

Comment

The Mississauga Times

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The Mississauga Times is one of the MetroSpan Community Newspapers Limited group of newspapers which includes the Oakville Journal Record, the Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Mirror Newspapers, The Richmond Hill/Thornhill Liberal, the Aurora-Newmarket Baiter, the Woodbridge-Vaughan News, and The Bolton Enterprise.

Official Plan top priority

The first priority for our new city council must be the adoption of a Mississauga Official Plan.

Despite efforts to complete the plan within the 1973-76 council's term of office, it is still not done. Changes of council in other locales in the middle of such a process have been disastrous. Some municipalities never get a blueprint of future development adopted because of the intrusion of an election and the subsequent change in political direction.

That must not be allowed to happen here, where the influx of population has already been tremendous and where the consequences of uncontrolled growth would be abominable. The uncompleted plan, which council has before it, contains the mechanisms necessary to control future growth.

The new councillors will and should make their own suggestions and contributions to the process. But they must avoid at all costs the peril of dismissing it as the work of "that other" council, half of whom were rejected at the polls.

Statements by Mayor Ron Searle and other councillors seem to indicate that they realize how important their duty to fulfil the task is.

Changes will likely be made as a result of the final round of public participation and the recommendations of a new council. But let's hope that what we see from the new council is a refinement of the considerable effort to date and not a dismantling of it.

A sound base for our future has been laid down. The new council must build on it.

Gold to the very last drop

The news that coffee in Mississauga restaurants could be going as high as 50 cents a cup could be the straw that breaks the traditional coffee break.

Now we are all going to have to think twice before we take that 10 minutes off to have a coffee during the work day, much like we have to think twice about driving our cars because of the high price of gas.

It is now time to ask some serious questions about Juan Valdez, that pleasant little South American chap who hawks coffee beans on TV as he rides his donkey through some steaming jungle.

We suspect the only reason he rides the donkey is because his Cadillac is unable to negotiate the steep trails.

But much as there are ways to save by reducing gas consumption there are also ways of reducing coffee consumption.

One suggestion is the coffee pool, which like the car pools requires a sense of sharing.

This can be achieved if consumers

join with neighbors and workmates and share the same cup of coffee by simply asking for one cup with two or three or better still four straws.

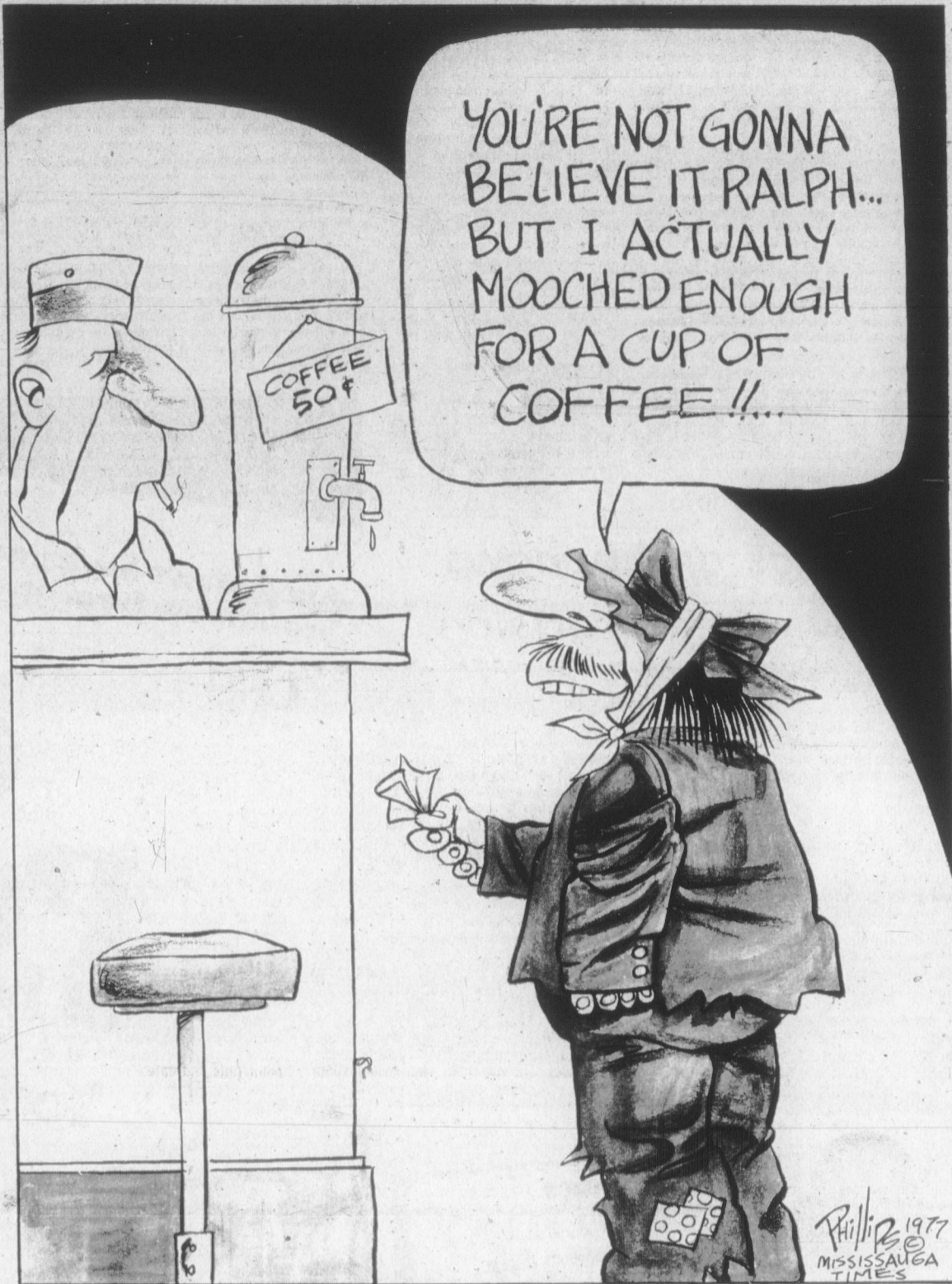
There will no doubt also be a number of coffee substitutes to hit the market, much like the ersatz products of the war years.

