



# The CENTRE ISLAND

AN



TORONTO, APRIL, 1954.

## PLAN TO BUY HOMES AS LEASES EXPIRE

Purchase by the City of Island homes as their leases expire, apparently as part of a long-term program to clear the Islands for re-development purposes, is being anxiously discussed and studied by residents with a view to representations at the next City Parks Committee meeting May 6.

Decision on a recommendation by the city's real estate division for purchase of eight Lakeshore homes on which the leases expire this year was postponed for two weeks at a Parks Committee meeting April 22, after Ald. Herbert Orliffe asked for extra time in order to confer with Island ratepayers.

Ald. Orliffe said the purchase plan was based on supposition since the Metropolitan Council had not yet decided whether it was going to take over the Island from the city and develop it as a park.

### REPORT

The proposal to buy the eight Lakeshore homes was contained in a report signed by the city treasurer and the city solicitor, which noted that ten leases on the main Island were expiring in 1954.

"The city is not compellable to renew these leases or any lease expiring in years subsequent to 1954", the report continued.

"Your officials are of the opinion that it would be advantageous if the leases on these eight Lakeshore Avenue properties were terminated upon various expiry dates in 1954 and, therefore, recommend that the City Treasurer be authorized to inform the lessees that their leases will not be renewed and to negotiate respecting compensation."

### OWNERS

The eight homes involved are: 72 Lakeshore, N. D. Radcliffe; 76, Dr. G. M. A. Gough; 86, W. C. Riley; 96, Howard Rawlings; 100, Scott Burrill; 118, Dave Scanlon; 120 W. J. Jones; 138, Ross.

Of the two remaining leases expiring in 1954, one is that of the Queen City Yacht Club on Algonquin Island.

"As the Club is recreational in character, its continued occupancy of Island land should not interfere with any plans for Island re-development and we can see no reason why its lease should not be renewed for a term expiring December 31, 1958," the report stated.

The other expiring lease mentioned was at No. 7 Iroquois, of which it was noted only that the property was flanked on either side by premises under lease until 1958.

The eight Lakeshore houses were said to be located on land "which would be required if a roadway were to be constructed as proposed by the Toronto City Planning Board in its report of 1949 and filling would be necessary, as the land is somewhat low."

### AVOID EXPROPRIATION

The report also pointed out that if it were decided to re-develop the Island by taking over properties before the leases had expired, the City would have to expropriate the leasehold interests. In determining compensation, this would involve consideration not only of the building value, but other factors, such as compensation for the unexpired term of the lease and, in some cases, for business disturbance.

From the city's point of view, said Harry Mattson, city real estate official, the most logical way was to purchase the houses as the leases expired and then rent them to the present owners.

Reactions of Islanders generally to the proposal were varied. Most seemed to accept the idea that some such announcement was to be expected sooner or later.

"Well, at least we know that they intend to clear the Island by 1958," said one long-time resident.

Many were critical, however, of the way in which the proposal had been announced. Although the usual copy of the agenda of the Parks Committee meeting at which it was to be discussed was sent to the Inter-Island Council, the householders affected were not informed.

### WAIT TILL '58

Initial view of many was summed up by Ald. Orliffe, who said at the parks meeting that he thought all residents should be dealt with on the same basis in 1958 when the last of the 21-year leases on city-owned Island land expired.

Fear was expressed by many that a "piecemeal" taking over of residences as leases expired would accelerate a trend towards slum conditions, whether the houses were to continue to be rented by the city and occupied until 1958 or more leases.

Residents whose leases were due to expire shortly would have little incentive to keep up their properties and there was doubt as to the amount of maintenance the city would feel obliged to perform as landlord.

There were 555 leases expiring over the 15-year period to 1965, it was reported at the Parks Committee meeting, of which the largest number, including 1958. During the final year, 112 will expire. Expiry dates for the eight Lakeshore homes range from April 30 to Dec. 31.

### OWNERS' OPINIONS

At a meeting of the eight Lakeshore owners last Sunday, opinion was divided as to the most acceptable alternative. Four of the eight were reported to want their leases renewed, if possible; two others were said to be willing to sell now and were more or less agreeable to the proposal, depending on the terms of compensation and future rental, while the remaining two had no particular preference as to the possible alternatives.

