



# The CENTRE ISLANDER

TORONTO, MAY, 1954

## FLEMING TO FIGHT LEASE TERMINATION

Donald Fleming, Q.C., Progressive Conservative M.P. for Toronto-Eglinton and a former Island resident, has agreed to act as counsel for a group of Island leaseholders battling the city's move to terminate expiring Island leases.

Mr. Fleming, a past commodore of the old Island Aquatic Association, was approached following a meeting of some 150 Island ratepayers Thursday, May 13, sponsored by the Inter-Island Council's lease committee. At the meeting it was decided to press for renewal until 1968 of all expiring leases, with similar provision for renewal then as now contained in the lease.

### FUND ESTABLISHED

The meeting voted to establish a fund to meet the cost of retaining counsel in a resolution calling on each leaseholder to contribute \$5.

Up to Monday night, some fifty-one Island residents had subscribed a total of \$260. Contributors included: W. Fairney, 16 St. Andrews; A. E. Nash, 33 Inglewood; J. R. Dye, 19 Seneca; J. E. Howard, 248 Lakeshore; E. A. Knight, 270 Lakeshore; Mrs. E. Dinmore, 288 Lakeshore; H. Aiken, 290 Lakeshore; T. Ivers, 9 Inglewood; T. E. Scotland, 34 Andrews; B. Henderson, 10 Dacatah; N. Carter, 2 Dacatah; B. Russell, 1 Dacatah; J. Ogy Oriole; Sally Johnson, 9 Wyndol; T. Bradford, 274 Lakeshore; A. Duguid, 5 Willow; A. Gamble, 10 4th St.; A. V. Thomson, 4th St.; Mrs. Ross, Lakeshore; W. Greer, Algonquin; J. J. Jones, 120 Lakeshore; N. Radcliffe, Lakeshore; P. Hughes; C. Findley; R. Silver; T. Hopp; J. Williams, 700 Lakeshore; G. Duggan, 248 Lakeshore; M. S. A. Wilson, 292 Lakeshore; J. Larder, 281 Hiawatha; Lakeview Manor; W. J. Blaney, 252 Lakeshore; S. B. Pete, 10 St. Andrews; J. Roberts; Mr. & Mrs. Gallagher; K. Mackenzie, 11 Oriole; Mrs. Johnston, 300 Lakeshore; K. S. Gregory, 3 Dacatah; M. Johnston, 4 Oriole; M. Grant, 55 Lakeshore; H. Scotland, 34 Omaha; F. Bond, 9 Hooper; W. J. Hogg, 1 St. Andrews; G. Winters; H. Frander, 14 Hooper; J. Armour, 122 Lakeshore; J. A. Warnock; E. Woodford; G. Bullock; M. Haas; Dr. R. Greig.

Names of subsequent contributors will be published in the next issue of the Islander.

All persons wishing to contribute to the fund are asked to make their contributions, either in cash or by cheque payable to the Inter-Island Council, to their local lease committee representative. These are: Centre Island, Pat Lane or Harold Atkes; Algonquin, Bruce Henderson; Hiawatha Point, Eric Morik; Ward's A.M. Gamble.

Plans to purchase Island homes as their leases expire, apparently as part of a long-term program to clear the Island for re-development purposes, was first announced at a city parks committee meeting April 22. In the new well-known report signed by the city treasurer and city solicitor, the parks committee was asked to authorize termination of leases on eight Lakeshore properties and negotiation with owners regarding compensation.

### POSTPONEMENT

Decision on the proposal was postponed for two weeks until the committee's next meeting after Ald. Herbert Orloffie asked for extra time to confer with Island ratepayers.

In the meantime, meetings sponsored by officials of the Inter Island Council and of the

## '54 FOLLIES

A meeting of Islanders interested in staging, dancing, acting, stage-handing or designing for the Perry Boat Follies this summer will be called soon by Pat Hacker, president of the C.I.A.

Since the Follies organization was not able to form its own executive to function this summer, the Follies will be held under the auspices of the C.I.A. with Pat Hacker acting as director. All profits from the venture will go into the Club treasury, eventually to help the heating fund and other projects along.



City Parks Committee chairman Ald. Kenneth Waters examines photographs of city-owned Island properties provided by Inter-Island Council representative Alan Howard in support of Island brief presented Thursday, May 6, at City Hall. In a 40-minute submission to the Parks Committee, Mr. Howard argued that the proposed termination of expiring Island leases and rental of houses by the city would result in unnecessary hardship to Islanders and deterioration of property. Some homes previously taken over by the City had been neglected to the point where they could no longer be rented and had had to be condemned, Mr. Howard stated.

owners immediately affected were held. At the committee's next meeting May 6 a brief prepared by the Inter-Island Council was submitted by Alan Howard, well-known Island resident and past vice-president of the Inter-Island Council.

