

REGENT PARK

COMMUNITY NEWS

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 12

SEPTEMBER 1975

HEALTH BD. EXPOSED

For the past few months the RPCIA Board of Directors has been pushing for answers from the Board of the Health Centre. When did they plan to become a Board truly representative of the people of Regent Park? When would they open up and start listening to staff? When would they stop using the Health Centre for political advantage?

To give you an inside look into these problems we make public the observation of Dr. Howard Krieger. Dr. Krieger resigned from the Health Centre staff Aug. 31/75. He is one of several people who no longer work at the clinic and whose departure is a loss to the Regent Park community. His resignation letter is also printed in this paper. Here is what he writes:

Some Background Information - Regent Park Community Health Centre

Q. IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE DIFFERENT FROM A PRIVATE DOCTOR'S OFFICE OR A HOSPITAL OR "PRIVATE" MEDICAL CLINIC? SHOULD IT BE DIFFERENT AND IF SO IN WHAT WAYS?

A. Yes, it must be different if it is going to meet the needs of community which has gone on for years as it is now without health professionals responding in any adequate

way to its obvious health problems. The people for whom a community health centre provides medical care should have a very prominent voice in determining who will be on the staff and what kind of policies the centre will have. Without this, community health centres are basically no different from all institutions they are trying to replace. Without this, they serve merely as an alternate means of funding traditional medical care, not necessarily cheaper.

Q. IS THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE?

A. No! Of 18 members of the board of directors, only six are from Regent Park. One of these has since moved away. The participation of one other has not been fully welcomed. Only some of these people use the centre regularly for their medical care. Not one single person, except perhaps for the representative of the Regent Park Community Improvement Assoc. who is an ex-officio member of the board, can say that they speak for the larger community. In what way do these people represent the wishes of the Regent Park community as a whole?

As early as Sept. 1973 the RPCIA

indicated that the Regent Park community was asking for a stronger voice in the running of "its" centre. At the time of the official opening in December 1973 this was still a prominent issue. However it was not even until early 1975 that by-laws were drafted to establish a structure to control who was eligible to sit on the board and how these people would be selected. There was, however, no provision in the draft by-laws for community elections or any definition of who was eligible to be a member of the Health centre as a whole or of the board in particular. Upon being presented with these draft by-laws, the RPCIA in February asked for such changes. No response was made. Further request were made in April and May. In March the medical-dental staff of the centre asked for such changes. Furthermore, in April, the draft by-laws were passed intact. The result: no elections, no change in the composition of the board, no "unwelcome" input, no increase in the number of residents on the board, no provision for correcting this in the future.

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DR. KRIEGER'S RESIGNATION LETTER

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Regent Park Community Health Centre to inform you formally that I shall be resigning my position as a physician at the Centre as of August 31st.

I am truly sorry to find myself in the position of having to make the decision and regret that I have to interrupt the many good relationships I have made with patients, fellow staff members and some members of the board.

Nonetheless there has also been a significant number of problems recognized by myself and the staff in general, particularly regarding board-staff and board-community relations which have made it increasingly difficult for me to provide that kind of care which I feel to be adequate and appropriate.

In addition, it has been made clear by the Administrator, presumably on your behalf, that the board is unhappy with my continuing presence as a physician. I had been interested in and excited

by community health centres long before starting my work at Regent Park. This interest remains, at, perhaps, even a heightened level, which, of course, only serves to magnify the disparity between the way I feel community health centres should be organized to meet the needs of the communities which they serve and the way I perceive the board of Regent Park Community Health Centre has attempted to fulfil these services.

In the end it will be the people of Regent Park who are hurt most by what is taking place and this remains the most regrettable fact of all. Hopefully when all the staff vacancies are filled and when some of the policies of the centre are altered a more harmonious atmosphere will prevail and then the centre will be able to deal with the myriad problems presenting themselves each day.

