

Future not too bright for Perth's public housing candidates

By Richard Landis
It's no secret that Perth has a housing shortage.

And while the vacancy rate here is as dismal as centres like Toronto, those hardest hit are the needy, who must often wait years for a spot in one of 16 family housing units made available through the Lanark County Housing Authority.

Nor is the situation here likely to brighten in the near future.

"A major problem is a general shortage of housing throughout the county, although it's a bit more critical in Perth," says Lanark County Community and Social Services director Ray Elgersma.

It's not unusual that "sub-standard housing is going for \$200 a month because of the shortage here," he added.

Those seeking public housing, or rent-to-income units as they are called, must wait their turn until a family already living in one of the houses decides to leave.

If a family is deemed eligible for public housing by the county's housing authority, the unit is theirs for as long as they wish.

Leases are renewed yearly and rent is based on 25 per cent of the family's gross income.

Families are required to move only if their children leave home. Couples, says housing authority manager Vic Gilmour, are not permitted to rent the units.

The 16 units here in town, "Living in dump"

Waits three years

for housing unit

By Richard Landis

Evicted from her decrepit living quarters on Railway Street, Lorraine D. and her four children had packed their belongings and readied themselves for the move to Interval House.

After a three-year wait, the family had still not been able to acquire one of the 16 rent-to-income family housing units available in Perth.

Lorraine (not her real name) had applied for a place to live in the fall of 1977, when she wrote to the Lanark County Housing Authority in Carleton Place.

During her three-year wait, the only correspondence she had personally received from the housing authority was a single letter saying her application had been received.

Four local agencies, including the health unit, Children's Aid, Community and Social Services and the Lanark County Language and Behaviour Development Program, have all contacted the housing authority on Lorraine's behalf during the past three years.

Their message was clear: "They were really in need of public housing. The place they were living at the time wasn't a desirable house. It wasn't fit for human habitation. In fact, it was a real dump," says one health unit nurse who asked that her name not be used.

"Last November," she added, "there was a concerted effort by three of the agencies" to secure a family housing unit for the family.

In addition, the health unit "had made several requests documenting a need" for new

CAS has new

approach to foster parenting

The Lanark County Children's Aid Society is launching a campaign to recruit and train area residents as foster parent counsellors in a new approach to foster parenting.

The counsellors will be trained to deal and care for teenagers with social and emotional problems.

Teenagers involved range in age from 12 to 16 and come from homes which cannot handle their present behaviour and without foster parenting would be placed in institutions outside the community.

The counsellors will be part of the agency's services like other foster parents and would receive payment for their services.

Similar programs have been established with success in other parts of Canada and Children's Aid Society officials are hoping enough counsellors can be recruited here to make the program worthwhile.

Anyone interested should call 267-3140.

located on Robinson, Railway and Welland Streets, are constantly in demand.

At present, six Perth families are on the waiting list for public housing here.

Their wait could be prolonged, depending on the number of bedrooms they require — a bedroom may only be shared by a couple, two children of the same sex over age six, or two children of different sexes if they are both under six years of age — income, the condition of the housing they are living in at the time they submit their application and a point system which gives the greatest priority "to those who are the neediest," says Gilmour.

"It's a fair and honest system," he added.

Public housing units available to families here include eight, three-bedroom, four, four-bedroom and four, two-bedroom units.

Five-bedroom houses are available in Carleton Place only.

Overall, family housing units here appear to be at a premium.

By comparison, Carleton Place — with a population of 5,612, compared to 5,669 for Perth — has 64 family housing units. Almonte, with a population of 3,821, has a dozen family units on hand.

There are no plans at present to construct additional public family housing in Perth, says Gilmour, because "the need's not high."

living quarters, she says.

Lorraine, at age 30, is the mother of four children aged five to 12 years. She and her husband have been separated for the past seven months.

"I lived in a real dump... It was a real fire trap. The wallpaper was hanging off the walls and the oil-cloth flooring was worn right down to the boards."

