

Highrises approved for hotly-debated land

By JOHN STEWART
A compromise agreement has finally been reached for development of the land owned by Jan Davies Ltd. and Jessam Investments Ltd. on the north-east corner of Highway 10 and the North Service Road.

In a 5-1 vote on Monday night, council agreed to allow three high-rise apartments on the property, two on the

land west of Sherboe Road and one on the land to the east. The property has been a bone of contention for many years. One of the allegations in the defunct judicial inquiry involved dealings for the rezoning of the land. Builder Jan Davies has claimed in the past that he was being persecuted and "black-

mailed" by the city over the land. The Davies' lands were rezoned for stacked townhouses in 1974 by council and that zoning was upheld by the Ontario Municipal Board. But in 1976, Davies decided he wanted high-rise apartments on the property because the stacked townhouses were not economically viable.

Council rejected the high-rise proposal unanimously. An Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the application was then adjourned when it was determined that there was some basis of compromise between the developer and the city. Councillor Harold Kennedy of Ward 1 has held meetings with the Credit Reserve Association and members of

Peel condominium No. 38 who would be most directly affected by the apartments. The ratepayer groups have agreed to the compromise proposal. The adjournment of the OMB hearing by the city was on the basis that discussions of a total population of about 1,500 people for the three buildings would be discussed.

Davies argued that the figure was too low. The total population under the compromise agreed to Monday by council will be 1,667. Under the agreement, the apartment building east of Sherboe will not exceed 10 storeys or 108 units. The two apartment buildings closer to Highway 10 will each have a maximum of 23 storeys and a total of 500 units.

Kennedy commented that the opposition to high-rise apartments evident when council first dealt with the application in 1974 "has dwindled somewhat." The keys to the settlement were Davies' agreement to provide larger suites and the maximum landscaping to protect the condominiums from the apartments, Kennedy said. The apartments are located as far away from the condominiums as physically possible on the site.

Planning Commissioner Russ Edmunds objected to one provision in the agreement which allows Davies to transfer any coverage not used on the site east of Sherboe to the one to the west. He said he objected to transferring density from road widenings, but noted that it has been done before.

Only Councillor Mary Helen Spence objected to the compromise. In favor were Councillors Kennedy, Frank Bean, Fred Hooper, Terry Butt and Frank Leavers. Mayor Ron Searle was in the chair and didn't vote, Councillor Larry Taylor was elsewhere in the building. Councillor Frank McKeechne is on holiday and Councillor Hazel McCallion declared a conflict of interest on the advice of her lawyer.



Times photo by GORM LARSEN

A family affair

So far it's been a perfect winter for those who enjoy getting out for fresh air and exercise. The Coulson family enjoyed a day of skiing along the Credit River last weekend. Here Chris, Anne and Cathy get ready for a good hike. A complete roundup of where and when you can enjoy the season's activities is on D-1.

Hazel fails again at CVCA bid

By JOHN STEWART
In a 5-4 recorded vote, Streetsville Councillor Hazel McCallion has been denied her request to serve on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for the second consecutive year.

Mrs. McCallion's name was not on a list proposed for the CVCA by Mayor Ron Searle. Councillors were asked to list priorities for committees.

Councillor Frank Leavers was the only member to put the authority nomination first in priority.

Several people made it their second choice, including Councillors Mary Helen Spence, Harold Kennedy, Terry Butt and Mrs. McCallion.

Searle's proposed slate, which was eventually confirmed by council, was Kennedy, Mrs. Spence, Leavers and Councillor Larry Taylor, who had placed the authority as his third priority.

Both Mrs. McCallion and Mrs. Spence asked Searle why the CVCA nominations were the only ones for committees which did not follow the priority ratings.

The mayor replied that it was difficult to balance priorities, especially since several people wanted to be on both the authority and the city planning committee.

"I made my judgment based on requests and based on my own judgment on whom would best represent the city's interests on the committees. It's up to council to decide."

Mrs. Spence asked Taylor if, since he had placed the authority as third priority, he would not mind deferring to Mrs. McCallion.

"If necessary, I would be prepared to remove my name," he said.

But, who placed the CVCA as a second priority, will serve on the Metro Conservation Authority.

Without discussion, the new list, with Mrs. McCallion included, was voted on. The motion lost 5-4, with Searle and Councillors Kennedy, Frank Bean, Fred Hooper and Butt opposed. Councillors Spence, Taylor, Leavers and McCallion were in favor. Councillor McKeechne was absent on vacation.

Taylor's name was subsequently reinscribed for Mrs. McCallion's and the motion carried.

But Mrs. McCallion was not willing to let the matter rest. She asked Searle if he had been lobbied by CVCA Chairman Grant Clarkson to keep her from being appointed.

"People know that lobbying

me is not very successful," responded Searle. "I've not spoken to the chairman nor any other person about it. People know that if they lobby me they'll be told what they can do with their lobby."

