



NEWS

WARD 7 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
Mailing Address: 265 Gerrard St. East
Office: Room 207, Eastdale Collegiate,
701 Gerrard St. E.; Phone 465-3810

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4 JULY 1, 1978

FREE
TAKE ONE

Rent review: Is it stacked against tenants?

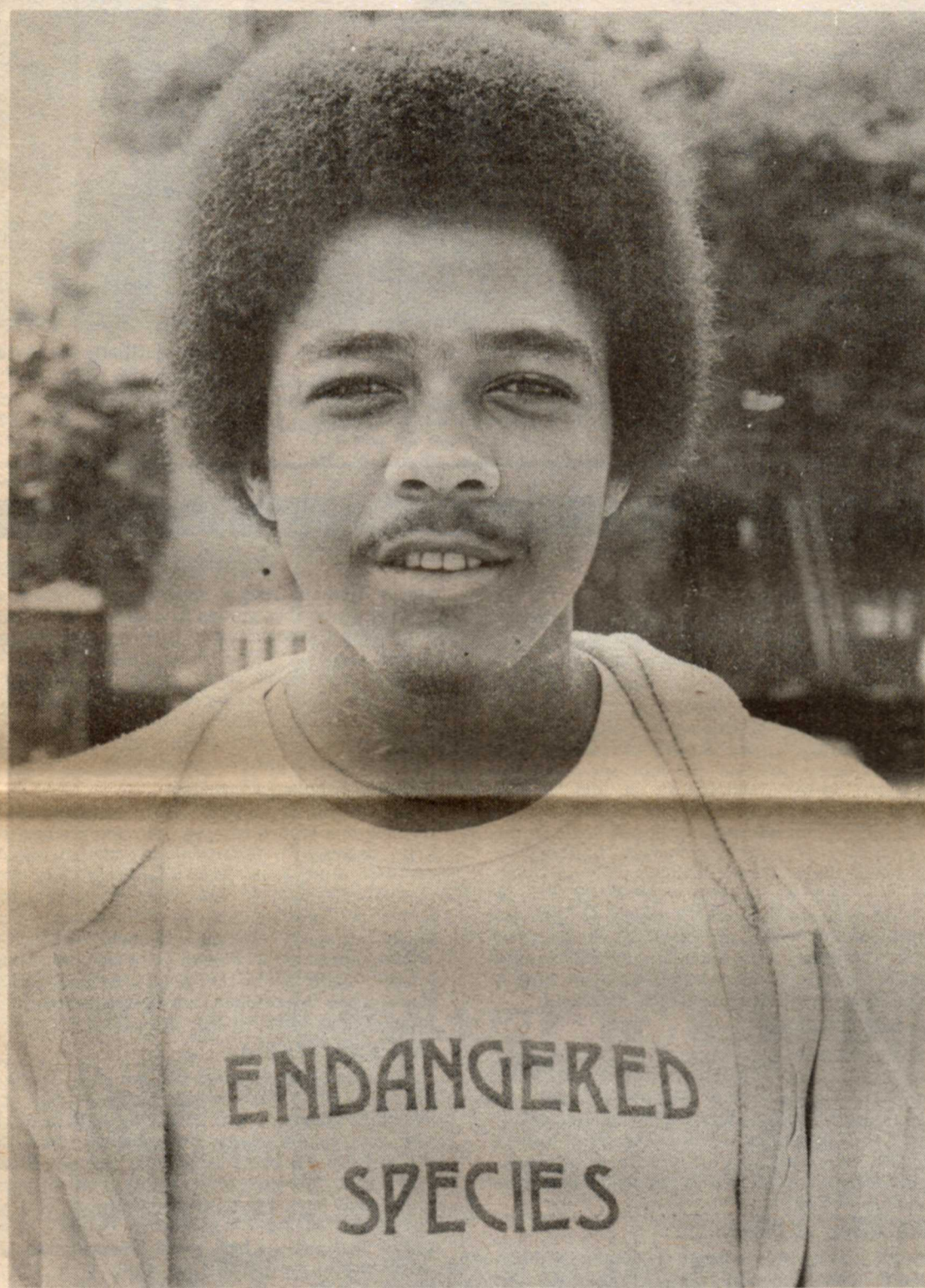


Photo by Cherry Hassard

Robbie Bowen of King Street sports his favourite tee shirt.

Wellesley Emergency

Wanted, by the Wellesley Hospital and this community: twenty-five confident, sympathetic, sensible people to work hard for no pay in the Emergency Waiting Room, for an afternoon or evening every week or two.

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But it is not for everybody. . . . At night The Wellesley's emergency waiting room fills with all the different kinds of people represented in the surrounding community. They come from all backgrounds and they are there for all sorts of reasons. Some have

been stricken with accident or illness after their doctor's normal working hours. Others have no doctor and little knowledge of how their bodies work. Many are frightened, some are hostile or drunk or desperate.

In the daytime, volunteers help bridge the gap between busy medical and nursing staff and anxious people in the waiting room. But at night, there are no volunteers.

Patients, relatives and friends who must sit in the waiting room until the life and death cases are treated, often become anxious, and restless. It's an uncomfortable time that can be made a lot easier by knowing how the patient inside the treatment area is getting on, where to get a cup of coffee, and most of all knowing that nobody

has been forgotten.

Hospital staff does these things when there is time. At night, there sometimes isn't. Emergency is very busy. Fights, accidents involving drink and drugs, and the terrors of isolation become more frequent after sundown.

