

No crowds-but hostel here appeals to some

BY SHERI CRAIG
Style Editor

Hot town,
Summer in the city.
Back o' my neck gettin'
dirty and gritty.

So the cities don't appeal to everyone. While most young people are lured like moths toward the bright lights downtown, a few prefer to stay away. Not all summer travellers crisscrossing across Canada want to walk the Yonge Street strip.

All around
People lookin' half-dead
Walkin' on the sidewalk
hotter than a matchhead.

So the Give Me Shelter Youth Hostel, somewhat strategically located near Highway 10 at 84 South Service Rd., in Mississauga, between Toronto and Hamilton, serves a certain purpose.

That is not to say that all the hostel's visitors have been fresh air enthusiasts. Some were just too tired to

make it to the big town.

Toronto has five hostels. But the Give Me Shelter is a relatively pleasant place. It's located in the yard behind the Unitarian church, a grey cement building with reddish-brown wood trim, the church's Sunday school during the winter and now, for those who need it, somewhere to sleep.

The hostel has had about 60 customers since it opened June 17. Closing date is Aug. 28.

It operates on a \$3,678 grant plus a \$750 information grant under the federal summer hostels program. Six teenagers are in charge from 4 p.m. to 9 or 10 a.m. each day. They work in shifts, two on at all times, signing visitors in, providing beds and a rundown on the local scene, making sure hostel rules are kept and trying to maintain at least an appearance of order.

NO COMPETITION
But there is no need, after

all, to compete with Hilton Hotels.

Paul Grant, 18, from Toronto, has stayed two nights at the hostel.

"I was evicted," he explains. "I was out here in Mississauga painting houses and I got evicted and I needed a place to sleep. If I can't find another place soon I might take off travelling."

"Who knows, I might even take off today."

"This place though," he fingers a rather scraggly red beard, "it really hasn't been too bad."

Guests aren't supposed to stay at the hostel for more than three days. Under certain circumstances the staff may grant extensions.

This is one of several rules posted in the downstairs hall. "Just so there's no confusion," says staff member Guy Staughton, 16, an Erindale Secondary School student.

He and the rest of the staff are fairly strict about keeping the rules, especially the one about no alcohol, drugs or weapons.

The hostel charges 50 cents per night if a person can afford it. Accommodation means a bed or at least a mattress upstairs in the boys' dorm or downstairs

where the girls are. About 75 per cent of the visitors so far have been males.

WAKE UP

Jean Bilodeau, 19, is sitting on the edge of his bed trying to wake up. He's from Montreal and doesn't speak any English so conversation is rather slow. But with a combination of high school French, shrugs and gestic hand gestures it is explained that he has travelled to Hamilton by way of Timmins and will probably now return to Montreal.

Police directed him to the hostel and he's grateful for that. It's difficult to travel around here, not being able to speak English, n'est-ce pas? Oh yeh. And he shrugs once again.

Fire and health regulations prohibit food to be served but there is an old refrigerator in the office and if someone wants a snack, well there's usually something available. "Matter of fact," says Guy, "We could really use some food donations especially from stores if they have some bread going stale or fruit that is getting too ripe."

Gloria and Jim Eldridge, 22 and 23, are organizing to go out for breakfast. They're students from Maine, travelling by bicycle, and in

a month they've covered more than 1500 miles.

"And you know where we had our worst experience?" Gloria asks. "In Toronto, right by Casa Loma. I was going down the hill there when my brakes failed and I went right through the red light at the bottom. Luckily there were no cars coming or boy..."

She and Jim look at each other and grin. Despite the mishap, they think cycling is a great way to see the country.

Most visitors at the hostel are hitchhikers. A few travel with bikes and one or two arrive in cars.

According to the guest book in the office, visitors have been between 14 and 28 years old, have come from New York, Oakville, Kingston and London are going to Vancouver, Prince Edward Island, Hamilton and "anywhere." Often the police direct them to the shelter. Occasionally local residents bring them here.

Most of them pay their 50 cents and go along with the rules. Even the rules about not using more than two sheets of toilet paper or cleaning out the goldfish bowl if you sleepwalk.

A 16-member group from Victoria, B.C., calling itself

Discovery Canada, is expected to arrive today. The members will be staying about four days in the area. And the hostel needs more beds.

