

## Frisbee or green blob?

### What did fall on Mississauga?

Mississauga real estate agent Traven Matchett still believes that the flaming blob that landed on his picnic table Saturday afternoon fell from a man-made satellite.

But the Ministry of Environment, which inspected the green blob on Monday, says it could have been a flaming frisbee.

Matchett, whose daughter extinguished the red hot flame that glowed "like a spotlight in the darkness" is convinced it may have come from a Chinese satellite which fell over Michigan on Saturday, or something from a military base.

Ministry officials identified the substance as polypropylene, the material

used in frisbees.

Since the mysterious landing, Matchett has had television interviews with stations from Seattle to Montreal.

Because two other Peel residents have previously found similar blobs on their lawns, Matchett believes that the falling objects may be coming from nearby military bases to the northeast.

Unexplicably, the blob left the top of the picnic table unscorched but apparently burned through the wood and charred the underside.

Matchett is not treating it as any joke, and neither are Peel police, who are investigating the incident.

## 500 oppose house plan

By DEBORAH IRVINE  
Times staff writer

It was an ironic alliance.

Cadillac Fairview, Canada's largest development corporation, and Susila Corporation, a tiny, unknown non-profit organization, banded together Monday night against 500 angry Erin Mills residents who jammed city council chambers.

They tried to explain their case but the residents refused to believe that a 102-unit non-profit housing project planned for Folkway Drive would not lower property values, overcrowd schools and increase traffic.

When Mayor Hazel McCallion joined their side, the cheers, whistles and stamping of the residents nearly brought down the house as they gave her a standing ovation.

"Mississauga needs rental accommodation," said McCallion. "It needs rental projects which are geared to income. But non-profit projects must be built in the right place and they must not be concentrated. I don't think this is the right place."

Susila Corporation, a non-profit housing corporation, approached Cadillac Fairview last year to buy land in the Folkway-Glen Erin Drive area for its first housing project.

Cadillac Fairview this year gave site plan approval to the project, which will have 25 per cent of its units with rent geared to income. The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) advanced \$75,000 to Susila.

Thomas Kelly, a development manager with Deodas Corp., consultants for Susila, explained that Susila's objective was to provide housing for families now living in high density areas.

Kelly denied the residents' claims that the project would house Third World people or members of Subud, a non-denominational religious organization. He said Susila's directors were all members of Subud, but added that there is no legal affiliation.

Residents protested that Cadillac Fairview had led them to believe that a luxury townhouse project was being planned. One resident, who bought her house only two weeks ago, said she was never told that a non-profit project was going up across the street.

David Sadowski, community coordinator with Cadillac Fairview, admitted that residents weren't told about the Susila project. But he insisted that Cadillac Fairview did not approve the project until three months ago.

## Wages issue in ambulance strike

The drivers and attendants of Halton-Mississauga Ambulance Ltd., Mississauga's only ambulance service, have agreed to remain on 24-hour call in case of emergency, despite walking off their jobs Monday morning after contract negotiations broke down.

The 68 ambulance employees, members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) — Local 207, met with negotiators from Halton-Mississauga Ambulance yesterday afternoon to discuss remaining on call for essential emergencies such as multiple car collisions or plane crashes.

The employees went on strike Saturday after voting 98 per cent in favor of striking June 8.

"The main issue in the dispute is wages," said Hank Meyer, local president. "We're asking for a 14 per cent increase over one year, the amount necessary to raise our rates to the level paid to the Ministry of Health's own ambulance attendants."

According to Meyer, the ambulance company has offered only five per cent increase on the proposed one-year contract.

Ministry attendants are paid \$7.73 an hour while the increase offered to the local employees would bring their wages to \$7.10 an hour.

The union has offered to refer the dispute to binding arbitration but that offer was rejected by Halton-Mississauga Ambulance Ltd.

## Student bus fares up 10¢

Students will not have to pay the full adult fare of 50 cents on Mississauga Transit buses as recommended earlier.

In a unanimous vote at a special council meeting last week, the student fare was increased by 10 cents to 35 cents per ride effective Aug. 7.

Pro-tem transit authority chairman Ron Starr said an earlier meeting with transit manager Ed Dowling was not in camera, but just an information session.

When asked to reveal how the authority is going to make up the projected deficit of \$222,000 to the end of

the year, Starr said that some "massaging" of the budget had been done. He would not explain the details, saying they will be released later.

