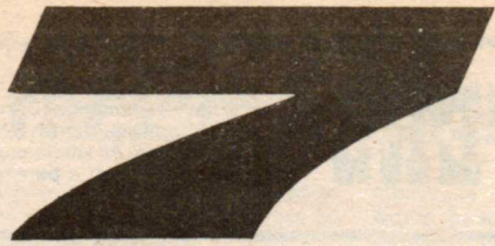


This is the last issue with our supporting membership coupon. If you're a supporting member yet, please turn to page 8 and send in the coupon.

Everybody living and working in the Ward 7 area is invited to our general meeting and potluck dinner on June 8. See page 8.



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
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VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2 JUNE 3, 1978

FREE
TAKE ONE



Photo by Cherry Hassard

Tee shirt of the week: Doug Hefferon sports an Irish Power tee shirt at the Neighbourhood Information Post garage sale last Saturday.

A hot night in Riverdale

By ULLI DIEMER

It was a hot, hot night last Tuesday in Toronto. But it was hotter yet in the Riverdale Collegiate auditorium, where the heat came not only from the weather but also from upwards of 300 people crammed into the seats, aisles, doorways, and lobby, from the tempers of those people as they gathered to see what they could do about educational cutbacks.

And perhaps it was hottest of all on stage, where spokesmen from the provincial government and the Metro School Board squirmed and sweated under the lights as they tried to answer a constant flow of hard questions from the parents, teachers, and students in the meeting.

The meeting had been called to talk about how cutbacks are damaging the quality of education at Riverdale Collegiate, and it was clear from the beginning that people were not going to accept the glib statements of

education bureaucrats and politicians — those of them who bothered to show up. Both Metro and provincial government were represented by low-level functionaries who admitted they couldn't answer policy questions, and Dennis Colby, the Ward 8 school trustee whose immaturity is surpassed only by his insensitivity, didn't dare to put in an appearance after having earlier told Riverdale students that they didn't have the right to expect a good education, and that they shouldn't aspire to anything more than delivering phone books.

As speaker after speaker hammered the government's education policies, a number of points emerged:

- Education spending is lagging far behind the rate of inflation.

- At the same time, the provincial government is drastically reducing its share of education financing.

- As a result property taxes are going up.

- The main beneficiaries of education spending are the corporations who need educated, trained employees.

But the corporate share of education financing and general taxation has gone down at an incredible rate: For example between 1970 and 1975 corporation profits increased 131 per cent, but during the same time corporate taxes actually decreased by 41.5 per cent.

- Rapid teacher layoffs are resulting in larger classes, fewer programs, fewer extra-curricular activities.

- Working-class and immigrant areas are being hardest hit by the effects of these cutbacks.

Several general demands emerged from the meeting:

- Maintenance of education spending at a level that will maintain the present quality of education.

continued pg. 4

Highrise tenants hit soaring rents

By THOM CORBETT

Tenants of the Barbara Apartments in St. Jamestown have charged that Meridian supplied "very questionable" evidence to support rising costs during recent rent review hearings which granted the company permission to hike rents by 20 per cent.

Although the Barbara Tenants Association presented evidence supporting their claim that Meridian should be held to the 6 per cent ceiling imposed by rent controls, their protests were ignored by rent review officers.

The 20 per cent increase is the latest in a series of rent hikes that has seen rents double in the two supposedly low-rental buildings during the last 17 years. Tenants in the apartments, which were constructed with the aid of low-interest government loans, have been embroiled in almost continuous rent review hearings and appeals since 1976. Although evidence produced at all of the hearings in the past two years have shown that Meridian used false documentation to support rent hikes, rent review officers have consistently granted the company increases well above the guidelines.

In the earliest instance where false information was provided by Meridian, during the first rent review hearing in December 1976, tenants were successful in postponing that hearing until April of 1977. The tenants' charges were later backed up by an internal memo from rent review officer R. Grimson to George Issan, Senior Rent Review Officer.

The memo, dated December 16, 1976, reads as follows: "I believe that the misinformation of the landlord's 5A's (forms which requested 17 per cent rent increases) had the effect of misleading this office into accepting applications as valid, that were in fact invalid.

"The landlord sought rent increases based on false information and completely in disregard to the provision of the Landlord and Tenant Act and the Residential Premises Rent Review Act.

"I feel strongly that the landlord's certification of information that he must have known, or ought to have known, as fake or at least, incorrect, should subject him to penalties as provided by law.

"We are not dealing with an unknowledgeable landlord, but with one with principals who are most aware of legislation and who have recourse to the best counsel."

Although Meridian's first application could have been disallowed completely, the regional director of rent review, R.E. Downey, intervened on Meridian's behalf. In an internal memo to Gerry Gross, rent review legal advisor, dated January 26 1977, Mr. Downey felt that consideration had to be given to the consequences of disallowing Meridian's application.

"I feel that because the amount involved is quite substantial the landlord will likely apply for Judicial Review if we should throw out their application," the

memo stated.

Instead of applying the law against Meridian, the company was allowed to retract the information in time for a new rent review hearing in April, 1977. At this and subsequent hearings, however, the Barbara Tenants Association revealed that Meridian had not learned their lesson and continued to produce misleading information.

The association charges that Meridian, to back up their claim that expenses for operating the Barbara apartments have skyrocketed, have tabled invoices for work that was never done or for work that was done at other apartments owned or managed by Meridian.

These charges were backed up in an April 12, 1977 letter from St. George M.P.P. Margaret Campbell to the minister of consumer and commercial relations.

In the letter, Mrs. Campbell states, "I was seriously disturbed because the costs did not seem to relate to the buildings themselves (Barbara apartments) and my concern grew out of the fact that Meridian, or one of its megalopolies, owns most of St. Jamestown, including the Barbara Apartments and including, on the other hand, conventional buildings and it did seem to me that there was prima facie evidence that some of the costs attributed to the Barbara Apartments were, in fact, costs which ought properly to have been allocated to the conventional buildings."