Opinion varied according to individual circumstances, including length of residence, amount of work and money invested and permanent or summer residence only.

## "Wall Worth Looking At"

When talk is tiring And liquor falls Don't throttle your partner— Have a look at the walls. A set of murals based on Island themes will soon adorn the walls of the C.I.A. Clubhouse. Thanks to the efforts of a group of Island artists.

Permission to "paint what they choose" was given the group at a recent meeting of the Centre Island Association, which has agreed to donate the paint and necessary supplies.

Exactly what the subjects will be is still being worked out by the artists.

"They'll be paintings based on forms and shapes and scenes you associate with the Island—not cartoons," said one.

The murals will be located on the upper portion of the walls, where they will be seen to advantage—and also be safely out of reach.

Taking part in the project are Bill Patterson, John Hogg, Ron Butler, Tom Hodgson, Tom Schell and Phil Sharp.

## TOTS SIGN UP MAY 11 and 12

Special days have been set aside for the registration of five-year-olds in next term's kindergarten. Parents may register their children May 11th and 12th in the library of the Island School, between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

The special arrangement will give both parent and child a chance to meet the teachers and see the new kindergarten room. It should also avoid delay and confusion on the first day of school.

Parents are advised to bring the child's birth certificate, which is required for registration.

## BULLOCK HEADS INTER-ISLAND

Geoff Bullock, 26 Hooper Ave., was re-elected chairman of the Inter-Island Council for a second term at the organization's annual meeting Monday, April 19, at the Island Legion Hall.

Others chosen were: Pat Lane, vice chairman, succeeding Allan Howard; Harold Aikens, re-elected recording secretary; Bruce Henderson, treasurer.

In his annual report, Mr. Bullock said he believed the most significant event of the year had been "a steadily increasing decision, both by the authorities and by organizations and individuals that the Islands must be kept as a recreational area."

Further meetings attended by representatives of the eight affected executive members of the Inter-Island Council and Ald. Orliffe are being held in order to determine submissions to be made at the next Parks Committee meeting.

Inter-Island Council representative at the previous Parks meeting was the former C.I.A. president Jim Roberts. Pat Lane is convener of a special Inter-Island Council committee considering the matter.

## POLICE CRACK DOWN ON "MISSING" BIKES

An effort to cut down on the number of bicycles regularly reported "missing", stolen and damaged will be made by Island police.

Each year, an average of some 500 bicycles is reported "missing." Most—but not all—are recovered by police or just "turn up", in varying states of repair. In addition, numerous complaints are received, particularly during the Spring and Fall, of damage to machines and petty theft of parts and accessories.

"We're going to try and cut down on this sort of thing," promises Patrol Sgt. Maxwell J. Proctor, who recently joined the local detachment.

If they're to be successful, though, police warn, they'll need the full co-operation of residents.

To protect their machines, police advise Islanders to do two things: first, get a license; second, buy a lock—a good one—and use it.

### CHEAP INSURANCE

Purchase of a license is now not only a compulsory contribution to City finances; it's also about the cheapest insurance a bicycle owner can get. When a bicycle is damaged, a record of the serial number stamped on the frame is made. In event of theft, this number provides police with the surest means of identifying the machine. Even if the license receipt slip has been lost, the serial number is on record and can be obtained by police.

Bicycle licenses for 1953 expired as of March 31, 1954. New licenses may be obtained either by presenting or mailing in last year's license receipt, together with the one-dollar fee, to the city treasurer's office at the City Hall.

Police start checking for licenses at the Mantion Bridge early in May. After a week or so's grace—commencing usually about the middle of May—the police caution is likely to be replaced by a summons. The same goes for bicycle riding on prohibited thoroughfares—the Lakeshore Boardwalk, the Mantion Road from the bridge approach to the Lakeshore.

### MOST RECOVERED

Of all bicycles reported missing to police, over 95 per cent are normally recovered. Of these, between three and four per cent turn up in the city, usually at house time. The rest are found "somewhere" on the Islands. From two to three per cent are not recovered.

