



## A visit by Big Bird

Times photo by GORM LARSEN

Big Bird of Sesame Street fame was on hand to amuse the children when Erindale United Church held its Centennial Summer Celebration on Saturday. Many of the participants wore period costumes and events included a pie-and-bread baking contest, pony rides, horseshoe-

throwing competition, singing, dancing and a barbecue. Pastor Charles Miller played Big Bird and the children are (from left) Robin Buriak, Jill Buriak and Brenda Kelly.

## Nude rapist strikes again

By JAMES BAILEY  
A rapist, wearing only a balaclava mask, struck again in the Sheridan Mall area Thursday night, sexually assaulting a woman in the underground parking lot of a Roche Court apartment building as police were responding to a report of an indecent exposure in a nearby building.

Police said two sisters in their early 20s were walking toward the door of the underground parking lot at 2111 Roche Court after midnight when they were confronted by a nude man wearing a balaclava. He was armed with a handgun. The two women fled through a nearby door and called police.

Ten minutes later, a 28-year-old woman called police, reporting she had just been sexually assaulted by the man in the underground parking lot at 2200 Roche Court. After the attack, the man allowed her to leave through the back door of the parking lot. Police blocked off the area, but the man slipped through their dragnet.

On May 16, a woman was confronted by a nude man wearing a balaclava and armed with a handgun in the underground parking lot of an apartment building at 2360 Bonner Road. As she ran toward the door, her attacker grabbed her by the head, but he was scared off by a noise.

Three days earlier, a woman was attacked by a man wearing a blue T-shirt

in the underground parking lot of a Roche Court apartment building. Metropolitan Toronto Police are investigating 17 similar attacks on women over the past few months.

Inspector Robert Midgough said that a team of eight detectives are working on the case, and police patrols have been stepped up.

The suspect is described as white, in his mid-20s, about six feet tall, with a muscular build, dark hair and fair skin.

Vol. 40 No. 6

Wednesday, June 22, 1977

15c

# The Times

Circulation 55,000

Serving the City of Mississauga

Where to send troubled children

## Family court decision sparks Peel appeal

By SID RODAWAY  
Peel Region has launched an appeal against a family court legal-loophole decision last week that has once again seemingly given the court the right to send troubled children directly to group homes at local expense without dealing with Peel Children's Aid Society.

Judge Warren Durham awarded custody of the 15-year-old girl last week to the Viking Homes employee, who in turn placed the child in the group home in Kingston. The hearing was attended by Peel Chairman Lou Parsons and Brampton Regional Councillor Terry Miller. At a Thursday committee meeting, Miller pointed the finger at Judge Durham when he said that he was glad "we're finally

coming down to the real problem." The conflict between Judge Durham and the Peel CAS has never been fully explained. According to Peel's social services

Continued on page A2

## Motor-bike crackdown set

The city will crack-down on illegal use of its parks by mini-bikes and trail bikes, the recreation and parks committee declared Monday.

After hearing explanations from Peel Regional Police Staff Inspector William Snarr about problems policing parks, the committee seemed even more determined than ever to try to curb the problem.

Snarr explained that the police department cannot consider patrol of parks a high priority in view of other duties which they must perform. But he noted that where there are problems, a yellow patrol car is sent into parks. This is often followed up by a detachment of the "old clothes" squad, who are dressed as ordinary citizens and sometimes provide much more effective enforcement.

Members of the committee were impressed by statistics Snarr produced to show the extent of arrests made and warnings issued in parks. Drinking in parks is a common practice, especially for juveniles.

Despite Snarr's assurances, some committee members were critical of the way police often fail to pursue offenders on bikes. William Schofield of Malton said he had seen officers sit in their cars while bikes were being ridden illegally in Wildwood Park. Councillor Fred Hooper added that an officer called to Burnbrae Crescent had refused to chase offenders on public property within his view.

Snarr said the officers should have pursued the youths, unless they had more urgent matters to attend to immediately. In a report, the city's director of building standards, Keith Cowan, proposed three options to improve enforcement of this "complex" problem. One option calls for a two-man team of uniformed parks personnel to be sworn in as peace officers.

The second option is for a two-man team of uniformed bylaw enforcement officers to be sworn in and work closely with regional police. The third calls for the police to establish a special parks detail of at least two officers to work exclusively on parks problems.

The city's recreation department, the city's building division and regional police are to study the three proposals and bring reports back to the next meeting on July 11.

which he received for his land to the Ontario Land Compensation Board. Adamson has been living in the house on a lease basis since the expropriation but is moving out in November. Public authorities are most concerned that a tenant be found to prevent vandalism.

## Phase out grant system: Butt

After reviewing 10 requests for grants Monday night and turning down all but one, recreation and parks committee members were told grants should be completely phased out.

Ward 7 Councillor Terry Butt made the statement after the committee refused nine requests for funds from the Streetsville Cadet Centre, Mississauga Air Cadets, the Boy Scouts, the Volunteer Centre for Peel, Peel Family Services, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Canadian Cancer Society, Lakeview Anglers and Hunters and the Credit Valley Philatelic Society.

