Ambulance service here changing for the better



RESUSCITATION PRACTISE

David Reeves and Donald Tomkinson (kneeling) practise resuscitation on attendant Doug Seager during a routine training session to test equipment and methods. Fleuty Ambulance manager Evan J. Butchers (at right) oversees the operation. In background is their blue and white government ambulance.

By DAVE TURNBULL

If you're driving along a road in Mississauga and hear a loud "beebop" and see red and white flashers pull over to the shoulder of the

road and stop. It's an ambulance.

It will be a 1970 Ford Econoline ambulance, painted government-regulation blue and white with experienced attendants inside that have completed a six-week training course sponsored by the province

GOVERNMENT RUN

As of 1968 all ambulances in the province are run by the Ontario government, under the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, Department of Emergency Services. And it is their aim to eventually have all the ambulances exactly the same - so motor-

ists won't get confused by different sirens or vehicles.

The new vehicle you'll see on the road in Mississauga is one of the government regulation vehicles, and is operated by Fleuty Ambulance Service on Hurontario Street just north of the Dundas Highway.

This ambulance, as do all the others in the province now, meets the new regulations for ambulance services," according to Evan J. Butchers, manager of Fleuty Ambulance. "Bill 143 of the 1968-69 Ambulance Act states the new requirements for ambulance services, and you must meet them if you're going to operate a

PATIENTS DIDN'T PAY "Before, many ambulance owners, operating their service at a loss because many patients from accidents refused to pay their bills," Butchers continued. "But now the Ontario Hospital pays for most of the bill." The fee for an ambulance is \$25

for any call within a 25-mile radius of the ambulance station. Providing the call is essential and the patient has OHSC, the Ontario Hospital pays \$20 and the patient is billed for the remaining \$5.

"Contrary to what many believe, ambulances run on a non-profit basis. We operate on a budget according to the size of our staff and the number of calls per year."

Butchers feels they need another ambulance to adequately cover the area. "We've asked for another one because the population has gone up so much, but it doesn't look like we'll be getting one — not in the near future anyway."

ANOTHER NEEDED

He cited a recent case where he feels another ambulance was definitely necessary. "We got a call at the Medical Arts Centre opposite Mississauga Hospital. Our vehicle was already out on a call as was Skinner and Middlebrook's Ambu-lance in Port Credit and Lee's Ambulance in Streetsville. I had to dispatch one from Brampton which took over 20 minutes to arrive, and it only had to take the patient 2,000

especially the ones up north, were feet. That's a long time to go such a short distance — especially when it was a heart attack."

Nearby Oakville is one-third as big as Mississauga, but has three ambulances. They are operated by Alexander Ambulance Service, which is owned by Murray MacBeth, vicepresident of the Ontario Ambulance Operators Association and one of the men responsible for the government takeover of ambulance services.

SIX YEARS FOR ACTION

MacBeth submitted his first brief to the government on Oct. 18, 1960 to attempt to get their help.

"It took us six years to get them interested enough to take action," MacBeth told the Times. "Dr. N. H. McNally of Oakville, and director of emergency health services in the province, has been able to do more in the last two years than ten of us were able to do in six years. He's having a hell of a time supervising and changing over 200 services, but things are really changing . . . for the better."

"It's not an inexpensive business to run either. Last year our budget was \$89,000 and it will be a great deal more this year because wages have gone up."

Ambulance services have a lot going for them. Be on their side, that blue and white vehicle the righthelp save a life and pull over. Give



'Political danger' in Peel only plan says Speck

ordinating committees at the administrative level but will definitely withhold political involvement pending the provincial decision on Mississauga's city status, general committee decided last week.

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Mississauga has always rejected the Peel only concept and has up until now failed to participate in county level committee discussions. The widening of the Peel County regional government committee to include consideration of a two county system prompted councillor. Ron Searle to move that the town re-enter the county committee at the staff level only.

Mayor Bob Speck warned "it is dangerous to become involved politically," in a Peel Mississauga, and several to move the county committee at the staff level only.

Mississauga — The question authority, Credit Valley on the Toronto Region, will take control of the provincial government's massive waterfront project here in Mississauga came before general committee waterfront project will see parks, beaches, marinas and protected lagoons developed along the full length of the Lake Ontario waterfront from Oakville in the west to Pickering in the east. But which supervises the development in Mississauga has yet to be determined.

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MISSISSAUGA — The town centred plan. A Peel only ity in county level regional will continue its support for region could not survive without Mississauga, and in the out Mississauga, and in the gional government and participate in two county coordinating committees at the administrative level but will

Neighboring Oakville's \$28,000 Cadillac ambulance provides lots of room in the back for four stretchers and an attendant. Even an A.C. output unit is included in the back of all new ambulances now so incubators can be used an transfer to be united.

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The Studio Lab Theatre Foundation is a group of professional actors who travel throughout Ontario performing children's plays in the Parks. With colorful costumes, lively music, involvement of the children, they are a favorite of any child.

For Further Information Call

EXTENSION 281