

The present housing situation

the housing be no longer required. These conditions would restrict the construction of new lodging to high density-type accommodation such as high-rises.

According to O'Sullivan, low-density type housing such as the residences on campus are not economically feasible or easily saleable should they not be used anymore. This factor could become very important in the 1980's when enrollments are predicted to decrease.

What UNB is doing

There have been a number of short-term housing possibilities looked into for the coming year. O'Sullivan mentioned that university had entered discussions with the owners of Rosary Hall on Regent Street. The university made an offer to rent the building at a price that would make the accommodations pay for itself. The building could hold 60-70 students, but the deal fell through.

Sullivan stated that another possibility presently being looked into is an old nurse's residence near the Victoria General Hospital. The building could contain approximately 40 beds but at present the space is being used as an office building and renovating costs are high.

The Armed Forces have permanent married quarters in the Oromocto area that could be converted to student housing should the need arise in September. Again O'Sullivan emphasizes the danger of entering into agreement with the Forces and then losing money if students fail to move into the accommodations.

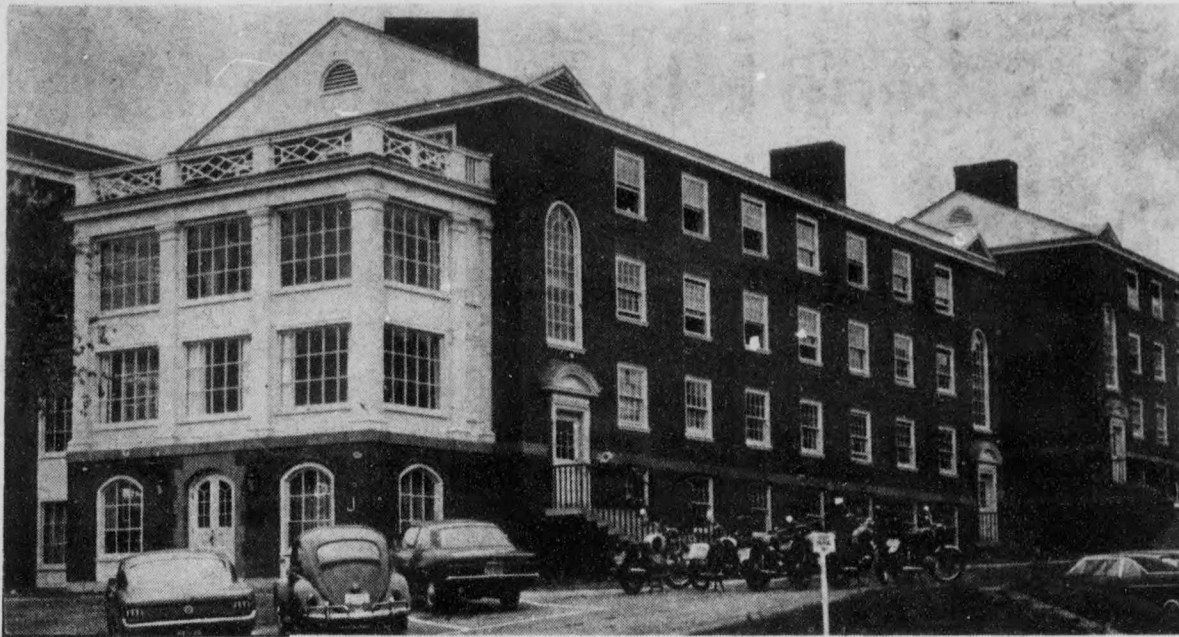
The accommodations office at UNB last year made over 5000 housing placements for students, staff, and faculty of UNB and STU. At present the office is working hard towards finding new off-campus lodging for students.

According to accommodations officer Helga Stewart, the housing survey in October created a list of the present off-campus accommodation which the office will use this fall to help place students. Letters have also been sent out to present and new landlords and landladies asking them to register with the accommodation office.

Helga Stewart feels that the housing situation at present looks the same as it did at the same time last year. "The first few days in September are always hectic because students come to Fredericton without housing," states Stewart, "but we're hopeful that everybody will be housed in the fall".

But apartments this fall will be hard to find. The accommodations office has very few owners registering apartments and Claude Motte of Central Housing and Mortgage Corporation expects apartment demand to increase considerably in September.

The accommodations office has also another surprise for students this fall - room rents are going up considerably. Helga



Stewart report that landlords who normally asked \$18 for single rooms and \$15 for double rooms are now asking and receiving \$25 and \$20-22 respectively.

Where are students living?

A report prepared by Administrative officer Mike Shanks at the beginning of this year illustrates the occupancy pattern of students in 1973-74 and 1975-76.

The conclusion Shanks made from his statistics was that "there has been no outward migration trend prevalent during the last two years." Before this year's house survey was taken the general opinion of many people was that students were moving farther and farther away from campus to find suitable accommodation. Shanks' conclusion indicates otherwise.

What may be happening at present, is that students are accepting substandard housing in order to stay close to campus. The housing committee mentioned this trend in its preliminary report.

Possibly one of the reasons students are moving closer to campus is the lack of suitable transportation around the Fredericton area. By improving the present transportation system, students could have access to suitable accommodation in areas such as Silverwood and Fredericton North.

Dean of students Barry Thompson stated that a major breakthrough in the present bus service is soon forthcoming. Dean Thompson mentioned that a thru-bus is presently being set up from Marysville to the University and Mall. The buses would also run on a more regular basis, possibly to the extent of evening runs when the library closes or major activities on campus end. The Fredericton transit commission is also placing bus stop signs to create a more regulated bus system.

Many of the difficulties encountered in housing are created by students themselves. According to Helga Stewart, the disrespect a few students show in their accommodations (excessive noise, parties, impoliteness) often spreads about the community and gives students an unnecessary reputation. Also students who frequently change accommodations put a burden upon the accommodations office and the landlady who is attempting to keep accommodations full.

The housing situation this fall may be serious, although many people are working to alleviate the problem. Apartments will be hard to find this September as well as accommodations close to campus.

What students prefer

The housing survey indicated that students preferred apartment living above all other accommodation. This preference may well give the UNB administration the incentive to build apartment dwellings in the near future. Tuesday's Board of Governors meeting had asked James O'Sullivan to look into the possibility of university-owned apartment buildings in terms of location, size and planning. That move may result in new accommodation in the near future.

A possible solution to the housing problem may lie in the eventual improvement of the transit system. Suitable accommodation exists in areas such as Fredericton north, and even though students may prefer accommodation close to campus, improved bus service may change that situation. Dean Thompson mentioned that the SRC and university may be prepared to subsidize the bus service should enough students make use of it.

In the meantime, don't come to Fredericton in September looking for suitable accommodation. SRC president Jim Smith is presently arranging for emergency accommodation in the SUB during the first week in September for people with nowhere to stay when school begins.

The best time to look for rooms is in the beginning of August, according to Helga Stewart. The best time to find an apartment is in the beginning of May when students go home and leases terminate.

Claude Motte of the CHMC stated that there are some students living in the Park Hill apartments who are moving out in May, although not as many as expected. Presently the waiting list for apartments at the CHMC is approximately 20 people, so if you make an application with the CHMC now, there may be an apartment when September rolls around.

What may be needed when looking for accommodation is a little patience determination, and a few pairs of walking shoes. If you don't find accommodation, at least you received some exercise.