

Wigwam to Wigwam

Your "House to House" News

Count Yourself In!

May 15, 2001 is Census Day in Canada! This "census of population" happens once every five years and the data collected provides a wealth of information about the people and the places of Canada.

What does this mean?

During the first two weeks of May, census questionnaires will be dropped off at every single household in Canada – that's almost 12 million households from coast to coast to coast!

Not everyone will receive the same census questionnaire. Four out of five households will receive a short form. This will contain 7 questions including the name, sex, age, marital status, family relationships and mother tongue of every member of your household.

One in five households will receive a longer census form. This will include the 7 questions in the short form plus 52 additional questions about such things as ethnic and cultural background, education, employment, mobility, and housing.

Why should you care?

First of all, the law requires that each household provide the information requested in the census. By the same law, the confidentiality of the personal information you provide is protected.

More importantly, the information collected through the census will be used by all levels of government to make policy decisions about economic and social programs.

Continued on pg. 3...

Inside this issue:

General Manager's Report	2
Household Hints	4
Terrace Happenings	5
Terrace Community Kitchen	6
History Dates to Know	7
Anishnawbek History	8
Fire Safety	9

Special points of interest:

- Services for Seniors
- Recycling News
- Who's Who at Wigwamen
- Zero Balance Club Honour Roll
- Wigwamen's Fun Page

General Manager's Report

After taking a break from writing my column in last month's edition of "Wigwam to Wigwam," I'm fired-up and enthusiastic again. So here are two quick items (I'm sharing space this month with our new Housing Support Centre Counsellor, Ramona Toulouse, so I don't have a full page to go crazy...)

Home Visits:

Maintenance Supervisor Ron Timoon and I will be beginning a new round of home visits early in May, with a view to identifying maintenance concerns which need to be addressed. This past year was the first that we actually packaged all of the maintenance issues together and tendered them out, rather than trying to have our own work crews complete all of the work, and I expect to see a very, very significant improvement in the condition of our units on this round of home inspections. I look forward to meeting with each of you in again in the months ahead!

Flower Power 2001:

We've enclosed a registration form for this year's "Flower Power" contest, and I would strongly encourage you to register for it. You don't have to be a professional landscaper, or have a super green-thumb. You just need to get out there and work in your garden. It promises to be a sunny summer, just great for gardening, and ***with a larger number of prizes this year, your chances of winning are that much greater.*** So don't forget, ***send your registration form in to us today!***

Aboriginal Housing Support Centre

Spring has at long last arrived, and in this season of change, it seems appropriate to be able to report that I have changed positions within Wigwamen. No longer the Administrative Assistant, I have been promoted to the position of Aboriginal Housing Support Centre Counsellor.

As you may recall, the Centre which was established last year by Wigwamen, and is funded by the City of Toronto, has two main goals:

- To encourage Aboriginal families and individuals who are paying too much rent for substandard accommodation, to apply for non-profit housing; and
- To provide counselling and other support services to Aboriginal families and individuals who may be at risk of losing their private market rental housing, to help them stay housed until a non-profit or co-operative housing unit comes available.

These services are regrettably ***not intended for tenants of Wigwamen.*** Jodi Hetherington, Wigwamen's Tenant Relations Officer, would be more than happy to offer any assistance Wigwamen's tenants may require on these or other issues they may have. That being said, ***perhaps you have friends or family who are living in the private rental market,*** and who could use some of these services. If you do then please do not hesitate to ***have them call me at (416) 482-3444.*** We're open for service, and ready to help!

Ramona Toulouse

Count Yourself In continued...

Here are some of the ways that census information will be used:

1. Information about the ages of people in your home is used for planning social programs such as Old Age Security and the Child Tax Benefit. It might also be used to plan a variety of services such as day-care centres, schools and senior citizens' homes.
2. Information about cultural background, including whether or not you are Aboriginal, is used to administer programs (including employment and training) under the Indian Act of Canada. Aboriginal governments and associations also use this information to explore a wide variety of demographic and socio-economic issues.

