social and cultural link with Jamaica through the Jamaican Mission."

All members are active in the Association, and annual elections are for the Executive and Standing Committees which run it. Over the years they have presented briefs to the government and conducted seminars and workshops.

It is non-political in a partisan sense and the

organization is funded mainly by membership fees and through fund-raising activities. They had a LIP grant but are not dependent on the government, and are not geared to be anything but independent.

The Black Education Project is concerned with the establishment of Black consciousness, a positive self-attitude that encourages pride in their culture and history. Their objectives are: "1) to identify and develop local initiatives and develop local Black groups around issues which concern them and 2) to make and clarify their goals and promote active involvement."

The BEP was started seven years ago by a group of concerned students from the University of Toronto who wished to assist Black Canadians unsure about their identity. Education, especially among immigrant kids, was the initial theme of the project, but in 1970 they began cultural programs to integrate all Blacks and other Canadians. In 1971 they began an after-school program which continued until 1973. This program was expanded to assist the kids in their everyday life. As the population began to increase they found that they also needed to reach the parents and therefore they began a community outreach project. One project was begun at St. Barnabas' Church.

The BEP had more than its fair share of funding problems because the founders decided to seek funding from the Black Community and not from the government. Despite the fact that they have had to close down for periods due to lack of funds the project continues on in an ever-expanding attempt to serve the community needs.

The Caribbean Toronto Catholic Secretariat was started in 1975 by Father Michael Pascal CS. Sp. when he came to Toronto at the invitation of the Bishop to help the Catholic community. He saw a great need to develop the entire human being in a field not limited by race or religion and so expanded the role of the Secretariat.

A house was purchased by the Bishop and a chapel was constructed in it. They have a reading room with magazines, newspapers and other literature from the West Indies, a conference room, and a meditation room. There are group meetings where one can share and discuss ideas, develop social and cultural interaction, and participate in social, community or educational groups.

The Father has made contact with about 3,000 West Indians and when he sees that they have social as well as spiritual problems, he refers them to the coordinator Dianne Hyles MSW. ADV. DIP., who tries to solve them. Help is available in career counselling, personal and marital counselling, legal matters, housing, employment, education and immigration.

Cari-to also offers many other services. Under the direction of the Father and Jenny O'Brien (another founding member) a Credit Union was initiated. In co-operation with the Black Education Project and the Harriet Tubman Youth Centre they began a summer camp program at Hayden Park Vocational School. Sister Jcinta gives free yoga classes. Their cultural endeavours include sponsorship of La Petit Musical whose first record of Caribbean folk songs is on the market now. They also provide space for the artists working on the Immican project.

Those at Cari-to have a number of services planned for the future such as drama and arts and crafts classes, sports activities, and an adult education program to get the parents involved. As with all of the groups the question of funding remains central to their future. "We care so much and we want to help so much, so much could be done for the community if..."

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