A request by the Block Parent Committee was not approved, but was deferred by the group for a further report.

After reviewing virtually every application to come before it this year, the committee has allocated only \$27,500 of the \$62,500 budgeted. The cutbacks have hit sports, social service, cultural and other service groups. The committee has made its intent to have such groups become self-sufficient quite clear.

Butt urged the city "to take a long, hard look at phasing out grants completely." "I cannot support taxpayers' money being used to subsidize many groups," he added. "I think we should make known our intent to end grants. That is what we did in Port Credit and it worked fine. We cut out grants completely and to my knowledge all of the groups who were operating then are still operating today, without grants."

Councillor Frank Bean took objection to Butt's remarks, terming them "a nice motherhood statement I can't support." "There are certain cultural groups who will never be self-sufficient," argued Bean. "I believe we have a certain cultural responsibility which we must recognize. Some groups can never charge enough admission to be self-sustaining. We as a city owe our constituents some co-operation to make sure these things are still available for the city rather than losing them because of lack of support."

Councillor Frank Leavers concurred with Butt. He wants the recreation department to include in its next public questionnaire an item asking people if people want their tax money spent on grants. "We've assumed that some cultural endeavors are supported, but the taxpayers have never really had a chance to say," Leavers felt.

The Port Credit councillor felt "seeding" grants, to help organizations get started might be the only legitimate use of public funds.

The recreation and parks commissioner, Ed Halliday, noted that his department will be preparing a policy on grants which will be brought back to the committee to aid them in their deliberations next year.

## P. Credit teen admits starting big Cobalt fire

A 16-year-old Port Credit youth has admitted starting the fire which burned down half of the town of Cobalt last month, The Times has learned.

Prov. Const. Barry Binkey of the OPP's Halleybury detachment and an official of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office in Halleybury arrived in Mississauga by train last week to interview the youth.

The 16-year-old gave a statement to the officers in which he admitted tossing a lit cigarette butt into a pile of paint cans. He was in Cobalt working on a painting job.

The fire spread throughout the older section of the town, destroying dozens of buildings and leaving many families homeless.

A police spokesman of the OPP Halleybury detachment said no charges will be laid in connection with the fire.

Although damage in the blaze is estimated in the millions of dollars, no one was killed or injured.

## Erindale prof, councillor clash

By JOHN STEWART  
An Erindale College professor and the recreation and parks committee chairman, Councillor Fred Hooper, got into an argument Monday night over the effect of the development proposals for the Erindale Flats Park.

The landscape architects hired by the city to prepare the master plan for the park adjacent to Erindale College on the Credit River presented their proposals. Residents from the area had been invited to hear the presentation and give their views.

The plan prepared by Johnson, Weinstein and Sustronk calls for generally passive use of the 130 acres of park which will be developed. This is generally on the former sanitary landfill site, just north of Dundas Street, where a baseball field and lacrosse box now stand. They will be relocated.

## Environment-study pledge called 'joke'

By JOHN STEWART  
An appearance by representatives of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MTC) before councillors to discuss the Highway 403 route was "academic because the decision was made back in

1962," says a councillor. Mary Helen Spence told general committee that the pledge by Barry Khojajian of the ministry that separate environmental impact studies will be done on various sections of the 12.5-mile highway

through Mississauga was "a joke." Khojajian explained that under the province's Environmental Assessment Act different aspects of the highway projects — expected to take a total of five years to complete —

## \$200,000 scheme

## Skateboard setup proposed

A proposal for a \$200,000 skateboard facility to be placed in a city park has been made to the recreation and parks department.

The recreation and parks commissioner, Ed Halliday, revealed Monday night that a private individual has proposed the scheme. The city would lease an area in a park to the person who would build the facility.

Halliday said many details still had to be worked out, including the location of the park, the length of the lease and the question of ownership of the facility after the lease expires.

The city has been investigating possible skateboard clubs, which are common now in the United States. A proposal to use city arenas in the summer has been rejected because of the high capital cost of providing "mounding" to present an interesting course for riders.

The recreation and parks committee discussed the question Monday night and eventually deferred consideration until Halliday can report back with further details on the proposal.

Cameron Pickell, a former Toronto Township councillor, told the committee that there are now

proposals by a group known as the Free Spirits to put skateboard clubs in Mississauga on private land. Pickell felt this was a better alternative for the city.

In a report to the committee, the recreation department also proposed lifting the ban on skateboards in parks. Officials admitted that up until a little while ago, they did not realize the ban had been imposed when a bylaw was passed last fall.

Several committee members objected to the policy change. Councillor Frank Bean, an insurance

agent, questioned whether the city would not be increasing its liability exposure by condoning skateboards in parks. The city could be sued if any child were injured.

Recreation officials said the bylaw is not being enforced anyway, and children are using city parks for skateboarding.

Councillor Terry Butt wondered whether there was any point in keeping unenforceable legislation on the books.

The committee also deferred the issue of the skateboard ban to its next session July 11.