Situations often arise which don't count as medical yet have a lot to do with a patient's health. For example, a battered wife with no money needs to know where she can go besides home, or else she could be right back in worse shape. The kind of volunteer The Wellesley needs would understand that many people need just one small push in the right direction to solve this kind of problem and part of the orientation would be information to give

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Since December 1976, there have been 16 rent review hearings dealing with the Barbara Apartments in St. Jamestown. Tenants of the two high-rise buildings have been less than happy with the rent review process, some characterizing it as a "farce." They claim that the corporate landlord, the Meridian corporation has been handed rent increases of up to 20 per cent with having to adequately justify them. Tenants have also told 7 News that their side of the story is usually ignored at the rent review hearings.

To get the real story on what goes on at these hearings, which are closed to the public and the press, 7 News "infiltrated" a reporter into the June 15 hearing. His account is below:

By THOM CORBETT

Although a cool evening breeze swept across the closed windows, it was more than 80 degrees in the cramped room at 77 Bloor Street West. But none of the 30 or more tenants seemed to mind the heat as they greeted their neighbours or chatted about the kids and the television soap operas.

At the front of the room, former Barbara tenant Margaret Gittens and Jack deKlerk, staff member of the Metro Tenants' Legal Services, were preparing to present a case for the 50-odd tenants who couldn't make the meeting. (To keep the hearings "manageable", tenants have been divided into several small groups rather than being allowed to come all at once.) Across from them, neatly dressed and darkly tanned, sat Frank Brown, an accountant for Meridian.

Then, all talking ceased as Charles Harrot, the rent review officer, strode into the room. Speaking in a clear, crisp voice, Harrott took a couple of minutes to announce the purpose of rent review hearings. Suddenly, his voice dropped a few octaves, and he went on to give his interpretation of the crux of the hearings. "The most important thing" he told the tenants, "is the amount of loss incurred by the landlord."

He didn't offer anyone the opportunity to comment on his perspective of rent review, but it didn't seem to go over too well with some of the tenants in the room. Two women in front of me wondered out loud just what importance the hearing would attach to their evidence that the landlord's loss figures were "false." Harrott greeted this remark with a piercing stare, and proceeded to move on quickly.

The first item, he said, was Meridian's statement of operating costs for the apartments, set at \$850,968 for 1977. They play a major part in the \$118,000 which Meridian claims to have lost on the buildings.

Jack deKlerk of Metro Tenants fired the opening shot. Looking up from a sheet listing Meridian's expenses he asked Frank Brown, the Meridian accountant, why the insurance for the building was listed as 22 per cent higher this year than in 1977 even though insurance rates are going down.

Brown seemed puzzled. He pondered the question for a minute or more, and then announced, "I don't know".

Another pause. Then came a speech, the gist of which was that the calculations used to figure this year's insurance rates were "probably" based on those used for

previous years.

It seemed to me that tenants had scored a point. Unfortunately, the stenographer who takes down the important points made at the hearings didn't seem to be writing anything down. That, tenants remarked afterwards, was a pattern for the whole hearing. The stenographer wasn't seen recording most of the points that tenants made.

DeKlerk wanted the insurance business followed up. Was Harrott going to accept Meridian's vagueness concerning their proposed insurance expense without question, he demanded.

He was. Harrott continued shuffling through a sheaf of papers in front of him, and without looking up, answered succinctly, "yes." In an almost inaudible voice, he added that further discussion was useless because "there isn't an insurance expert here."

Behind me, a tenant shouted that she was unable to hear Harrott and would he please speak up. Harrott's head jerked up from his desk and in a loud booming voice said if people couldn't hear him they should move up front. The rent review officer pointed to a vacant chair, and his voice again dropped down to a whisper.

Harrott then informed the hearing that Meridian had told him before the meeting that although they had projected this year's municipal taxes would increase by 10 per cent, they had in fact risen 5 per cent. Several tenants began snickering and one commented that this made him wonder how reliable the landlord's figures were in matters not as easy to verify as taxes.

For the next hour, discussion centered on the \$173,000 Meridian claimed to have spent on maintaining the Barbara apartments in 1977. Tempers flared and the temperature rose as tenant after tenant jumped to her feet to accuse Meridian of lying by claiming maintenance expenses for work that was never done.

Several tenants disputed Meridian's claim that they spent \$5,162 on cleaning materials in 1977. The only cleaning materials used in the buildings, said one tenant, to vigorous head-nodding from the rest, comes out of a tap. "The floor is only washed with water and when the walls are cleaned, the cleaners use spit," she said.

Tenant representative Margaret Gittens informed the hearing that when rent review employees visited the apartments several weeks ago they couldn't find any cleaning materials, and were appalled by the filthy conditions they encountered. Another tenant added that perhaps Meridian was claiming for cleaning materials they use in newer buildings which are exempt from rent review. Someone pointed out that although one of the listed expenses was for rug shampoo, there are no rugs in the buildings at all.

At this, Brown said that he thought the expense related to windows in the lobby. He had no reply when tenants pointed out that these windows had never been broken.

Instead, as tenants pressed their case with more and more vigour, Brown began slouching lower and lower into his chair, and a red flush spread slowly across his face. At least once a minute, he glanced

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Photo by Cherry Hassard

A traditional wedding scene from the pageant mounted by the Serbian pavilion OPLENAC, with Lillian Novakovic as the bride and Miles Obradovich as the groom, OPLENAC, 203 River Street at Gerrard, is part of the Metro-wide multicultural festival CARAVAN which continues until July first.