"There were no cupboards in the kitchen and I had to keep my pots and pans in the oven."

"It was quite cold in the winter, too, although the landlord did cement the cracks in the outside walls with a stick, but it rained one night and the cement fell off," she says.

Not only was it physically difficult living there, but the family's problems were compounded by psychological pressures as well.

"It was placing extra pressure on the family at a time when that's the last thing they needed," said the health unit nurse.

"Our first involvement with the housing authority was on October 23, 1979, when we sent a letter to Mr. Gilmour expressing the concern of our agency over the family's inadequate housing," said Lanark County Language and Behaviour Development Program behaviour consultant Soryl Markowitz.

"We told them that in order to see more of an improvement in the children, their living quarters should be improved. It was a real mess. It was completely

Continued on Page 16

And while Perth's public housing may lack the number Elgersma would like to see, he does say the town, "from my perspective, doesn't have the same

problems as Carleton Place and Smiths Falls," the latter of which does not fall under the county housing authority's control.

"They haven't ghettoized it here but, at the same time, they don't have as many units" as they should, he says.

The way they've laid out their housing here is a better way," says Elgersma, who adds: "It's an integrated approach to housing. They've been made a part of the community."

I hope that if more units are planned, they're scattered."

And how does the housing authority rate in Elgersma's eyes? "Fair. They have a tendency to be rather negative in their approach to applications, probably because they've been ripped off before," he says.



Doug Scorrar, a former Perth resident now living in Wendover, placed first in the annual Glen Tay Block Race with a time of 48:01 for the 9.6 mile course. The P&DCL graduate has been running regularly in the race since it was re-introduced to the area in 1967.

Historic cannons placed in mothballs

Perth's two historic cannons that have stood outside the courthouse for the past century won't be on display this year. The weapons were nearly

Perth fiddler places ninth in top competition

A Perth area resident placed ninth in fiddling competitions held at Shelbourne, Ontario last weekend.

Bruce Blair, of R.R. 4 Perth, came ninth in the open fiddling class from about 35 fiddlers who entered the finals.

The competition at Shelbourne is of the highest calibre in Canada, with fiddlers coming from across this country and the U.S. There were about 200 entrants in total.

In the Perth Old Time Fiddling and Step-Dancing competitions this year Blair placed 2nd in the open fiddling contest.

shipped off to the War Museum in Ottawa last fall when it was revealed that their history dates back to 1776.

At that time Judge John Matheson had requested the history of the cannons be researched and it was suggested the canons be put on display in Ottawa and replicas take their place at the courthouse site.

This caused a furor among some county councillors who voted 22-19 to keep the canons at the courthouse.

Since that time the weapons have been kept in storage in the courthouse building, where they'll remain until next year.

County clerk Keith Coulthart said the cannons need new carriages and that they will probably not be purchased until next year.

The cannons will remain in storage throughout the fall and winter, he said.

A committee of council, he said, didn't feel the guns would be safe remaining on their present carriages.

The Perth Courier

CNA

Established 1834

Incorporating The Perth Express



NO. 4

PERTH, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1980

PRICE 25

New food store for Perth by November

Shoppers, plagued by a shortage of shopping facilities since the March 7 IGA fire, will have a new food store to look forward to come mid-November.

That's the message from Ron Brownlee, who says a new, larger IGA foodliner will open its door to the public in about three months.

Brownlee, who has managed the former IGA, bought the Wilson Street lot from the Rubino family, he told members of town council at a special meeting held August 7 to discuss an application he had submitted for a building permit.

The new store, Brownlee said, will be built on the old IGA's foundations and will be nearly 19,000 square feet in size — almost 4,000 square feet larger than the former food store.

The front of the building will be constructed of brick and the rear and roof of the store in a pre-coloured metal material "and not concrete block, so it won't be an eyesore to the residents living west of the property," Brownlee told council.

