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Vancouver City Hall,
453 West 12th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.
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DOWNTOWN EAST

October 1975

DERA

☆☆☆

LEAP

no.15

19 Community Representatives Demand Demolition Control

By Jean Swanson

Members of City Council ignored the pleas of nineteen community representatives and demonstrated on September 23rd that their expressed concern over the housing crisis is really just "political manoeuvring to make them look good while protecting their developer friends."

Nineteen community representatives urged Council for two hours to support Alderman Harry Rankin's motion which would have required developers to replace low cost housing demolished in redevelopment.

There were no delegations to oppose Rankin's motion.

But Alderman Jack Volrich's motion to defer consideration for one month passed 6 - 5 with Aids. Darlene Marzari, Rankin, Fritz Bowers, Ed Sweeney, and Mayor Art Phillips opposed.

Volrich's motion, supported by Alderman Mike Harcourt,

is the standard ploy used by politicians in order to avoid taking a stand. Since Harcourt wants to run provincially, he cannot afford to annoy developers or tenants, so his tactic is to defer the issue so that when it is brought back in one month it will be completely watered down.

Council members turned down a request by Bruce Eriksen, president of DERA to "demonstrate that their expressed concern over the housing crisis is real..."

They ignored the plea of Jim Cork of the Hastings-Sunrise Action Council to halt the "creeping disease" of demolition.

They disregarded the appeal of Fred Lowther of the Hastings - Sunrise CRB to "prevent the destructions of working class neighborhoods."

They rejected a request by Art Griffin of the First (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

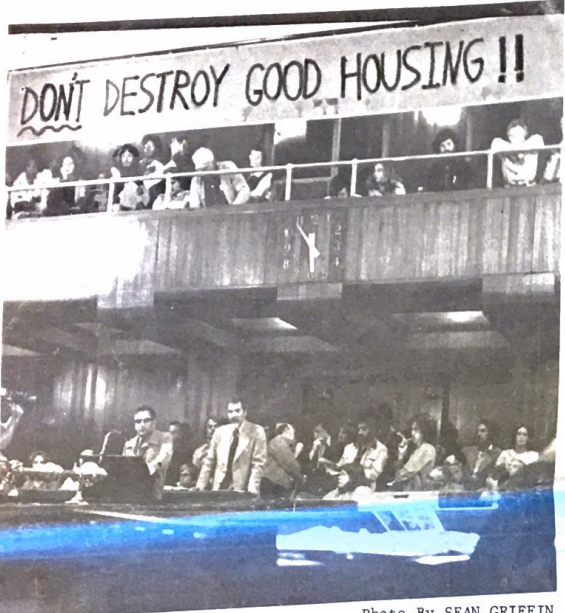


Photo By SEAN GRIFFIN

Eastside Residents go to Victoria

Cabinet Ministers Reluctant to Protect Eastside Tenants

By Libby Davies

Thursday September 18, 1975 marked the second expedition to the Parliament Buildings in Victoria for residents of the Downtown Eastside. They were there to petition the Government for a new amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act so that ALL residents of hotels, rooming houses would have the same rights and protection under the Landlord and Tenant Act as other tenants in the Province.

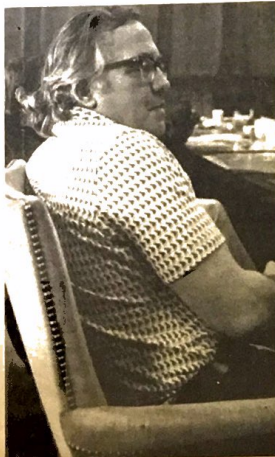
A group of thirty people, which included representatives from the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, three Community Resources Boards, the First United Church, The Door Is Open, the Mental Patients Association, as well as individual residents, met with three Cabinet Ministers, Gary

Lauk (also M.L.A. for Vancouver Center), Norman Levi, and Alex Macdonald, for approximately one hour.

The delegation once again demanded that the Government take action and responsibility for the thousands of people suffering from exorbitant rent increases and evictions because their landlords are not bound by the Landlord and Tenant Act.

As a result of a previous demonstration by the D.E.R.A. and representatives of Community Organizations in the Downtown Eastside on June 3, 1975, an amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act had been passed in the Legislature on June 20, 1975. The ineffectiveness of that amendment and the cumbersome review procedure it entailed has been proved conclusively

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



Human Resources Minister Norm Levi tells unprotected tenants, "Your views have been noted."

Only 5% Rent Increase Fair

A 237 page report which cost taxpayers \$20,000 shows that a mere five per cent increase in rents is justified by increased operating costs.

The British Columbia Tenants Organization released the report by Strong-Hall Associates on September 25. The Rent Review Commission, which has allowed landlords more than double this rent increase has not, to date, made the information public.

Landlords have campaigned for up to 135 per cent increase in order to condition tenants to accept ten per cent as justifiable even though it is double actual cost increases.

Landlords have also benefited from an increase in property value averaging 30 per cent per year.