At the meeting to lend their psychological support as gallery spectators were some 100 Island residents.

In his brief, Mr. Howard criticized the proposal as premature in view of the fact that the Metropolitan Council was still considering whether it was going to take over the Islands and that, as yet, no overall plan for re-development had been agreed upon by the authorities.

The report submitted to the parks committee noted that the eight Lakeshore properties were on the route of the roadway proposed by the joint City-Harbor Commission plan of 1949, but there was no reason, it was argued, to assume that Metro would consider this plan as having more merit than any of the various other plans that had been suggested.

### DISCRIMINATION

The proposal before the Parks Committee was discriminatory, Mr. Howard declared, in that, until recently, leases were being renewed until 1968.

"Now suddenly and without any warning to the people concerned, it is proposed to bring about a situation where many householders will find that their

## MURALS, NEW STAGE FOR CLUBHOUSE

Thanks to the efforts and varied talents of a number of Island residents, the Centre Island Association Clubhouse is rapidly becoming not only a highly useful, but also a highly attractive year-round community centre.

Latest improvement is a gay set of murals by Island artists Bill Patterson, Tom Hodgson, Tom Schell, Phil Sharp, Hans Kleefeld and John Hogg.

Based on Island themes, the murals are mainly bright and amusing abstracts. Most eye catching is Bill Patterson's serene full bodied mermaid gracefully reclining in the space above the double doors in the main hall, her Island, complete with lighthouses and lagoons, spread out beneath her. In fact, Bill's mermaid appears as a sort of presiding deity over not only the curving outlines of her territory, but also over the various other attractions associated with the Island. On her right is Tom Hodgson's lively interpretation of "Regatta Day" and next to it, Phil Sharp's bird forms, while on her left are Hans Kleefeld's colorful cubist impression of the "Cayuga" and designs based on fish forms by Pat Schell.

The artists were given a free hand to paint what they chose by the C.I.A. executive, headed by president Pat Hacker, which authorized expenditure of up to \$100 to finance decoration of the hall. So far, the group has spent only a fraction of that amount. Brushes and other materials have been supplied by Reg McMillan. Volunteer workers Jill Carver and Marie Adams helped to paint on the yards of groundwork underlying the paintings.

Next project to be undertaken will be the reconstruction of the clubhouse stage, headed by Bill Patterson and Jack Hartell. Plans are to re-build the present stage on a "drawbridge" principle so that it can be moved out of the way simply by hoisting up both halves against the walls. By the time next winter comes, the C.I.A. executive hopes, full year-round use of the clubhouse should be a reality. A total of approximately \$1,400 of the \$2,000 needed for installation of a heating plant designed to heat the whole clubhouse has now been pledged. Depending on the amount of money that can be raised from C.I.A. membership fees, sponsored dances and other events during the next few months, it is hoped that a start can be made on the heating project in the near future.

## "CAYUGA" SAILS AGAIN JUNE 5

When the Cayuga takes to the water again June 5th, there'll be an Islander in her wheelhouse beside Captain J. D. Strachan. He is Alan Howard, who has lived almost all his life with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Joe Howard, at 410 Lakeshore. Alan was vice-president of last year's Inter Island Council, and is now active organizing opposition to the city's plan for taking over Island property.

### ALAN'S IDEA

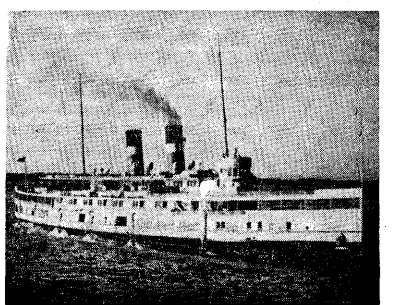
The idea of buying the Cayuga came to Alan Howard at the end of the navigation season of 1951, when the Canada Steamship Line decided to sell her, the last of their passenger fleet. He worked for two years trying to form a syndicate to buy and operate the ship, finally incorporating the Cayuga Steamship Company, and selling \$100,000 worth of shares to the people of Toronto to pay for her. Alan was made managing director of the com-

pany, with Roland Michener, M.P. for Toronto-St. Paul's riding, as president.

The Cayuga will resume her old run between Toronto-Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake, with two or three round trips every day of the operating season. Her purchase price included docks and land at Queenston and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

### SERVICE

Alan thinks the new company can operate the ship at a profit, which Canada Steamship failed to do, for two reasons. One is that their organization is less complex and cheaper to keep going—the C.S.L. had a whole passenger department in operation for just one ship. The other is that the organization, motivated as much by a sentimental desire to keep "the ship that wouldn't die" on the lake as by a desire for a return on the shareholders' money, is willing to give a lot of time and thought to tempting the public on board.