Evidence provided by the Barbara Tenants Association, clearly proves Mrs. Campbell's charges. During last year's hearings, tenants questioned invoices for plastering work which were addressed to Meridian apartments on Wellesley Street. The invoices were then changed to read 700 and 730 Ontario Street, addresses for the Barbara Apartments. Other invoices for expenses pertaining to the apartments include carpentry work which the tenants claim was never done.

Although Meridian has also claimed for expenses relating to the purchase of new appliances for the Barbara apartments, many of the tenants still possess refrigerators and stoves which were installed in the early 1960's. Invoices provided by Meridian indicate that appliances may in fact have been installed in other buildings and then charged to the Barbara tenants.

One such invoice, for a stove, dated September 7, 1976, shows that the appliance was delivered to a Meridian apartment on 700 Kingston Road. While other appliances were installed in the Barbara apartments, they were also later removed after rent review hearings.

Continued page 6



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LETTERS

If you have comments or opinions about what is happening in the community or about what you read in 7 News, write us a letter, to 7 News, 265 Gerrard St. E., Toronto. All letters must be signed, but if you ask us to, we will publish your letter with a pen-name and keep your real name confidential.

Poop?

Dear 7 News:

I am glad to see in your paper an article about wall-to-wall dogcrap. If we did not have wall-to-wall dogs we would not have this mess right outside our doors all over the lawn. Walking from my place to Loblaws with a grocery buggy is disgusting. You cannot avoid charging through this crap because there is so much. On your shoes, on the wheels of the baby carriage or buggy. No wonder people are sick with all these filthy germs around. I say if people want dogs they can carry a pooper scooper and be made to use them under penalty of a fine.

Mary Tipe
Carlton St.

To parents and children

"An Open Letter to You" (All parents and all Children) from a mother.

I can't be right all the time. I do make mistakes, just as you do. I scold and nag at times because it hurts me to see you headed in the wrong direction of the path of life. You see I want you to be someone special, someone of whom, in the future, people will say "Now there is a fine person. He gets my vote."

So I have not given you the world. I just can't afford it. But I can

give you the deepest, most cherished love. A love between a parent and child. It grows deeper with each passing day. It can't be replaced, stolen or broken. It is the best of all gifts, and it's from me to you for always.

Your loving mother.

P.S. Those are just words. The feelings are much deeper than that and I add to it, God grant you all of life's good things. And there is your wealth: take it and share it with others.

Local boys make good

The Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Centre (CBYC) hosted a tournament with boxers from three other clubs on June 19th, and came away with eight wins in 10 bouts.

Visiting boxers came from the Masten Boys' Club of Buffalo, the Lamoureux Boxing Club in Scarborough, and the Northwest Rexdale Boxing Club. The results were as follows:

Andy (Poet) Williams, CBYC, decisioned Dervin Blair of Rexdale (70 lbs).

John (Thumper) Shaw, CBYC lost a close one to Vernon McGriff, Buffalo (70 lbs).

Milton (The Monster) Thompson, CBYC, defeated Don Wiggins, Buffalo (85 lbs).

Sheldon (Shifty) Sampson, CBYC, won out over Aaron Borden, Buffalo (85 lbs).

Asif (The Pakistan Panther) Dar, CBYC defeated Wasson Tam, Lamoureux (95 lbs).

Ivan Hughes, CBYC, stopped Philip Santo-Donatos, Rexdale, in the first round (118 lbs).

Ron (Dynamite) Adams, CBYC, blasted out a win over Medhi Hussin, Lamoureux, in just 38 seconds (128 lbs).

Garnet Mitchell, CBYC, was decisioned by Pete Delaney, Buffalo (145 lbs).

Vincent (The Invincible) Pileggo, CBYC decisively defeated Pumpkin Burrell, Buffalo (106 lbs).
"Irish" Shawn O'Sullivan, CBYC, bested Roger Brown, Buffalo (118 lbs).

The Cabbagetown boys were

coached by Peter Wylie, Dave Clairman, and Ken Hamilton, The bouts were effective tune-ups for the All-Ontario Junior Boxing Championships being held at the Oshawa arena on June 10th, in which Cabbagetown is planning to enter at least a dozen competitors.

The Prince and the Grizzly

He floated round the ring with elegance and grace
As he swiftly jabbed with every pace —

The opposing giant was past his prime
And to box with him would be a crime —

The brutal battle became a war
As the young prince began to score.

Then suddenly the big grizzly fell,
Shaking the ring and feeling like hell!

The grizzly was down with his eyes closed tight
Refusing the prince's taunts to get up and fight.

And now the young prince had become a king,
After making the head of the great bear sting.

Andy Williams

Andy Williams is a 12-year-old boxer-poet at the Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Centre. According to coach Ken Hamilton, he has won two bouts and lost two close ones to date. He is a student at Lord Dufferin School.

NEWS BRIEFS

A part of the Wellesley Hospital — the corridor off the main lobby, past the gift shop — is being turned into an art gallery starting June 8, and the public is invited to an opening reception on that day from 4 to 6 p.m. in the main lobby. There will be refreshments, and a free draw for an original painting by a Canadian artist. Emphasis in the gallery will be on local artists and some 20 to 30 pictures (oils and water colours, drawings and prints) will be hung for approximately six weeks. Then, another selection will be displayed, with a new display every six to eight weeks. The paintings will be for sale.

Two men sentenced to \$100 fines for putting up posters plan to launch against what they call an infringement of freedom of speech. Dave Foreman and Bob Schisler were arrested last year while posterizing against American anti-gay crusader Anita Bryant. They were charged under the criminal code for causing wilful damage and convicted. Foreman and Schisler, backed by the Gay Alliance Toward Equality of which they are

members, are appealing. "We are contacting other groups who put up posters or are concerned with growing restrictions on traditional freedoms. Why should I have a criminal record for putting up a poster?" says Schisler. Posterizing has traditionally been the way low-budget community, political and church groups advertise their activities. The defense campaign can be contacted at 966-8131.