NEWS BRIEFS

Candidate picked

The Rosedale NDP has picked its candidate to run against David Crombie and John Evans in the coming federal election. Ronald B. Thomson, a 33-year-old book editor, will be carrying the NDP standard in the riding. Party workers concede that the NDP has no chance of winning the riding, in which both Liberals and Conservatives are running big-name candidates. However, the guest speaker at the nomination meeting, Michael Lewis, told NDPers that the important thing is national media coverage for the NDP's policies, and building strength in the riding for future provincial campaigns. NDPers have done well in the provincial ridings — Riverdale, St. David, St. George — which overlap with federal Rosedale. A by-election has been called for October 16 for the riding, which became vacant when former Liberal Finance Minister Donald Macdonald resigned his seat. It is possible, however, that a general election will be called before that date.

Bowling Banquet

The Regent Park Adult Recreation Centre Bowling League held its annual banquet on June 17th at the Baron Byng Legion Hall at Coxwell and Gerrard. Highlighting the evening was the presentation of trophies. The "Regent Bums" won the OHC trophy, while the "Dre amers" were runners-up. Anyone interested in bowling with the league next year should call 364-4915.

MacGibbon at Oarkview

Ontario Lieutenant-Governor Pauline MacGibbon visited Parkview Secondary School at Danforth and Broadview recently, to talk with staff and students and to tour the school. At an assembly held in her honour MacGibbon was presented with a chess board made by wood-working students.

Grants to Local Groups

Local groups have been awarded a number of grants recently. Annex Senior Citizens on Danforth Avenue are getting \$12,478 for equipment and materials to establish a drop-in centre for Japanese seniors. Social events and an outreach program will be two of the major activities. Dixon Hall Busy Bees, 58 Sumach Street, are getting \$7,199 to establish an activity centre that will feature a crafts program, a range of recreational and social activities, and the serving of lunch on a one-day-a-week basis. The Community Relations committee at Chester Village, 717 Broadview Ave., is getting \$5,200 to produce a handbook of information for the residents of the home for the aged and senior citizens living in the surrounding area. All three grants are New horizons

grants from the federal department of health and welfare. Two other groups have picked up Wintario grants: The Cabbagetown Cultural Festival '77 Committee is getting \$7,000 to help pay for last year's festival. And the Renaissance Theatre Program at Erin Lane School is receiving \$13,405 to assist with the costs of sponsoring a program which involves area youth in the writing, directing, producing and performing of a theatrical production.

French School Coming

The Toronto Board of Education has approved the opening of a French language secondary school program. Beginning in September, the program will start with one Grade 9 class and, if there are enough students, one Grade 10 class. They will be located at Riverdale Collegiate on Gerrard St., and will be taught five out of their eight courses in French. At present there is a French language elementary school, Ecole Gabrielle Roy, on Sackville St. Registration information can be gotten by calling Bob Sweet at 598-4931 ext. 606.

Red Tape Hotline

The federal government has set up a "hotline" through which any small business can now telephone Ottawa free of charge for help in dealing with red tape and paperwork problems. The hotline (613) 995-9197, operates Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., eastern time. Staff will accept collect calls from any business in Canada. The hotline is part of the "Paperburden Office", a new agency designed to help small business deal with their present overload of paperwork.

Brief briefs

Janet Howard and Gord Cressy have decided not to run a joint aldermanic campaign in the fall civic election. After Cressy's decision to seek the aldermanic seat that John Sewell is vacating, it was thought that Cressy and Howard might run a joint campaign similar to those successfully run by Sewell and Howard in the last two elections. This won't happen, although a number of campaign workers will be working for both candidates. . . The Neighbourhood Information Post in the Library House at 265 Gerrard St. East is moving from its present office to a room upstairs in the same building. They'll be there anywhere from one to four months, depending on how long renovations take; then they'll move to the front room on the ground floor. In preparation for the renovation, the Parliament Street Library itself will be closed from July 1 to July 8. . . After 28 years at the same location at 424 Parliament Street, Regent Optical is moving to the medical building at Sherbourne and Gerrard (311 Sherbourne).

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out. Volunteers can help relieve the hospital staff of a great deal of work and help reduce unnecessary visits to the Emergency by passing on this kind of information to people who need it. As well, waiting room tension can lift considerably with the availability of somebody pleasant and helpful. The patients

aren't all easy to handle, and the volunteer has to draw the line between helping and intruding, showing concern and being nosy. Common sense is the key, but other skills will be taught. Evening volunteers would work from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. to 11:00, once a week or once in two weeks or Saturdays and Sundays volunteers are also needed from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00

p.m. They would start out with a training program under the supervision of selected hospital staff who would teach them how the hospital works and how to complement medical and nursing staff in the work of the Emergency Department. After that, continuing communication with the staff would ensure that the program benefits from the volunteer's experiences.

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Boxers win

A team from the Cabbagetown Boxing and Youth Centre won eight gold medals at the recent All-Ontario Junior boxing championships. The 113 boxers from Cabbagetown picked up one silver and four bronze medals as well as their golds, and won 14 of the 19 bouts they were entered in.

Winning Cabbagetowners were John Shaw, Toby Hughes, Milton Thompson, Terry Begley, Colin Trotman, Vince Pileggi, Shawn O'Sullivan, Tony Morrison, and Sheldon Sampson. Andy Williams, Asif Dar, Kevin Eskins, and Atu Dolo lost out in hard-fought bouts. Cabbagetown's Shawn O'Sullivan was awarded a trophy as the best boxer of the tournament.

O'Sullivan, Pileggi, and Morrison will form part of the Ontario team competing in the National Junior Boxing Championships being held at Whitehorse, Yukon, on July 1 and 2. Cabbagetown coach Ken Hamilton was chosen as one of the two team coaches for Ontario.

Another young boxer, Asif Dar, is being awarded a trophy as the most improved of the younger junior novices in the club.



Vincent Pileggi, age 15, 112 lbs., is the 1978 Ontario-Quebec Junior Golden Gloves Champion and the All-Ontario Junior Champion.