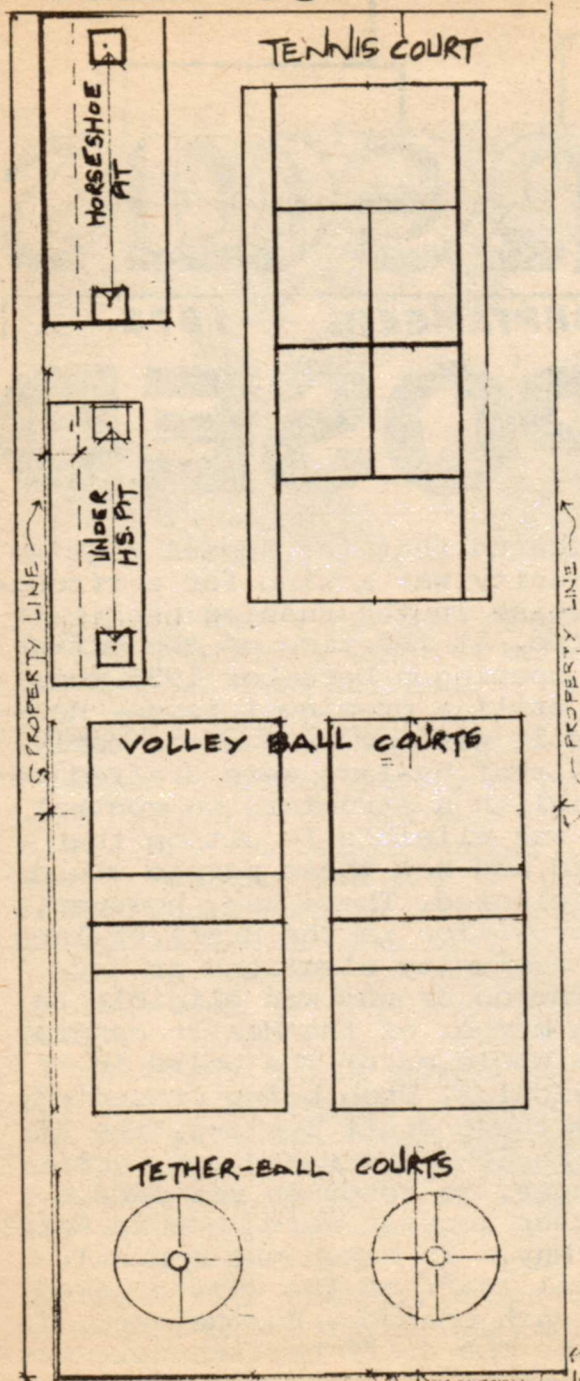
My sincere wishes for success in this endeavour.

August 14th, 1975 Howard Krieger, MD.



Steve McDonald, Paul Viggers and Sue Barnard (front to Back) get scrambled eggs and toast ready for campers at the K Club camp this summer. See story and pictures p. 4.

PLANS FOR DUNDAS- REGENT CORNER



The lot on the corner of Regent and Dundas Sts. next to St. Bart's Church is presently not being used to its full potential. The drawing you see in the paper is a proposal to take out the ball diamond there and replace it with a tennis court, two volley ball courts, two tetherball courts and two horse-shoe pits. One of the horse-shoe pits is regular size, and the other is a smaller size for children.

The plan was prepared by Sheila Smith from the Architectural School at the University of Waterloo at the request of the RPCIA.

The Adult Recreation Centre has asked that horse-shoe pits be installed in the area. That idea was carried a step further to see what best use of the land can be made.

We are very interested to hear from tenants, especially those in the immediate area of the lot, to see if the like proposed ideas or maybe if they just want it left alone. Call 364-2909 and let us know.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lloyd Carr (12yrs) - recent resident of Regent Park and daily visitor of grandmother at 274 Sackville has the distinction as an altar boy at St. Paul's Church of serving 81 days straight. On weekends this means as much as 2 or 3 times a day. It is most heart-warming to see such dedication, to duty in one so young. Good work Lloyd you are a fine example of the earnest efforts of some of our young people.

Tenant Management Report

Report on state of Management Contract Negotiations - 1975-76

We wish to inform the residents of Regent Park that the negotiating team had four meetings with Ontario Housing officials from July 15th to August 10th. Copies of the RPCIA proposals were presented to Ontario Housing April 28th.

