

Lawyers named QCs feel title an honor

By JOHN STEWART
Lawyers from Mississauga who received the title Queen's Counsel this week believe that the designation is an honorable tradition that should be continued.

Three of the 122 lawyers honored in the announcement by Attorney-General Roy McMurtry were from Mississauga. They are Robert Heather, Ronald Stauth and Michael Weir.

Weir says he was surprised by the announcement, especially in view of his past work for the Liberal Party. One of the main criticisms of the title has been that it is more of a reflection of political leanings than an award for good service.

At the recent annual meeting of the Law Society of Upper Canada, a resolution was passed asking for abolition of the practice of awarding QCs. The benches, 40 lawyers who make policy for the society, will consider the question Jan. 16.

"It's quite an honor," says Weir, who found out that he had been named by reading about it in The Globe and Mail. The Mississauga lawyer, who has practiced in Cooksville since he began his legal career in 1960, applied for a QC two years ago.

"I had no indication I would get it," he says. "I didn't even receive a reply saying my application had been received."

"It's a prestigious thing and something I think should be given out," says Weir, who admits he has no idea if there is any official ceremony or degree with title for the honor. He feels the title should be given to lawyers who have "been out a long time, been through the mill, worked diligently, done a lot of court work and served the community. It's a good honorary degree," he adds.

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City ousts McCallion from CVCA position

By JOHN STEWART
Councillor Hazel McCallion says there were "obviously political reasons" behind the decision made by council Monday, in her absence, not to reappoint her to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Mrs. McCallion said she didn't know exactly what the political reasons were. But she did say she knew that authority chairman Grant Clarkson was "very concerned about my presence" on the authority.

Council decided with a minimum of debate to approve a motion by councillors Chic Murray and Harold Kennedy, both of whom served on council earlier with Clarkson, to appoint Kennedy, David Culham, Mary Helen Spence and Hubert Wolf to the authority. Culham was the only new member suggested, instead of Mrs. McCallion.

She has been chairwoman of the authority's pivotal water management advisory board for the last two years. Mrs. Spence asked why it was decided that one sitting member would not be reappointed. "We put a motion," replied Murray.

Mrs. McCallion said she was particularly disturbed by the attitude of Clarkson and CVCA general manager Harry Watson whom she feels have not pursued the special case for a growth area such as the Credit Valley watershed as strongly as they should have with the province.



HAPPY FACES

Painted faces were happy faces at Happy Faces Day Care Centre when The Times visited this week. Left to right are Sean Montgomery, 5, Andrea Beatty, 5, Troy Howelle, 4, and Robin McBride, 4.

(Times photo by RON POZZER)

Judge can't comment; secret reports filed

By JOHN STEWART
Judge Ray Stortini has told city lawyers that he cannot expand on his statement that further investigations and hearings in connection with the city hall judicial inquiry are clearly warranted.

At a recent meeting, the judge told city solicitor Basil Clark and solicitor Robert Montgomery that he was no longer inquiry commissioner because of the Divisional Court ruling which found the inquiry was illegal.

"He told us he would say no more about any of the proceedings," Clark revealed at Monday's city council meeting.

The judge has deposited the confidential reports which came into his possession as a result of the inquiry with the clerk of the peace at the University Ave. court building, where he has his offices.

Judge Stortini said the information would be available upon the request of the attorney-general's department.

"But the judge refused to disclose anything to me or to Mr. Montgomery," Clark stressed.

"We're no further ahead now than we were six months ago," said councillor Caye Killaby. This latest information was typical of the "veiled" operation which has surrounded the inquiry, Mrs. Killaby claimed.

Council decided to spend tax dollars without knowing what it was getting itself into and now that the inquiry is winding up "we don't know where we've been, where we're going or what it was all about," she added.

The expense of the inquiry cannot be justified to the taxpayers because no information has come out, she said.

Clark said he could follow up an earlier request of the attorney-general, if council wished, and have the province try to clarify Stortini's call for further investigation. Council's only alternative now is to press the attorney-general, he said.

Councillor Ron Searle said Judge Stortini was just as unqualified to make statements when he wrote the letter con-

Non-strikers may be fined

By SID RODAWAY
Twenty-five of 180 inside postal workers in Mississauga who returned to work before the end of the recent 43-day strike may face fines of up to \$200 or more by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

Lou Murphy, president of the postal union local here, told The Times a final decision about what to do about postal workers who crossed the picket line will be made at a general membership meeting on Jan. 18 at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

There is strong pressure within the local, according to Murphy, to impose some form of penalty against those who returned to work before the strike was over. One proposal calls for union membership to be suspended and returned only after money earned while at work during the strike is handed over to the union executive.

Murphy predicted the fine against those who ignored the strike would probably run to about \$200 per person.