The old Davis Cleaners store on Parliament Street closed on May 6. A medical clinic is to move into the space. . . The laundry rooms in the east end of Regent Park now have staggered hours, and a number of new machines have been installed. . . The New Board of Directors of Dixon Hall have been elected. . . A Regent Park Giants soccer team has been formed. They are ready to challenge all comers in Regent. Contact Harold Jackman at 364-2909. . . Many apply, but few are chosen. Still, it may be worth a try. The application deadline for Canada Works is June 24. You can get applications by phoning Lisa Hill at 484-5467.

Fly-by-night contractors

Homeowners are being warned against fly-by-night contractors by the ministry of consumer and commercial relations. The ministry recommends that to protect themselves, homeowners deal with businesses which have earned a good reputation; have a firm idea of what they want done before they begin; make sure construction conforms to

local bylaws and get a building permit (this is not the contractor's responsibility); and get at least three written estimates providing a detailed list of all work to be done, including clean-up. They also suggest asking the contractor for the names and addresses of people for whom he has recently completed work, and checking to see if these people are satisfied; not paying more than 10 per cent down as a

deposit and not paying in full until all work is completed. You should also get warranty details in writing, and remember that a warranty is only as good as the company backing it. You should also get starting and completion dates in writing, and, if you are signing a contract, make sure it lists everything to be done. And beware of contractors who say they are in the neighbourhood only for the day and offer bargain prices.

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OPINION

By TOM CLEMENT

At the height of the Depression in the 1930's the federal government came up with a new way of dealing with the ever-increasing numbers of the unemployed: make-work projects called "relief camps", under the direction of the Department of National Defence, where young people worked for 20¢ a day.

Last year, with Canada in the worst economic mess since the 1930's, the federal government came up with a new way of dealing with the unemployment that has risen to its highest level since the Depression: make-work projects called "Katimavik", under the direction of the Department of National Defence, where young people (17 to 22 years old) work for \$1 per day.

It is certainly a strong indicator of the economic situation when the government is forced to unearth Depression methods to deal with young people.

It is true, of course, that both the Katimavik and the relief camps have provided some socially useful work. But, while environmental clean-up and reforestation are valuable, the main issue for young people remains that of unemployment. The government by introducing this project has done absolutely nothing to solve unemployment. Instead, Katimavik, like the relief camps, takes young people out of the cities and isolates them in remote areas.

Now, as in the 1930's, the government is very much afraid that radicals or malcontents may slip in with the idea of encouraging these under-paid workers to organize. In the thirties troublemakers were blacklisted. Katimavik eliminates potential trouble-makers by psychological testing that all applicants must undergo before being accepted.

At present Katimavik is only an experimental project. Currently there are only about 1000 participants, but the project is to be expanded. Interestingly, the relief camps of the Depression also started as an experiment — but during the four years of their existence, 170,000 young people were processed through them.

During the Depression young people would get fed up with life in the camps and leave. Today the government will pay \$1000 to anyone who can stick it out the full nine months. If a participant does not last the full period, s/he gets nothing. For those who last the full nine months, the pay works out to a little better than \$25.00 per week. Wow!

During the Depression many people criticized the millionaire Prime Minister, R.B. Bennett, for not understanding the needs of poor people. Only one other millionaire has ever been Prime Minister. His name — surprise! — Pierre Trudeau.

Bennett's methods of dealing with unemployment caused tremendous protest. People right across the country got involved in organizations opposed to unemployment. Similar organizations are starting in various centres across Canada today.

Finally Bennett became desperate and put off calling an election until the last possible moment. Once again we see Trudeau following in Bennett's footsteps. Canadians were fed up with Bennett when he finally did call an election and threw his government out of power. It is up to us whether Trudeau will once again follow in Bennett's footsteps.

Old buildings get new uses

By AUDREY BAYDUZA

Major renovations are planned to begin this summer and early next fall on two familiar old landmarks in the South Riverdale area.

\$45,000 has been budgeted for alterations to the Old Post Office at the corner of Queen and Saultier to make it suitable for occupation late this summer by the South Riverdale Site Office. The move by the local office of the City's Planning Department, now located on Queen Street just west of Lewis is the first move in the conversion of the building into a multi-service community centre.

Although the site office will occupy only the first floor of the building, proceedings are under way for the City to acquire use of the entire building to house both government social service agencies, and indigenous community groups and facilities.

The site office will initially move into the former Post Office under the terms of a two-year lease with an option to renew for an additional three years. City Council has also authorized the taking up of a twenty year option on the building to supersede the Site Office's lease as soon as renovations and other arrangements can be completed.

The Post Office building has been vacant now for about three years and the process of acquiring it for community use has been somewhat complicated by the fact that the building has been declared a historic site by the Historical Board.

Down the way and up the street, major renovations are also planned for the South Riverdale Community Health Centre on Pape Avenue. Expected to cost an estimated \$160,000.00, these alterations are slated to begin at the end of August and take six months to complete. Alternate temporary accommodations

will have to be found for the clinic, which has now been in operation for about a year. An additional \$10,000.00 has been allotted for the purchase of new equipment for the clinic.

City Council, which leases the health centre building from Metro then sublets to the health clinic for a nominal rent has approved an 8-year lease on the building and is now awaiting Ontario Municipal Board approval of the arrangement.

Both projects are part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan: a cost-sharing program involving all three levels of government — federal, provincial, and municipal — and providing for the improvement of facilities and services in a number of older neighbourhoods across the country.

South Riverdale was first selected as a N.I.P. area in 1974, and its boundaries were finalized in 1976, after a series of public meetings and discussions. Subsequent planning has been guided by a N.I.P. Steering Committee of local residents.