Anyone who could loan spare mattresses would be appreciated. Mattresses are disinfected and aired every day. Old pocket books are also requested.

And business men looking for company on the road can pick up passengers if they drop into the hostel, any morning.

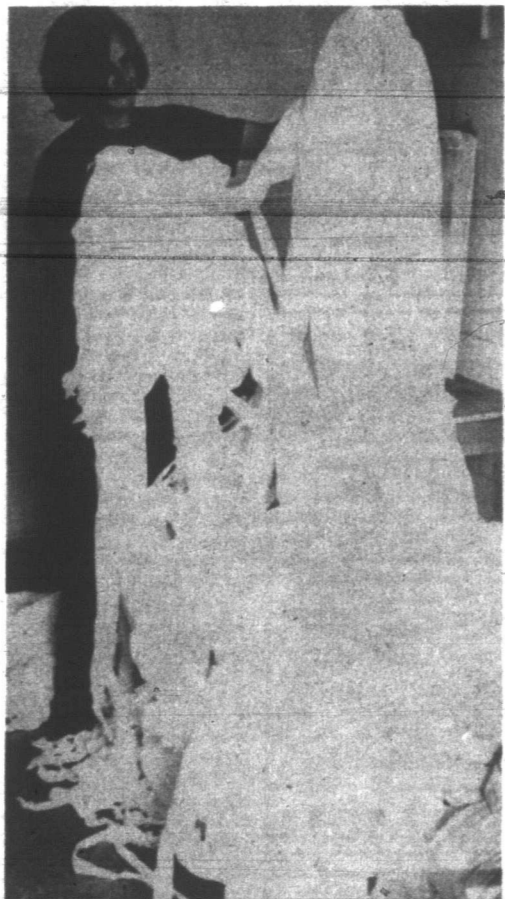
Right now though, Mike Crane, 16, is tired of travelling. He hitched here from Winnipeg where he moved with his parents about five years ago. He's originally from Mississauga and decided he wanted to come back.

So now he's at the hostel and looking for a job.

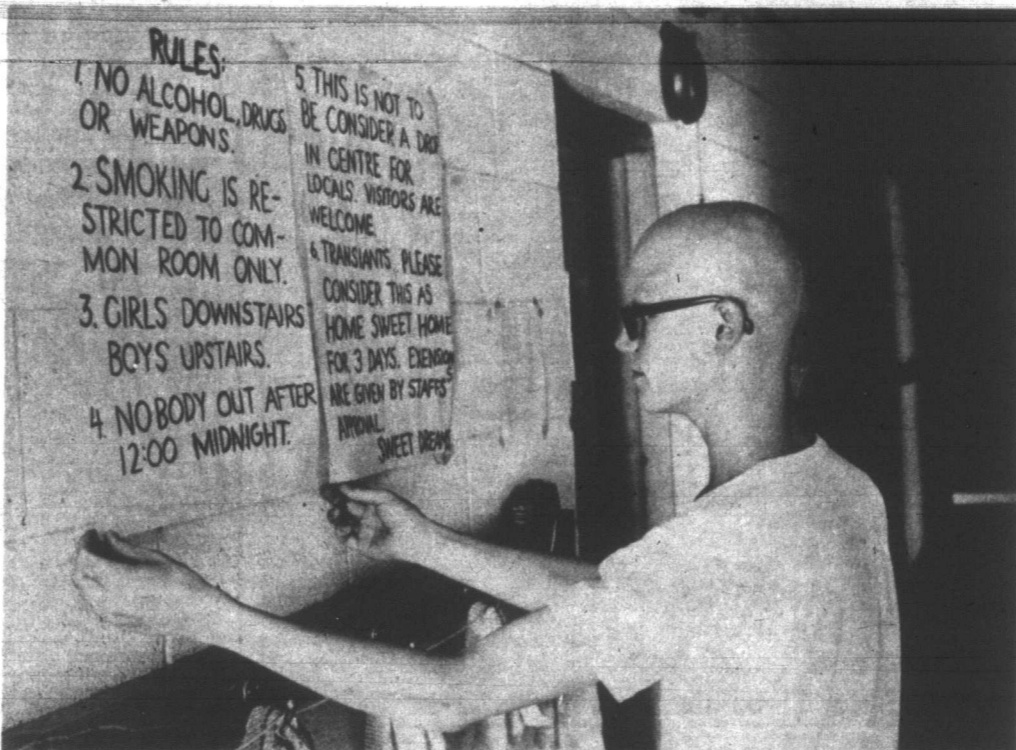
Summer in the city... well, it's okay for some. But the town can sure get hot.