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LAW

Where to get legal help

By RICHARD FIRTH

There are a number of ways to get help with legal problems in the Riverdale area. Most people probably think of going to a local lawyer when the need arises. And if they're buying or selling a house, involved in an accident, criminal matter or any other area involving the law, this is what they should probably do.

However there are alternatives for those who, because of financial circumstances, cannot afford to hire and pay for a lawyer on their own.

Perhaps the most widely known of these is the Ontario Legal Aid Plan. Introduced about ten years ago, the object of the Plan is to ensure that everyone, regardless of financial circumstances has access to legal services. It is necessary to fill out a Financial Resource Statement and an investigation of your ability to pay will be made. Assistance can be provided in several ways. If it is determined that you can make no financial contribution at all you get a Certificate with no strings attached. In other cases, you will be required to pay a portion or all of the fee back to Legal Aid over a

period of months. Finally, if you own a share in a home, the amount of legal aid you receive may become a lien on your home — Something a lot of people worry about but it only means that Legal Aid gets its money back when you sell the house.

To apply for Legal Aid for a Civil matter such as a law suit or divorce go to 204A Richmond St. W. For Criminal matters you apply at the Old City Hall, 60 Queen St. W. Once you are approved you get a Certificate which you take to the lawyer of your choice. However, bear in mind that all areas of law are not covered. It is unlikely that you will receive a Certificate for smaller Small Claims Court matters, minor Criminal Matters, Highway Traffic Act offences, UIC, Welfare of Landlord and Tenant problems. If your job is at stake or imprisonment is likely, however, you may get assistance for even such minor matters.

There is another avenue open to those who can't afford to hire a lawyer and who are not eligible for a Legal Aid Certificate. This is the Community Legal Clinic. legal clinics are relatively new in Ontario but more are opening

every year. They provide an informal way to get legal help. Although most have a lawyer on staff, much of the work is done by legal workers trained in specific areas of the law. Many have years of expertise. Clinics don't charge for their services and it is not necessary to make an appointment although calling in advance will ensure that there is somebody there skilled in dealing with your particular problem.

Two clinics in the Ward 7 area are Neighbourhood Legal Services, at 316 Ontario St. (961-2625) which handles landlord-tenant problems, O.H.C., welfare, family benefits, and unemployment insurance problems. On certain nights they have law students that help with Small Claims Court and minor criminal matters. Riverdale Socio-Legal Services at 835 Queen St. E. (461-8102) deals with all these matters as well as consumer problems and advice on all matters of a legal/social nature.

Both clinics have financial as well as geographical guidelines. Dealing only with Workmen's Compensation matters is Injured Workers' Consultants at 671 Danforth Ave. (461-2411).

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continued from page 1

at his wristwatch, as if expecting to find some answer to his problems there.

But the tenants weren't finished. Almost every tenant in the room had something to say about the \$7,000 figure listed for appliance repairs and the \$12,000 claim for appliance replacements. Several speakers said that the only appliance repairs they received was when the superintendent came to their apartment and gave their fridge or stove a good kick. They were then instructed to do the same thing the next time they experienced appliance problems.

The hearing was also told of one woman whose stove would no longer respond to "repairs" and who must now rely on a hot plate for cooking. Meridian claimed that they are replacing appliances, but deKlerk asked Brown if it wasn't a fact that many apartments still have appliances which are at least 18 years old.

He needn't have bothered. To

this, as to most questions put to him, Brown had a standard reply: "I don't know."

Then, as tenants continued to question other expenses which they called unnecessary, the rent review officer came to his aid. Said Harrott, "If it is an unnecessary expense it doesn't matter to you, only if the money was spent." Then, Harrott, too, started looking at his wrist watch hopefully.

Undaunted, Jack deKlerk said he wanted to put another question to the landlord's accountant. It was the wrong thing to say. "I don't want to hear a speech out of you", Harrott told the startled deKlerk.

DeKlerk countered that he didn't want to make a speech. "I just want to ask a few questions," he pleaded.

Having received permission to go ahead, deKlerk began querying Brown about Meridian's contention that they missed several payments to Central Mortgage and Housing, the holder of the building's mortgage, and thus had to borrow money to make up for these payments. Meridian expects

the tenants to bear the expense of the interest they had to pay on the loan. DeKlerk wanted to know when these payments were missed.

It didn't seem to be a welcome question. Brown sank even lower in his chair and studied his finger-nails and his wristwatch. Finally, he answered:

"I can't answer that." While tenants murmured about their time being wasted, Brown turned quickly to the rent review officer, announced that he had another engagement, and asked to be excused.

Harrott had no objection, and added: "the evening is too short to get through all these financial statements anyway."

With Meridian's representative gone, several tenants also began leaving. There was an audible sigh of relief from Harrott, as he brought the hearing to a close.

Tenants, however, weren't too happy about Brown's hasty retreat and the abrupt ending of the meeting. Said one woman, loudly, "We are treated like dogs. What are we paying rent for anyways?"

