

U M O J A - W I N D S O R

(U-mo'ja = unity)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE GUARDIAN CLUB

VOL. I, NO. I

DECEMBER 1, 1969

This newsletter has as its purpose to inform the Black Community of Windsor of the activities of the Guardian Club, to communicate important news about Black People in Canada, to list job openings and educational opportunities which may be of interest to our readers and to serve as a general vehicle of communication within the Black Community. If your church group, club, etc., wishes to make any announcements through UMOJA, you may do so by contacting Dr. Howard McCurdy at 969-4789 or Philip Alexander at 253-4814. The deadline is the 25th day of the month preceding the month in which you want your item to appear.

THE COMMUNITY SURVEY:

The Guardian Club Employment Committee, with the help of several Black students, has been engaged in an attempt to compile a complete listing of all Black people in Windsor. The survey has several purposes:

- 1) To obtain an inventory of the employable skills possessed by the Black people of Windsor.
- 2) To establish contacts with those seeking employment, job improvement or educational opportunities.
- 3) To obtain a list of addresses of Black families in order to establish a means for contacting Black people for Guardian Club and other Black organizations in regard to special events, programmes, etc.
- 4) To serve as a basis for determining how the Guardian Club may make its programme more relevant to the needs of the Black people.

It is hoped that the survey will be completed by December 12. If you know of anyone who has not been contacted, please call Mrs. Florence Mason 258-2268.

NATIONAL BLACK COALITION FORMED:

On the weekend of October 18, black organizations from across Canada met at Toronto's Lord Simcoe Hotel. At that historical meeting, 28 organizations, including most of the important Black Civil Rights organizations from across Canada, established a National Black Coalition.

Four local organizations joined the Coalition, and they are: The Guardian Club, the Black Heritage Club, the Windsor West Indian Association and the South Essex Citizens' Advancement Association

The steering committee of the National Black Coalition consists of:

Chairman: Professor Howard McCurdy, Windsor
Executive Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Wills, Montreal
Regional Vice Chairmen:
H.A.J. Wedderburn, Nova Scotia
Joseph Drummond, New Brunswick
Clarence Baynes, Quebec
Edwin Clarke, Ontario
Roy Williams, Western Provinces

The following committees were also established: Finance (fund raising), Economic Status of Black People, Education, Community (communication, history, culture, etc.) and Constitution.

It is hoped that a Constitution can be drafted by February 1970. Meanwhile, the Steering Committee met November 23 to initiate programme planning and a fund-raising campaign. Other items discussed were the Canadian Black Manifesto, a demand for a Royal Commission to investigate racism in Canada, and demands for changes in legislation. Several members of the Steering Committee were invited to the Biennial Conference of the Canadian Council of Churches to gain support for the NBC programme.

BLACK HERITAGE GROUP ACTIVE

Interested in Black History? Are you or your son or daughter having school problems and want help? Are you interested yourself in helping your Black brothers and sisters or would you like to engage in edifying discussion? Want to know more? Then, contact The Black Heritage Club through Pat McCurdy at 969-4789.

WINDSOR WEST INDIAN ASSOCIATION

The Windsor West Indian Association has added an exciting dimension to the social and cultural life of Windsor. Have you been to any of their dances? You haven't! If you want to have a Ball, then contact Mr. Justin Jackson at 252-0856 and arrange tickets for the big December 27 Christmas dance.

EAST SIDE CREDIT UNION

Celebrated its 25th Anniversary November 22 with a banquet and dance, attended by about 250 people. The guest speaker was Mr. Cy Watson of the O.C.U.L.

CITY ELECTIONS DECEMBER 3.

The Guardian Club at its November 6 meeting considered all of the candidates, without regard to their politics, in respect to its aims and purposes. That is, we considered what their positions have been on civil rights, discrimination, etc. Both mayoral candidates, Roy Battagello and Frank Wansborough and the following candidates for council have publicly supported the Guardian Club's position on key issues (e.g. the Emancipation Celebration): Weeks, Soda, Farrow, Moore, MacKenzie, Kishkon. Most of those running for council who are not incumbents have had no occasion to act on issues involving racial discrimination. None of the following have ever gone on record as

opposing the raising of issues about discrimination against Black people: Brisebois, Brophy, Campbell, Clark, Griffith, Kelso, Morgan, McCabe, Parent, Toth, Russell, Virga.

CHANGE AT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. George Lewis has recently left the Windsor office. He has been replaced by Miss Florette Osborne who thus becomes the first Black woman to serve as the Regional Officer for the Windsor area. In announcing the new appointment, Dr. Daniel Hill, Director of the Human Rights Commission, indicated that there will be an overall increase in the local staff so that the needs of the Windsor community can be more adequately met.

WANT TO BE A NEWS REPORTER for a radio station, and don't mind leaving Windsor? - Contact Cliff Walls at 253-6530.

Even if you don't want to be a reporter, but want to be considered for job openings that the Guardian Club hears about - contact Cliff! The Employment Committee has initiated a programme of affirmative action with several employers and in the past few months has job-placed quite a number of our brothers and sisters.

INTERESTED IN HARD WORK on behalf of Black People?

Join the Guardian Club! Call Philip Alexander at 253-4814 or fill in the following and send it to:

1135 Lillian Street
Windsor 14, Ontario.

GUARDIAN CLUB INTEREST REPLY

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____



WINDSOR, ONTARIO

I am interested in working with The Guardian Club in the following area (check);

Community Relations

Education

Employment

Finance & Social Activities

Sub-group interest: _____

DATE _____

SIGNED _____

EDITORIAL COMMENT

by DR. HOWARD McCURDY

Although much can be said pro and con about the ward or all-city election systems, it seems clear that the advantage of the ordinary citizen is on the side of the ward system. Government is already too distant. When thoughtful people are saying that we should be moving more toward participatory democracy, it is ironic that Windsor could go in the opposite direction - to the City-wide vote, which will make it easier for the boys downtown to put 'their' boys in. If you want someone who cares about the troubles in your ward and because he shares those troubles from living in it, if you want someone on Council whom you can reach and who will have to be more concerned about your problems, then vote for the Ward System.