The South Riverdale Neighbourhood is one of three N.I.P. areas east of the Don in Toronto and it is bounded, generally, by Dundas Street, Jones Avenue, Queen Street East, Leslie Street, Lakeshore Boulevard and the Don channel. The Don Mount area northwest of Broadview Ave. and Queen Street is excluded as are the heavy industrial areas between Logan and Boston Avenues north of Queen Street and south of Eastern Avenue. Containing about 312 acres, it is, in size the largest N.I.P. area in Toronto.

Under the N.I.P. program, the federal government will pay 25% of the cost of improving municipal services or public utilities, or 50% of the cost of improving recreation or social services. The Province

pays an additional 25% and the municipality picks up the remaining 25 or 50%. Both the Post Office and the Community Health Centre are recreation or social services to the federal government will be picking up the tab for half the cost of each project.

In order to keep its designation as a N.I.P. area, a neighbourhood must undertake a redevelopment plan that requires the federal government to spend a minimum of \$100 per capita over a three year period. In South Riverdale this means a redevelopment plan costing a total of approximately \$2.3 million by the end of 1979.

The priorities established by the N.I.P. Steering Committee in South Riverdale have clearly placed the emphasis on projects providing recreational or social services and only \$115,707 of the initial budget for the program was earmarked for the provision of municipal services or public works projects. Part of this money was designated for use in termite control on City-owned property.

One of the top priorities established by the steering committee was the improvement of existing housing and its importance has been borne out by South Riverdale's response to a second aspect of the N.I.P. program. Under the Plan, financial assistance is made available to individual homeowners in a N.I.P. area for improvements and repairs to their homes to bring them up to the standards required by the municipal by-laws. Applications from individuals in the South Riverdale area have virtually doubled the number of applications from any other single N.I.P. area in

continued p. 4

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WE NEVER CLOSE

Major confrontation looms over rent controls removal

By THOM CORBETT
and ULLI DIEMER

With rising unemployment and continuing inflation, many people look upon "the good old days" with increasing fondness.

But if the Davis government carries out what seem to be its intentions, tenants at least may soon be looking back to 1976, 1977 and 1978 as "the good old days".

The reason? It appears that the government has every intention of removing the rent controls that have partially kept the lid on potentially massive rent increases over the past three years. Prior to the controls, rents had been skyrocketing, and it seems very likely that they would do so again if controls are removed.

Support for an end to rent controls is growing among government officials who say that apartments aren't being built because developers no longer find it profitable enough.

Critics of this line of thinking agree that apartment construction isn't keeping up with demand, but argue that rent controls are not the cause. They point to similar apartment shortages in cities without rent controls, and note that the construction slowdown began before controls were introduced.

Needs or profits?

The reasons, according to supporters of controls, have to do with the whole system of supplying housing, which is governed by developers' decisions about where they can make the most profit, rather than by peoples' needs for accommodations.

In much of the post-war period, it was most profitable to build private homes, so this was where most of the building effort went. Then, in the 1960's, developers became very busy constructing office towers and shopping centres, largely because these kinds of developments delivered higher profits, higher rents, and tenants who were less

demanding than apartment dwellers.

Consequently, the beginning of this decade saw fewer and fewer apartment buildings being constructed although the demand for rental accommodation rose rapidly. Because the average working person could no longer afford to own a private home — prices having soared out of reach — apartments became the only alternative in cities such as Toronto.

This undersupply drove up rents as more and more people were competing for the available apartments, and were thus forced to take whatever they could get. In the early 1970's, rent increases of 20 per cent and 30 per cent became commonplace.

Pressure brings controls

When the Conservative Davis government lost its majority in the 1975 provincial election, it had no choice but to give in to public pressure and the demands of the opposition parties, and introduce rent controls.

Under controls, landlords were allowed to increase rents eight per cent annually, but could charge more than that only if they appeared before rent review hearings to prove that their expenses were above the limit. In the first year of its operations, over 9,000 hearings were held across Ontario.

When the allowable rent increase was dropped to 6 per cent in 1977 — the Davis government called an election rather than accept an opposition amendment setting the 6 per cent limit, but then had to accept it anyway when it failed to pick up a majority in the election — landlords and government officials warned that the number of requests for increases above the new limit would be even greater than before. Figures now available, however, show that in fact the number of rent review hearings decreased by over 40 per cent as many landlords realized they

were unable to justify large rent hikes.

Nevertheless, in 1977, rent increases in Toronto averaged 8.6 per cent, with increases of 20 per cent or more not unusual.

Despite this, landlords and developers are strongly pressuring the government to drop rent controls. If they are obtaining average increases that are well above the supposed limit with controls, one can only speculate what will happen to rents after controls.

Prepare for removal

To prepare for the removal of controls, the Davis government released a "green paper" in February of this year, entitled "Policy Options for Continuing Tenant Protection" that leans so strongly to ending controls that tenant groups have labelled it "Policy Options for Continuing Landlord Protection and Profits."

However, because an end to controls will cause massive tenant displeasure, the "green paper" says controls may be extended in some form or another while the government will also encourage developers to build more apartments by giving them large amounts of public funds as subsidies.

Taxes subsidize profits

While this will not help the small landlords, some of whom have had some legitimate complaints about the operation of rent controls, it will be a boon to large private developers, who will have their profits bolstered from the taxes of tenants and other taxpayers. Naturally they will retain complete ownership of these buildings despite the fact that large amounts of public money will have gone into their construction. And when controls are finally dropped, tenants will be forced to pay high market rents in buildings they helped finance through their taxes.

But, as the "green paper" points out, subsidization of private developers is not a recent phenomenon. In 1977, the paper states, "almost 85 per cent of rental production was publicly assisted." This includes housing for low-income tenants who have their rents subsidized by the government, resulting in a double — and continuing — subsidy for the builder who constructs the building and then collects the rents.

Faced with tremendous opposition to rising rents, government seems inclined to take the politically easier route of providing developers with profit subsidies directly through tax money.