All town zoning requirements, including an adequate buffer zone between the foodstore and existing homes in the immediate area, will be met, he said.

And while the old IGA was not equipped with a sprinkler system, Brownlee says he is "considering" the installation of a system.

"If it's required, we'll have it," he said.

"There's a grey line there," said Perth Fire Chief Jack Andison, who added a number of factors will have to be considered.

Under the Ontario Building Code, a foodstore with more than 15,000 square feet of actual retail space must have a sprinkler system, he added.

The new IGA, although 19,000 square feet in size, will probably have less than 15,000 square feet of retail space, Brownlee said.

Another matter he will be faced with is an eight-point petition submitted to the town March 25 by a group of Joy Avenue homeowners who requested council consider their concerns before agreeing to

give the IGA a building permit.

The eight points include: — Insure the proper drainage of the lot. At present time the lot drains towards Joy Avenue.

This results in a buildup of water which lays stagnant for days;

— The parking area around the store be completely paved to reduce dust and noise;

— A privacy barrier or buffering zone be adhered to minimum width of 10 feet with a suitable fencing or planting of mature trees along the lot line to provide a visual screen;

— That the complete exterior of the building be clad with a suitable material to insure that the building is not an eye sore. With the exception of the front

of the old building, the rough block exterior left a lot to be desired, and was not compatible to the surrounding residences;

— The air conditioning system be sound proof;

— The fencing should be the same type and height as the type presently installed at P.U.C. Building on Sunset Boulevard;

— The loading dock be constructed of a material to minimize sound;

— That Sealtest Dairy Ltd. deliver only to I.G.A. and not be able to use this property as a distribution centre for shipment to other stores. This practice has continued even after the fire.

Said Brownlee of the eight-point package: "I don't feel it will be a problem."

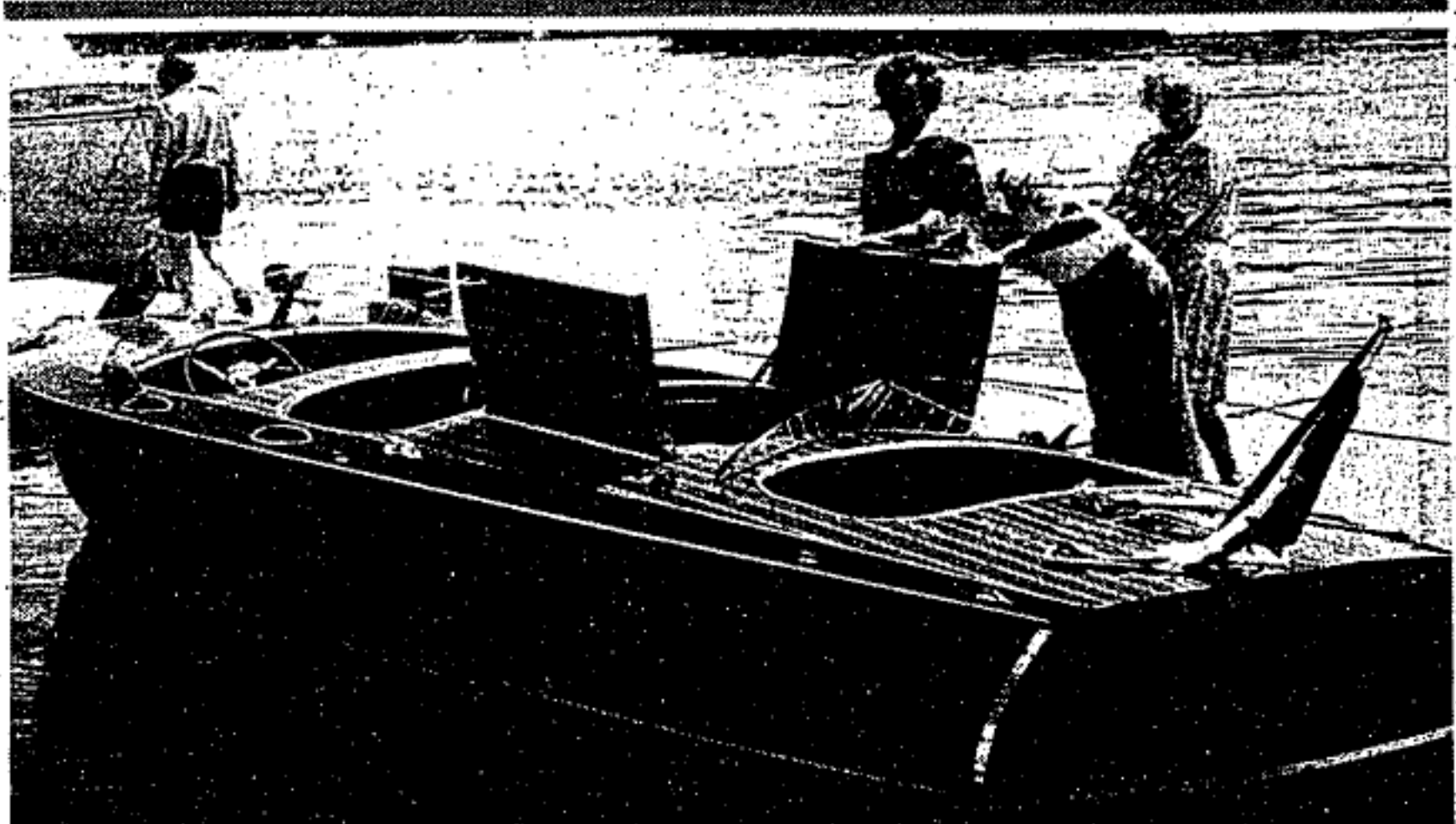
The residents' requests, he added, will be dealt with through Council.

