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Direct inquiries to R. S. Lang, Director of Community Planning, Department of Municipal Affairs, Halifax; phone 422-7341, Ext. 312. Applications should be made as soon as possible; the closing date is March 31, 1967.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
COMMUNITY PLANNING DIVISION

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By DAN PROUDFOOT
When Rocky Jones was about nine years old a white kid stepped up and rubbed his Negro hair.
"That's for good luck" said the white kid, as was the custom in Truro, Nova Scotia. Rocky, then known in some quarters by his given name, Burnley, gave him good luck.
"I kicked the hell out of him. I gave him good luck all right," says Rocky.

Today is 16 years later, and Rocky's still kicking. He's changed his methods, slightly, but the idea is the same.

If Rocky Jones could afford business cards, they would say: R. Jones, Executive Director, THE NOVA SCOTIA PROJECT. They would mean that R. Jones is the poorest executive in Nova Scotia, and probably one of the most determined.

His project started in the fall of 1965, hoping to give Halifax's Negroes a voice and to promote better race relations in the province.

Since then, it's worked no wonders.

"We work with kids," he explained. "We pick up kids of 16 and 17 and try to give them a sense of responsibility, something they've never had. The odds of being successful are not very good. The kids who do develop self confidence, they get out. They see the streets of Ontario paved with gold."

"They know brotherhood means nothing, man," said Jones. "People don't care as long as they get ahead. Some Negro has to keep a family on \$60 a week, you think he's going to care about brotherhood? Same thing for anybody. You think anybody worries about his brother as long as he's hungry himself? Not a chance."

Behind the Nova Scotia Project stand seven people, including Rocky and his wife, and money from savings and donors. Five of the volunteers belong to the Company of Young Canadians; no other organizations are involved.

One in three

In front of the project lie 12,000 Negroes, according to the 1961 census. Estimates now place the number up to 18,000; the census

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showed that more than one Canadian Negro in three was found in Nova Scotia.

What Halifax has done so far is expropriate half of Africville and built a low-rent housing development called UNIACK.

"That's it," said Rocky, "nothing else. There's a new mayor now, Allan O'Brien, and he's an old friend of our project. He may

be easier to work with. One thing he's doing is putting in a hotline, so citizens can phone in complaints. That's a start."

Much of Club Kwacha's work involves more talking—to parents, ghetto dwellers, city council. There are other organizations, such as the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Citizens Human Rights Commission, but the project is the only one that centres around youth.

Rocky isn't what Halifax was used to.

"Man," he says, "I hate Uncle Toms. Stokely Carmichael's got something when he says the only way the Negro's going to get ahead is when he gets rid of all those Toms."

Stokely Carmichael, leader of SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, is best known as the symbol of Black Power. "His is the most real philosophy I've heard," said Jones. "Somebody hits you, you have to hit him back. People here have been praying 200 years and look where it's got them. Nowhere."

It was through SNCC that Jones decided to work in Nova Scotia. He'd left his home province when he was 16, joining the army and heading for Burnaby, B.C. Little over a year later he came to Toronto.

Then Jones started to think back to life in Truro, where the local poolroom had told him that Negroes could watch but never play, and where the word at the Willow Street School had spread from the first day of grade one: Colored kids use the other bathrooms.

Jones arrived in Truro a few weeks later. He'd already been introduced. Reports had filled the Nova Scotians in on the Toronto kids who planned to come and change the whole game of

The fight to win equal rights for Negroes is not confined to the United States. The movement has spread to Canada—particularly Nova Scotia where one of every three Canadian Negroes lives—and is spearheaded by aggressive 25-year-old Rocky Jones. Dan Proudfoot tells about Rocky and his campaign...

Canada's own Stokely Carmichael



ROCKY JONES: A MAN WITH A PURPOSE
He aims to change Canada's treatment of Negroes

checkers. A Negro Baptist minister had stated that the Negro community would resent outside organizers.

Blank faces

It didn't matter where Jones went, which of the province's 47 Negro communities he called on, what color the face was that he talked to. The face would be blank.

"The Negroes," he said, "were apathetic—beaten is a better word. And the whites claimed we were looking for problems that didn't exist. Many of them still refuse to believe there is discrimination."

But the kids Jones and the original five Nova Scotia Project workers met were willing to talk about housing, employment, school. The youths in turn talked to their parents and produced a leaflet protesting the city's announcement that it was going to tear down much of Creighton St., a mixed area politely referred to as "depressed," and build low-rental housing.

The original Kwacha (Zambian for Freedom) House was a locker room renovated by the project's members. "We'd rent-

though, when they remember that there was a \$10,000 fire in a housing development soon afterwards and the council—thinking the natives were becoming restless—suddenly found an old barracks which, they said, could be obtained at a mere \$50 a month.

By August 1966, the barracks was completed as the new Kwacha House.

And Kwacha continued. More than 40 youths now attend, taking part in tutoring programs, dramatics, typing, sewing, role-playing, seminars and dances.

Now, though, Jones and company are once again concerned with Kwacha House. They were told when they moved into the present barracks that they would have to move in 1967: the Nova Scotia Project must build its own quarters.

That's why Jones was in Hamilton recently, speaking at McMaster University. That's why he was in Montreal, Ottawa, Guelph, London, Waterloo and at the University of Toronto and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. Fund raising for Kwacha.

"If Stokely Carmichael can raise \$1,000 in one day at U of T," Rocky Jones said in the middle of his tour, "damned if I can see why I can't get \$5,000 in two weeks."

"The feeling I get is that people are damnably apathetic about what's happening in Canada," said Jones, whose optimism about the project invariably

sinks when he forgets its accomplishments and thinks about present finances.

Little can be done to improve housing because Nova Scotia Human Rights laws allow discrimination in apartment buildings with four or fewer units. Smaller buildings remain white if they choose to.

Expropriation of Africville homes continues, with its citizens shifting into other predominantly Negro areas. "They'll say that a street's mixed, man, but you look down that street and it looks black," says Jones.

"The whites don't want to be there, believe me. Take the end of Creighton St. where the wealthier whites live. They had the name of their end of the street changed to Northwood Terrace. Think they want to say they live on Creighton St.?"

Burnley Jones, one of 10 children of a Truro stationary engineer, is back on Creighton St. today.

Nowhere near Northwood Terrace.

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