## LEGION SPONSORS BOYS' SOFTBALL

An organizational meeting of all Island boys between the ages of 10 and 16 interested in playing softball this Summer will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at the Legion Hall on Iroquois Ave., Centre Island.

Sponsored by the Islands Branch of the Canadian Legion, the league will be open to youngsters living on any of the Islands. Also invited to attend the meeting are any fathers interested in assisting.

Expert instruction will be provided by head coach Fred Mazza, one of Toronto's leading softball players. Sweats and equipment will be supplied and trophies and crests will be awarded the winning team at the end of the season.

## FOLLIES FOR '53 SHOWS PROFIT

A net profit of \$363.31 was shown in the Ferryboat Follies financial statement for 1953 announced recently by president Bert Oldenbach.

Total receipts from ticket and program sales, including \$113 cash on hand from the previous year, amounted to \$1,492.65.

Expenses totalled \$1,129.34, including program printing, \$155; tickets and stationery, \$39.38; orchestra, \$225; sound equipment \$75; rent clubhouse, \$125; chairs, \$90; C.I.A. memberships, \$25; advertising, \$20; cast party, \$150; Underwood Typewriter Ltd. \$44; miscellaneous (make-up, costumes, stage, lights, music etc.) \$115.36; gifts, \$16.44.

## "NEW FACES" ON THE MAIN DRAG

New face are expected on the Island in the spring of the year, but this time many of them are on the main drag store fronts. The Mantion's new face provides seating capacity for twice as many in the glassed-in porch, and should attract more with the gray lamps and wrought iron railings at its front entrance. The Pearson has also renovated, with stripes of green corrugated fibreglass.

A completely new establishment on the drag is Roy Miller's Bake Shop, where Roy and Betty have recently undertaken to supply Islanders with fresh baked goods made on the premises. For a while, they are supplying Barton's and Freddie's with confectionaries. Roy used to be a baker, and before setting up his own shop on the drag, worked in Hughes'.

Bartons have moved from their old site to the Way-bing renovated now to be ready in time for a season of banquets being booked in the city. It will also be open at lunch and dinner hours to the public. The exterior is being painted ivory white and maroon, and the bowling alley is also having a face lifting.

Freddie's, Helen Gray's gift shop and the drug store at side Inn. The Colonial Room is all open now for the season. Steve expects to open his establishment in the middle of May. And, of course, Clayton's introduced their new color scheme and new prices—several months ago.

## The CENTRE ISLANDER

Published 15 times throughout the year  
by the Centre Island Association.

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## LONG Ponderings

BY JOHN WILLCOCKS

Glad to see you all back if only because we were beginning to wonder if the Island would ever be warm enough to come back to. Trying to duck some of the filthy winter we took a trip to Nassau — a torrid, pompous hotbed of snobbery in the Bahamas. While we were there so were Lords Beaverbrook and Kemsley, ballerina Margot Fonteyn, singer Georgia Gibbs, the man who writes the "Mandrake the Magician" comic strip, Danny Kaye's wife, the Archbishop of York, Zsa Zsa Gabor's sister Magda, and the president of the Ronson lighter firm. Elegant company. But they could all afford to pay \$1.60 for a sandwich and we couldn't. So after three weeks of it we returned to civilization... other Islanders have wandered this winter. Mail bag brought a card from the Anderson twins in Honolulu, a letter from artistic Audrey Gerth who's in Montreal but may be back, and several brief communiques from water-skiing Brian Woods, now in Las Vegas. We're authorized to pass on Brian's address to anyone except the Household Finance man... Island Theatre boss Gren Hobson says nightly programs (they've been only three days a week during the winter) resume about mid-May with twice-weekly change of programs... why wasn't the subway built right across to the Island so that losses on running ferries could be absorbed into the TTC's overall budget? Answer is that to get the required depth tunnelling would have had to start way up Yonge Street involving deeper stairways and expenses so colossal that TTC's chief engineer told us he couldn't even begin to estimate them... former Islander Jacques Leblanc, holder of national springboard diving champion-



Mr. Stork has been a busy fellow around these parts in the last few months. So, belatedly, hearty congratulations to Bob and Gladys (McCausland) Connolly on the birth of a son Robert Brian; for "Greg" and Pat Gregory on the arrival of a daughter; for the "Chapple" Howes who recently welcomed a second son into the family.