Construction on the new IGA, added Brownlee, should begin sometime within the next two weeks.

News of the new food store will come as good news to local shoppers and businessmen alike.

During the past five months, shoppers have been forced to wait at long line-ups at the Super Save Store, which is not equipped to handle the volume of traffic it has been receiving; scatter their shopping.

Continued on Page 16



Boat enthusiasts from far and near converged on Rideau Ferry last weekend for the 5th Annual International Classic Boat Show. A

variety of boats were on display during the show, including the runabout shown above which was built during the 1930's.

Town inherits official shield of counterpart in Scotland

It's official! The town of Perth will inherit the shield of Perth, Scotland and carry on a tradition that stretches back to the twelfth century.

During its regular meeting Tuesday, Town Council was addressed by Judge John R. Matheson, who has acted as an intermediary between the two Perths in an attempt to secure the Scottish shield for this community.

The judge and Mayor Bill Warren were to have made council's selection of the shield public to officials in Perth, Scotland during a telephone call to that city at 9 a.m. this morn-

ing. Perth, Scotland, said Judge Matheson is the second most important city in Scotland, is a former capital city and is a royal burgh of King David I, dating from 1124 to 1127.

The authentic coat-of-arms to be adopted by the town will differ from a version previously described as having two fleur de lys and a sheaf of wheat in the centre of the shield.

The shield will be comprised of a lamb carrying a cross. The sheaf of wheat will not be included and the fleur de lys, which are part of the original, are partially blocked out by the coat-of-arms border.

Nor is there any reason for the inclusion of the fleur de lys to cause any controversy since the emblem represents Scottish rule in this case and does not have its origins with France.

The term merely means a three-petalled flower and is synonymous with the Iris and Trefoil.

The choice of the authentic shield over a modified coat-of-arms was a unanimous decision on council's part.

"I think this is the one we should go for," said Mayor Warren.

It's an honour, he added, that Perth, Scotland should want this community to carry on its coat-of-arms.

"This town was settled by Scottish people and the town of Perth should be highly honoured."