The explanation? "Landlords are a super greedy lot, commented Bruce Yorke, president of BCTO. "No increase at all would be justified in view of the overcharging revealed concerning past increases."

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Council Obliges Industrialists in Revised Zoning Proposal

By Jean Swanson

The Planning Department's amended proposal for rezoning the downtown eastside is awaiting a Public Hearing for the second time. The first Public Hearing was adjourned August 7th when many aldermen were absent.

The new zoning proposal is a concession by the Mayor and his henchmen to industrial and developer interests who feel they won't be able to rake in enough profits in the Oppenheimer Area if it is zoned residentially.

Cabinet...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

by the fact that since June 20th, the day it was enacted, NOT ONE resident has been helped or assisted by it.

At the meeting on September 18th, Bruce Eriksen, President of the D.E.R.A. pointed out that the amendment was useless, and that it was ridiculous for Levi to decide that the amendment would be administered on an individual complaint basis only. Eriksen said that, "even if a resident makes a complaint about a rent increase or eviction, a landlord could throw that resident out on the street long before any investigation is carried out and that one room designated under the Act".

Roy Crowe of the Downtown Community Resources Board repeatedly asked the Attorney-General Alex Macdonald why he had ever presented such an amendment that was practically impossible to enforce, and only included hotels and motels? The Attorney-General was baffled on that one. Jean Swanson of the D.E.R.A. also pointed out that since the existing amendment had been passed, the Rentalsman, Barrie Clark, was still refusing to act on any complaints, and that in some cases he had told landlords point blank that he had no jurisdiction over hotels. She said that, "as soon as the Rentalsman hears the word 'hotel' he won't touch it".

All of the people present strongly criticized the Government for side stepping its responsibility to the people who need the protection of the Landlord and Tenant Act most of all.

The Group laid out three demands:

(1) that the three Cabinet Ministers make recommendations at the next Cabinet meeting to the effect that;

(2) as an interim measure, using the existing amendment, the 125 hotels housing 1,369 Social Assistance clients suggested by the Vancouver Resources Board, be designated immediately under the Landlord and Tenant Act;

(3) and that when the fall

session of the Legislature convenes, the Attorney-General present a new amendment, based on the amendment proposed by the D.E.R.A.

The three Ministers, reluctant to commit themselves to anything, played around with minor details, and pressed endless excuses about the difficulties of enforcing an amendment that would explicitly cover all long term tenants of hotels, rooming houses, and multiple dwellings.

Patiently, but persistently, the delegation brought the Ministers back to the realities of the situation: that right now, residents have no protection whatsoever from gouging landlords, and that they need a law that clearly gives them the same rights as other tenants in B. C. Vicki Obedkoff of the First United Church, told the Ministers that she saw many people each day asking for emergency funds because landlords have evicted them for no apparent reason and not refunded the rent.

The hour-long meeting produced nothing more than a statement by Norman Levi that, "we have heard clearly what you have to say, and we will consider it".

The thirty people left the meeting heavy with the thought of thousands of residents living through unnecessary hardship while the Cabinet ponders and considers its options. In the meantime, residents of the Downtown Eastside have no option but to pay landlords what they demand or sleep in the Pine Tree Hotel (Stanley Park) or under the Georgia Viaduct.

It's now up to the N.D.P. Cabinet and Government to make the next move. Residents will wait. But not for long. If the Attorney-General produces another wishy-washy compromise, residents will go back to Victoria, but not with thirty people. Next time there'll be more than enough people to tramp the velvet green lawns in front of the Legislature Buildings.

While the old proposal required everything above the ground floor to be residential, the new proposal requires that only 50% be residential. The DERA, in a report which council refused to hear, suggested a compromise of 75 per cent.

In addition, the new proposal includes both light and heavy industries as conditional uses. The limits to expansion of these industries are not in the actual by-law, but in the policy statement at the end of the by-law and therefore not legally binding according to Mr. Fleming, the City's legal beagle. DERA has proposed that the clauses which limit industrial expansion be included in the actual by-law.

DERA has also proposed that uses required by a public authority be permitted only when approved by the Director of Planning after consultation with the local residents.

Demolition Control... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

United Church to use "humane and humane standards for demolition permits."

They also ignored Bernard Clynoch of the Downtown CRB, Carl Archer of the Downtown Community Health Society; Dave Johnson of Grace Gospel Fellowship; Kevin Topalian of the Mental Patients Association; Susan Hoepfner of Renters United for Secure Housing; Joan Morelli of the Vancouver Resources Board; the Grandview-Woodlands CRB; the Federated Anti-Poverty Group; Stewart Savard, chairperson of the UBC Student Housing Committee; Don Angel of Minaki Lodge; Jim Atkin of the West End CRB; Bruce Yorke of COPE; and Karen O'Shannacery, chairperson of the Downtown Community Workers; Olivia Mott of the Neighborhood Services Association, and Patrick Graham.

Council members did answer the question of Barry Coull of the Kitsilano CRB, "We want to know what side you're on?" They are obviously not on the side of low income tenants.