Tenant groups opposed

However, tenant organizations disagree with the government's plans and have formulated ideas of their own. They oppose paying for construction with public money while allowing developers to retain ownership of the units thus built. Instead, they are pushing the idea that funds go to non-profit housing corporations which would concentrate on affordable housing rather than on higher-priced, higher-profit units. They also want funds to be given to tenant controlled co-ops that supply housing whose rents are geared to cover construction and maintenance costs only while eliminating the additional expense of profit.

Non-profit housing

Although government funding is provided to co-op and non-profit housing at the present time, the amount is very small compared to that given private developers, which include some of the largest and most profitable corporations in Canada.

According to the tenant organiza-

tions, another problem with privately-owned apartment buildings is that tenants pay for the construction costs of the structures several times over during its lifetime. In the case of co-ops and other tenant-controlled housing projects, the construction cost is paid for once and then rents are much lower.

At this point, the government has shown little interest in the suggestions of tenant groups — the green paper doesn't even consider them. However, tenant organizations feel that Toronto's one million tenants have a good chance of influencing future housing policies in the province because of the pressure they can potentially exert on the minority Conservative government. A million people committed to the proposition that good affordable housing is a right, not a privilege that depends on someone making a high enough profit from it, could be a potent political force.

Riverdale improvements

continued from p. 3

Toronto. There is no income restriction on eligibility for the pro-

gram, although the portion of the assistance that is made through a grant, and the interest rate charged on the remaining loan portion will vary according to the homeowner's individual situation. Applications can be made at the Site Office at 731 Queen Street East.

continued from pg. 1

No teacher layoffs: As enrolment goes, down much-needed decreases in class size can slowly be brought about.

Financing of education through taxes based on ability to pay: income and corporation taxes,

rather than property taxes.

The meeting approved plans for contacting parent, teacher, student, and community groups across the city to get their help in organizing against cutbacks by circulating petitions and organizing meetings and protests.

CITY HOUSES FOR SALE

The City of Toronto is offering for sale to qualified purchasers 12 houses in the Trefann Court Urban Renewal Area. Selling prices vary from \$25,000 to \$40,000, depending on size. All houses, when sold, will have functioning water, electrical and heating systems, and are structurally sound, although minor repairs and complete decoration will be required by the purchaser. The houses will be required to be brought up to the Housing Standards of the City of Toronto by the purchaser.

Eligible purchasers must meet the following conditions:

- 1) gross family income must be less than \$17,000
- 2) the family unit must include at least one child under the age of 16 years;
- 3) the family must not have owned a house in the last five years.

The City will reserve an option to repurchase at a stated price for a ten year period, such option to be exercised if the purchaser vacates the property or wishes to sell. The down payment will be 10% of the purchase price, terms to be arranged.

First priority to purchase is given to those on the Trefann priority list; second priority to residents within a mile of the Trefann area.

For further information, please contact Mr. Paul Ringer, Development Department, City of Toronto — Telephone: 367-7600.

Volunteers Needed

Seven News is looking for volunteers to distribute the paper on streets and in apartment buildings that presently do not have delivery. It would take about 10 to 30 minutes once every two weeks to deliver from 25 to 100 papers. The paper would be delivered to your door in a bundle every second Friday for you to deliver over the weekend. If you are interested, or know someone who is, call 7 News at 465-3810.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday June 3

The Senior Citizens of Dixon Hall are holding a **bazaar and bake sale** today at 58 Sumach Street from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chester Village Senior Citizens' Residence invites you to their **annual open house** today from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 717 Broadview Avenue. There'll be a craft sale, plants and baked goods, plus afternoon tea and a tour of the building.

A program of **cycling and hiking** at the Outer Harbour East Headland (Leslie Street Spit) will begin today and continue for 24 consecutive weekends. The spit is a **nature area** on which cars are not allowed. However, buses leave every 40 minutes from the corner of Queen and Leslie Streets on Saturdays and Sundays.

Sunday June 4

Join the Roxy, at Danforth and Greenwood for radio station Q107's birthday. There'll be **prizes, appearances by Q107 personalities, and Gimme Shelter** on the big screen. Call the Roxy at 461-2401 for times and information.

The community work committee of St. Luke's United Church has planned a **walk of exploration** to begin today after morning service, about 12:30 p.m. The walk is intended to develop a growing awareness of the community surrounding the church, its needs and its resources. Interested people are invited to join members of the congregation on this walk.

The YWCA is holding a **special fun day and fundraising project at Harbourfront** today from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Activities include: storytelling with Rita Cox; arts and crafts; sports and games; greasepaint mask-making; caricatures and four performances by Alex Laurier and The Frog Print Theatre (theatre performances are 50¢); and snacks for the kids. For more information call 364-5665.

The Harbourfront **Antique Pickers Market** opens for a second season at Harbourfront's York Quay starting at 10 a.m. One block west of York Street at 235 Queen's Quay West.

Now that the warm weather is here the **weekly forums** of St. Luke's Church are being held in Allen Gardens across from the church, at 2:30. Today's forum has Rev. Malcolm Finlay as guest speaker.

Bike for a Better City! Today is International Cyclists' Day, and it's being marked in Toronto with a special one-day celebration. The day will include a mass ride downtown (gather at High Park and Bloor, Lawrence Park, or Monarch Park at noon), a rally at Queen's Park at 1:00 p.m., and general celebrations at Nathan Phillips Square from 2:00 p.m. on, with displays, demonstrations, and speeches. Call 367-7033 for more details.

Monday June 5

During the week of June 5 through 11 the **First Canadian Festival of Mime** takes place at the Toronto Free Theatre, 26 Berkeley Street. More than 25 mime companies from 5 provinces will be presented. For more information about the festival, phone 362-3873.

Pensioners Concerned, East-Enders Chapter, will hold its last meeting before September today at 12 noon at the Temple Baptist Church, 14 Dewhurst Blvd. There will be a speaker from a trust company who will provide some advice on making a will. All seniors are welcome' this is a potluck lunch so if you can bring a dish.