3. Questions about your type of housing, housing costs, as well as the number of rooms and bedrooms in your home, are very important for the development of appropriate housing programs.
4. Data about education and job skills can be used in the development of training programs, as well as incentives and programs to help people remain in school or to return to school.
5. Income statistics are used by governments to develop income support programs and social services such as Old Age Security Pension, Ontario Works, and disability assistance.

These are just a few of the ways that the information collected in the census can be used for the citizens of Canada.

As tenants of Wigwamen Incorporated, you know about the importance of subsidized housing for low-income families and individuals. As tenants of Wigwamen Terrace, you may also know the importance of old age pensions. And as Aboriginal people living in Toronto, and for those of you with connections to First Nations communities, you know the importance of social programs for Aboriginal people.

On May 15, 2001, make yourself be known to the Government of Canada!

Adene Kuchera

Household Hints

Dust off that Pile of Rust

You've got your backyard looking great, except for that pile of rust that used to be something nice, once upon a time. The once shiny swing set, garden chair, bicycle or grill is now an unsightly heap. But there is good news! Even though it looks ghastly now, it's easy to bring new life to old rusty metal and give it the protection it needs to ward off harsh weather and to keep rust at bay. Just follow these four simple steps:

1. To remove caked on rust, scour the rusty surface with a metal brush.
2. Wash off the dirt, rust flakes and dust with water and a cloth. This is an important step, so be sure not to skip it! If the

surface under the primer is dusty, the paint will peel and rust again in no time.

3. After the metal surface is dry, prime the rusty areas with one coat of metal primer, using a nylon paint brush.
4. Now you are ready to paint! Ask your local hardware store for the best outdoor oil-based paint for metal surfaces. Use 2-3 coats, again using a nylon brush. Let each coat dry thoroughly before applying the next coat. You'll want to slightly sand the painted surface between the first and second coats to help the paint adhere. When you are finished, clean brushes and paint spills with paint remover.



What colours should you use? Bright primary coloured paint is best for the kids swing set and bikes. Neutral coloured paint is excellent for garden furniture, since you want to keep the attention on your colourful garden, not the furniture. And finally, be sure to use heat-resistant paint for your outdoor grill.

Source: www.doityourself.com

Recycling

Beginning Wednesday, March 2, 2001, Toronto residents will be able to place **empty paint cans, empty aerosol cans, drink boxes, and milk and juice cartons** in the blue recy-

cling cart or in their own blue box for recycling collection.

Flyers announcing the change have been ordered for the tenants of the Terrace and will be available

and distributed soon.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please call the Community Collection office for Toronto at 416-392-7742.

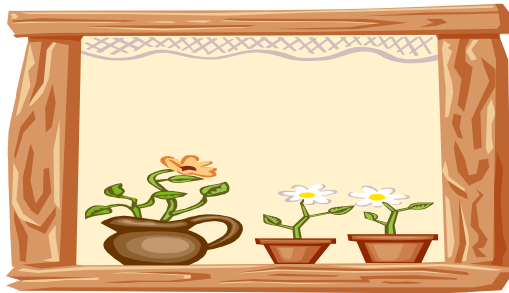
Terrace Happenings

The winners of the Easter egg colouring contest are as follows:

Madeline Kiokee won first prize, a two-hour house cleaning service paid for by the Seniors' Club.

Second prize of a \$ 10.00 food voucher from Dominion Grocery stores went out to **Katie Pasquach**.

Third prize winner **Mary Jane Trudeau** received an



Easter basket.

Congratulations to all the winners!

A chi-meegwetch to the Seniors Club President Phyliss Jones, who hosted the Easter festivities, from

all of the seniors who attended.

Sugar Bear, Traditional Healer, will be coming to the Terrace on Wednesday, May 2, and on the first Wednesday of every month thereafter.