Alderman Fritz Bowers was loudly booed when he said the community representatives were simplistic, Bowers referred to the hardships of poor widows in a bad financial situation (did he mean Mrs. Gould who owns a million dollars worth of property at Robson and Burrard?).

Alderman Warnett Kennedy accused Rankin of "duping" community representatives "into a blind alley" over their concern for victims of demolition.

Another change which DERA would make in the zoning proposal is to insert "No demolition permit which involves existing dwelling units will be issued unless a development permit has been approved. To be approved the development permit application must be limited in time and must include the provision of more dwelling units which are within the means of low income tenants than will be lost ..." in the actual by-law. DERA would like the City Charter to be amended to implement this policy. The Planning Department wants this clause in the policy statement.

Council voted to send the Planning Department's proposals to Public Hearing unchanged. Alderman Harry Rankin proposed that the Hearing date be set as soon as possible and that the aldermen be polled to make sure they would all be available on that date.

Alderman Jack Volrich spoke about the rights of people who sell property.

In speaking to his motion, Alderman Rankin pointed out that the Mayor (a millionaire) sees the demolition problem from his economic vantage point. Rankin said he was not opposed to redevelopment, but that developers have obligations as well as rights. Providing housing for low income people is one of these obligations.

Most of the Aldermen and the Mayor tried to obscure the real issue with long winded, irrelevant speeches which bored the tired crowd and made them suspect a pre-conceived plan for defeating Rankin's motion and drowning the voices of concerned citizens.

Although the motion was defeated, citizens did benefit from the experience. The eighty-five or so concerned people who were not "duped" by Rankin were not "duped" by other members of Council either.

Vancouver needs aldermen who will respond to the needs of low income victims of the housing shortage. The nineteen representatives of groups with thousands of members will come back to Council on the demolition issue. And there will be more than nineteen united groups working to get responsible aldermen elected in the next civic election.

As Bruce Yorke said, this "issue is just the tip of the iceberg" and the "opening gun of the 1976 election."

Oct. 8 Plebiscite

Rankin Urges to Vote For

I appeal to all residents of the downtown eastside area to get out on October 8 and vote for the Five Year Plan which will be submitted to voters on that day.

I am not asking to exercise your democratic right to vote just on general principles. In this particular ballot there is something of personal concern to each of you: housing!

You know that City Council has been demolishing older

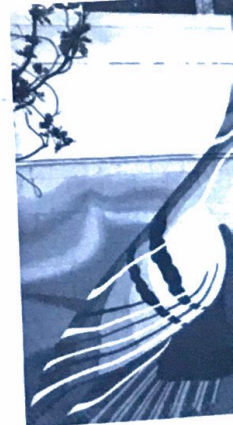
**Listen to Co-op
Radio
102.7 FM
6:00 p.m. Oct. 1
5 Year Plan
* Special ***

housing in the downtown to suit the developers without making adequate provision for new housing to replace it. You know that your organization, DERA, has been waging a vigorous campaign against this to convince Council that new housing for people in the low income brackets can and should be built in the downtown area. That's the same kind of battle I've been carrying on in Council. We haven't won that battle by any means, but we are making some progress.

The Five Year Plan submitted to voters last year was defeated by a narrow margin. It contained a provision for \$3 million for housing. (Council had wanted to limit this to \$1 million but I insisted it be raised.)

This year's 5 Year Plan

Now that we have another we need are some benches.



Oct. 8 Plebiscite

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contains a provision for \$10 million for housing. Council wanted to limit it to \$3 million but I told them it was either \$10 million or this 5 Year Plan would not have my support. Council reluctantly agreed.

This \$10 million for housing is actually only "seed" money to be used to acquire land. It will generate at least another \$100 million in mortgages. It will be used to build housing for those who need it most - senior citizens and people with low incomes. Literally dozens of projects like Oppenheimer Lodge could be financed from this fund.

This is where you come in. Who knows, this fund may be the difference between you having or not having a place to go if you are forced to move from your present premises for one reason or another.

Your vote could be decisive. It may just make the difference between victory or defeat for this money-by-law.

Be sure to vote on Oct. 8. Vote for the 5 Year Plan. Get all your neighbours and friends to do likewise.

Now that we've won that right, let's use it!

DOWNTOWN EAST

The DOWNTOWN EAST is a community newsletter published by the DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION L.E.A.P. Resource Workers, 616 East Cordova St., Vancouver, B. C. Phone: 253-8235/6. Layout, editing, reporting DERA-LEAP staff. Typing by Chris Gray. The newsletter is published monthly and distributed to local residents free of charge. Circulation is 7,000

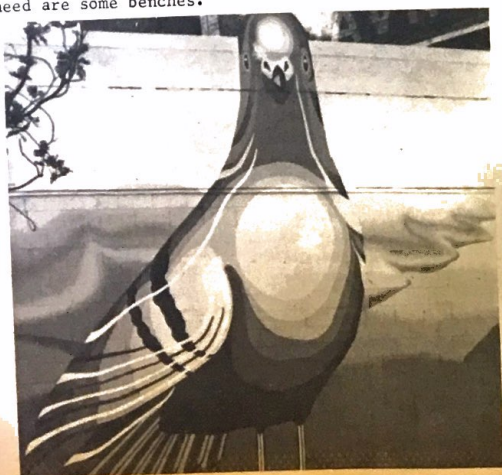
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The Five Year Plan submitted to voters last year was defeated by a narrow margin. It contained a provision for \$3 million for housing. (Council had wanted to limit this to \$1 million but I insisted it be raised.)