We have been informed that OHC lawyers are defining the legal ramification of the contract, and also that CMHC is requesting more data, on the success or failure of the program. The term of the first contract was from June, 1974 to May 31st. 1975.

Conflicting statements by the Corporation as to the reason for the delay in approving the contract, are cause for much concern.

The program is being continued on a month to month basis until a new contract is signed and implemented. We hope the latter phase of the program will be speedily concluded. The Association feels that this delay is a sign of bad faith negotiations on the part of Ontario Housing.

RENT SCALE

The following letter was sent to Premier Davis and his Housing Minister Irvine regarding the rent scale:

Dear Sir;

The rent scale for Public Housing is under review across the

country and Federation of Ontario Tenants Associations was asked to comment on the proposed changes in rent scale for Ontario.

It is the people with the lowest income who pay the highest percentage of income as rent. At present all Public Housing tenants earning a gross income of over \$404 monthly pay 25% of their income as rent but under the proposed new rent scale all Public Housing tenants, regardless of income will pay 25% of their income as rent.

The present inflationary economy has hit hardest at those who work in non-union positions or are living on a fixed income, and do not receive cost-of-living increases. The housing market is such that public housing tenants have no alternative but to remain in public housing. Public housing tenants are subsidizing, through their rent, other public housing tenants, but are still living under

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NEARLY NEW

605 Whiteside Pl. - Basement

Thursday Mornings

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Clothing and Household items

opens September 16

MAYCOURT CLUB

R.P.C.I.A. FALL DANCE

**BUFFET -- GOOD PRIZES -- MUSIC
REFRESHMENTS**

ADMISSION - 2.50

MEMBERS 2.00

ADVANCE SALES AT R.P.C.I.A. OFFICE

364-2909

OR SEE YOUR UNIT REP.

ST. CYRIL'S HALL

SAT. OCT. 4, 1975 8 P.M.

(continued from page 1)

Health Centre

Q. IS THE MEDICAL-DENTAL STAFF INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE?

A. No! The invitations that were at one time extended to certain meetings of the board were withdrawn either directly or indirectly. Since March 1975 the staff has petitioned the board to open up board meetings and the business of the centre in general to all interested staff members. Nor did the staff as a whole want to function through an "administrator", a person selected entirely by the board in the first place. What response there has been has felt to be inadequate by the staff.

Q. WHO IS ACTUALLY DIRECTING THE BUSINESS OF THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE?

A. The last board meeting was in April 1975. Since then all the very important negotiations with the Ministry of Health regarding funding for the year beginning October 1975 have been going on. Important decisions regarding the hours of the centre and the number of doctors and nurses have been made. A new doctor has been hired. Who has been doing all this? In no instance has the board as a whole made these decisions but rather a small group of board members who have decided that they can act for the whole board and speak for the whole of Regent Park. Are they really representing the people of Regent Park?

Q. HAS THE REGENT PARK COMMUNITY BEEN ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HEALTH CENTRE? IS THE BOARD INTERESTED IN INCREASING THE EXTENT OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS INVOLVEMENT? WILL THE STAFF BE ALLOWED A MORE EXTENSIVE ROLE IN ADVISING ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES?

A. The record shows clearly that the answer is no.

Q. WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

A. Failure of the board to deal with all these has resulted in very very poor staff morale. Furthermore it appears that the funds for the coming year will approach only 60% of those obtained on an interim basis since January 1975 and only 45% of the funds for the first year of operation. In addition, there are many external problems that have not even been mentioned. Since January there has been 2 new administrators, one new doctor who is resigning soon, one doctor who resigned a few months ago, a third doctor who is also leaving soon, one new doctor hired only within

the past few weeks, one dentist who resigned recently, a second dentist who is resigning soon (and no new dentist hired as yet to replace either of these). One nurse is leaving and one or two others will have to be let go soon due to budget cutbacks. The present (fourth) administrator may also have to leave for the same reason. Obviously the centre cannot provide adequate service under these conditions. As the situation now exists one cannot be optimistic about the future of the Regent Park Community Health Centre.