## FILM GROUP

Something unusual and stimulating in the way of film entertainment is promised residents attending the first showing to be held by a new Island film group 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 25th, at the C.I.A. Clubhouse.

Documentaries and National Film Board features, rather than metropolitan films, will be the main items exhibited at the regular showings. It is hoped that meetings will continue throughout the winter as well as during the summer.

## The CENTRE ISLANDER

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## ISLAND LEASES

A group of Island ratepayers has now retained distinguished and able legal counsel in the person of Donald Fleming to oppose the recent proposal by the city to terminate Island leases as they expire.

This move on the part of the ratepayers is prompted by their justifiable anxiety as to what such a policy would mean in terms of depreciation of their property and detriment to the community. However, although the Islands undoubtedly do comprise a community, and a tightly knit one, they are part of the City of Toronto.

As such, certain facts about the Islands must be recognized. The Islands are not suitable for long-term residential use. Septic tanks do not function well enough to maintain sanitary conditions at all times. The lots are smaller than the minimum now required by city by-law where septic tanks are in use, and the high and varying water level impedes their function. The fact that basements cannot be dug means that housing is not to the standard that people generally consider necessary. The fact that most of the houses were built as summer homes means that many are not comfortable for all-year living, so that maximum use, necessary in a city as short of houses as Toronto, is not possible. The housing shortage is the main reason for their use at present. Servicing the Islands for residential use is far more expensive than in other parts of the city. Police and fire protection, transportation, garbage collection and other services cost more to provide to an area as isolated and limited as this.

This land is needed for recreational use. In a city the size of Toronto, with land as scarce and expensive and housing as badly organized for decent living, a recreational area so near to the part of the population which really needs it can be an answer to many problems. Three thousand people—a high estimate of the stable population of the Island—cannot expect continued maintenance of the Island for residential use indefinitely.

It appears, and the Inter Island Council recognizes, that using the Island for the maximum good of the city as a whole entails redevelopment of the Island for recreational use. This will involve, sooner or later, the removal of residences. Does this mean proceeding, without a plan to take over Island homes.

We don't think so. We think, before any negotiations are entered into, that the authority for the Island should be established, a plan should be presented and followed. The Metropolitan Council is still considering assuming the authority for the Island. When its decision is made, the first step will be completed.

The plan presented by the Toronto City Planning Board in 1949 does not fill the second requirement. It is a plan submitted by the Harbour Commission on the request of the City. It has never been officially adopted. There are a number of questionable suggestions in it. One is the filling in of the existing lagoons and the creation of a regatta course straight through the centre of the Islands. Another is the building of a road joining the Island to the mainland at the Eastern gap by a bridge and at the Western gap by a tunnel. Both these suggestions, in view of opposition expressed by the Local Council of Women, the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Community Planning Association of Canada and numerous individuals, as well as the Inter Island Council, appear to be undesirable to both Island and city residents. The very fact that the plan was formulated more than five years ago, before Metro was formed, the Subway completed, the Expressway planned, or the Green Belt area as much a reality as it is today, raises doubt as to both the wisdom and likelihood of its implementation. So far, however, it is the only plan referred to in the proposal now before the City Parks Committee.

Once a plan for the redevelopment of the Island is settled upon, its execution may involve expropriation and immediate work on certain properties. In that case, the interests of some individuals may have to be sacrificed. The policy suggested by the Inter Island Council has been, retain residences as long as possible, meanwhile developing land, such as Muggs Island, hitherto unused. It can be understood, however, that some removal may be necessary to make present areas more accessible. Leaseholders could be informed before leases expired if following the plan meant taking over their property. They could know when to expect removal and could plan their lives accordingly. For the remainder of the residents, a final date, 1968 or another appropriate to the plan, could be settled on to end their residence on the Islands.

## FIRST TENNIS DANCE MAY 28

With tennis now well under way, Island Park Tennis Club will hold its opening dance of the season Friday evening, May 28th, at the C.I.A. Clubhouse.

Music will be provided by an orchestra and there will be plenty of opportunity for new members to get acquainted.

All three clay courts are now in use and lights are up for night-time play. A series of round-robins will be started shortly, to be followed by the regular tournaments.

Instruction will be provided for new players. Anyone wishing to play is invited to get in touch with either membership chairman Jim Murray, 35 Iroquois Ave., EM. 8-6474, or John Hogg, 2 St. Andrew's Ave., EM. 3-4857. Cost of membership is \$15, including Centre Island Association fees of \$3, for a single person; \$25 for couples.

## Home and School Association

Dr. C. C. Goldring, Director of Education for Toronto, and Mr. Z. S. Pimister, Superintendent of Schools will be speakers at the dedication and formal opening of the addition to the Island School Wednesday, June 2, at 8.00 p.m.