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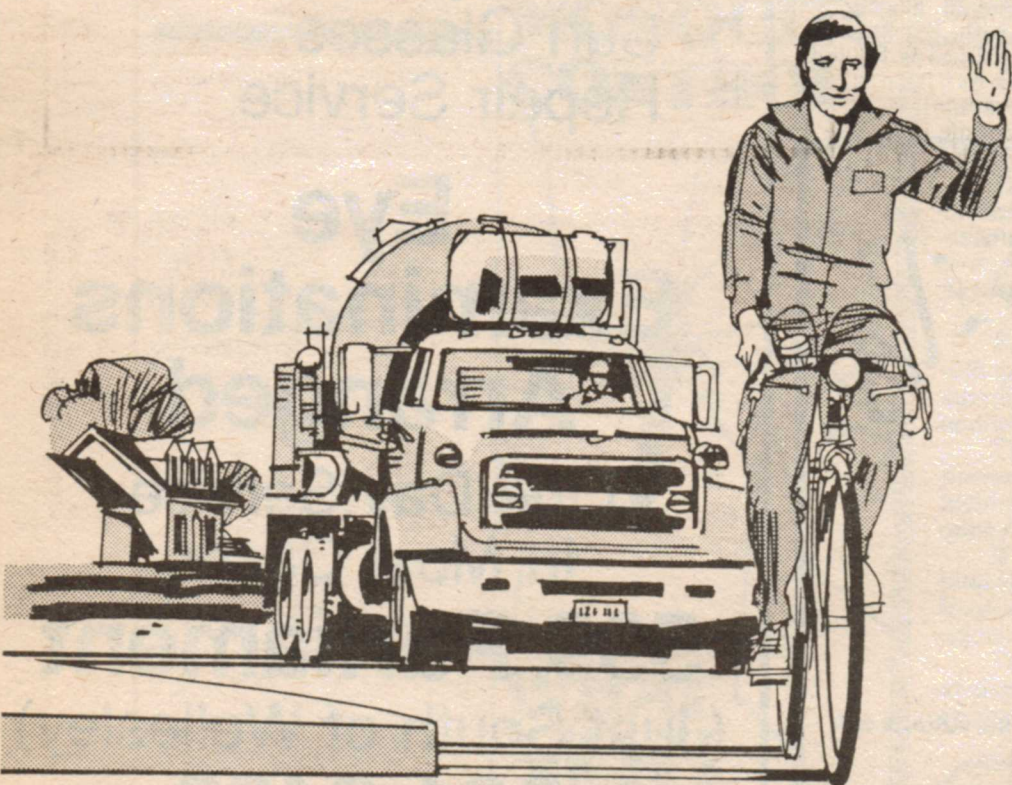
Barbara newsflash

There's a new wrinkle in the neverending saga of the Barbara apartments. On Monday June 26, tenants in the two buildings received two letters. The first was from the Meridian corporation, informing them that Meridian will no longer be responsible for maintenance in the buildings. The second was from Evergreen Property Management, informing them that

Evergreen is taking over the management of the buildings. The maintenance standards in the two high-rises — or the lack of them — have come under continuous fire from tenants, and have become an issue at rent review hearings this month. Evergreen Property Management has close ties to Meridian, for which it manages a number of other buildings in St. Jamestown.

Bicycle accidents are increasing

This is what Ontario is doing to help make bicycling safer



Many bicycle accidents involve collisions with cars or trucks whose drivers never "see" the bicyclist until after it's too late. As a bicyclist, you have just as much right to the road as cars, buses or trucks. But you're small and they're big, and being right doesn't help if they don't see you! So it's up to you to watch out for you.

Stay alert to stay alive!

We urge you and your family to become familiar with the rules of bicycle safety.

Your Ontario government has prepared a special booklet called "The Bicyclist's Handbook". It covers cycling tips, rules of the road, traffic signs, how to become an expert cyclist and how to maintain a safe bicycle.

For your free copy, write to:
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Saturday July 1

Today is the last day to tour Switzerland without leaving Toronto. From 3 p.m. to midnight at the **Swiss Zermatt Pavilion at Harbourfront** there will be continuous Swiss entertainment, Swiss food, and arts and crafts. The Swiss folklore band OBERLAP begins the dancing at 3:30 p.m. and the carnival band CANADYSLI follows. Last show is at 11 p.m. Caravan passports are needed for entry to this and all Caravan pavilions.

Starting today and running all month the **second annual Kite Festival at Harbourfront** invites kids and kite enthusiasts to view some fantastic flying specimens in the Art Gallery. There will be kite making workshops until July 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the North Craft Studio. Kite films will be shown in the Cafe today and again on July 30 a 3 p.m.

Sunday July 2

Today is **Caribbean Canada Cultural Day** at Blake Street Public School, 21 Boulton Avenue from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Activities include music, drummers, workshops on community issues, films, food, poetry and disco. Admission is free and daycare will be provided free of charge. Everyone is welcome. For more information phone either the Black Education Project at 461-6318 or the Riverdale Intercultural Council at 469-1819.

Monday July 3

A three week intensive course in the art of **Indian classical dance and regional folk songs** begins today at 10 a.m. and runs till 4 p.m. The course is open to people of all ages. Rina Singha, a classical dancer from India, will instruct the classes. Tuition is \$110 plus a \$5 registration fee. To register, phone Rina Singha at 839-2423.

Tuesday July 4

All summer, **groups of 20 or more children** can book Bathurst, Spadina, or York Quay for a full day of activities. Program includes music, drama, and magic show workshops, folk dancing and creative movement, sailboat and canoeing and more.

The fun runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and costs 50¢ per child. For information phone the Recreation Department of Harbourfront at 364-7127 extension 41.

A parenting group based on Thomas Gordon's **"Parent Effectiveness Training"** is being offered free by the Riverdale Public Health office starting today and running every Tuesday and Friday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 for four weeks. The course takes place at 430 Broadview Avenue and babysitting will be provided for a nominal fee. For more information and registration, call 465-2496.

Wednesday July 5

The 519 Church Street Community Centre presents a **women's poetry salon**. Today gay feminist poets and dramatists Gay Belle and Marcie Cannon entertain at 8:30 p.m. For more information on this interesting evening, phone Gwen Hauser at 925-7241.