The Young People's Theatre, 165 Front Street East, presents a **two-week festival of family entertainment** called The Festival of the Child from June 5 to June 18. For more information on the festival line-up and reservations, phone the theatre at 363-5131.

Wednesday June 7

Harbourfront presents **four films on Africa** tonight in the Harbourfront Cafe starting at 7:30. Films include "Negro Kingdoms", "The Ancient Africans", "The Congo", and "Bend of the Niger". Films are free. For more information, phone 364-5665.

St. Barnabas Church is celebrating its **120th birthday on June 11** and you are invited to help them celebrate. Tonight in the church located at 361 Danforth Avenue there will be a **birthday celebration** starting at 6:30 p.m. Come for a combination of dessert plus a concert.

Thursday June 8

The public is invited to an opening reception today from 4 to 6 p.m. in the main lobby of the Wellesley Hospital on the occasion of the **opening of an art gallery** in the corridor off the main lobby. There will be refreshments and a free draw for an original painting by a Canadian artist.

Got a beef about 7 News, or some ideas for the paper, or opinions you'd like to express, or just interested in meeting the people who work on 7 News? Well tonight's your chance, with a **7 News general meeting** happening at Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St. There will also be a potluck dinner, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Friday June 9

Fred's Free Films tonight at 8 p.m. in the 519 Church Street Community Centre are "Pardon Us", "Winged World" and "Monkeys, Apes and Man." Fred sure can pick 'em, can't he? Anyhow, films are free and everyone is invited.

Saturday, June 10

St. Barnabas Church, 361 Danforth, is holding a **reunion and dance** tonight at 7:30 in the Parish Hall. For more information, phone the church.

The Indian Immigrant Aid Services is holding its **spring dance tonight** from 8:30 to 1 a.m. at the 519 Church Street Community Centre. Tickets are \$4.00 each and the evening includes disco music, a cash bar, snacks and prizes. Tickets are limited and by **advance sales only**. Phone the I.I.A.S. office at 651-1400 for tickets.

If you are interested in cycling tours, you might give Tom Parry a call at 689-6126. He's a part of the Spadina Quay **Cycling Project** which is setting out for a tour of the Caledon and Belfountain area today and tomorrow.

Sunday June 11

There will be a **patronal festival and anniversary service** of holy communion at St. Barnabas Church, 361 Danforth Avenue, starting at 10:30 a.m. A reception follows. For more information about activities to mark St. Barnabas' 120th anniversary, phone the church.

Rev. Vic Shepherd of Kingsway-Lambton United Church is speaker at **St. Luke's Forum** in Allen Gardens at 2:30.

Monday June 12

The next forum scheduled at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre, 126 Pape Avenue, is this evening at 8 p.m. The **topic is "Drugs"**. Speakers for the evening include Dr. Adrian Wilkinson, a psychologist at the Addiction Research Foundation; Jack Gemmell, a law student; and Dr. Mike Rachlis from the health centre staff. This information session will probably be of most interest to parents, but everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

Tuesday June 13

Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario Street, holds the **annual meeting of its Board of Directors** tonight. The business meeting will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. followed by a buffet supper from 7 to 8 p.m., and by a party from 8 to 11 p.m. There will be various exhibits. All are welcome. Contributions of food or dessert for the supper table would be appreciated. For more information, phone Mary Ann at CNH, 925-4363.

Wednesday June 14

The Department of Public Health is planning a **lead-level testing clinic at Bruce School**, 50 Larchmount this afternoon and evening from 4 to 8 p.m. Prenatal mothers and pre-school children are urged to attend especially.

There will be a general meeting of the **Riverdale Intercultural Council** at 7:30 at the Queen St. Presbyterian Church, 947 Queen St. East Call Tim McCaskell at 469-1819 for more information.

Friday June 16

Come and learn the **art of Chinese cooking** at the Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Avenue. The cooking demonstration begins at 7 p.m. tonight and is free. Everyone is welcome. For more information, phone 466-0776.

Undaunted, Fred continues his eclectic selection of **free films tonight at 8 p.m.** at 519 Church Street Community Centre. Tonight's flicks include "Santa Fe Trail" and "Something Beautiful For God."

Saturday June 17

The Co-op Housing Federation of Toronto is looking for people who would like to become a part of **Woodsworth Housing Co-operative**, a housing community of 194 households in the new St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. Two public information meetings will be held, the first one today at 2 p.m. in the St. Lawrence Centre Lobby. Now is the time to find out more about co-op housing, to put your name on a waiting list and to get involved in your future community. For further information call the Co-op Housing Federation at 363-4395.

General

Volunteers are needed at the Second Mile Club, 192 Carlton Street, to assist in their home-help program for seniors. Friendly visiting, transportation, shopping, errands and cleaning are some of the areas where volunteer participation is needed. For more information, phone Rena at 923-5859.

Theatre Nextdoor presents Neil Simon's comedy **"Come Blow Your Horn"** Friday, June 2, Saturday June 3, and Thursday June 8 through Saturday June 10 in the Vancouver Building Auditorium (sub-basement level), 240 Wellesley Street East, in St. Jamestown. Shows are at 8:30 p.m. and tickets run \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for seniors with group rates available. For tickets and information, phone 922-9348.

Dixon Hall, 58 Sumach Street, is gearing up for its **summer youth program**. Registration forms are available and registration is limited. **Dixon Hall Cobra's**, a boy's baseball team for guys aged 13 to 15, is still on the look-out for players. Drop-by Dixon Hall any Monday or Wednesday evening at 6:30 and try out for the team. A teen dance is up and coming at Dixon Hall, so watch out for details.

Community Calendar is a free community service. If you have an upcoming event to announce, send the information to 7 News, 265 Gerrard St. E., or call the office at 465-3810.

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Opinion questionnaire

To help us put out a better paper, we would like your ideas and opinions about 7 News. Please fill out the questionnaire below by checking off or writing in your opinion. Then clip it and send it to us at 7 News.