Parts of the new wing of the school have been in use since before Christmas, and all the classrooms have been occupied in the last few months, but the ceremony will give Islanders an opportunity to thank the Home and School Association Committee under Max Johnston who fought for the addition, and also to inspect the new quarters.

Members of the School Board and school trustees will be present. Music will be supplied by the school choir and the kindergarten Rhythm Band. Refreshments will be served after the dedication ceremony.

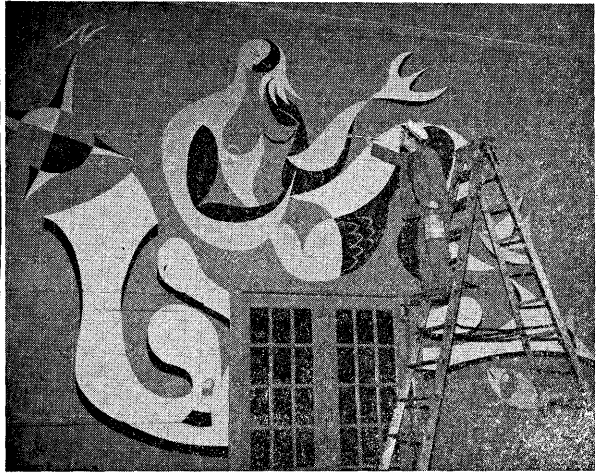
Arrangements are being made for bus service.

Barnes Re-elected President  
John Barnes was elected President for 1954-55 by acclamation at the annual general meeting of the Home and School Association

April 29th. Mr. Barnes was President of the association for the past year.

Supporting officers for the coming year will be: vice presidents, Mrs. Eris Work and Mrs. D. Baker; treasurer, Mrs. A. Williams; Corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. Tucker; recording secretary, Mrs. M. Wilson. Executive members include Mrs. E. Collins, Mrs. A. Moody, Mrs. M. Reid and Mrs. B. Winter.

## HEY, BILL! WATCH OUT FOR HER TAIL!



—Phone by Ted Dinsmore

## YOUNGSTERS PLANT TREES

Every child in the Island School has planted at least one tree of the 900 set in the ground during a tree-planting week early this month. The program ties in with the study of conservation, part of the science course at the school.

The 900 saplings bought from Dept. of Lands and Forests, were specially chosen for the sandy Island soil. They include black locust, Scotch pine, white cedar, willow, Carolina poplar and spruce. They may be seen shielded by old shingles from too much sun, north of the school between the road and the lagoon, and south between the school and the lake.

Although Harbour Day, on which trees are planted and grounds beautified, is often observed at rural schools, the Island School is the only one in Toronto which has undertaken such a tree-planting program. As well as illustrating the theories of conservation and improving the school grounds it should, by making the children themselves responsible for the growing trees, give a feeling of responsibility to the community as a whole.

## ISLAND MART

Anything to buy or sell? Rooms to rent or baby sitters wanted? State your needs in the only classified column which is read in every Island home. More than 3,000 people can be expected to read your advertisement in Winter, 10,000 in Summer. Cost: 4 cents per word, with a minimum of \$1. Phone: EM. 4-9077.

### WANTED

FORMER ISLAND RESIDENT with two small children wanted 3 or 4 room apt. for the Summer months. Phone Rod White CH. 1-1398.

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## Church of St. Andrew by-the-Lake

Cherokee and Lakeshore

### REGULAR SERVICES:

8.30 a.m. - Holy Communion  
11.00 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)  
Holy Communion and Sermon (2nd, 4th, 5th) Morning Prayer and Sermon  
7.30 p.m. Evensong and Sermon (with Communion on 4th Sunday)  
Saints Days and Holy Days - Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.  
Junior Congregation & Sunday School 10 a.m.

Kindergarten & Primary Classes 10 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Wednesday 7.30 p.m.  
Easter Mid-Week Service

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

Rector: Rev. Richard Newsham

## ALGONQUIN CHARACTER

Our character this month is PAUL ROCKETT, head man at Paul Rockett Ltd., Photo Studios. This Toronto company is rapidly gaining nation-wide acclaim as a result of its excellent magazine and advertisement photo illustrations. An example of Paul's handiwork with a camera was seen recently in the Week End Picture Magazine story about the Island, entitled "15 minutes from the City."

