

August 31 eviction date passes

residents defy deadline to preserve community

(continued from p. 6)

lamebrains so determined to have their way on an issue that they have shown little capacity to understand?

I asked Freya Godard, an active Island politician, for some comments. She feels that "people in the boroughs cannot understand why anyone would want to live here in little wooden houses where they can't have their cars with them".

(She has a point. As a longtime Scarborough youth, I can attest to the fact that few of my former neighbours go anywhere near the Island, considering it fit only ducks, weirdos, Italians and other lower life forms.)

Take a man like Mallette, reminiscent of one of Dickens' more reactionary characters. In the past year he has suggested shipping Toronto's skid row inhabitants (whom he considers indecorous and embarrassing) to "farms" in the country, and has also asked that welfare families not be allowed to own pets.

Does the man have an ounce of human understanding in his body? Is the living history of Toronto to remain in the hands of such narrow-minded persons?

Hopefully suburban voters, many of whom attend York, will make some alterations in December's election.

What many of the Island's are at a loss to explain, is the behaviour of Toronto Alderman William Archer whose constituency includes the homes he has voted to destroy.

Godard describes him as "a man with no principles at all. He is merely looking for issues he can stand out on. None of the people involved in community groups can stand him, so I suppose he wants publicity to appeal to the uninvolved.

"He lied to us in the last election. He came around and said he thought the homes could stay for another five years, but he voted for eviction last December".

Godard feels that the people who would be hardest hit by eviction are the Island's poorer residents, who would be thrown out of their houses at a time of rocketing rents and general inflation, during a housing shortage. A booklet she wrote, en-

titled "Save the Island Homes", states that the Islanders "average family income is \$1,000 less than the Metro average".

MANY ELDERS

Then there are the elderly. According to Godard "a lot of the older people have been here for years and their children and grandchildren are living all around them. I don't think they would live very long if they had to move".

The Island's oldest permanent resident is Mr. Francis Ward who told me that "my great-grandfather was a fisherman in Ireland who came here in 1830. I don't know if he had his wife with him or not, but he raised his family here". He was the first settler on the Island which bears his name.

Ward wants to see "more young guys like Crombie", elected in December. "They're basically a little screwy, but they're doing a good job".

He cannot understand why borough politicians are so hostile. "When people come over here, nobody meets them with a shotgun and tells them to get lost. They're welcomed."

"BUGGER"

Ward is fatalistic about his possible eviction. "It's a bugger for living here all your life and it doesn't do your health any good worrying about it. But I guess if I have to I'll move to Belleville or some place that isn't affected by Toronto's rent increases".

Frank Staynland, at 85, is another old-time Islander. He was born near the corner of Trinity Square and Yonge Street. The site of his birth is now marked by a large hole where the new Eaton development is being built. Most of his friends are dead and his wife died two years ago.

These days he spends a lot of time sitting in front his cottage, in the shade of large poplars that he planted as three foot saplings, decades ago.

We talked for about an hour and as I left he said he hoped I wasn't bored. On the contrary, I told him that I wanted to hear people talk and get the feel of Islanders' life.

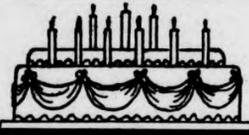


Since last spring, Toronto Island residents have been faced with possible eviction.

"The feel of the Island is this", he said. "I've travelled around Southern Ontario a lot, and nowhere

else have I seen a community like this, where people care about helping one another.

"That is what the Mall-Ets and Last-Men of our progressive city are trying to destroy".



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Groaning stone upsets cart

LONDON, England (CUPI) — The latest attempt by the Scottish nationalists to liberate the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey has failed.

A 20-year-old man was arrested by Scotland Yard recently after tripping an alarm. He had underestimated the stone's weight and rolled it onto a folding cart which then collapsed.

The 450-pound sandstone rock usually rests under the 700-year-old British Coronation chair, which is used to crown the English monarchs. It was originally placed in 1926 as a token of Scottish allegiance to English rule, and has been a target of Scottish nationalists ever since.

The last previous attempt to remove the stone was on Christmas Day, 1950. The stone disappeared for three months, until it was spotted in a Scottish castle.

The Scottish nationalist party denied responsibility for the latest attempt, although stating, "This was not an attempted theft... the stone belongs to Scotland."

According to legend, the Stone of Scone groans when a legitimate monarch sits upon it. It is not known whether the recently arrested man was seeking to establish his royal lineage.

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