This year's 5 Year Plan

Now that we have another pigeon in Pioneer Park, all we need are some benches.



Tenants are voters too.

This year tenants are again eligible to vote on the Vancouver Five Year Plan.

It asks your support for programs vitally needed to maintain city services such as parks and recreation, fire protection, policing, street and lane lighting and housing.

As a tenant, you pay taxes in your rent. And, like everyone else, you have a right to determine how your money is spent.

So have your say on October 8th. Get out and vote.

For additional information, call 873-7415 between 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Vancouver.
keep it your kind of town.

A YES ON OCT. 8 WILL AVOID A LOT OF 'NO'S' LATER



City of Vancouver

minaki LODGE



September 19th, 1975. Attention: Bruce Eriksen, President of DERA and Jean Swanson, Secretary of DERA.

(An extra special thanks for your personal and rewarding efforts).

On behalf of Loomis Holdings Limited, we wish to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation for your efforts on our behalf, which so greatly assisted in the final decision being made, favoring the retention of Minaki Lodge for an indefinite period of time.

We are now in a position to carry on with the care of

our present tenants, arrange for the return of those who have expressed the desire to come back, and generally carry on with our normal operations. It now gives us the time we require to find a proper, adequate and suitable future home for our present tenants and those that will follow.

Yours appreciatively,
Loomis Holdings Limited,
Mrs. V. Ferguson.
Manageress & Secy-Treas.
P.S. Attached, you will find a Thank You letter signed by the Residents of Minaki Lodge.

Actors Get Firehall

The Actor's Workshop can now go ahead with plans to use the old Firehall #2 at Gore Avenue and East Cordova Street as a performing arts workshop space.

City Council voted September 23rd to accept the recommendation of the Directors of Planning and Social Planning that the Actor's Workshop be granted a lease on the building subject to the condition that other funding is approved for renovations.

The City Manager had wanted to turn the historic building into a parking lot.

Mallie Boman and Julie Cowie of the Actor's Workshop had met earlier with members of DERA and Ron Burgess of the Downtown Community Resources Board to discuss their plans for the Firehall.

Actor's representatives agreed with Mr. Burgess and DERA members that residents of the downtown eastside may be involved in working on stage sets and costumes and as participants in some of the Actor's Workshop programs. Local residents also hope that the actor's will make space available to them.

Heritage Advisory Board Bends to Developers

By Jean Swanson

Members of the Heritage Advisory Board, flaunting an alleged "non-political" stance, gave the foreign developers of 1140 W. Pender



Alderman Harry Rankin encourages Park Plaza tenants to fight for their homes.

Street what they wanted and asserted that the Park Plaza Apartments is of "no architectural value".

Park Plaza Tenant Demands Answer

September 19/75.

Attention Mr. B. Eriksen:
Re: Proposed Demolition of the Park Plaza Apartments, 1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B. C.

I am one of the tenants of the above apartment building and have been for almost five years. Some of the tenants, veterans of the First World War have been here for a great many years.



On the 25th of June, 1975, I was served with notice to vacate by Knowlton Realty Ltd., effective the 31st of October, 1975. The reason being that the "Country and New Town Properties (Canada) Ltd., intends to demolish the building".

I got in touch with the Office of the Rentalsman and was advised by that Office that the notice was invalid and sent notice to that effect to said Knowlton Realty Ltd., the representative of the owners. I obtained the required notice from the Rentalsman's Office, comp-

Their action came at a meeting of the H.A.B. at City Hall September 15th. Board members had received many letters from concerned citizens and community groups asking that they redesignate the Park Plaza.

The Park Plaza is the home of forty-six elderly and low income tenants who have been given notices to vacate by October 31st so the developer can demolish their homes and erect a twenty-eight storey office building.

Charles Paine, architect for the tower, convinced the Heritage Advisory Board that the Park Plaza was structurally unsound and a "fire-trap".

Bruce Eriksen of DERA, the only person who spoke up for the Park Plaza tenants at the meeting, charged that Paine was guilty of conflict of interest as he is the architect for the company that wants to destroy the Park Plaza as well as the "consultant" on the structural soundness of the Park Plaza. Paine did not reply. The most disgusting as-

pect of the meeting was the feeling voiced by H.A.B. members that they were being "used" by community groups and citizens. Board members, who continually referred to themselves as "non-political" used "pure architecture" as an excuse for acknowledging only pro-developer policies.

In a whole hour of discussing heritage buildings, Board members admitted that people were related to "pure architecture" only when they owned the architectural object.