Paul was born in Toronto and attended Howard Park Public school and Western Comm. Frois here he went into advertising work with the Toronto Star for 3 years. During World War II he served as a photographer in the Public Relations Branch of the RCAF and spent 5 years in Western Canada, Alaska and the Yukon. (Brrrrr) After the war he was employed at Pringle and Booth for 1½ years as a photographer. In 1947, with two other photo specialists he started Panda Studios. Four years later Paul moved again... this time to establish his own present business, which is keeping him and his employees quite busy. Chatelaine Magazine, in a recent edition, dubbed Paul "the hardest working photographer in Canada." A current assignment he is on for Chatelaine is taking him to all the major cities across Canada to photograph city women. A leading fashion photographer, he has travelled to London, Paris, Jamaica, and New York for Canadian magazines. As a member of the Art Directors Club, he exhibits some of his work at their annual show and has won awards for the last two years. He is also member of the Ontario Photographers Association and of course the A.I.A. and the W.I.A. Paul and his attractive wife, Kay built their own home on Ojibway Avenue which is gradually being remodelled into quite a smart show place. They've lived on the Island for six years and have two girls, Susan, 9, and Barbara, 7. Paul Rockett Ltd. is on the lookout for models, especially male models... you don't have to be a Clark Gable fellows, just look like a type or trade. And it's a good-paying job, too.

## LONG PONDERINGS

A summer's rent on the Island would have cost you \$130 in the 1930's. That's a reminiscence by taffy-blondie Mary Watterworth who's spending May in Spain and Morocco but will be back for her 20th summer on Lakeshore by the time you read this. "When I first hit town I was just a country girl," she says and I thought I'd die if I spent a summer in the hot city"... redhead Margaret Stephenson, soft-spoken Bell telephonist who lives nearby, says when she first arrived on the Island, kids would meet each ferry with a handcart offering to carry heavy packages for a dime... an anonymous (to you, anyway) storekeeper down the drag is investigating the legal possibilities of posting the names of long-time debtors in his shop window for theirs, by the way) a girl renewed acquaintance down... at Badminton dance (they'll always book "live" with a last-summer's friend, "I see you're growing your hair," she said. "Yes," the friend replied, "I can't stop it."

Dave Barton, former Brown Derby chef who's leased Fredly Jackson's Wayside Inn for the summer, reports that most-played jukebox record is "Marie" by The Four Tunes... some jolly fine fellas along Oriole have been playing cricket on Sundays. Ripping good shows, what?... Lou McCartney (slim, dark haired, mustache) leaves for a month-long tour of Europe on July 11... three weeks later Manitou Hotel waiter Stan Montgomery (he wears a kilt on Sundays) goes to England to take up his scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art... stray cat-loving Barbara Joan Kidd, former nurse who braved the Island all winter, has joined TCA and been posted to Winnipeg just before seeing the Island in nice weather for the first time... guy on Iroquois is planning a round-the-world trip in a 40-foot boat. More about this later in the summer... asked how long it had taken to do his mural on the CIA clubhouse wall bearded artist Bill Patterson replied, "Six hours and two cases of beer"... why not an Island-wide contest for a Miss Centre Island? You can phone in nominations to me at EM. 8-5218, if you're interested... rugged spare-time pilot John Roberts, a former Roddy-lodger, has been picked by the Wong Brothers (they operate the Island airport) to fly for them in the Webster Trophy Race for amateur pilots. It's at Windsor at the end of June... as we mentioned last summer, brown-eyed Joy Forrester looks as quiet-as-can-be. Latest of her activities are membership in a girls' baseball team and an office sharp-shooting rifle team... Harold Aitken erected a signboard on his newly-seeded patch of lawn asking kids to keep off. "They did, too," he confided proudly last week. Day after he mentioned it, somebody pinched the notice...

JOHN WILCOCK

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or Pat Lane, 31 Iroquois, EM. 3-8556 in evening.

If it is tennis - and lots of it - you are looking for -  
this is the club to join.

Whites must be worn at all times



For DOROTHY and JOHN HUSTLER it was an 8 lb. 15 oz. boy, DAVID WALTER, on Wednesday, 12 May, 1954. John announced it to everyone here by writing the news on his front window in soap. Congratulations, John and Dorothy.

A mix-up in printing last month caused an error in one of the birth announcements so here it is again: It was a girl for SHIRLEY and WALLY OATHWAITE, DEBORAH SUSAN, born on 13 April, 1954. Congratulations, Shirley and Wally.

Sgt. JIM URQUHART, RCASC, flew all the way home from Korea, landing at Milton on Sat., 15 May, after more than a year away. He's got 60 days leave coming to him and he says after a year of looking at mountains in Korea, Toronto Bay looks like Heaven. (Ed note . . . it is Heaven).

PAT McGRATH reports that the Badminton Tournament is nearly over. . . first winners to be decided were BABS LYE and MARG POOLE who captured the Ladies Doubles. Runners-up in this for a close second were ANN MOODY and OPAL LANG.

BARB FLETCHER, Ladies Committee Chairman, has another of those popular Home Baked Goods Sales planned for Sat., 22 May at 3 p.m. . . come early if you expect to buy!

Latest newcomers to Algonquin are the McKEE'S who are living at 3 Seneca. So it's a warm Hello and all extend to HOWARD, MAY and children JAMES and NORMA McKEE. By the way—they are from Ireland, too.

