

Joseph Howe and Sunrise Manors, A Contrast



by Peter McGuigan,
Editorial Contributor

Joe Howe (1975) is a south end senior's residence. Sunrise (1970) is a north end senior's residence. Both are owned and operated by the Province of Nova Scotia. Sunrise is an example of the concrete era. The front and back are concrete broken by 10 rows of balconied windows, the later separated by dull orange panels; the only relief are the ends of the building which are covered by pail yellow brick. Joe Howe is covered with dark red brick. Both manors are similar in layout with long carpeted corridors and an asymmetrically placed elevator. Both have public meeting areas, but Joe Howe's is a carpeted lounge, while Sunrise's is a tiled cafeteria. Joe Howe has floor lounges that are usable all year around. Sunrise has balconies so are much more restricted by weather. Overall, Joe Howe feels more genteel in design with more carpeting and its more attractive meeting area. The apartments them-

selves seem laid out the same way.

Both manors have parking lots. Joe Howe's is completely filled by tenants' cars, but Sunrise still has space for visitors indicating more poverty. Both loots are behind the buildings. To reach Sunrise's there is a flight of exterior steps and a fairly steep paved path leading to the Creighton Street lot; Joe Howe had no steps but is down a slight grade, once the slope of the Freshwater Stream.

Sunrise has a kitchen adjacent to the cafeteria, where bingo occurs twice a week, while Joe Howe has bingo only once a week in its main lounge and no cafeteria. Since there are no longer grocery stores on Gottingen Street, there is a small shop on the second floor of Sunrise, but support doesn't seem very high, at least on the weekends. The healthier Sunrise tenants walk or bus to Sobey's at Windsor and Robie Street; In contrast, Joe Howe has Sobey's right in its backyard, so is much more convenient.

Sunrise has fairly convenient access to the North End Community Clinic, While Joe Howe is a bit more limited for those needing diagnosis. There is the small South End Family practice on Fenwick and a for-fee blood pressure clinic at

Shopper's Drug Mart on Fenwick Street. The ambulance distance from the new Infirmary Department on Summer Street at Bell Road is not much different.

Both have meal programs for seniors; the kitchen at Sunrise probably making easier to have two meals per week, against one brought into Joe Howe. Sunrise has a weekly knitting group, Joe Howe a card bunch that meets most nights; both have senior's dances. Sunrise has a social group meeting weekly. There is a garden club at Sunrise, but at Joe Howe all the gardening is done by one couple. They even have a locked room for their equipment giving them some sort of official status. There are movies at both, Sunrise Friday night, Joe Howe on Saturday.

One thing Sunrise has, that Howe doesn't are security meetings with the police there are severs local problems with drugs and prostitutes. My inside source says the dealers approach lonely tenants and get their duplicate keys to have access to those who are addicted. Recently an apartment has been emptied because of dealing. On the door so a Nova Scotia Department of Justice notice: "Community Safety Warning Drug Activity" Not surprisingly, there is a palpable fear that Uniacke Square will jump

Gottingen. To stop this, the cops have the access to the roof of Sunrise where they look for drug dealers in Uniacke Square. Now the arrival of the Guardian Angels at Uniacke Square should have reduced the tension. But then a addict from a nearby manor was murdered near Saint Patrick's-Alexandra School.

Despite the criminal activity most Sunrise tenants have a good repartee among them. Of course, Joe Howe is not totally free of crime either so tenants are advised to keep their doors locked. But Howe is in a much better area-the Old South End, where it suffers from too many drunken students, at least until "Christmas graduation" gets rid of the more immature.

Sunrise, unlike Joe Howe, but like Ahern Manor just down Gottingen, is a controlled access building after 10pm. The system is nit effective since no I D can be requested phony signatures abound. Sunrise has guards 24 hours, Joe Howe only at night, but 24 hours on the weekend. Neither, unlike McKeen at South and Queen, have resident managers.