"The original, authentic coat-of-arms is what we've been looking for all along," he said.

The afternoon celebrations consisted of music and dancing, with a dinner held at 5 p.m. MC for the program was William Sargeant.

Homecoming Day draws crowd to Snow Road

It was Homecoming Day in Snow Road last weekend and almost 300 people crammed the tiny highway 509 community for an afternoon of celebration.

Also on the afternoon agenda was the opening of the South Palmerston community centre located in a renovated schoolhouse in Snow Road.

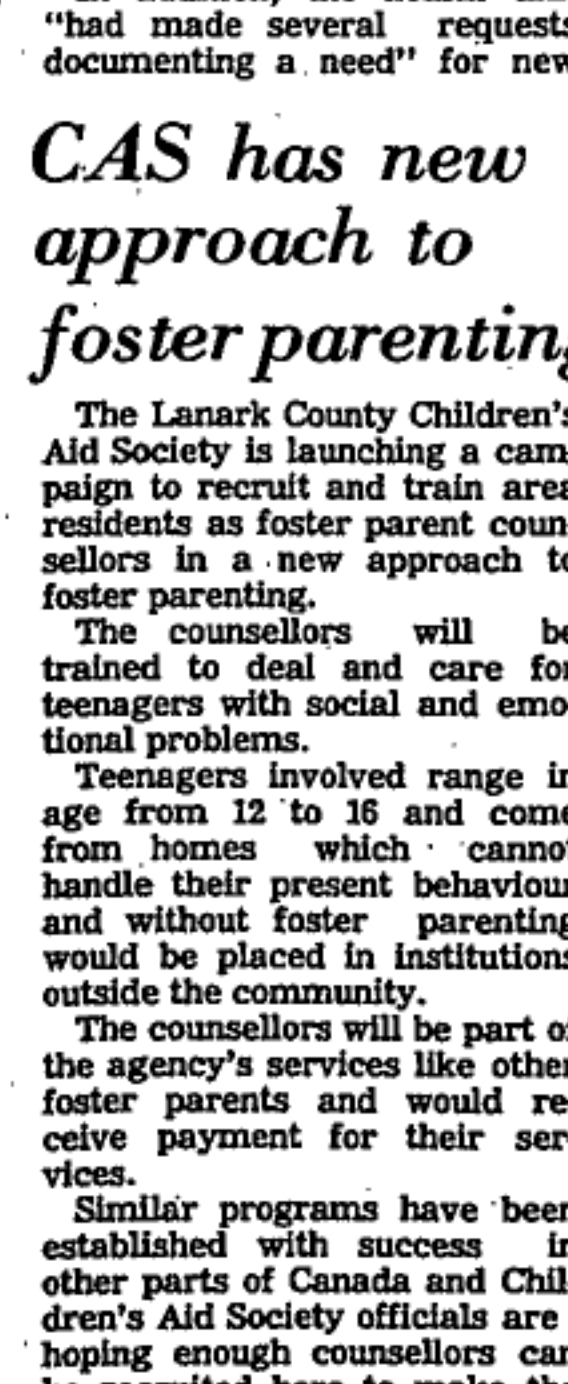
In 1977 the first steps toward the creation of a community centre were taken when a public committee was formed to get the project off the ground.

A senior citizen's grant was used to construct washrooms

and a kitchen in the building and the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and Wintario provided other grants to finish off the building.

Among the dignitaries on hand for the opening were Minister of Government Services, Doug Wiseman, Frontenac-Lennox-Addington MP Bill Van Koughnet and MLA for the area Earl McEwen.

The afternoon celebrations consisted of music and dancing, with a dinner held at 5 p.m. MC for the program was William Sargeant.



They're off! Over 100 runners from across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec gallop down Gore Street on the first leg of the Glen Tay Block Race. It was a smoothly run race from start to

finish, say organizers, although humidity caused some problems with runners.