Most Board members regarded designating heritage buildings as "serving notice on individual property owners". Probably, however, no individual owner of a building so designated would suffer as much hardship and fear as the forty-six low income tenants of the Park Plaza suffered when the wealthy foreign developers served notice on them.

When it comes to the real question of who is "using" who, the answer is that developers and a pro-developer council are using the H.A.B. which has no low income or tenant representation, to further their interests and increase their profits.

It was the developer's solicitor at the September 15th meeting who urged the Board not to "be swayed by a highly charged political atmosphere". Developer's don't like atmospheres created by taking into account the interests of people who are not developers.

Clark Sides with Landlords

Another chapter in the story of Barrie Clark, Landlordsman, ended September 16 when Clark used the discretion of his office to uphold the right of foreign developers to kick 46 elderly and defenceless people out of the homes they have enjoyed for years and into the middle of a housing crisis.

Clark upheld eviction notices given by Country and New Town Properties (Canada) Ltd. to the residents of the Park Plaza Apartments, 1140 W. Pender, even though the demolition permit which followed automatically with the rezoning necessary for their development proposal was held back when City Council refused the rezoning August 12.

leted same, handed the notice to Knowlton Realty Ltd., and gave a copy to the Rentalsman's Office. Many of the other tenants followed the same procedures.

I am now in receipt of a letter from the Rentalsman to the effect that the notice to vacate is valid because "The Landlord has submitted evidence by sworn affidavit of its intention to demolish the premises" and "The City of Vancouver has confirmed there are no existing legal obstacles to prevent such demolition."

I have been in touch with the building department of the City of Vancouver, and have been informed that:

(1) Before a building can be demolished a demolition permit approved by the City Council has to be obtained.

(2) That no such demolition permit has been applied for.

Since when has a Company been able to bypass the City regulations?

I might add, that most of the tenants were and are senior citizens -about 50% - and are remaining here.

I have applied to the B.C. Housing Commission and am informed they have no vacancies and it takes about a year. The City Housing Commission is in the same position.

A. M. Thomson.

Mayor Steals Credit for Minaki

By Jean Swanson

Mayor Art Phillips claimed credit for saving the homes of the forty-five elderly tenants of Minaki Lodge, 1138 Nelson Street on September 4.

But the real credit belongs to the residents themselves, the operators, Harry Rankin, and the many concerned individuals and community groups who contacted everyone they could think of to explain the plight of Minaki Lodge residents and the folly of tearing down such ideal accommodation in the midst of a housing crisis.

Don Angel, a resident of Minaki, spent many hours writing letters, attending meetings with aldermen, and explaining to television and newspaper reporters the problems of Minaki residents.

After Council had voted to prevent rezoning of the Park Plaza site and then voted to prevent demolition of Seagate Manor, Harry Rankin introduced a notice of motion to rescind Council's plans to demolish Minaki Lodge and amended it to include the Lorne Apartments, 1150 Nelson, another fine building and home of elderly residents in the same block.

Various community groups including the Downtown East-



side Residents' Association worked to contact various representatives of TEAM, the NPA, and the media to get support for Rankin's motion when it came to Council on September 16. Rankin and Bruce Eriksen of DERA spoke to Minaki residents on Sunday, August 31st to encourage them to continue the fight for their home. The plight of the people at Minaki was shown on television several times.

Mayor Phillips didn't want a big crowd of people at the September 16th Council meeting to think he was heartless. He also didn't want Rankin or DERA to get any credit for a good deed. So,

**A 'YES' ON OCT. 8 WILL
AVOID A LOT OF 'NO'S' LATER**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Vote on October 8th

CRB Reports on its Activities

By Libby Davies

The Downtown Community Resources Board has been meeting regularly now for the past three months. Meetings are held every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. at 52 Water Street. The new Area Manager, Tony Mears, has an office at 535 Homer Street (second floor), phone: 687-4811.

The Board, made up of 13 elected residents of the Downtown C.R.B. area (there are two vacancies on the Board), is, among other things, responsible for allocating grants to non-profit societies, to deliver social and community services in the neighbourhood. The Board has a Budget of \$25,000.00 for the remainder of the fiscal year (March 31st, 1976). To date \$10,329.00 has been approved for the following agencies:

Downtown Eastside Recreation Rehabilitation Services:

\$1,550.00 for miscellaneous carpentry equipment, and a colour T.V. The T.V. will be located upstairs at 373 East Cordova Street in the recreation room for the enjoyment of all.

St. James Social Services:
\$5,779.20 - One salary for a social worker, for six months. This is an existing job, previously funded by the Vancouver Resources Board on a temporary basis.

Downtown Eastside Women's Center: \$3,000.00 for seven weeks to continue operation of the Drop-In Center at 243 Main Street, until other funding is secured from L.I.P.

The Downtown East: \$983.32 for six months to cover the cost of increased circulation from 3,000 to 7,000 copies.

Approximately \$13,000.00 remains in the Budget. This can be allocated by the Board upon application by any Community Service/Agency in the Downtown C.R.B. area. Any grants approved by the Board are funded only until March 1976. Applications should be submitted to the Downtown Community Resources Board, c/o 535 Homer Street.