Mrs. McCallion said she understood that other members of council had been lobbied to keep her from getting the authority appointment.

"Did you consult formally or informally with any other member of council about the list? Whom did you consult?" she asked.

"The hackles on the back of my neck are beginning to rise at these insinuations," replied Searle.

"I know of no one who lobbies more than you," he told the Streetsville councillor.

"Did you consult with anyone else — yes or no?" persisted Mrs. McCallion. "I don't think so," replied Searle.

"I know it's difficult for you to answer these questions," continued Mrs. McCallion. "It's difficult for you to accept the truth," snapped Searle.

The following day, Clarkson said he "categorically denied" the charges by Mrs. McCallion. "I never asked anybody to put her on or off," said Clarkson. "Some members of council have said what they're going to do, but I've never asked them, not this year or last year."

Clarkson and Mrs. McCallion clashed sharply over many issues when they were on the authority together. They faced each other in the October, 1973 election in Ward 9 which Mrs. McCallion won. Clarkson was subsequently appointed by the province as chairman of the authority.

Last year Mrs. McCallion also lost her bid to be reappointed to the CVCA in a 5-4 vote taken while she was attending a funeral.

Mrs. Spence called it very unfortunate that Mrs. McCallion had been denied the job twice. "It's no secret that there was a movement afoot to keep her off the authority," the Ward 2 councillor said.

"The conservation authority has lost because of this," she said. "She contributed significantly and worked extremely hard. As to the list presented by mayor Searle, 'the numbers are there to be seen by the public.'"

"And they can see that the mayor's guilty of doing it," interjected Mrs. McCallion.

Bean said there was no parallel between what happened last year and this year.

"Last year things were done in your absence. I objected to that," he said.

One of the councillors who opposed Mrs. McCallion's appointment later said privately that although she made significant contributions to the CVCA with her knowledge and experience, she also was guilty of constant "undermining" of morale.

Group home appeal postponed to Feb. 3

An appeal against an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) decision which stopped plans for the establishment of a group home for retarded adults on Haig Boulevard has been postponed until Feb. 3.

The appeal, launched jointly by Mississauga and the Mississauga Association for the Mentally Retarded (MAMR), was to have been heard in Osgoode Hall last Tuesday.

MAMR received initial approval to establish the home for six adults from the city's committee of adjustment.

Neighboring residents appealed to the OMB and the decision was overturned on the grounds that the city should pass a specific bylaw to allow for the establishment of group homes in residential areas.

Ontario vows to solve group homes dispute

By SID RODAWAY

After two years of pleas for relief, the provincial government has promised solutions to Peel Region's expensive problem involving cost of the care of troubled children sent to residential group homes by Peel Family Court.

MAMR received initial approval to establish the home for six adults from the city's committee of adjustment. Neighboring residents appealed to the OMB and the decision was overturned on the grounds that the city should pass a specific bylaw to allow for the establishment of group homes in residential areas.

Peel taxpayers are paying more than \$1 million a year to cover the \$43-a-day cost of keeping one child in a group home, a problem aggravated

here by the Peel Family Court's seeming reluctance to place such troubled children in the care of the Peel Children's Aid Society (CAS).

By sending many of the children directly to group homes, instead of by way of CAS, Peel misses out on an 80 per cent provincial subsidy.

The problem burst into the open two years ago and despite a constant string of letters and phone calls to various provincial ministries, group home-care costs continued to rise and to be carried almost exclusively by local taxpayers.

On Friday, Ward 9 Councillor Hazel McCallion, along with Peel Social Services Commissioner Jim Crozier presented their case again to Mrs. Birch and McKeough at the MLC meeting. Mrs. McCallion is vice-chairman of the MLC for 1977.

"We emphasized that the property-tax system in municipalities was never intended to bear such a cost," Mrs. McCallion said after the meeting.

"We complained of the lack of provincial legislation controlling group homes. There is no licensing at all. Why, even private day-care operations are covered by extensive provincial controls."

She said she was also critical of the fact that a major provincial government report on all forms of residential care in Ontario had been completed in April, 1975, but not released until late 1976, and then without any recommendations.

"There are 23 programs, 40 acts and five ministries involved in the administration of residential care," she said. "In 1974, there was \$617.5 million spent on residential care for children and adults in Ontario."

Mrs. McCallion told Mrs. Birch that the solution to the care problem was not more

spending, but reduction in overlapping the programs and bureaucratic duplication.

Mrs. Birch promised that a long-term policy would be forthcoming, but she could not say when. McKeough added that a short-term solution to the funding problem would be ready soon. He did not elaborate.

Last February the provincial government had made the same promise that a new policy was in the works and would be unveiled shortly, but nothing happened.

Hydro budget hike due to increase in cost of power

Mississauga Hydro Commission has approved a 1977 operating budget of almost \$56.9 million, up from \$41.5 million in 1976.