Thursday July 6

There will be a meeting of the **Oak Street Site Working Committee** tonight at 7:30 in the portable on the site. Because the work of the committee is at the critical point where the proposed type of development for the site is being ironed out, it is important for interested people and committee members to attend.

A **two day Armenian festival** begins tonight at 7 p.m. at Harbourfront and includes folk dancing, singing, and an Armenian band concert. Admission is free.

Friday July 7

Fred's Free Films continue tonight and every Friday at the 519 Church Street Community Centre starting at 8 p.m. Fred's fabulous film fare for tonight includes the flicks "Death be Not Proud" and "Country Music Montreal '71".

Come on out for the **great Dixon Hall Street Dance and Bar-B-Q** tonight from 7 to midnight. Activities for adults are a flea market, Big Pals raffle with prizes valued at over \$40 and all proceeds going to the Big Pals program, an indoor dance with a live dance band and a Bar-B-Q outside. Activities for those under 18 include an outdoor dance, games, bar-B-Q, prizes. For more information call Dixon Hall at 863-1499.

Saturday July 8

The Canadian Red Cross Society is holding a **garage sale** in the parking lot at Jarvis and Wellesley today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come for great bargains, refreshments, and a raffle with a first prize trip for two to the Bahamas. Proceeds from the sale go to support the Red Cross' work in the community. In case of rain, sale will be held July 15. Community agencies can rent booths at the sale for \$25. Call Lynn Gardner at 923-6692 etc. 298

July 1, 2, and 3 are the dates for the **12th Annual International Picnic on Centre Island**. CHIN multicultural Radio is co-ordinating a series of concerts with big name European stars. For information on the line-up and the times for the concerts, call CHIN at 551-9991.

Monday July 10

There will be a **steering committee meeting** at the Neighbourhood Improvement Project office at 731 Queen Street East tonight at 8. For more information, phone the office at 463-5914.

Tuesday July 11

Lonely? Want to make friends but not sure how? **Getting More Out of Life**, a discussion group for **single women**, invites you to attend the group which runs from July 11 to September 26 every Tuesday evening from 5 p.m. to 6:30 at the Catholic Family Services, 67 Bond Street. For more information, phone Meg or Doris at 362-2481.

Friday July 14

Fred's Free Films continue tonight at 8:30 at the 519 Church Street Community Centre. Films are free and the line-up is usually pleasantly unpredictable. Tonight, "Nothing Sacred" and "Every Saturday night" make up the double bill.

General

Are you looking for an activity outside the home, a new skill or to improve an old one or maybe you want to practice your English? Next September, Danforth Technical School is offering a **sewing course** on Wednesday mornings for members of the community. It doesn't matter whether you are a beginner, advanced or somewhere in between. Each student will be instructed at her/his level and interest. An added bonus is supervised baby sitting and the only cost is for sewing materials.

If you would like more information call D. T. S. at 465-2454 or come to the school on Sept. 13, '78 at 9:15 and register in Room B.

The Christian Community Centre, 270 Gerrard Street East, has **summer activities for kids**. From July 4 to August 18 the program includes: Kindergarten to Grade 6, a summer adventure program from 10 a.m. to noon, Monday to Thursday. For grades 7 to 12, the program runs Tuesdays to Thursdays from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Day trips happen every Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Centre also runs **camping trips** for boys and girls from beginners to experienced at a cost of \$15 for six days. Phone the Centre for details about the dates of the camps for each age group and level.

The Inner Stage Children's Theatre will conduct a five week **summer theatre school for kids** from 10 to 16 at Harbourfront from July 3 to August 4. Seventy-five young people will be trained in dance, movement, music, acting and mime. The school will wind up its program with six public performances of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale about good and evil, "The Snow Queen," on August 2, 3, and 4. Auditions will be held at Harbourfront and admission to and information about the auditions can be had by phoning the Inner Stage at 967-3548 or 964-3357. The cost for the course is \$80 but **full and partial scholarships are available**.

Learn to speak French this summer at the Riverdale Library, 370 Broadview Avenue. A **beginners French course** will be held every Tuesday and Thursday in July from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration and information is available by calling the library at 466-0776.

The group responsible for the weekly Thursday night program for inmates of **The Don Jail needs volunteers**. For more information phone Judy at 967-1212 extension 575 days, or Jill at 698-2000 late evenings and weekends.

The **Moss Park Residents Association** is planning a general meeting tentatively set for 7:30 p.m. September 13 in Moss Park. The meeting is planned to elect a new executive, pick a new name for the association, and to reinstate the association to the fullest. Phone 868-0406 for more information. The exact location of the meeting will be noted in an upcoming issue, so stay tuned to the Community Calendar.

Registration is open for **Dixon Hall's Camp Discovery** for children aged 6-9, 10-12, and 13-18. Activities include swimming, canoeing, camping etc. For more information about the camp, phone Fred or Gayle at 863-0499.

Dixon Hall is also running an in-city **day-camp**. Age groups 6-12 meet at Park Public School, while age groups 13-18 meet at Dixon Hall. The camp runs from July 3 to September 1 and costs vary according to the length of time the child is signed up for, and the number of children attending per family. A **LIGHT LUNCH AND T.T.C. fare** is required for each child daily. For more information on specifics of cost and camp times, call either Fred or Gayle at 863-0499.

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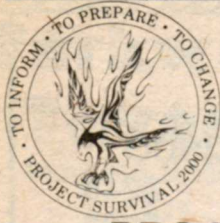
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Why do TTC fares rise?

By STEVE SOLOMAN

The TTC deficit has become a fact of life for the Commission's planning department and there is no immediate chance of the Spadina subway paying for itself.