In the next two months the Board will complete an inventory of all social services in the area. This will not be an evaluation, but rather, a factual survey of all services, so that when the Board considers grant allocations for next year there will be adequate information to determine overlap of services, salary scales, cost of services, etc.

At this time there is no estimate of how much the Downtown C.R.B. will receive for the allocation of Community Grants in the next

fiscal year. The Board is currently in the process of setting out priorities for services to be delivered to the community. By November negotiations will be underway with the Vancouver Resources Board, where the Downtown C.R.B. will negoti-

ate for its yearly budget. It is likely that applications from community services will not have to be submitted to the Board until early December. When more information is available it will be passed on. Aside from sorting out

Budget procedures, and approving grants, the Downtown C.R.B. is actively involved in other important issues in the community. The Board has made its presence felt at City Hall. Representatives from the Board have presented Briefs to City Council concerning the saving of Seagate Manor, the Park Plaza Apartments, and the rezoning of the Oppenheimer area. In the next week, Bernie Clynh will represent the Board to support Alderman Rankin's motion regarding demolition of housing. On September 16, the Downtown C.R.B. was one of two delegations that was refused permission to speak to Council on the rezoning of Oppenheimer. Just ten minutes earlier, Alderman Volrich and the Mayor had made a point of saying that any person had the right to speak to Council. I guess that depends on what the Mayor thinks you're going to say.

On September 18, the Downtown C.R.B. was one of three Community Resources Boards that went to Victoria along with the D.E.R.A. to meet with three Cabinet Ministers concerning protection for residents of the Downtown area under the Landlord and Tenant Act. Roy Crowe and Ron Burgess were among those present from the Downtown C.R.B.

The Downtown Community Resources Board is a new Board, and in many ways, inexperienced, but more important it is one Board that IS committed to the betterment of its' Community in the broadest sense.

VOTE YES

Oct. 8

Minaki ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

in spite of his previous words on the necessity of demolishing Minaki, he announced on September 4th, before Rankin's motion came up, that Minaki was saved. Then he called Mrs. Ferguson the operator of Minaki, told her that Minaki was saved, and sent television reporters to get her reaction.

Not only did Phillips get credit for saving the homes of Minaki residents, he managed to ignore the plight of the equally deserving elderly people in the Lorne Apartments, still slated to go down.

An Interview with the Rev. Art Griffin

New Minister Puts His Religion to Work

By Libby Davies

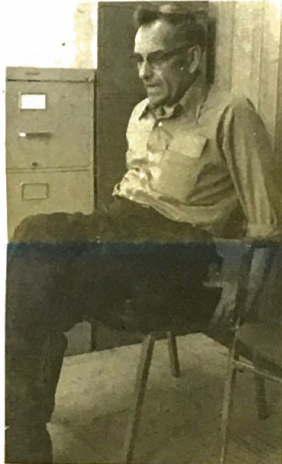
Art Griffin is the new superintendent (co-ordinator) at the First United Church, 320 East Hastings Street. But, he's not new to the scene around us. Born in Winnipeg from a family of Quakers that, "put their Christianity into practice", Art learned early that the world is divided: those that have, and those that have not. As he says, "I am a product of the great Winnipeg strike".

Ordained as a Minister in 1951 after serving in the Air Force, he has dedicated himself to serving people and fighting for their rights in the community. That calling has taken him across the country, working in many inner cities such as Toronto and Edmonton.

Although he has been at the First United Church for less than a month, already he is in the thick of things and has felt the heart of the community. "I've been drawn to the First United Church for its strong stance on issues like Capital Punishment and the recognition of mainland China -- we're realists in the scene."

When Art first came to Vancouver, he was earning \$7.00 a week as a grocery delivery boy on a bicycle. Things have changed since then, now he's manager of a team of people that stand out in the community. His responsibilities may have increased, but the dedication and belief is still there. "This is the way I serve God. Jesus sure as heck wasn't afraid to get involved in the politics of his day." And so it is with Art. You can hear it in his radio broadcasts on CKWX on Sunday evenings, and City Council heard it on September 23rd, when he made it clear to them that the First United Church would not tolerate Council sloughing off its' responsibility to the

people of Vancouver by allowing the demolition of low income housing.



So what does this community have to gain by the presence of Art Griffin?

In his own words, "The Church has had to champion certain causes, and we'll continue to do so -- we can act as political clout we'll work with residents... the new word is coalition, up to now we've been fractured politically, we must get all the groups working together for the betterment of the community."

He is concerned over the operation and number of beer parlours in the area. He said that the community needed more social amenities so that people can "come out of their rooms and be human beings". He also feels that there is "tremendous hope" for projects like the Gastown Residence "where tenants regulate their own buildings instead of some absentee slum landlord".

So, one comes to the conclusion that Art Griffin isn't your traditional kind of Minister. So much the better; for the Church and the Community.

DOWNTOWN EAST Bulletin Board

Vancouver People's Law School

Fall Course Schedule

All Courses Free
To Pre-register Call:
681-7532.
Printed Material is distributed free at each Course.