1. How often do you read 7 News?

Every issue _____ Usually _____
Occasionally _____ Rarely _____

Do you usually get it delivered _____ or pick it up _____

3. Do you read: All of the paper _____ Most of it _____
Some of it _____ Very little _____

4. What in 7 News do you like? Or dislike? Would you like to see more, less or the same of the following features? Check the appropriate boxes beside each item.

	Like	Don't Like	Should be more of it	Should be less of it	Right Amount as is
News stories	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Community Calendar	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Letters	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mementoes of Yesteryear	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
City Hall articles	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Education and School news	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Photos	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hamster cartoons	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
energy columns	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
advertisements	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Poetry	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sports	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Kids' Stuff	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Political features	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Stories about	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Local groups	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Multicultural stories	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Reviews	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bonita's Eats	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other: Specify	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

5. What would you like to see in the paper that isn't in it now?

6. What would you like to see changed in 7 News?

7. Is there anything in particular that you like or dislike about 7 News?

8. Any other suggestions or comments?

9. Your street _____

10. Your name (only if you want to give it) _____

Clip the questionnaire out of the paper and mail or bring it to 7 News, 265 Gerrard St. East, Toronto.

rent hike

continued from p. 1

The tenants association says that on the day before the 1976 hearings, 39 new washers and dryers were installed in 700 and 730 Ontario Street. Since then, however, the new appliances have been gradually replaced with old machines which are in poor working order.

One of the most contentious expenses listed in Meridian's rent increase applications during hearings, is the \$50,000 paid to Meridian Property Management Limited by Barbara Apartments Limited. Although Meridian claims they only manage the Barbara Apartments and are not the owners, corporate data for 1976, obtained from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, indicate that the companies are not quite as independent as Meridian likes to have people believe.

Not only do Meridian Property Management Limited and Barbara Apartments Limited share a common director, Morton Merkur, but Meridian boss Philip Roth is also a Barbara director.

Another questionable practice by Meridian that has been raised at the rent review hearings, is that audited statements which are accepted as completely factual by rent review officers, are prepared by a firm with connections with Meridian. During the 1976 hearing, a letter from the firm's auditors, Feldstein Miller Bernstein Rich Mendelson, was attached to an audited statement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Barbara apartments.

The letter concluded with the following statement: "We are not independent with respect to the company because one of our partners is a trustee of the trust of some of the beneficial shareholders."

Although the auditors have indicated that the above relationship no longer exists, the Barbara Tenants Association is still not satisfied. Because the auditors never indicated which partner had connections with "beneficial shareholders", there is no way of checking whether indeed this relationship no longer exists.

Another sore point with the Barbara tenants is the fact that they must appear at rent review hearings in small groups. This situation has made it extremely difficult for tenants to present their case. Although rent review legislation allows the rent review officer to fix a common date for hearings, this has been ignored. Barbara Tenants Association is now gearing up for the June 15 appeal against last month's 20 per cent rent hike.

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Call to drive racism from schools

By FRANCES WATMAN

Racism exists in our school system, and while it is not possible to legislate the way staff and students feel and think, it is possible and necessary to regulate their behaviour in school in racial matters.

This is the premise of a 170-page draft report issued last week by the Sub-Committee on Race Relations of the Toronto Board of Education.

The report, which follows a 14-month study by the 18-member committee — composed of teachers, trustees, and members of ethnic groups and the Ontario Human Rights Commission and chaired by past Board chairman Doug Barr — proposes a wide spectrum of reforms of the Toronto school system.

Critics of the draft report charge that the report is "over-reactive" and "too idealistic" in its approach to the question of racism in the schools.

But Doug Barr disagrees: "Racism isn't rampant in the Toronto school system," he says, but "it does exist in our school system. Let there be no mistake about that, and no more argument about it."

The sub-committee, which visited 19 elementary and secondary schools, held 8 public meetings, received 43 formal briefs, and issued three discussion papers, concluded in its draft report that racism does exist in the schools in the forms of "banter, racist jokes, name calling, teasing, discourteous treatment, graffiti, stereotyping, threats and vicious insults, and racial incidents involving violence."

That the report is comprehensive is apparent from its 159 detailed recommendations. Recommendations are made for dealing with curriculum, placement and assessment of students, employment and promotion practices, in-school racial incidents of all kinds, extracurricular student activities, equal opportunity programming etc.

For example, the draft report makes the following recommendations:

- school curriculum be reviewed so that racially biased material may be eventually withdrawn
- a race relations representative be named by the principal in every school to deal with racial incidents and issues
- all school personnel from teachers through caretaking staff be liable to censure, discipline and possible dismissal for racist behaviour
- a process be set up whereby students who are involved in racial incidents be disciplined and rehabilitated. For instance, a student involved in racial incidents for the third time within the same school year may be suspended for three to five days, and upon returning to school, be assigned an essay or project on race relations.
- school principals be responsible for making sure that school washroom walls are cleaned daily of graffiti

Two issues that may spark criticism of the report are the recommendations around the promotion of visible minority staff, and around the continued use of racially biased curriculum material.

The Sub-Committee Report discusses at length the practical and philosophical problems of getting visible minority staff in positions of prominence within the school system without actually putting them there.

A quota system based on race was discussed and discarded by the Sub-Committee members as unfeasible. Minority group members felt that if quotas were implemented within the Toronto school system the backlash of criticism would be significant. At a time when all school staff are facing threats of joblessness, the hiring and promotion of visible minority personnel could be seen as a threat to white staff's positions especially if the hiring and promotion was done because the person was a member of a visible minority, firstly, and secondly, was equally qualified for the job.

In the face of the Sub-Committee's rejection of quotas, it is difficult to see how the stated ine-

quities of hiring and promotion within the school system can ever be rectified. The draft report makes only one recommendation: that the Ontario Human Rights Commission help with planning positive recruitment and hiring practices for the Board. Basically, implementation of the Committees proposals are aimed at eliminating racially biased teaching staff and not in hiring or promoting members of racial minorities.