Glad to hear the Leonard family is back on the road to good health. Russell Leonard was a pretty sick little fellow in February, and his mother and sister Julie were later ill with jaundice, but are recovering.

Welcome home to Jim and Lil Larder, who recently returned from a long holiday in England and are now staying with their daughter, Mrs. George, before moving into their old home again. Mr. Larder was the lighthouse keeper on the Island until his retirement in August last year.

It's adieu to the George Demp-

ship, won't be back this summer. Won't even defend her title, she says. Instead will return to Quebec from whence she came... advertising account executive Lou McCartney always looking for photogenic VIP's for his series "Successful men use you-know-what shaving cream". A recent subject was book matchman Bert Oldershaw, a striking subject... Bert incidentally, reports that his three-oh-six Lakeshore (titled because of its surplus of women) was fully booked for the season long before the last snow melted. Looks like being a good summer for landlords... cycle thieves (bad cess to them) will find things tougher if the new police staff continue with their crack-down. Meanwhile they'd better watch out for friend Trusty who confides that he often sees somebody riding a bike that isn't his own and doesn't hesitate to report it...

## ISLAND MART

Anything to buy or sell?

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after family, who are moving to the mainland after 9 years residence on the Island.

The arrival of spring should see things beginning to stir around the H.I.A. Our Treasurer, Bill McGolpin, has recently returned from a holiday cruise in the West Indies.

"Windy"

FOR SALE 1 fur coat, 1 station coat, reasonable price. EM. 6-3067.

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## TEENAGE TIDBITS

**By the Cox Kids**  
 Howdy Hounddoggers! Well, the gang at the new parish hall finally got around to electing some representatives. Pete Jones, an all-round-right guy came out on top as the first president. Our vice-president is a city guy, Chuck Carr (his gal lives on Centre). Second vice-president is Noreen Philpott, another one of them there Wards Islanders. Betty, behind the filtration plant, Cutting is recording secretary. Following in his pop's footsteps is Al Rae Jr., as advertising secretary. The Joe to trust with our money is John, hang on to your wallet, Shunshui, treasurer.

THIS IS NEWS?

Anybody seen Bernice Jones lately? Wow! What a haircut will do for a little gal!

It's fairly obvious that Shirley Weatherby and Larry Collins are like THAT!

Catherine (Buntz) Aitken, a lifelong Islander, is the new supervisor over on Wards for '54. Congrats Buntz.

Only six weeks more of ye olde schoole, eh gang? Oho boy, oh boy!

EM. 8-7246. . . What blonde young lady recently acquired this unforgettable number?

### ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN

Dear Cox Kids:

I am sixteen years old and have lived on the island all my life. I am bored with life. Boys take me out but I simply haven't got a crush on anyone. Do you think there is something wrong with me?

Your sincerely,  
 Sniffles.

Dear Sniffles:

No.  
 How about giving us your views on the news, eh gang? See you all next month.

### FATHER and SON BANQUET HELD

The first annual Father and Son Banquet of the Church of St. Andrew-by-the-Lake was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 27th. The banquet was arranged by Miss Giles, Choir Association President, and ladies of the choir. The tables were set up by A.Y.P.A. members.

A toast "To Our Fathers" was proposed by Michael Schooner, born, and responded to by Mr. G. Bullock, representing the fathers. Kenneth Daby gave a vote of thanks to the ladies of the choir for arranging the banquet, and to friends in the congregation who had donated food.

Entertainment included a play-back of a record of the

speeches, remarks and general noise which Andy Kuffack had taken during the banquet.

Vaughan Cooke, a former member of the boy's choir who has left the Island to live in the city, was presented by Gordon Cameron with a book of bible stories.

### Island Theatre

Commencing Wednesday, May 15, the Island Theatre will be open six nights a week. It is announced by manager Gren Hobson. Coming attractions include: "Farmer Takes A Wife", Martin and Lewis in "The Caddy", Gary Cooper in "Return To Paradise". Featured showings on the May 24th holiday will be Walt Disney's "Peter Pan" and Alec Guinness in "Malta Story".