In closing, please extend a warm welcome to Janet King, a new Terrace resident.

Services for Seniors

This new column will focus on services or programs available to seniors in the Toronto area.

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) is a provincial program that can help pay part of the cost for certain services and equipment, such as manual or powered wheelchairs, walkers, and hearing aids.

For more information on funding available or to see if you are eligible for assis-

tance, contact the Assistive Devices Program, Ministry of Health, at 416-327-8804

Their hours of operation are from Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Terrace Community Kitchen

Pizza

Dissolve:

1 teaspoon of sugar

1/2 cup lukewarm water (100°F)

Over this, sprinkle:

1 envelope active dry yeast

Let stand for 10 minutes. Then stir briskly with a fork.

In a large bowl combine the softened yeast mixture together with:

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup lukewarm water

1 teaspoon salt

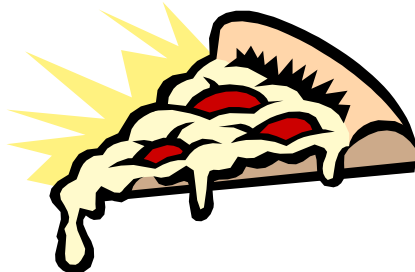
1 1/4 cups all purpose flour

Beat vigorously by hand or with an electric mixer.

Gradually beat in with a spoon an additional:

1 to 1 1/4 cups all purpose flour

Work in the last of the flour with a rotating motion of the hand. Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead 8-10 minutes. Shape into a smooth ball and place in a greased bowl, rotating dough to grease surface.



Cover with a damp cloth and let rise in a warm place (for instance in the oven with the light on) until doubled (about 3/4 hour).

Meanwhile, mix together:

1 can tomato paste

1/2 cup water

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon oregano

Pinch of pepper

Punch dough and divide in half. Form each half into a ball and place on greased, 12-inch round baking sheets. Press out with palms of hands into circles about 12 inches in diameter, making edges slightly thicker.

Spread each round with half of the tomato mixture and sprinkle with:

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 tablespoons grated parmesan or old cheddar cheese.

On each pizza, arrange:

1/4 pound of Mozzarella cheese slices

1/4 pound cooked Italian sausages

1/2 cup sliced mushrooms, canned or fried

2 tablespoons chopped green pepper

2 tablespoons sliced stuffed green olives

Bake in preheated 400° oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until pastry is golden brown.

Makes two 12 inch pizzas.

Source: Robin Hood Cookbook

History Dates to know

History Dates after 1990 continued...

August 9, 1997: The United Nations declares August 9 of each year to be "International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

Monday, February 3, 1997: Every year, the third Monday in February is celebrated as Indian Government Day. Many national Aboriginal organizations close their offices on this day.

January 7, 1998: The Government of Canada apologizes to the Aboriginal people who were victims of the residential school system. The government acknowledges its role in the development and administration of the residential schools, and announces a commitment of \$350 million which will be administered by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

May 4, 1998: The Aboriginal Healing Foundation, a non-profit corporation run by Aboriginal people, is formed. This new Foundation will support community-based healing initiatives for Aboriginal individuals, families and communities who experienced physical and sexual abuse in the residential school system.

August 4, 1998: A ceremony is held to celebrate the initialing of the Nisga'a Final Treaty Agreement. Once ratified, this will be British Columbia's first treaty since 1899 and will end the Nisga'a's 112 year effort to regain some traditional lands. The agreement will provide the Nisga'a with about 2,000 square kilometers of the Nass River Valley, with rights to surface and sub surface resources, and a share of the salmon from the Nass River. The Nisga'a will establish their own central government.

January 27, 1999: Joe Kunuk is named as the Acting Interim Commissioner of Nunavut.

1999-April 1: The Government of Nunavut, Canada's newest and largest territory, comes into being.