FAMILY COURT PROCEDURES

October 6, 7, 8.
Location: King George Secondary School, 1755 Barclay Street.

Instructor: Judge David Hart, family court judge.
Outline: How to use the Family Court.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

October 14, 15, 16.
Location: Point Grey Secondary School, 5350 East Boulevard.

ary School, 5350 East Boulevard.
Instructor: Bill Black, law professor.

Outline: Discussion of past and present civil rights legislation in Canada.

IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

October 20, 21, 22.
Location: Technical Secondary School, 2600 East Broadway.

Instructor: Don Rosenbloom, lawyer.

Outline: An overview of current immigration policies and procedures.

* Recreation Line up *

Phone: 253-4744.

Films - 373 E. Cordova St.

7:30 p.m. Sunday ----

Oct. 12, 26; Nov. 9, 23;

Dec. 7, 21, 25; Jan. 1.

Carpentry - 616 E. Cordova St. (middle door). ----

Instruction: Mon., Tues.,

Thurs. --- 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Tools and working space

available ----- Mon. - Fri.

----- 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Art - Ceramics, Painting.

Instruction: Tues. & Thurs.

----- 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Library - 373 E. Cordova St.

(upstairs) Sun. - Sat.

----- 7 - 11 p.m. --

Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Drop-In - Shuffleboard, T.V.,

Pool Table (6' x 12'), Table

Games, - 373 E. Cordova St.,

(upstairs) -----

Sun. - Sat. 7 - 11 p.m.

Mon. - Fri. 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Downtown Community Health Society

Annual General Meeting

* ELECTIONS *

October 14, 7:00 pm

373 east cordova st.

Housing for Elderly Needed

Dear Mr. President and Secretary: Sept. 9/75.

I would like to suggest that our association request City Council to build more housing for Old Age Occupants in the Downtown Eastside Area because many widows and widowers cannot find a place to live. The hospitals are crowded also, with discharge after forty days upon admittance.

When patients are discharged from the hospital, they can neither clean their room nor cook their food. To make matters worse they are usually unable to use the telephone to call a social worker. In addition to this

problem, they are unable to call Meals On Wheels to have lunch and dinner delivered twice daily.

When pension cheques are led astray, there is nobody to enquire about the lost cheques at the Old Age Security Office. At other times, when the telephone is out of order or when light bulbs burn out, no one helps them to replace them. Therefore, City Council should act to build suitable accommodation for Old Age Occupants including those that are either widows or widowers in the Oppenheimer Area as soon as possible.

Sincerely Yours,
Fook Jun Chan, Member of DERA.

Downtown Eastside Residents' Association

- Annual General Meeting •
- * Elections
- * 5 Year Plan: guest speaker Ald. Rankin
- * Oppenheimer 3

Thursday October 2, 7.00 pm

1st. UNITED CHURCH

320 E. HASTINGS ST.

Don't Miss It !

* The Door Is Open *

By Roy MacIntyre.

The "Door Is Open" Drop-In Centre welcomes everyone between 10 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily.

Sponsored by Catholic Community Services, the Centre is run 95% by the people in the area. Coffee or tea is offered three times daily to all those coming in.

This past summer in two different outings to Alouette Lake, over thirty people were served food and refreshments. A fishing expedition up the Pitt River ended fishless, but the

group was not discouraged. Many of one group were involved in horseback riding. Each time, a wiener and marshmallow roast was the finale of the day. All had an enjoyable time.

From now on we will be having Crib Tournaments with Cash Prizes the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m.

Films from the National Film Board will be shown at 9:00 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Members of the "Door Is Open" are hoping for another trip soon.

Housing Applications Lost in Red Tape

September 5, 1975

Dear Mayor Phillips and Members of Council:

We have been taking applications for low rental housing in this area and especially for Antionette Lodge since January 1974. The applications are now in the hands of the Antionette Lodge Citizen Participation Group Committee chaired by Karen O'Shannacery.

This morning we found out through your representative Mr. John Cotgrave and Mr. Barney Carney that all of these applications for Antionette Lodge are for naught, that the only applications being accepted are through the Oppenheimer I manager, Mr. Carney. Mr. Carney also claims that he has 169 names already and it is futile to have any more applicants.

What is the City going to do about all our members who signed for accommodation through 1974 to the present?

Yours truly,
Sam Hamada for the Japanese Community Workers



that saunas and whirlpools aren't considered too extravagant in other areas of the city.

* * * * *

Tanis Cornwall, director of the Downtown Eastside Recreation Project, has been working hard to get the Carnegie Library set up so residents of this area can enjoy it. Two of her pet projects for the old library are a sauna and a whirlpool. Tanis has been getting static from assorted officials including aldermen, that saunas and whirlpools are too extravagant for this area. Tanis keeps pointing out that saunas and whirlpools would be perfect for the people of this area, especially the ones who have arthritis. She also notes

Working in the downtown eastside, we're pretty used to slum buildings and pretty unshockable. Last month, however, I was shocked as I knocked on the door of 1148 Nelson Street. I heard someone upstairs hollering, "The ceiling's coming down!" That was the least of it. Plaster was falling off the walls. Paint was coming off in big strips. The roof leaked. Guess who owns this building? Block Brothers? Wall and Redekop? A foreign developer? All wrong! This time the slumlord is the City of Vancouver!!