Q. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

A. There are many problems facing all health centres, both internal and external. There must be some definition of community and the role of the community in the functioning of each centre. Full staff involvement must be ensured. Funding must recognize the special needs of the community served. It must be recognized that to meet these needs community health centres will not necessarily be cheaper, particularly at the beginning.

The board of the Regent Park Community Health Centre must establish that it truly represents the desires and needs of the people of Regent Park. The days of tokenism, albeit well-meaning in most cases, must give way to meaningful participation by the people from whom the services are being provided in the first place. Only full staff involvement will allow policies to be effectively transferred into practice. All community health centres can learn from the problems of Regent Park. Hopefully these problems can still be solved without creating undue hurt for all the users of the centre, present and future.

Anyone who has any comments, ideas, pictures, drawings or anything else they would like to see in the paper, please bring them to 44 Blevins Place

SENIOR CITIZENS HOME HELP SERVICES BEGINS

For several months you have heard of the Home-Help Service that was coming for the senior citizens of Regent Park. It is now a fact. At a meeting on Sept. 8th, the board of Directors of the Regent Park Senior Citizens Home-Help Services elected Mr. Harold West as President, and appointed as Director of the Service Mr. C. LeRoy Jones who comes to the post after many years of administrative experience, from which he retired last year. Mr. Jones is helping start this program service, and is planning to turn the program over to a trained Regent Park resident after six months.

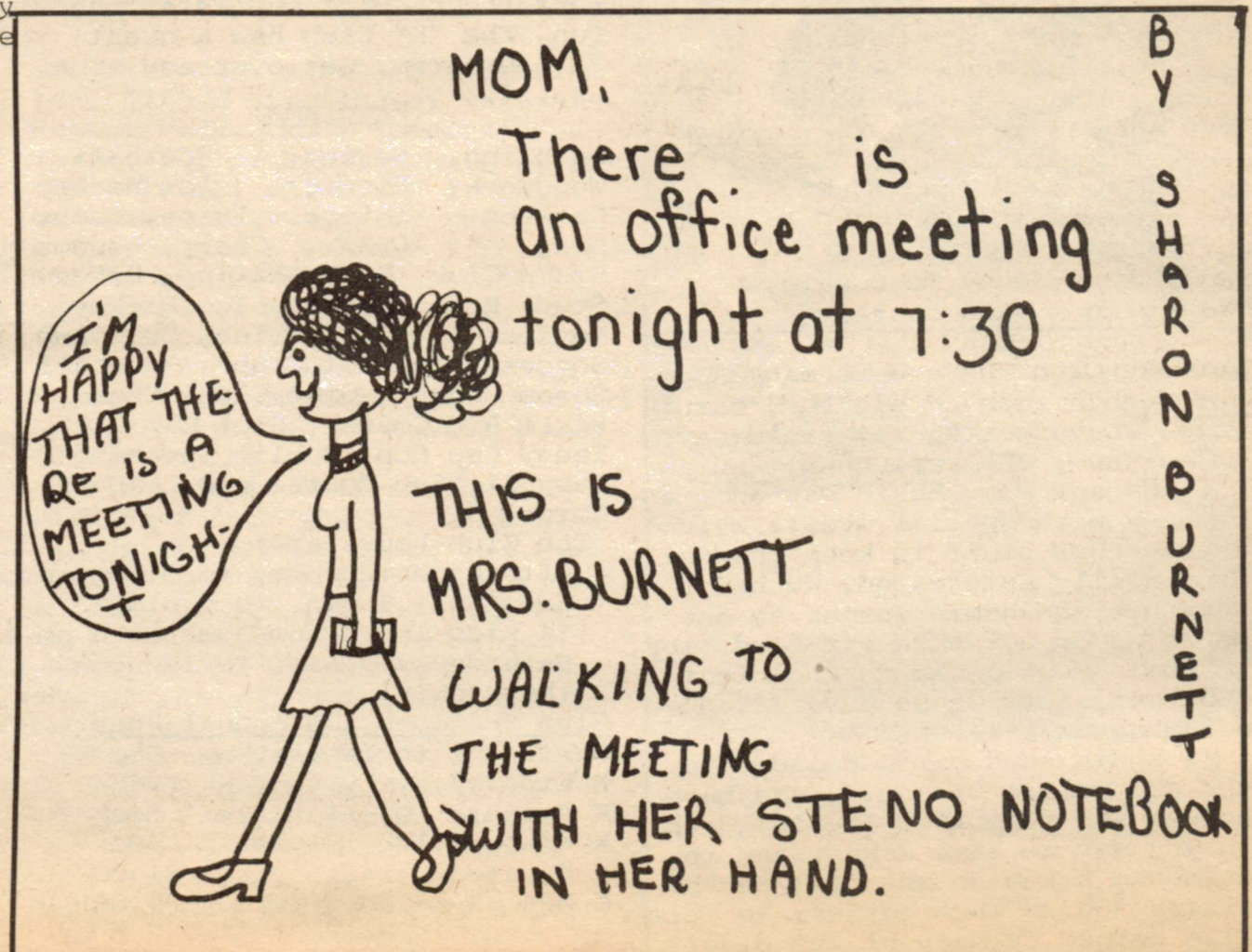
As previously announced, the Home-Help Services will embrace the kinds of problems faced by people who are 'getting on in year's' - frailty, ill health, convalescence, shopping, house-keeping, and other aspects of living at home which are only too well known to those of us who are aging. An important feature is the use of "Home-Helpers" from our own community, who understand the problems of Regent Park tenants, and who have been specially trained for such service.