Source: www.inac.gc.ca

Anishnawbek History

Seasons of the Ojibwe

Ojibwa people of the Great Lakes lived by the seasons of each year and as a hunting-gathering-fishing society, their culture depended on maintaining the balance of creation. Ojibwas believed they had a spiritual contact with nature and with Gichii Manidoo (the Great Spirit, the creator).

Maintaining the balance of creation had to do with respect by giving thanks to the Creator and sacrificing asemaa (tobacco) in order to communicate with the Supernatural to accomplish this balance. Balance brought close ties with Mother Earth for the Ojibwe People.

To the Ojibwa, the important si-si-bakwat (maple sugar), was more than just something to eat. It symbolized good relations between people and harmony between the people and the supernatural worlds. Maple sugar making by the Ojibwa began with the arrival of spring in late March or early April and the end of what was often a long and hard winter. From the latter part of March until May, Ojibwas moved entire villages to the “sugar bush.”

They called this time in April Iskigamizige Giizis, which describes the whole process at maple sugar time of tapping trees, boiling down sap, and separating it into syrup, sugar and cakes.

After the sap stopped running at the end of May, the Ojibwa cultivated native potatoes, corn, beans, pumpkin and squash. Domesticated crops provided an important element to the hunting-gathering-fishing economic base of the Ojibwa and contributed significantly to the winter stores. Gathering foods comprised a major economic activity throughout the summer and fall. They collected many types of berries, including wild strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, chokecherries and cranberries. They used dried and preserved berries throughout the year.

The Anishnaabe referred to their next season as Manoominike Giisiz, or “Wild Rice Moon.” Gathering wild rice was the greatest activity of the year. The fall was a time for wii-manoominikwe or the “process of Indian people harvesting wild rice.” The people were said to have

worked in large groups and an offering was made before plants were taken. Like the sugar bush camps, in the rice camps people feasted and danced, giving thanks to the Creator for the year’s supply. It was a time for Ojibwe people to share stories and work together, strengthening their traditions and cultural practices.

About mid-October, individual families or small groups moved to their fishing grounds. Although they fished throughout the year, the Ojibwa found autumn fishing important. While they caught fish by netting, the Ojibwa also speared fish at night by the light of a birch-bark torch. In the winter men speared fish through the ice with the aid of wooden decoys. There was little economic activity in winter except hunting and the occasional spear-fishing.

Hunting provided much of the food and clothing needed during winter camp. A hunter never killed his own Dodem (clan), except for ceremonial use. Trapping provided food for subsistence and fur hides for clothing and shelter.

Source: The Anishnaabe of Minnesota

Fire Safety

Smoke Detectors

The Ontario Fire Code requires that every place of residence have smoke alarms installed and that they be kept in good working condition. By giving an early warning sign of fire, smoke alarms are very important for the safety of you and your neighbours. Wigwamen is responsible for installing smoke alarms in your unit and to keep them in working condition, including testing, repairing and replacement as necessary. Wigwamen must also act to correct any problem or concern you report about the operation of your smoke alarm.

Wigwamen's tenants have smoke detectors that are either electrically/hard wired or battery operated. Many of them are equipped with a hush button.

There are steps that you can take to ensure that your smoke alarm is operational:

- ◇ Notify Wigwamen if the smoke alarm is damaged and make arrangements for the repair or replacement of the unit.
- ◇ Notify Wigwamen if the "power on" indicator goes out (on electrically wired smoke alarms only) and arrange for appropriate repairs.
- ◇ Notify Wigwamen of any electrical problems that may affect the operability of electrically wired smoke alarms.
- ◇ Notify Wigwamen when the low battery signal is activated (on battery operated smoke alarms only) and make arrangements for replacement of the battery.
- ◇ If you are planning to be absent for seven or more days, arrange for the smoke alarms to be tested by Wigwamen to ensure that the smoke alarms are operable (on battery operated smoke alarms only).