Community life is only what YOU make it. . . It isn't all skittles and beer, so when the Clubhouse sends out a call for help to clean up the grounds, how about turning out? It is your Clubhouse.

#### CLEAN UP

The "Make Toronto as Fresh As A Daisy" campaign sponsored by the Women's Community Clean-up Committee, is being furthered through the Island School. Issued by the committee.



**RATES:**  
\$15.00 to \$20.00 per week  
Single Rooms—  
\$10.00 to \$13.00 per week  
Double Rooms—  
Special Low Season Rates  
Excellent Meals Served  
In Dining Room  
Sign up for Full Season —  
May 1st to September 30th

## Women's Work Described

Miss Elsa Peters, a worker in the Technical Services Association of the Church of England, was guest speaker at the evening service at St. Andrew by-the-Lake on April 25th. Miss Peters, who has served in Pakistan for the past five years, told the congregation of her work with the women of Pakistan and the development of the handicrafts program which was designed as an economic aid to those women.

The work, begun with a group of four women, gradually extended to as many as 200 members. To the Moslem women, veiled and traditionally isolated in the home, group activity was a new and rich experience. Materials and designs were supplied by the Technical Services Association and instructions given by the field workers. A small shop was set up in Lahore as an outlet for their products.

Miss Peters exhibited samples of the work to those who attended the coffee hour in the Parish after the service. There were luncheon cloths of sheer English organdie, hemstitched and exquisitely embroidered in shaded pastel flowers and in conventional designs, each so beautiful that it would be difficult to make a choice. . . and even more difficult not to, as was attested by the fact that orders for four were promptly given.

An exhibit of the luncheon cloths will be a feature of the Bazaar and Garden Party to be given by the Women's Guild of St. Andrew by-the-Lake on Saturday, June 19th. A dozen different designs of varying prices will be shown, prices far below those one would expect to pay through regular retail channels. Orders for cloths will be taken at the Bazaar. Even though you may not be interested in buying, we urge you see this exhibit for its sheer beauty.

See, an attractive brochure of simplified rules from Toronto's Street Cleaning By-law 13724, will form the subject material for lessons in each grade. Posters will be made by the children, the best being chosen for exhibition.

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# Strictly Social . . .

Miss W. Brown of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, is a guest of the J. Cuttings, 454 Lakeshore Ave. Miss Brown, a girlfriend of Mrs. Cutting, arrived by plane several weeks ago for an extended visit with the Cutting family.

Mr. and Mrs. Greta Hobson, 342 Lakeshore Ave., are happy to announce the birth of a daughter, Janis Dorothy, on April 28, at Grace Hospital; a sister for Patricia. At this writing Janis Dorothy, who weighed less than five pounds at birth, was still in the incubator at the hospital, but is expected home within a week.

## Cox, Morrison Winners In Badminton

Toni Cox and Bob Morrison came out on top in the mixed doubles of the tournaments played by the Centre Island Badminton Club in April. Nomi Morris and Bob Roddy were runners-up. Singles winners were Ron Butler, over Bob Morrison.

In the ladies' doubles, a family team, Toni and Cyprie Cox, downed Jill Morrison and Joan Tait. Bob Roddy and Sandy Tramm. Bob Morrison and Ken Butler took the men's doubles crown from Bob Roddy and Sandy McTavish.

Because of the success of the spring dance held May 7th, more dances are planned for the summer under the auspices of the Badminton Club.

Mrs. Margaret North, 454 Lakeshore Ave., is expected home soon from Wellesley Hospital where she underwent a major operation.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Brigham, nee Joan Howard, daughter of Dr. Howard, 410 Lakeshore Ave., are the parents of a son born May 2nd at Western Hospital.

Ian Stewart, Rhodes Scholar and a star quarterback of the Tricolor football squad, receives his M.A. from Queen's University at the spring convocations. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Stewart, 296 Lakeshore Ave., Ian, who tops the list of eighteen graduates, will enter Oxford University this fall.

A prominent member of the Scottish Women's Institute, Miss Martha Ferguson, is visiting her niece, Mrs. E. Simpson at 13 St. Andrews Ave. Miss Ferguson retired recently as secretary of the Women's Institute for the whole of Scotland, and is now visiting Canadian clubs in a semi-official capacity. She is returning a visit made by members from Canada to Edinburgh last year.

Miss Ferguson arrived on the Empress of Scotland April 24th, and will remain in Canada for three to four months. With the island as her headquarters, she will visit Women's Institutes, mostly in rural areas, as far west as Alberta.

Miss Ferguson is a Member of the British Empire.