Your reporter asked the new Director how soon we can expect the service to be in operation. Mr. Jones stated, "There are always problems at the start of a new venture of this importance, and I'm keen to deal with them as quickly as possible. There's a good deal of interest, and the co-operation of everyone couldn't be better. We should be rolling pretty well by the end of September."

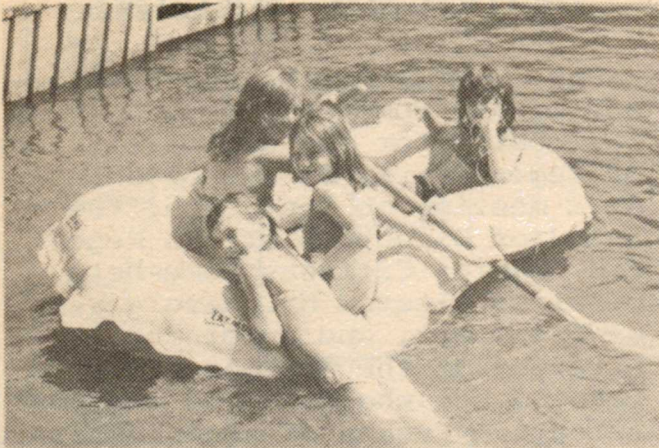
If you would like to know more call Mr. Jones at 364-2909

TALENT CORNER

This cartoon by Sharon Burnett was done for her mother O. Burnett. Olga is secretary for the RPCIA Executive and regularly spends her Wednesday nights at meetings in the Association Office. We'd like to thank Sharon for her art, and her mother, Olga, for her time given to the Association. Want to get out of your house and join us? Call 364-2909 we've got plenty for you to do.



Gerrard K Club News



Shirley Demers, Martha Crewe, Debbie Peterson, Lee Ann Walsh, boating at Camp Gerrard.

Gerrard K Club News

Summer programs commenced on June 30th and ran through to Aug. 8th., when the staff begins a well earned holiday and the "K" Club is painted and spruced up by the local leaders. The club will be then ready for opening in the fall, for another year of "FUN WITH A PURPOSE".

This is the sixth summer the Club has been privileged to run a Summer Day program, which has again been successful both in numbers and in enthusiasm. This summer we had an attendance of over 200 youngsters and they took part in a two-day camping, trips to Ontario Place, HMCS Haida, Fort York, Casa Loma, City Hall, Parliament Buildings, Ontario Science Centre, Toronto Dominion Centre, Royal York Hotel, fishing trips, and many other places of interest. The only cost to the children was for car -fare.