"No subway line has ever paid for itself," says Dr. Juri Pill, the manager of the corporate planning department.

In 1977 the TTC's operating deficit was \$55 million. Beyond that, the Spadina subway cost \$220 million to build, the east and west extension of the Bloor-Danforth subway, now under construction, will cost \$140 million and the Light Rapid Transit Line running to the Scarborough Centre will cost \$100 million. All three of these capital expenditures have a common characteristic: they are commuter lines intended to service the suburbs.

To the transit rider who lives in the city core it may appear that he is being asked to pay, through higher fares, for a service he may never use.

Certainly the major cause of the TTC's mounting deficit is the cost of suburban service. The TTC was making a profit until it expanded suburban service seven years ago.

The problem is 'transit density', the number of passengers carried for every mile travelled. In Metro over the last two years transit

routes have carried less than four passengers per mile on the average despite the fact that in the city core over 70% of all traffic is being carried on the TTC. Thirty years ago the public transit carried an average of eight passengers per mile. In the mid-day periods many suburban buses can be seen running their routes with no more than three or four passengers. The TTC is losing a lot of money every year in the suburbs by trying to compete with the private automobile.

Why then does the TTC go on expanding its suburban service when it knows it will continue losing money? The alternative, says Pill, would be to choose the car over public transit, not only in the suburbs but in the city as well. Since not people living in the suburbs work downtown they must either drive or use transit. If the TTC were to give up in its effort to get suburban people to use transit, the downtown area would have to make parking facilities for these people. And downtown traffic would become so heavy that there would be mounting pressure to build more freeways running through downtown neighbourhoods. That, in turn, would mean that much of what makes downtown areas attractive to homeowners would disappear.

While none of us is happy with the ever-rising transit fares, the

alternative could be far worse. But are there no other alternatives?

People have tried to find a way of holding the line on fares in fear of scaring off too many present riders by making the TTC too expensive. Alderman John Sewell has said the TTC should take money out of its budget for capital expenditures and put it into its operating budget. But Pill says that taking, for example, \$10 million out of the capital budget and putting it toward offsetting the operating budget really doesn't reduce the deficit by \$10 million. Any decreases in capital spending means a drop in new service somewhere, which means a drop in new riders and a loss of revenue.

Sewell has also said it is a mistake for the TTC to adopt the policy of increasing fares every year for the next four years. Dr. Pill disagrees, "If we don't raise fares a little every year we find that we have to make a big increase in order to catch up."

The most recent figures available show that in 1976 the TTC lost 14 cents for every passenger. In 1971, this loss was 1 cent per person. The loss is expected to rise and Sewell says by 1981 the TTC total deficit will be \$99 million. But public transit, even with rising fares and deficits, is a better choice than turning the downtown over to cars and freeways. We just have to find a better way of paying for it.

The subject was roses

By SETH BORTS

The Sophanes Theatre Group has just finished a powerful premier performance at St. Peter's Church on Calton Street of Frank D. Giroy's "The Subject Was Roses". Gilroy's play won a Pulitzer Prize, likely for the author's lucid insights into the problems of human communication. Though often depressing, this play really hits home.

A married couple who have

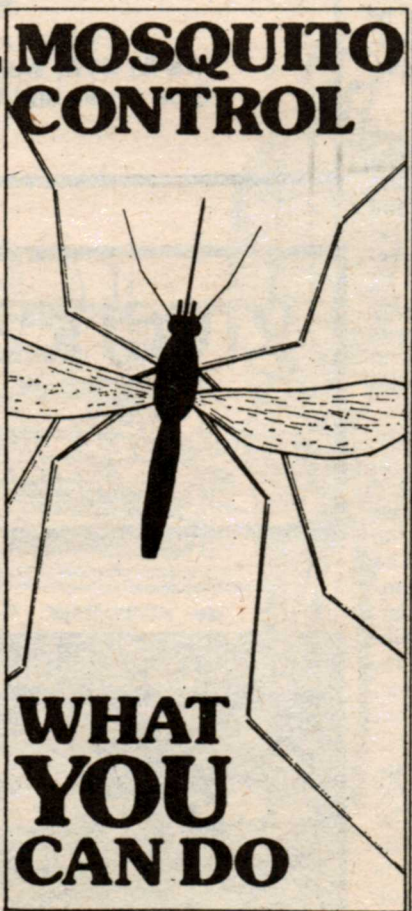
waited anxiously for the return of their son from the war vie for his affections when he finally returns home. The love among the three is real, but no one can properly express that love. They can't believe that anyone loves them primarily because they're not even sure if they love themselves.

Chris Young gave some appropriately pathetic and believable moments as the mother, and Lloyd Whiteway came

across well as Willie, the father so caught up in his search for the masculine ideal that he can tell neither wife nor son of his love for them. Kevin McArthur as son Tom was realistic in his portrayal of the son who spends his time either getting drunk or trying to patch up the family squabbles as the

destruction of his family life goes on. His was the most powerful and powerless position of all.

Your guide to Mosquito Control.



In 1975, St. Louis encephalitis spread by certain mosquitoes was reported in Ontario for the first time. There were about 70 human cases, mostly in Southwestern Ontario.

During the 1976 and 1977 mosquito seasons a combination of factors—including public awareness and care, and municipal mosquito control programs—reduced the number of cases to four in 1976 and to none in 1977.

We will be prepared again this summer.

Since a recurrence of the encephalitis virus is difficult to predict it is necessary that scientific surveillance and mosquito control programs be continued during the summer of 1978.

There is no known treatment for the disease so prevention is essential. Symptoms of encephalitis include drowsiness, loss of appetite, fever, headache, nausea and vomiting.

