

Adequate housing, aim of Tories

George W. Taylor, MPP
Simcoe Centre

One of the priorities of the Provincial Government is to ensure that Ontarians are adequately housed.

To meet the needs of those on restricted incomes the Ministry of Housing created the Ontario Housing Corporation. The goal of both the Ministry and the Corporation is to provide adequate, affordable housing for those citizens of Ontario who have limited financial means.

Agency
The Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) is the second largest public housing agency in North America. The Corporation has responsibility for some 90,000 units in more than 300 municipalities across the Province. This is a tremendous administrative challenge which the OHC has handled with great ability.

As a crown agency, the OHC is fully accountable for its use of taxpayers' dollars. The annual cost of providing public housing for the Province runs at a cost of about a quarter of a billion dollars a year. The capital cost of OHC's housing stock is about two billion dollars.

Because of the size and nature of its tenant population, OHC frequently finds itself on the forefront of social change. Increased demand for housing by senior citizens and single parent families are but two social changes to which the Housing Corporation has adapted.

Change
Another interesting social change affecting OHC is the over-all shrinking of waiting lists for public housing. In Ottawa for example, there were 1,107 applications for OHC housing in 1978. Within a year that number shrank to 827. This shrinkage has occurred throughout the Province in both tight and more open rental housing markets.

There have been a number of reasons put forward to explain this reduction in demand for public housing. In part, the success of assisted home ownership programs and the expansion of private and municipally assisted housing programs have had a positive impact.

In addition, rent review has helped stabilize housing costs in the private market, reducing the demand for assisted housing. There is also evidence to suggest that the increasing incidence of two-income families has made the private housing market more generally affordable.

Demand
While over-all demand for assisted housing is on the decline, there is an increase in demand

from specific groups, such as the disabled. With more and more disabled people earning

their own way in the community, there is an increase in demand for housing to meet their

needs. OHC has responded to this demand with the installation of ramps and

grab bars in its housing units to make them more accessible for the disabled.

Locally, in the first week of November, two senior citizens rent geared to income

housing developments will be opened - one in Elmvale and the other in Stroud.

Black Creek prepares for Christmas

In stark contrast to the modern glitter and electronic gadgetry, period costumed Villagers, at Black Creek Pioneer Village, will relive the simple traditions and preparations for Christmas, in a pre-Confederation rural community, starting Nov. 22.

Until then, villagers will demonstrate the pioneer crafts of spinning, weaving, rug hooking and broom-making, in many of the more than 30 authentically restored buildings, weekends from 2 to 4 p.m.

Every day, once the Christmas season gets underway, staff demonstrate how settlers observed this festive season. The houses display the simple decorations of the period—garlands of cranberries and popcorn, Christmas trees and swags of evergreen boughs.

Adding to the Christmas spirit, a church choir will sing carols. Sunday af-

ternoons, between 2 and 4 p.m., up to Dec. 14.

Kitchen secrets

Visitors can see kitchens filled with freshly baked fancy breads, mincemeat, puddings and cookies, while staff reveal their pioneer kitchen secrets.

A short horse-drawn wagon ride away is the Dalziel Barn, where Santa has his workshop. This huge 1809 cantilever barn, houses the Percv Band Toy Collection, the largest collection of 19th century playthings in Canada. The toys can be seen on weekends, until Dec. 21 and daily, from Dec. 22 to Jan. 4.

Black Creek Pioneer Village, located at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

It will be closed Christmas Day. Admission is adults, \$3.50; children and students, \$1; seniors, \$1.50; and parents and their children \$7.



No connection

At about the same time as the student body of Midland's Regent Park School was parading through its schoolyard last Friday afternoon, the

power went off in the downtown and adjoining areas. No one however has come forward to suggest that the two events were connected.

Island Legion hosts Remembrance service

CHRISTIAN ISLAND — Remembrance Day came a week early for residents on the island and for members of a newly formed-Legion here Sunday.

Members of Branch 80, Royal Canadian Legion (Midland), their pipes and drums and representatives from other Legions in the area took part in a Remembrance service on the island.

Also present were a dozen Korean War veterans led by Wally Wilson of Midland.

These veterans formed their own color guard in tribute of Christian Island soldier Kenneth Monague, 20, who lost his life along with 515 other Canadians during the Korean conflict which marked its end 30 years ago.

The color party flew the Korean flag, the United Nations, the Korean War Veterans Association flag and the Canadian flag in tribute of the late Kenneth Monague's sacrifice in Korea.

COMPLIMENTARY

MARKET ANALYSIS

OF YOUR HOME

This certificate entitles the bearers to one complimentary market analysis of their home's current value

Without obligation, kindly call 526-9391

Bryson McQuirter Limited Realtor
357 King Street, Midland, Ontario

Dated *Oct 17/80* Signed *Bryson McQuirter*