Service during rush hours, which was dropped back a few weeks ago resulting in several hundred passengers being left at bus stops because of overcrowded vehicles, has been increased although not to the maximum previous service levels, Starr said. "Either we want the system to work or we don't," he remarked. "You just can't take 35 to 40 per cent of the service out."



Ronnie Brodie and Leo Bastarache load up

## The garbage game

### Yes, business is picking up

By DEBORAH IRVINE  
Times staff writer

Not everyone believes that one man's garbage is another man's treasure—especially garbagemen.

Take Ronnie Brodie for example. He's been picking up garbage for the last nine years in Mississauga and during that time he's been chased by a man wielding a double-barrelled shotgun and been kicked, insulted, sworn at and spied upon. He knows one man who lost an arm after lifting a garbage bag filled with broken glass and his own brother-in-law lost some toes the same way.

Brodie's partner, Leo Bastarache, a Mississauga garbageman for two years, hasn't fared much better. Besides sharing the same abuse, he has strained stomach muscles from lifting boxes filled with sod and been cut several times by broken glass. Once he had to dump a truck-load of garbage on a residential street because someone left warm acid to be picked up and it started the rest of the garbage smoldering.

Once Brodie was chased by a man with a shotgun who was angry that Brodie had blocked traffic on his street.

What's worse, Brodie and Bastarache say, is that they receive nothing but abuse from people who think they should be picking up more garbage.

They don't pick up fridges and stoves, huge bundles of newspapers and battered car fenders left to rust in the rain. In fact, by law they're required only to pick up six bags of garbage per week at each home.

### Garbage spies

"A lot of people hide behind their houses when they see us coming so they can spy on us and find out what we don't pick up," laughs Brodie.

"Then if you leave something behind because you can't lift it or because the truck won't take it, out they charge yelling and swearing about their taxes and demanding that you pick up their garbage."

Bastarache says the most common insult used by irate homeowners is, "You'll never be anything more than a garbageman."

"But that's okay with me," Bastarache says. "It's hard work, but I like the hours and at least I've got a job."

Both are employees of Superior Sanitation Services, the rubbish removal company which handles

has his own theory why his method is successful.

"If you both work equally, then no one gets angry at the other guy for shifting his load," he says. "I want to work hard because I want to own this truck and Leo thinks it's better for him that way too. But not all garbagemen feel that way. Some like to take the whole 11 hours to do their job."

### Cleanliness first

Each morning before they begin work both men wipe the inside of the truck's cab with "Tender Trap" perfume. It keeps both the dust and the smell down. Brodie disagrees with garbagemen who think that their truck will naturally be dirty. His is going to be clean.

The morning I rode with the men, most of the heavy spring clean-up garbage had been picked up the week before. During the spring and fall, Brodie and Bastarache might lift as much as 80,000 lbs. of garbage a day between them, while in the winter it will slack off to about 50,000 lbs.

"It's like any other job where you're only using certain muscles," says Bastarache, who weighs 145 lbs. (Brodie doesn't weigh much more.) "I may spend the whole day lifting garbage and then on my off-day mow the lawn and be exhausted."

Garbage truck drivers are paid \$6.56 an hour while their helpers are paid \$6.49 an hour. The biggest advantage to the job is being able to knock off early if you finish ahead of schedule.

As for Mississauga residents, Brodie and Bastarache have concluded that the older sections of the city have the most and dirtiest garbage. Italians have the heaviest garbage because of their love of pasta and wine-making and for every homeowner who complains about garbage pick-up there is one who is considerate and neat.

But it still isn't a treasure hunt.



garbage pickup for Mississauga, Brampton and part of Etobicoke. Superior's branch manager, Keith Carrigan, describes as "unbelievable" the amount of hazards garbagemen face daily.

### 11-hour day

"Our people aren't stupid, but they are so often treated like they are," says Carrigan. "They're stereotyped as being dumb, but each man has to take a training course before he is allowed on a truck. We have one man who held a job as a high-paying executive before he came to us. He didn't like the pressure of being an executive and wanted his independence instead."

Brodie and Bastarache begin their 11-hour day at 7:30 a.m. Garbage is collected four days a week in Mississauga, but Brodie also works a fifth day in Brampton because he is buying his own truck from the company so he can have more independence.

Both he and Bastarache work as partners, each taking turns lifting garbage and driving the truck, unlike other garbagemen. And Brodie