

Local tavern begins changeover to beverage room

By JEAN MURCH
There is no longer an all-male Tavern at the Riverview Arms on Lincoln Road. The Arms, which used to house both a Tavern and a

small Beverage Room, now has one large Beverage Room licensed to seat 247.

The changes were made on Monday following the removal of a

wall separating the two rooms, and the installation of a second women's washroom.

As a result of an amendment June 7, 1973, to the Province's

Liquor Control Act and Regulations, Beverage Rooms are now open to anyone over the age of 19, regardless of sex. Previously, only women, and men accompanying women on a 1:1 ratio were admitted.

Taverns are unaffected by the recent amendment, retaining their traditional men-only ruling. However, the Riverview Arms may be one of the forerunners in an increasingly popular trend. Mr. H. F. McElman, Director of Licensing for the New Brunswick Liquor Control Commission, stated in an interview Tuesday that in his personal opinion "eventually... there will be very few taverns left

in the province."

Mr. Bill Thompson, manager of the Riverview Arms, said that from a business point of view he was "forced to make the move". He said that on weekends the Beverage Room was "top heavy", and often women customers had to be turned away because it was full.

Mr. Thompson, who estimates that students make up 80 percent of the September to April customers, expects the changes will be well-received by them. When asked about changes in the dress regulations he emphatically denied any move to alter the existing dress code — casual.



Photo by Danielle Thibeault

The Riverview Arms -- now a beverage room.

Saga

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