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## GAY NINETIES GUIDE TO THE ISLAND

By THURSTON SMITH

"The frivolous young man in search of pleasure and the giddy young things who admire acrobatic exercises will patronize Hanlan's (where they are so well catered to by Mr. Connor, amusement director of the Toronto Ferry Co.); the family man will go to Island Park where he can lie on the grass and watch the children play or stroll over to the promenade and enjoy the fresh lake breezes.

"The melancholy soul who pines for solitude and the poet whose fervour radiates from him with such intensity as to sear the vegetation will go to Ward's to lounge on the breakwater and commune with the wild waves."

This is the description of Toronto Island by a press agent for the Toronto Ferry company 60 years ago. Copy men today would have a lot to say about his lyrical prose but they couldn't deny that these 30 pages are stuffed with practical information.

### Covered From Neck To Knee

The reader learns that Turner's baths on the sandbar at Hanlan's and Wiman's Baths at Ward's are each capable of holding about 300 people who are according to a Toronto public bathing-by-law must be covered from neck to knee. "No bathing without dress is permitted except within certain specified limits on the east and west".

Seventeen varieties of wild flowers, 13 kinds of fish and 31 species of birds found on the island and in the lagoons are enumerated by their names. (There were so many sandpipers, says the guidebook, that one man at Ward's was able to shoot 30 in a single day).

### Frequent Ferry

The Island is both cooler in summer and warmer in winter with a winter average of 26.4 and summer of 63.8 degrees, a mean of 44.4. How would this meteorologist's report strike present residents of the lake's only inhabited sand bar, after long lulls for tug boats and sub-zero wintry blasts?

In those days the ferry service was "frequent (every 20 minutes according to the schedule



on the back) and the missing of a boat involves no great delay". Price of admission? A dime and "no pass out checks".

Sixty years ago 15 ferry boats operated by the Toronto Ferry Co. and the Hanlan's Ferry Co. plied the harbour — a sure indication that the Island was big business.

The Island's history is delved into; theories on its formation (slit from the Niagara river) and early occupants (Huron tribes who went there to recuperate when it was still a peninsula) are perhaps common knowledge. But how many people know that goats were kept there between 1806 and 1812 by Gov. Hunter, the same Hunter who put goats on Goat Island in the Niagara River? Or who would think that potatoes were once grown on the island to supply starch or that eels were caught to supply oil for lamps?

### Island Problems Peculiar

Even in 1894, the Islanders seemed to have problems of their own. They were discussing plans proposed electric railway) counter a breakwater, opposition to a (repart of today's traffic artery), and the large number of bicycle riders.

Telephones were yet to be connected to the eastern end of the Island but calls could be made to the city for 10 cents from public booths at the west end. In the vicinity of Durnan's hotel near Hanlan's are "any number of

peanut men, Aunt Sallies, tiny type photographers, shooting booth, popcorn stalls and all the other naboberies that characterize a holiday promenade".

Even then residents thought differently than city authorities. Many who had installed windmills at a cost of \$150 protested the installation of modern water mains on grounds they had already made heavy investments.

### 5,000 Bugs

Mother nature is acknowledged supreme, whether represented by aquatic life in the lagoons (including the bull frogs and the "lazier undeveloped choristers only past their tiny tadpole-ships") or by the delights of camping. Five thousand species of Canadian beetles were seen in a single night, and the campers "slumbered not nor slept".

The attractions of boating were also doubtful. "Over-heated, and perspiring swains and fathers may be seen daily during the season toiling with amazing good nature for the sake of youth and beauty at prow and helm... reeking not of the gathering blizzards but with joyful anticipation of the ice cream at the end of the cruise". The author makes clear that this is boating, an amateur form of rowing.

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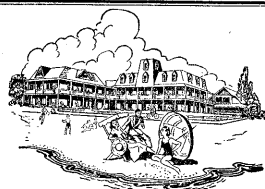
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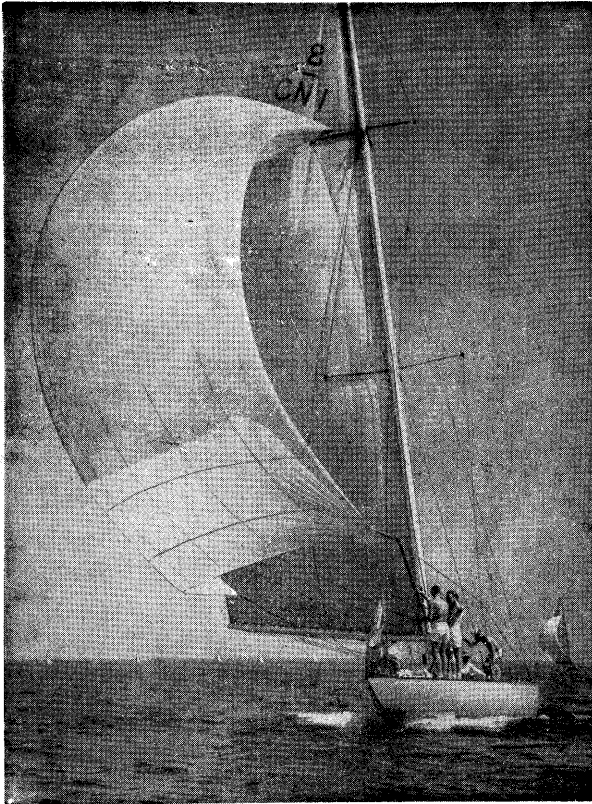
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## R.C.Y.C. ROUND-UP