The decision reached by the local will have to be confirmed by the national leadership of the postal union and strong penalties are being encouraged.

The union's Ontario director, Arnold Gould, says that locals should not be too soft on those who crossed picket lines. "I don't like to see anybody outside the union, but I have no respect for a

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Not wearing seat belt saved life man claims

By JAMES BAILEY
If he had decided to wear his seat belt last Tuesday night, Peel cab driver Joe Whitehouse thinks it might have cost him his life.

Whitehouse, 27, the father of two girls aged two and four, had a knife held at his throat during a robbery attempt by two passengers he picked up at Square One. He escaped by pulling out in front of another car at a stop sign and jumping out before his surprised attackers could react.

How does he feel about Ontario's new compulsory seat belt legislation?

"I won't wear them," Whitehouse replies. "Not with people riding in the back. I'll take the fine first."

He said the two men who threatened him ran from the cab after his escape. Five police cruisers arrived within two minutes of his call and officers tracked the two suspects by footprints left in the snow. They were both arrested within an hour.

For Whitehouse, however, it was the second attack in less than two years of cab driving. Last year he says five

men in his taxi threatened to beat him up, but backed off when he pulled one of them out of the back seat.

"I feel the decision to wear seat belts should be up to the individual," he comments, adding that most cabdrivers feel it is a stupid law and impossible to enforce. By the time a police officer reaches the door of a car he has pulled over, the driver can slip on his seat belt, says Whitehouse.

A police spokesman conceded it will be difficult for officers to spot drivers who haven't buckled up. It is likely that most charges will occur when officers spot cars without seat belt assemblies which they know have been installed as original equipment.

Under Bill 27 it is an offence not only to drive without buckling your seat belt but also to remove the seat belt assembly installed in your car as original equipment. This amendment to the Highway Traffic Act was given Royal Assent Dec. 1 and came into force Jan. 1.

The ministry of transportation and communications has, however, requested that local police forces issue warnings instead of summonses for a grace period of one month. Under Section 152 of the act, fines range from \$20 to \$100.

The law requires every passenger to wear the complete seat belt assembly, so if you make a habit of wearing your lap belt but not the shoulder harness you are still liable to a charge.

If you are of a size, build, have physical characteristics or a medical condition which prevent you from wearing a seat belt, you must carry a certificate from a doctor indicating the period of time the situation will continue.

If an unbelted passenger is over the age of 16 years, he or she, not the driver, will be charged. If the passenger is between two years of age, and 16 the driver is responsible. Thus, a mother who takes her three-year-old infant into a friend's car not equipped with a baby safety harness, the infant must be buckled into the adult seat belt assembly to remain within the law.

"Our studies have shown

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Peel Cab driver Joe Whitehouse was robbed by two men last Tuesday night and claims that if he had been wearing a seat belt he would not have escaped the cab and one robber wielding a knife. Photo by ALEX KALNINS



Michele Steeves

Editor appointed

V. J. MacMillan, publisher of The Times, announces the appointment of Michele Steeves as editor of The Times. The appointment became effective Jan. 1.

Mrs. Steeves comes to The Times from the Oakville Journal Record where she was city editor for two years. Prior to joining the Journal Record, Ms. Steeves was a news editor with The St. John's Evening Telegram.

Mrs. Steeves graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1969.

Opportunism charge levelled at mayor

By JOHN STEWART
Councillor David Culham publicly accused Mayor Martin Dobkin and Ward 6 ratepayer Roy Saari Monday of opportunism and cynicism in trying to undermine Culham's position on the extension of the Queensway.

In a statement issued by the councillor, he said a personal letter from Saari to the mayor which Dobkin placed on council's agenda "reveals far more than Dr. Dobkin expected."

The obvious familiarity indicates closed door discussions between Mr. Saari, the mayor and Mrs. McCallion," claimed Culham. Culham said the letter, which Dobkin had retyped and placed upon the agenda without Saari's knowledge, was an indication of an "attempt to disrupt meetings, to confuse debate and, in effect, to disrupt the delicate negotiations that were underway."

The Ward 6 councillor has supported extension of the Queensway from Dixie Road to Mavis Road but not beyond that. Saari and the mayor support the position that no further expansion west of Cawthra Road is necessary.

"While I work openly doing my homework, having form people, attempting to gain acceptance at the region to stop the Queensway and develop alternative strategies, some people played dirty games," stated Culham. The councillor said he was shocked by the contents of Saari's letter and felt "some people have some answers to do."

Culham, who is considering running for mayor in this fall's municipal election, was particularly upset by a letter from the directors of the Glen Sharon Residents Association supporting stopping the Queensway at Cawthra Road. The letter was signed by seven of the 11 directors of the association. Saari, president of the group, had never

sent the letter to him, Culham claimed.

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