

by Jane Herman

Why I LOVE Renting



While there are many good reasons for renting, it's unusual to find someone so satisfied with their renting experience that all of the reasons apply. But Teresa Quigley, who lives at 70 Ruddington Ave. near Bayview and Steeles, is an unusual woman. She is both a pillar of strength and a satisfied customer. Teresa has lived in her spacious, two bedroom apartment for 5 years. After her husband passed away in 1998, Teresa initially stayed in the townhouse they had been living in for three years. "I had a lot of memories," she confided, and "I wasn't ready to move on quickly."

But living on her own without her husband became lonely, and then one day, while driving by the building she spontaneously decided to drop in and have a look at one of the apartments. Without giving it much thought she said, "I'll take it." Looking back on it now, she says "it was the best decision I ever made."

SOCIAL BENEFITS

"I can't say enough good things about the people in my building," says Teresa. "I often felt lonely in my townhouse, but here I don't feel

lonely at all – the other residents are wonderful." Schickedanz Bros. who own as well as manage the properties organize various events for the residents – "a get-together at Christmas, a pool party and a barbecue in the summer – which brings you together with other people in your building and the buildings around us," she adds. These events create a real sense of community on the property.

LOCATION

"The main reason I made a decision to move here," adds Teresa, "was because of the close proximity to the shopping mall." A Valu-Mart is just a 2 minute walk away, down a little pathway that winds behind the adjacent building. "It's easily manageable – even during the winter," says Teresa, who enjoys the walk year round even though she has had two knee replacements.

MAKES GOOD SENSE FINANCIALLY

"Naturally I thought about buying a condo after my husband died," says Teresa, who managed the advertising for a Toronto real estate broker before retiring. "But the market can go up or down. I had a friend who sold a house and then bought a condo," she tells me, "and then the value went down. Before making the decision to rent, I discussed my situation carefully with my son and a financial advisor. They both advised that by renting, I would safeguard the equity that I had from my house."

"While I'm still independent and hope to spend many more years here, if I need to go into a retire-

ment home it would be much easier than if I owned and had to sell."

WELL MANAGED

Of course, the fact that the building is beautifully maintained and well managed just makes a good experience in to a great one. "Schickedanz Bros. Properties are renovating all of the apartments," says Teresa. "They're putting in things like new kitchen cupboards, hardwood floors, new appliances, new bathrooms and lighting fixtures, etc." The new apartments are especially beautiful. "While I would love to have one of the new apartments," says Teresa, "I would not want to have to move – even within the building." This is understandable for someone of Teresa's age, which I won't divulge! To top it off, the laundry room is spacious and spotless, and the garage and building access safe and secure.

Teresa is a lovely woman who has a generous soul. Despite having endured the hardship of losing her husband and daughter to cancer, she has found the courage to go on with a positive attitude. She attributes some of her strength to the joy she derives from participating in the Serenata Singers, a group of seniors who entertain at nursing homes. "We are a great group who enjoy each other's company," she says.

Her neighbours are fortunate to have her in their midst!