When built Sunrise had a major safety defect-no fire sprinklers. The manor predated the federal fire regulations upgrade, while the slightly later Joe Howe

did not. On New Year's Eve 1998, a fire broke out at Sunrise. Two seniors died, 20 were hospitalized for smoke inhalation; 50 residents had to stay at the Salvation Army until the area was rehabilitated. Security was hired to keep people out. There was no heat and the windows were all open. One guard who had just done a double shift had to stay all New Year's Eve wrapped in blankets. He was just about out of it when relieved, not at 10 AM as promised, but at 1:30 PM, January 1,1999.

There is still a major design flaw at Sunrise, such as the juxtaposition of back door and elevators. This enables those who want to get in without a key or being buzzed in, to flash through behind a legitimate tenant, getting access to any floor. Joe Howe has a similar problem.

One of the visitors to Sunrise are members of the "Impact Ministries Church" in Uniacke Square. It's located in one of the apartments immediately across Gottingen, that of Rev. Sherry Avery. She was at Sunrise in May playing gospel music with a rock and roll feel. The Salvation Army also sometimes appears. But at Joe Howe there are regular religious services by the Roman Catholic and United Churches.

There are quite a few older blacks in Sunrise

and a few ethnics. Joe Howe has very few blacks, but more ethnics. In both, the majority are older white women. Sunrise has access to the major soup kitchens such as Hope Cottage and the Brunswick Street United Church. Joe Howe is close to Spencer House, a senior's centre, but it's further from those South End weekend soup kitchens: Saint Matthew's Church on Barrington at Spring Garden and Saint Andrew's Church on Robie at Coburg.

Sunrise has a large restricted area on the first floor's south wing. In 2001 this was to be a temporary area for eleven people from the Cole Harbour Hospital who were physically or mentally challenged. A new facility was to be rehabilitated in Lower Sackville, but apparently never was, so they are still in Sunrise. As a result eight residents lost their homes and the area was completely rebuilt. Now it would have to be unbuilt to allow Sunrise's reoccupation.

Both manors offer seniors and semi-seniors of limited means a chance to live in dignity, if not safety. The design of Joe Howe is more pleasing, its setting much safer and access to grocery stores much superior.

General thoughts on poverty and ideas for Situation improvements



by Kendall Worth
Vendor and Editorial Contributor

You regular readers of Street Feat may remember me talking

about my business idea in a few past issues of Street Feat. Well one of the reasons as to what precessed to tittle this article what I had titled it is because I am proposing to possibility name my business, "Mix Match Creative Sails, Marketing, and promotions". The reason why I talk about my business in Street Feat is because my

business idea in a way, shape and form dose relate to helping some of those in poverty. Unfortunately I haven't got enough to update you on to write an article talking about part three of my how my business is going. So instead I am going to Mix Match my thoughts on how to improve poverty situations.

We as people in the general public sees poverty local here in our city everyday. We see it by seeing people panhandling on the side of the street, people lining up at food banks and soupe kitchens, etc. However we also often wonder at times if these

same people has a place to sleep at night. It is hard to tell especially when we hear about people being totally homeless. We have also heard stories about these people not being able to get welfare because they don't have an address. Well I would like to talk to about an idea I have for housing for the homeless. My idea is that a three floor building could be built where on the first floor their could be single rooms for these people to sleep in and a couple of shared bathrooms with showers, meals and personal items provided while still

living on the first floor. On the second floor have bachelor apartments and one bedroom apartments on the third floor. The next part of the idea would be to upgrade them to the second and third floors once they make improvements tn their lives. The idea would be that when they first move into the building, they will have an address so they can get cleaned up and go on Social Assistance. However if I ever was to get this place running, their will be rules and day to day operations which these people will have to fallow while they are still living on

the first floor. These include that they will have to fallow rules while living their such as:

#1 - These people will have to take turns doing the cleaning up of the building, and other chores that have to done around the building.

#2 - From Monday to Friday the building will not be a day time hangout. Residents, especially while they are still living on the first floor will during the day time be required to be either:

A - Attending programs that can help them get over any additions they may have,

Continued on page 9

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