Katy Crewe, Jenny Mc Donald, building a sand castle.

At the Club there were many special events such as picnics, carnivals, scavenger hunts, field day, talent show, treasure hunt, Indian Day, Canada Day, Music Day and many, many more special events which enabled our staff to keep the children really interested. We had a very hot and humid summer so one knows we do not have air-condition, we feel most proud to know that 200 youngsters, each day, attend our programs.

We again send our accolades to the #51 Police Division, who have helped and supported the children in any way we have asked, and in doing so has made the Gerrard "K" staffs job so much easier. We were also helped by many of the older

teenagers who are leaders and they did a tremendous job helping t' youngsters as many of our Regent Park fathers have done in the past.

At the end of each day's program we make sure that each youngster received a treat, which is prepared by Mrs. M. Rice. We feel our summer programs was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and we offer an invitation to any parents to pay us a visit at anytime.

Now that summer is gone and the cold air is here we thought you would like to see some of the happy times had by children at the "K" Club in the past summer months.



Darlene Gibbons, Martha Crewe, Katy Crewe, Jenny MC Donald, Lori Titus, Debbie Gibbons. Inside Tent at Camp Gerrard.

We hope that you were warmed up by the story and pictures. Don't feel too bad if you missed the fun. The "K" Club has a great fall program. Get over and sign up.....

Programs		
Tumbling,	Sewing,	Football
Woodwork,	Picnics	Ice Hockey
Cooking,	Interest Trips,	Games
Art,	Drama,	Choir, Bingos
Stamp Club,	Gym, Skating,	Hikes
Study Room	Crafts, Ice Hockey,	
Movies	Rifle Club, Swimming	
Soccer	"101 Club",	Baseball
Cosom Hockey,	Glee Club,	Charm
First Aid Course,	Slot Car Club,	
Teeny Bop Hop,	Public Speaking	
Baby Sitting Course	and Leaders	Corps.
The Club hours are:		
Afternoons: 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.		
Evenings: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.		
(K kids leave for home at 8 pm.)		
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 12 noon		
(boys only)		
Club Sections and Annual Fees		
Girls - 7 to 14 yrs.		50¢
K Kids 7,8,9 yrs.		25¢
K knights 10, 11 yrs.		50¢
K Kings 12, 13 yrs.		50¢
K Keystones 14,15 yrs.		\$1.00
K Men 16,17 yrs.		\$1.00



Mess Hall at Camp Gerrard

Club Staff	
Christ Hunt	Club Chairman
George Riggs	Club Director
Daphne Shewan	Club Secretary
Joan Watson	Club Nurse
Denise Easson	Girls Counsellor
Robert Buchelt	Sports Instructor
George Ferguson	Boy's Prog. Inst.
Gordon Broughton	Games Room Supvr.
John Helm	Maintenance
Yvonne Cameron	Girls Director
THE GERRARD K CLUB	
101 Spruce St. 925-2243	

RENT SCALE

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the stigma of being themselves subsidized.

Because of the above reasons the delegates to the FOTA convention unanimously passed the FOTA Rent Scale, and rejected the one due to be proposed by OHC.

We are formally presenting to you, Mr. Premier, and to Housing Minister Donald Irvine, the proposed FOTA Rent Scale, copies of which are also being submitted to all political parties and candidates.

This presentation is certainly timely in lieu of your position, Mr. Premier, which you have taken on inflation for your campaign; and because it dramatically affects the lives of many of the present residents of Ontario Housing, as well as all people who will, in the pursuit of clean, decent, safe and adequate housing as a social right, be housed in OHC houses.

FOTA, which represents collectively the interests of some 200,000 Ontario tenants, will be holding a province-wide press conference on September 12th to comment on the program response made by all candidates, and to indicate our future course of action.

We feel it appropriate, at this time to raise the question of the Quality of Life, as reflected in the Rent Scale question, to all political candidates in the coming election, and to ensure, through the press, that their response to this question reaches the tenants of Ontario, for their consideration.

Donna Gamble,
President, FOTA