The second criticism that can be made of the draft report concerns its recommendations concerning racially biased curriculum material. The recommendations are aimed at pulling material which is deemed as racially biased, replacing it with acceptable material, and introducing material in language and literature courses from other countries in other languages — eg Portuguese novels in Portuguese. But because of financial considerations, the Sub-Committee stops short of recommending the immediate withdrawal of any material other than more cheaply replaceable audio visual and other supplementary teaching aids from the curriculum. While there is a real problem in the cost factor of immediately pulling racially biased texts and replacing them with acceptable material, there is certainly no philosophical basis on which to support their continued inclusion. The Sub-Committee, in recognizing this dilemma, has recommended that supplementary racially accurate information be produced to counteract the racially biased primary material. The question remains how the continued use of standard and biased texts can be countenanced and whether any supplementary material could carry equal weight to, or offset the material in such standard texts.

The final report of the Sub-Committee on Racism is expected to be complete in October of this year. The Sub-Committee is inviting interested individuals and groups to respond to its draft report, and is planning a series of meetings for consultation with the staff students, parents and the community.

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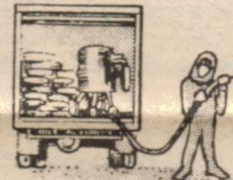
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RECONDITIONED VACUUM CLEANERS various models, excellent condition, guaranteed. Will deliver and demonstrate. 961-2670 and 267-9714.

FOR SALE: 20" portable Sears colour TV. 5 years old. Recently overhauled and in good working condition. \$150.00 phone 921-1602 after 5 p.m. and weekends.

SENIOR CITIZENS — Hotel Room — No Bath @ \$42.80 921-3142.

CLASSIFIED ADS

7 News Classified Ads cost \$2.50 paid in advance for 25 words or less; ten cents for each additional word.

Fill in the coupon below and mail to 265 Gerrard St. E.

Name

Address

Phone

My ad should read as follows:

.....

.....

.....

Antique Building Supplies

Victorian Fencing & Posts
Ornamented Metal Ceilings
Gaslamps with Posts
Cast Iron Patio Furniture

Showroom & Warehouse
1187 Queen St. E. 469-4030

\$7 for 7 News

7 News needs your help to become completely independent. You can help by becoming a supporting member, for \$7 (or whatever you can afford). The names of all our supporting members will be published at the end of the campaign.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I enclose _____ in cash _____ or cheque _____

or postdated cheques _____

Please make all cheques payable to Seven News. Our mailing address is 265 Gerrard St. East, Toronto. If you would like your donation to remain anonymous, please check here _____

Come one, come all

Doing anything on Thursday evening? If you aren't, we've got a suggestion for you:

What: 7 News General Meeting and Potluck Dinner.

When: Thursday, June 8, 6:00 p.m.

Where: Central Neighbourhood House, 349 Ontario St.

Who: Anyone who lives or works in the Ward 7 area is invited to come. It's a good chance to meet 7 News staff, volunteers, and board.

Why: Hear about what's been happening at 7 News and what's planned for the future. Meet and talk to people. Express your ideas and opinions about 7 News. Have a delicious dinner. Have a good time.

How: Just show up. If you can, bring along something for the potluck dinner, but it isn't necessary.

your last chance

It was said a long time ago, but it still holds true. **United we stand. Divided we fall.**

For many people, and for the community as a whole, these are tough times. We're getting it from all sides: unemployment, inflation, pollution, cut-backs in services, etc., etc., etc. To protect ourselves, and our future, we have to stick together.

In Ward 7, 7 News exists to help draw attention to problems and to give support and publicity to people who are organizing to do something about them.

But we need money to keep on doing that. To date, the response to our supporting membership drive has been excellent. We're really happy with the support we're getting from the community.

BUT — each new membership makes it that much easier for us to do our job properly. We would appreciate yours, if you haven't become a member yet. This is the last issue in which we're running our appeal — so now is the time. Just fill out the coupon.

Membership Campaign Scoreboard

Memberships sent in or renewed up to Wednesday May 31	180
Amount contributed	\$2320

Booze discussed

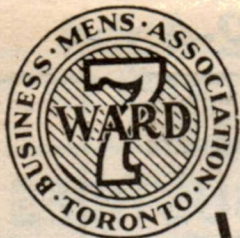
By KARIN JOEVEER

Twenty-five people came out a health forum on "Alcohol" held at the South Riverdale Community Health Centre last month. Panelist Carol MacMillan from the Donwood Institute described both Donwood's short term intensive treatment program for alcoholics, and the two year follow-up approach. She pointed out there their fee schedule is flexible in order to meet the varying needs of clients at Donwood.

Mike Rachlis, a doctor at the health centre, stressed that alcohol is currently a major health problem, and that its abuse accounts for half of all fatal traffic accidents and homicides.

A member of Al-Anon, a self-help group for families of alcoholics, struck responsive chords in the audience as she described how living with alcoholism has made her emotionally ill, and how Al-Anon had helped her change her behaviour to overcome the situation. Her message was to "lay off the alcohol" and "to stop being the nagging wife", an approach that had worked for her and others in Al-Anon.

During the question period several people wondered why there were not more facilities for teenage alcoholics, and opposition was voiced to the practice of some physicians of prescribing drugs such as valium to alcoholics, as the feeling was that such drugs could be abused along with alcohol.



"An Association of Business and Professional Men and Women Bound to the Community in Service"

WARD 7 BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

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WHAT'S COOKING?
555 PARLIAMENT ST.

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GILLIAN BROOK
TERRY MARTEL REAL ESTATE LTD.
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JUSTIN & JUSTIN REALTOR
294 GERRARD ST. E.

MRS. MIRIAM RAND
TERRY MARTEL REAL ESTATE LTD.
169 DANFORTH AVE.

JOHN PALOC
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
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CAROL ANN OUTRAM
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