It must be emphasized that most mosquito bites this summer will be simply a nuisance. However, should symptoms occur, you should consult your physician.

This free pamphlet on mosquito control is available on request from your local health unit or any office of the Ministry of the Environment.



Ontario

Hon. George R. McCague,
Minister of the Environment
Hon. Dennis R. Timbrell,
Minister of Health

What you said about 7 News

Two issues ago, we published an opinion questionnaire asking readers to tell us what they liked or disliked about 7 News. The results are in now, and while the opinion poll probably isn't the most scientific thing in the world, it is interesting and does give us an idea of what people in Ward 7 think about 7 News.

We listed 18 different features of the paper, and asked whether readers liked or disliked them. Not surprisingly, the basic parts of the paper came off best: Everyone, 100% of those answering, liked news, the community calendar, and letters; 94% liked stories about local groups, and 94% liked the photos.

A bit more surprising perhaps, considering their controversial nature, was the popularity of political stories; 100% said they liked them.

Then came the various columns and features which make up the rest of the paper. City Hall and education articles were each liked by 92%, while 89% liked George Rust-D' Eye's Mementoes of Yesteryear.

Kids' stuff was next on the list, with 83%, while 81% liked the Hamsters cartoons, 76% liked Howard Huggett's energy col-

umns, 71% liked Bonita's Eats, and 71% liked the ads.

Trailing them were multicultural stories (70%), poetry (67%), reviews (64%), and sports (62%).

We also asked readers what they would like to see more of, and what they would like to see less of. Answers to this were different from likes and dislikes, since it is possible to like something and still think there is enough of it in the paper; or the feature in question may already appear in the paper every issue. Thus, for example, although 100% liked the community calendar, only 10% wanted to see more of it.

In first place in the "Should be More of It" column was political features. 40% wanted more of them. 40% also wanted more news stories. Next were photos and stories about local groups, each with 30%. Then came City Hall (25%), poetry (25%), and letters (20%). 15% wanted more education articles and more multicultural articles. Everything else came in at less than 10%.

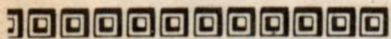
Heading the unpopularity poll ("Should be Less of It") were advertisements. 30% wanted to see fewer ads.

(We should explain that we have to print as many advertisements as we do because we need the money to pay the bills. If we could, we would print a lower percentage of ads, but at present we can't afford to do so. This also creates some problems for us in fitting everything into the paper that our readers have requested.)

20% wanted to see fewer energy columns, while less of Mementoes of Yesteryear, poetry, reviews, and multicultural articles was requested by 15% each.

We also asked readers for comments. Some of the more interesting ones were:

"Would like articles on recreational aspects of Ward 7, i.e. types of restaurants, clothing shops, and where to find good values. . ."
 "Disliked items like "Hot Night in Riverdale - This is not reporting, it is slanted and biased."
 "7. News has a warm friendly tone."
 "Say something about getting a proper post office instead of a hole in the wall."
 "Like more news not covered by dailies."



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KIDS STUFF

Doing your own thing

By KAREN RILEY EASTDALE COLLEGIATE
 Doing your own thing can sometimes be a hard thing. Everything in today's society is geared to couples or groups of people. If you decide you want to go to the show and all your friends decide they want to go roller skating, you seem to find yourself searching for your roller skates rather than facing a show alone. The world is a very busy place and it's easy to get lost in a crowd. It's far easier to go along with the crowd than to try to go it alone.

Choosing a career is hard for the same reasons that doing your own thing is. You have to decide on your own what you want your life to be, then make the move on your own. Once you have taken the first step towards a career you must stand by your decision and have no one to depend on but yourself. If you have become accustomed to letting other people make your decisions for you, choosing a career or even finding ways to occupy your time alone can be very difficult.

Individuality is made up of more than doing your own thing. Doing what you want to means taking a good hold on your life and running

it the best way you can. It is you who will have to live with any mistakes made along the path your life will take, so why let someone make those mistakes for you?

Perhaps doing your own thing is a part of maturity. If, as you get older, you do not learn to act as an individual, your life can get tough. People just naturally learn to be self-dependent as they grow older and are faced with more confrontations. I know people who are old enough to drive cars, drink and vote and the only thing they're not old enough to know is where to drive to, how much to drink, and, lastly, who to vote for.

Doing your own thing is perhaps the final stage of growing up — if there is a final stage.

This article by Karen Riley is an edited version of a project she wrote for her Guidance class. Do you agree with what Karen says about "doing your own thing?" We'd like to hear from teens on this and other topics. Send your articles and ideas to us at 7 News, 265 Gerrard Street East, and include your name, age and school on your article, we will try and publish as many as we can.

Monday night at the movies

By FRANCES WATMAN
 It was Monday Night at the Movies last week for the kids at Earl Grey Public School on Strathcona Avenue.

Organized by teacher Lois Eisen, the late afternoon show provided an entertaining mix of live performances and the screening of nearly a dozen short colour films made by the Earl Grey students.

Students Audrey, Vickey, Elizabeth, Dolcina, Lawrence, Duwett, and Garth opened the show with a cabaret-style performance dancing and singing along to recordings of five songs from Hollywood movies.

Student-made films followed. The short films covered a wide range of themes reflecting the young film makers varying interests and concerns. For example, "Death By Murder" was a good humoured spoof about a bank robbery on the Danforth; "New Kid In Town" followed a boy through the trials and tumbles of his first day at Earl Grey School; and "Dust In The Wind" bore witness to the growing pollution in our environment.

Was Monday Night At The Movies a success? Well, popcorn sales were down, but audience enthusiasm was decidedly up!

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