Coffee mixed with chicory is already available and scientists are investigating the possibilities of using brown confetti, rice and sand as coffee substitutes.

Psychologists also say it is possible for people to believe they are drinking coffee when they really are not.

If we were all to buy cups with the word "Coffee" in large letters on the outside we would conclude that the mixture of hot water and cream that we were drinking really was coffee. This does not work, however, for people who take their coffee black, they would have to adjust to taking it clear.

At any rate, we must overcome our national thirst for coffee or the coffee break will be breaking us.



Ontario will need 1,600,000 new homes by the year 2001

The following are excerpts from a speech by Ontario Housing Minister John Rhodes to a planning directors' workshop in Toronto recently.

When I spoke to you last, I stressed the dangers of overplanning in the housing field and of the problems of attempting to plan for all contingencies which, in my view, were partly responsible for some of the problems we were experiencing in getting affordable housing built.

In retrospect, perhaps I was placing too much stress on the planners' role and too little on the pressures arising out of public expectations.

Nevertheless my comments must have had some effect judging from the theme of this afternoon's workshop which deals with urban development standards.

And I am glad that you as planners are going to discuss this question, for in the coming months and years, it will be one of the major issues that will have to be resolved in this province.

The reasons why are simple enough. Between now and the end of the century we will have to build as many new housing units as we have built in the past 25 years. Statistical experts are predicting that something in the order of \$1,600,000 new household units will be formed by the year 2001.

They will have to be housed somewhere. Most likely in locations that are now becoming more and more contentious; on land that is already becoming more and more scarce.

We cannot look to the large lot subdivisions to provide the answer, for acreages will be needed for other uses:

- to provide rights-of-way for roads and transit;
- to provide land for industry, for commerce and for recreation;
- to preserve land for food production.

We must plan better. We must develop architectural designs that

enable us to house more people on less land in pleasant and healthy environments.

The report prepared for the ministry of housing on urban planning and engineering standards demonstrated a number of things to us. It showed that money — substantial sums in the case of major metropolitan centres — could be saved if we modified our ideas and appetites.

By eliminating gold-plated frills, we can slow the exponential growth in our demand for building materials be it gravel or cement, sand or steel.

Through judicious planning of our housing, we can help the long-term prospects for mass transit, because we will simply raise the number of potential users per mile of route. Hopefully, this would ultimately lower automobile usage and thus lower energy demand.

And we must give the question of standards more than passing thought. We must be prepared to start changing attitudes, particularly at the municipal level. And that's why I am pleased that so many of you are present today for you, collectively and individually, have an important role to play.