Anyone wishing to help with spelling in our headlines, we need you! In the meantime, this is the best I can do: cohorts, cohorts, cohorts, cohorts, cohorts...

* * * * *

A minor step in the solution of the housing crisis could be: Put a couple of partitions in each of the Cabinet Minister's offices in the Parliament Buildings in Victoria, dividing them into three decent sized rooms. Then, sell all the velvet upholstered furniture at an auction in Shaughnessy Heights and use the money to furnish the three rooms with stoves, fridges, beds, tables, etc. Then, move some of our downtown eastside hotel residents over to Victoria, and move the various Cabinet

Ministers into their vacated downtown hotel rooms. Not only would this help lower the vacancy rate, it could give assorted Cabinet Ministers a real taste of the problems in their constituencies which they seem to have forgotten.

* * * * *

Some of us have landlords who neglect or refuse to give us rent receipts. If you get locked out of your room with no refund and no place to go, a rent receipt is always a handy way of proving that you actually did live there and did pay the rent. If a landlord refuses to give receipts, you can always get a money order at the Post Office and write on it that it is for rent.

* * * * *

Thanks to Bryan Mahoney for his work on behalf of the Park Plaza people and to Donald Gutstein for helping us look at the downtown eastside zoning proposal.

* * * * *

DERA's last monthly meeting was great. We had two industrial property owners, one Communist, two people from the city planning department, one person from the West End CRB, several from the Downtown CRB, and fifty or so articulate local residents. One of the nicest things was the kindness with which the DERA members, mostly men, responded to the request of the Women's Center for a letter of recommendation for LIP funding.

The developer's TEAM: Vancouver's 'reform' party in power

By Donald Gutstein

By kind permission of the publishers of CITY MAGAZINE, December 1974 January 1975, Vol.1, No.2. Continued from September 1975, Number 14 issue of "Downtown East".

The key issue in TEAM's ascendancy to power was growth, and how to manage it. The NPA attitude has been that what was good for the developer was good for the city as a whole. Phillips, however, was going to adopt a "selective approach" toward development, adding "I'm not one of those who believes that all growth is good."

However, what Phillips meant by his statement was not what we might expect. He wasn't against high - rises; he simply wanted them to be more attractive and more spread out. But high - rises there would be. As Phillips told the Downtown Business Association: "Downtown is the executive centre of Western Canada. There is a great deal of room for expansion in the core area. But I believe basic densities should be reduced."

TEAM did indeed down-zone the downtown commercial areas, decreasing the allowable density of development. This in no way slowed down the pace of development which was the main issue. It merely spread the development out. Before TEAM, development was concentrated in one or two "superblocks." After TEAM, it was being strung out, especially along Georgia Street. If anything, the pace of development and

projections for future development has increased considerably. City planners have had to dramatically revise upward their estimates of how many people would be working in the downtown core.

There were two reasons for this. The mere fact that TEAM was in power rather than the NPA was reassuring to the pro-business interests which had become disenchanted with the way the NPA had been running things over the past few years.

The more important reason was the TEAM policy for rapid transit in the downtown core. Even before TEAM came into power, downtown business interests had seen the wisdom of rapid transit access to downtown rather than a spaghetti maze of freeways with half of the core area given over to parking. A rapid transit system would make downtown more accessible to more people, make the limited supply of downtown land more desirable for development, and hence further increase its already inflated value.

The real issue for downtown was how to control the growth of population and the continuing concentration of office workers. TEAM did not deal with this issue. Instead, they preoccupied themselves with the motherhood issue of improving the downtown environment, "to make the pedestrian king" as Phillips quaintly put it. However, when the needs of the "king pedestrian" came

into conflict with the desires of private property owners you can be sure which side Phillips supported.

One expression of the so-called "pedestrian king" approach is the Granville Mall. It isn't really a mall at all, but a widened sidewalk with vehicular traffic restricted to buses. But Phillips wanted the widened sidewalk to serve business interests. No public benches were provided. The only place for the public to sit was supposed to be in the "sidewalk restaurants", which, of course, cost money. Police patrols were doubled on Granville Street to control the more "undesirable" elements that might make shopping less attractive. The TEAM council was allowing street vendors to sell their wares on the widened sidewalk, but council was retaining control of what would be allowed, so that, "incompatible goods and displays in poor taste would not be detrimental to adjacent property owners."

TEAM did nothing to slow down the unrestrained growth of the downtown area, their only action being to spread out the growth rather than concentrate it in a small area. Rather, by drawing attention to the pedestrian environment with projects such as the Granville Mall, TEAM diverted the public's attention from the still unresolved issue of how large the downtown area should be.

VOTE "YES" Oct. 8