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## STRICTLY SOCIAL . .

Doug Beale will fly May 4th to Europe, where he will visit Paris and London in his business as a jewel importer. He will be back in June to stay at 6 Oriole.

Mr. S. L. Purcell of Ann Arbor was visiting her sister, Mrs. Ethel Johnson at 4a Oriole this month.

Just as the summer residents move in, Ed and Pat Rudd and baby Christopher have moved out, to their new home in the city.

Opening of the summer season is traditionally marked by the annual dance held by the Radnottin Club. This year's event is planned for Friday, May 7th, in the Centre Island Clubhouse. Music will be by the Vibratones.

A daughter, Jeannine Marie, was born to Marie and Al Prevost, 15 St. Andrews Ave., April 19th. The new baby is a sister for Kathleen.

Mrs. Janet Barnes, 5 Chipewawa, is home and recovering from her recent operation.

Miss Marguerite Long spent Easter week with friends in Cleveland Ohio. Miss Long will be leaving the Island School in June and will be married, some time in the summer to Mr. Robert Krauss of Cleveland.

### Canoe Trophies Presented

Presentation of trophies to last year's winners and a talk on swimming and water safety precautions by marathon swimmer Ernest Vierkotter highlighted a father-and-son banquet held by the Canoe Club Thursday evening at Willow Lodge.

Films on paddling and other sports were shown and two new trophies donated by Bob Gunn and Mike Sullivan were displayed.

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There's two more shiny noses for the census taker to jot down as of this edition. It's a little Sea Scout for HELEN and REG SPRAGG, born on the 15th of March, namely PAUL ANTHONY GARDNER SPRAGG. For SHIRLEY and WALLY OATH-WAITE it was a cute little girl here he went into advertising Susan.

It's good to see DON SAUNDERS around again after a rather serious operation. DON, who served two years as president of the A.I.A., and one year as chairman of the Inter-Island Council, has worked very hard for the community and we certainly wish him a speedy recovery.

Easter Sunday, April 13th, was an eventful day for the boys and girls of the A.I. Sunday School. Attendance awards were presented to 26 children. Notable amongst these were MAVIS HEADWORTH and PATSY WARD who had both attended 27 out of a possible 28 Sundays.

JACK and BETTY CRAIG have had a couple of lucky visitors with them this Spring... Jack's brother and sister-in-law from Paisley, Scotland, MR. & MRS. JAMES CRAIG. Did we say lucky? They, the Paisley Craigs, won a football pool in the Old Country and collected about \$8,000.00. They had promised themselves a trip to Canada if they ever won.

DIG, DIG, DIG... The A.I. Garden Club which last year secured the lovely flower beds at the bridge, and gave everybody a shot (pistol shot) in the arm, held their first meeting of the year on Tuesday, 13th of April. New officers were elected and another banner year is

predicted. Give President JIM SPOTTISWOOD a call if you're not already in this wonderful club.

PAT McGRATH, head bird for the badminton, reports the championship tournament is progressing rapidly and expects to crown the new champs before the end of April.

Al Gonk.

### TENNIS UNDER WAY SOON

Tennis will soon be under way at both Island tennis clubs. It is hoped that the two back courts at Island Park will be ready early in May. An instruction program for beginners is planned again this year at Island Park. Club activities will, as usual, include round robins, dances, corn roasts and final tournaments.

A major attraction at Island Park is the opportunity for night-time play. Three of the five courts are equipped with lights which are in operation until 12 p.m. New members and former members intending to play again this season are invited to get in touch with either Jim Murray, 38 Iroquois Ave., EM. 8-474, or John Hogg, 1 St. Andrew's Ave. EM. 8-4857.

### COMMUNITY TENNIS

Parks Board employees have been working on Community tennis courts, and the courts are expected to be ready for an opening Round Robin Tournament May 24th, according to club president Pat Lane. Members of the Island Park Tennis Club are invited to participate. Memberships to Community

Tennis Club will be accepted by Pat Lane, 31 Iroquois Ave., EM. 8-4516. The fee for the season is \$3.00.

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## ICE CREAM SUNDAE MAKING CONTEST

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