When the report on urban standards was completed, I asked that it be sent out to all municipalities and other agencies and groups, both public and private for comment; and to add their own options and suggestions.

To ensure that this report would not be pigeon-holed, I asked my staff to keep me informed on the replies.

To date we have received approximately 70 replies, these have come primarily from municipalities. We heard from 16 small towns and villages and from a few larger municipalities which, in the main, seemed prepared to accept some form of changes to standards with respect to spatial design. I should add however, that there were differences of opinion with respect to lot size and set-back dimensions.

Officer sure Peel police 'flexible'

I am writing in response to a letter "For Our Cops" from Eric Bauer and the 'Common Sense Group' which appeared in your newspaper Dec. 22, 1976.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bauer did not specify a particular police force, however, as he apparently lives within the jurisdiction of our force, I wish to respond to some of his concerns.

The job of any police force is to prevent crime and to enforce the law. The manner in which this is accomplished establishes the calibre of a force. In this context, I must agree with Mr. Bauer's statement: "A policeman should have a character to suit just about every possible situation in which he might become involved. But above all, he should be intelligent, polite, and capable of negotiating when negotiation can prevent trouble and violence."

All of our recruits undergo psychological testing and human relations training before being allowed to deal with the public. Professionalism and compassion are greatly stressed during our recruit in-service training courses to ensure that our officers are flexible and adaptable to varying situations. Advanced courses are also given in negotiation. In addition, all of the criteria for a good officer suggested by Mr. Bauer is, and has been for several years, emphasized on the officer's evaluation for promotion, or conversely, if unsatisfactory, demotion or dismissal.

Particularly in the area of traffic violations, the police officer is given wide use of discretion and in many cases does not charge the person concerned, but simply warns against further violations. For example, from Dec. 10 to Dec. 20 this year, (in Mississauga) our police force spot-checked 2,748 vehicles. Of these 278 were given warnings under the Highway Traffic Act and 30 were charged under the Highway Traffic Act. Certainly if a warning will suffice in these cases as a corrective measure, it should be and obviously is being used. In fact, thousands of warnings are given out every year by officers of our force. The chief of police has given talks to officers of our force on many occasions as well as to officers graduating at the Ontario Police College in which he stated "A good rule is generally to treat people as you would expect to be treated in similar circumstances."

Mr. Bauer has suggested that persons found exceeding the speed limit by four to six miles per hour

have been charged. I cannot, of course, speak for other forces, but that is not the policy of the Peel Regional Police Force, under normal driving conditions. In these instances, we feel that a warning is sufficient. If a driver is worried about checking his speedometer when he "should be watching the road," he may be interested to know that many car manufacturers are making speedometer alarms as optional equipment, and these are obtainable from car dealers in the area.

Certainly concerned citizens have a right to question their public servants, but we do feel that it is unfair to generalize. Police officers are also very aware that

people are more likely to criticize that which they do not understand and that we have to assume a major role in developing good community relations. Therefore, we would be more than happy to have a representative of our force meet with Mr. Bauer and the 'Common Sense Group' to discuss these or any police-related concerns that they may have. If the group wishes, they may contact me at 453-3311.

K. R. BARNHART,
 STAFF INSPECTOR,
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
 PEEL REGIONAL POLICE FORCE

Usage nauseates him

A New Year's resolution for you — "Before we ever again use the word nauseous in our editorials we will find out its true meaning. Then we'll tell Carol Burnett who also frequently misuses it."

A thing is nauseous if it makes one sick to the stomach. For instance, the frequent misuse of this

criticism is always welcome especially when it contributes to The Times' accuracy in grammar and style. As for Carol Burnett, who cares?

Editor's note: A valid

Red Shield says thank you

The following letter was sent to Regional Chairman Lou Parsons and a copy filed with The Times for publication.

The Red Shield Appeal for the current year has once again concluded on a note of triumph. Last year's initial success under the leadership of Wm. J. Mosely resulted in new heights of achievement.

Once again the support of public-spirited citizens in co-operation with efforts of the chairman has been helpful and encouraging.

Without the moral support of civic leaders like yourself we could not enlist such an active and responsible leadership team.

The success of the campaign gives reasonable assurance that the Salvation Army will once again be able to provide adequate service in the community. We are most grateful to you for permitting us to have the services of such a fine community leader as Mr. Mosely and also for personal contribution to our appeal.

H. HONEYCHURCH,
 BRIGADIER
 (ADMINISTRATOR)

CITY SLICKERS



PILSWORTH