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Cover: Jim Eldridge, 23, a student from Maine, rests on a stack of mattresses at the Give Me Shelter Youth Hostel in Mississauga. Photo by Ray Saltz.



Mike Crane, 16, looks over the Give Me Shelter Youth Hostel's supply of toilet paper — rolls of tissue that were donated by a local company. Guests are allowed two sheets at a time.



Guy Staughton, 16, one of the staff at the hostel, posts some of the hostel's rules in the main hallway. These rules are usually strictly maintained.



Cathy Groves
677-3721

Special year end awards were presented to students in various levels at Marvin Heights School. In Level 2 academic awards were given to Isabelle Castella,

Caroline Nicholson, Zoran Vesouski, Natalie Barton, Douglas Campbell, Christine Davis and Danny Davis.

Citizenship awards went to Cathy McMann, Mark Patridge, Andrew Hermetlink, Argiris Koutrouliotis, Paul Cataford. Receiving the top student awards were Elaine Agius and Debbie Rafeek.

Level 3 academic awards went to Richard Baully, Allison Eain, Darryl Lentz, Dagmar Gross; citizenship awards to Kim Lush, Alfred Rasmussen, Beverly Smart and Chris Ballanger, most important student awards went to Nicholas Steel, Paul Oram, and Erik Gaarder.

Level 4 academic awards were handed out to Lisa Re, Karen Wilson, Stephen Otman, and Sandra Grey; citizenship awards to Rita VanBeemter, Adrian

Pickett, Tracey Biggs, and Richard Mantle. Victor Kenney, Joe Gerusio, and Bryan Defoe received the most important award.

Level 5 academic awards went to Lisa Livingstone, Gayle Bunn, Karen Nurse, and Harry Snider; citizenship awards to Leighton Gray, Vipul Chopra, William Dixon and Donna Terry. David Angus and Anthony McDowell received the most important student award.

In Level 5 Cheryl O'Handley received the academic award, Roy Cardinal the citizenship award and Randy Mitchell the most important student award.

Level 6 academic awards went to Sandra Lacey, Kathleen Anderson, citizenship awards to Della Barrington and Scot

Robertson and most important student awards to Peter Moreau and Chris Turner.

TWIRLERS
There are still openings in the Baton Corps for girls over the age of 6 with some twirling experience. Also any boys interested in taking drum lessons in order to form a drum corps and finally any girls or boys 8 years of age and over interested in forming a colour guard line. If you qualify for any of these categories please call 677-5381.

After months of faithful practicing, the Mississauga section of County Playhouse went on tour. The Playhouse was started by Mrs. Valerie Latz two years ago in Prince Edward County and is comprised of young people ranging from 7 to 12 years of age.

When Mrs. Latz and her family moved to Darcel Ave., Mississauga last fall, it did not take her long to gather a group of youngsters who are interested in music and acting. While Mrs. Latz, who is a professional actress, drama coach and music teacher, coached a group of girls and boys in her home in Mississauga, she maintained a similar group in Prince Edward County with whom she practises every second Saturday.

Emphasizing on loud, clear speech and motions, the youngsters slowly became actors and actresses who, above all, can be heard and understood.

Last Friday the Mississauga group of 12 girls and 2 boys went to Prince Edward County to mingle and perform together with the children there.

They first planned to sleep in the haymow of a barn but the idea was abandoned because of adverse weather conditions and instead they all slept and snored in the Bloomfield town hall where on Saturday, July 1, they performed a variety show, Red Riding Hood and the Canada program.

Kay Brummell had made arrangements for feeding the hungry brood and all went off almost as planned. Since the stage is small and since sleeping bags, blankets, stage scenes etc. were plentiful, there was little room on stage during the performance.

A barbecue followed the show and after the bus ride back to Toronto 14 tired children returned to their parents. It was a memorable experience for all involved.