By ALAN WOOD

This year is Canada Cup year at R.C.Y.C. Early in June trial races will start to determine our contender against Rochester. Bill Inrig's Vision and Fred MacKenzie's Invader will sail off, the winner to race against Norm Walsh's specially-purchased contender-elect Venture.

The George Cup is also being challenged for — this time by the National Y.C. This means that all clubs can entre and compete also against Gerry Castle in Rochester. Trial races for the R.C.Y.C. contender (sailed in 6-meters) will start June 1 between Bryan W. NewEirk's Buzzy II, skippered by Bill Gooderham; Wittstock brothers' Carin; and the new co-owners of Elizabeth X, Denbeigh Taylor and Jim Crang. The other 6's won't compete.

Duke's "Bluebottle" Competes. The Dragon class is stirring itself for a great year Bluebottle owned by the Duke of Edinburgh and skippered by his sailing master Lieut.-Commander Hewitt, will arrive in Toronto June 23 for the regatta — and maybe for the annual Garden Party which I believe is on that day. Monsarrat ("The Cruel Sea") will also be here, making 14 Dragons. Should be quite a show. The Bluebottle has to be back in England for Cowes Week in August. She's racing at the RSLYC, thence trailing (RCAP trailer) to Ottawa to be exhibit-

ed for one day, thence to Toronto, Hamilton, back to Toronto, and aboard ship for home.

The Clubhouse has finally been painted, the opening dance is May 29, there's to be an innovation on opening day. Either the Fleet is going to sail past the Commodore or his is going to sail through the Fleet.

New boats include Mir the 78' ketch from Sweden, a new Dragon from Denmark called "Bagade"; and Graham McLaughlin has gussied up the lagoon with an excellent mahogany Shepard runabout. Heron has been sold to Bronte.

### Winter Activities

Winter membership activities ended with Bill Steele winning the 5-Pin Bowling, finishing further ahead than anyone ever remembers. New recruits would be welcomed for the next semester beginning September 23. It's Thursday at 7:30 at the Olympia St. Clair.

The Shellbacks Club also concluded its winter luncheon season with the usual dinner, address by Ray Engholm on April 23, with skits presented by four yacht clubs and other activities, including an excellent dinner at the Dutch Sisters Surf Room, supervised by ex-islander Ken Bradford.

## canoe club

The Canadian Canoe Association has agreed to adopt the European version of the Canadian Racing Canoe. These boats are manufactured in Sweden and Denmark and are much superior to anything built in Canada today. This type of canoe is compulsory at the Olympic Games and was used at the North American Regatta held at the Island last year.

These canoes will be used for the senior single blade singles and tandem events at the Canadian Championship next year, and for the same event at Washington this year. The club feels that we must have one C2, as they are called, before September this year, and another by the start of the 1955 season. Although the price of the C2 is \$175, duty and freight are the total cost of each boat to approximately \$265.

### Motor Boat Raffle

To help defray the expense of the new boats and of an additional trip to Washington D.C. for the North American Championships, the club has planned a monster draw — the prize — a brand new outboard motor and boat. The outfit is worth close to \$500, and the tickets are on sale now at 50 cents each. The boat and motor will be on display at regattas, and on the drag each weekend. The lucky draw will take place at the Canoe Club Dance, July 16th, and the winner can drive home in style.

### 1954 Regatta Schedule

Regatta Schedule for the summer is as follows: June 19, Western Division Opening Regatta, at the Island; June 26, Island Canoe Club Annual Regatta, at the Island; July 1st, Dominion Day Regatta, at the Island; July 10, Toronto Canoe Club Regatta, at T.S. & C.C.; July 17, Balmy Beach Canoe Club Regatta, at Balmy Beach; July 24, Western Division Trials, at the Island; July 31, Western Division Trials, at the Island; August 6 and 7, Canadian Championships, at Mooney's Bay, Ottawa; September 5, North American Championships, at Washington, D.C.

BILL STEVENSON

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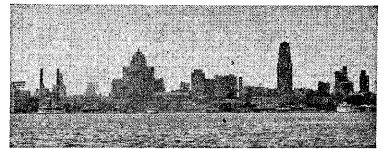
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