

### Senior citizens' housing study

When *Beyond Shelter*, a study of senior citizens' housing, financed under the National Housing Act (NHA) was published in the summer of 1973, its 48 recommendations to improve housing for the elderly created much interest.

A complete housing "package" includes not just shelter, but access to recreation facilities and social and transportation services as well, the study says, because the world of the elderly is their housing development and its surroundings.

*Beyond Shelter* includes surveys, case studies and analysis of the legislation affecting more than 23,900 self-contained housing units and 7,900 hostel beds in 746 developments built from 1956 to 1970, 90 per cent of it under the NHA.

The study was conducted by the Canadian Council on Social Development with the aid of a grant from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Recommendations were made in four major areas.

One of the most important factors was the style of management, the study emphasized. Management in senior

citizens' housing needs to be greatly upgraded and "professionalized". Higher salaries, training programs and career advancement would do much to attract capable staff.

*Beyond Shelter* stresses the importance of developing preventive health services to aid the elderly in their own home so that they can be as independent as possible and continue to live outside institutions. Included in these services are nutritional counselling, meal services and nursing care.

Housing developments for the elderly should be built in association with major community facilities such as shopping areas, recreation centres and churches, the study says. If they are not included in the development, they should be located nearby. Sponsors should be able to show that tenants will have satisfactory access to community facilities or provide a transportation system so that the facilities can be easily reached before approval is given for their project.

Social animators should be assigned to each development to help new residents adjust, assist in planning recreational programs and encourage the residents' involvement and participation in recreation activities. Crafts and hobby rooms, library services and

opportunities for physical exercise should be available.

Because of widespread interest in the study, the Canadian Council on Social Development requested and received a \$29,500-grant from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to help cover the cost of conducting workshops in five regions of Canada. The workshops are designed to discuss the recommendations made in *Beyond Shelter* and inform those involved about what is being done and what can be done in both the public and private sector to improve housing conditions for the elderly.

### Nuclear industry to assess progress

Canada's nuclear experts will meet in Ottawa from June 15-18 for its annual look at achievements, challenges and problems in the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy at home and abroad.

More than 500 delegates from Canada and other countries will survey economic development and nuclear policy, the environmental and safety aspects of nuclear energy, and progress in Canada and other countries in research, industry and manufacturing. Inflation and capital requirements are other key topics on the agenda.

### Halifax seeks town crier

The City of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is looking for a town crier to keep tourists and citizens informed of daily events, shopping information and news. And, although the search started last autumn, a suitable candidate hasn't turned up yet.

"It all started," an official explains, "when owners of exclusive specialty shops went looking for a tasteful, yet acceptable, advertising medium. We wanted something that would reflect the integrity of the restoration and development project and get the message across." A three-acre waterfront area in Halifax is now being restored.

Merchants are conducting business from refurbished shop fronts some dating to the early 1800s. To complete the picture, a town crier is considered a must. Applicants should have experience — and ability to communicate, says the advertisement.



The physiotherapy 'class' in progress at a senior citizens' nursing home in

Nipawin, Sask., providing welcome exercise and entertainment.