The Fire Code specifies that "no person shall intentionally disable a smoke alarm so as to make it inoperable." A tenant or any other person who intentionally disables a smoke alarm is guilty of a provincial offence and may be subject to a fine.

In addition, your lease agreement with Wigwamen states that the tenant is not to tamper with or disconnect any fire or smoke detector installed by the landlord in the leased premises.

Tenant Counsellor's Corner

Mould Prevention

The best way to prevent mould growth is to keep all material in your home as clean and dry as possible. Keep your home well ventilated. For example, get rid of clothes or other stored items that you don't use. Keeping your closets and bedrooms tidy makes it easier for air to circulate and harder for mould to grow.

Find and correct obvious sources of moisture, such as leaky faucets, dripping pipes and cold surfaces in the bathroom shower areas where moisture condenses.

Regularly clean off and dry all surfaces where moisture frequently collects in your house. Baking soda and vinegar each kill different types of mould, so to keep

them at bay, clean with baking soda solution one day, and vinegar the next.

Should you have any further questions regarding mould, please feel free to call me at 416-481-4451 ext. 22.

Jodi Hetherington

Who's Who at Wigwamen

John Arciuch is Wigwamen's newest Director, having joined the Board in early 2000.

John has worked for several

years in the area of Aboriginal relations at Ontario Power Generation and prior to that, in the forestry and environmental services field.

He has an MBA degree from York University and has worked with many groups in the Toronto area developing co-housing project proposals.

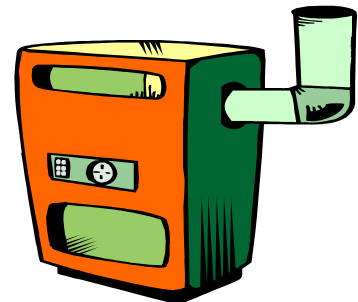
For Your Information

ATTENTION ALL TENANTS:

In accordance with the City of Toronto's heating regulation, Wigwamen Incorporated will be turning off your heat on June 1, 2001.

It will be turned back on again September 15, 2001.

If you notice that your heat is still on after the 1st of June, please call and let us know.



Zero Balance Club

Honour Roll

*All of the tenants listed below belong to the Zero Balance Club.
They are all winners of the Zero Balance monthly draw and each
have received a \$50.00 gift certificate!*

- Nicole Young, Gary & Theresa McKay, Ines Alvis &
Isa Askarizadeh, Suzette Darby, Tina Neshkawa, Cindy Jacko,
Daisy Hahnfeld, Paul Kornidesz, Samantha Cote, Judy Miller,
Myrtle York, Ida Shaggi-Jawan, Evelyn Letourneau, Ken King,
Colbertha Robinson, Valerie Maracle, Sandra Neshkawa,
Mary Howk, Elizabeth Wemigwans , Kathrena Green,
Josephine Millette, Gail Thomas, Fred & Olive Wesley,
Edith & Alex MacInnis.*

*We salute all of the participants for being such
responsible Wigwamen Tenants!*

Wigwamen's Fun Page

USELESS FACTS...

Research indicates that mosquitoes are attracted to people who eat bananas

Rhythm and syzygy are the longest English words without vowels

Rabbits can suffer from heat stroke

Red tape, the rigid application of regulations and routine that results in delay getting business done, got its name from the colour of tape that was commonly used to tie official papers. The term has been in use since 1658.

Roosters can't crow if they can't fully extend their necks.

Roses may be red, but violets are, indeed, violet.

Sea otters have 3 coats of fur.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

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*A Housing Project for
Native People*

If you win the rat race, are you still a rat?

If efficiency experts are so smart, how come they're always working for someone else?

One nice thing about kleptomania, you can always take something for it.

Does a fortune teller have medium prices?

One way for husbands to get the last word in is to apologize.

Hospital: A place where people who are run down generally wind up.

One advantage of being rich is that all your faults are called eccentricities.

www.wigwamen.com