The big increase was blamed on hikes in the wholesale price of electrical power charged by Ontario Hydro.

Approved last week, the 100-page budget summary shows that of the \$56.9 million expected to be spent on operations, \$50.3 million will go toward wholesale purchase of electricity. In 1976, the commission paid \$35.6 million for electricity.

Ontario Hydro raised its wholesale rates for power by 22 per cent a year ago and by another 29.4 per cent on Jan. 1, 1977. These increases resulted in local retail hydro rates rising by 18 per cent last January and another 26 per cent this month.

A capital budget for expansion and replacement of equipment was set at \$6,768,000, compared to

\$5,164,000 last year. About half of this money is derived from developers who pay for the electrical distribution system's expansion in their new neighborhoods.

All of the commission's net income is plowed back into capital expenditures to help reduce the need for borrowing. This net income was about \$688,000 in 1976 and is expected to total \$445,000 in 1977. The commission plans to borrow about \$1.5 million this year for capital expansion.

Mississauga Hydro's general manager, Bert Flemming, told the commission members that growth in the electrical system will continue at about the same rate as last year, resulting in an eight per cent increase in electrical sales.

He credited Anti-Inflation Board rulings for keeping the commission's own expenditures under control. No new vehicles will be purchased this year.

To calculate the final budget figure, the ministry of health uses a series of factors to anticipate the effects of inflation on the cost of providing various hospital services.

"The ministry of health has used an inflationary factor which is inadequate to cover inflation as we see it and doesn't anticipate the growth we anticipate in the demand for outpatient services," said Henderson.

The demand for services from Mississauga Hospital last year increased between nine and 20 per cent depending upon the department involved, but the ministry's budget "is probably going to be in the same range next year," he observed.

The hospital board will be submitting its approved budget to the ministry with the hope that officials will review their decision, but the outlook isn't good. Asked how

often the ministry has accepted appeals for budget increases from hospitals, Henderson replied "I think, particularly over the last year or two, the record has not been good."

The ministry of health has refused to tell the hospitals how it decides how much money is needed or what factors are used in anticipating the effects of inflation.

At present, patients who need physiotherapy treatment at Mississauga Hospital must wait for "at least a couple of weeks, which is longer than it should be," Henderson says. "To say what that delay might become depends on growth — whether it will become three weeks or four, I really can't say."

For the past two years, the hospital has received no money for new programs. The board has been forced to postpone indefinitely the purchase of angiography equipment which is needed to perform brain surgery, which means Mississauga residents requiring neurosurgery must be transferred to Toronto Western Hospital. An inquest

jury two years ago recommended the purchase of such equipment after investigating the death of an 11-year-old boy who died from brain injuries in a traffic accident on Highway 10.

"We are going to try to maintain existing services as well as we can until we hear from the ministry," Henderson added. "If the growth we anticipate doesn't materialize, the problem is not that great. We expect, however, that there will have to be a lowering of the standard of care."

Henderson doesn't expect there will be any layoffs of the hospital's 800-member full-time staff "at this stage."

If the expected growth costs do occur, however, "it could lead to some of the more drastic measures, like closing down wards."

The ministry of health also prohibits local hospitals from obtaining operating revenue through public fund-raising. "The board has no mandate to go to the public for funds," says Henderson, "because the ministry believes that costs should be covered by hospital insurance premiums."

Traffic surveyed while road closed for repairs

A traffic study to determine if all-way stop signs should be installed at Mississauga Valley Boulevard and Hyacinthe Boulevard will be redone.

General committee agreed to that this week after Ward 4 Councillor Larry Taylor explained that residents say the traffic survey was done on a day when repairs were being made to Cawthra Road and traffic was diverted from the area.

The engineering department's report indicated that stop signs were not

warranted because the amount of cut-through traffic using the road was insignificant and 85 per cent of the street's users were going 31 miles per hour or less.

"If there's any doubt, we'll be glad to redo the survey," said Angus McDonald of the city's engineering department.

He also noted that traffic lights are included in the proposed 1977 engineering budget, which council will be considering in the next few months.

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Remarks on plan shock to council

By JOHN STEWART

A remark by Mayor Ron Searle that a city commissioner has "grave reservations" about Mississauga's draft Official Plan set off a long and angry debate among councillors this week.

Searle told general committee that he had spoken to one department head, later identified as City Engineer William Taylor, who expressed serious doubts about certain aspects of the plan.

He did not detail what the serious reservations were, but it later became evident that they involve transportation decisions by council, such as the removal of the Mineola Road bridge and the western Queensway extension. A study to consider traffic alternatives caused by those decisions in southern Mississauga has not been completed.

COUNCILLOR SHOCKED
Councillor Mary Helen Spence was the first of several councillors to express shock at Searle's comments. She said commissioners have had many opportunities to talk to council about any problems with the plan. "If any commissioner has not raised concerns, I'd like to know why."

Searle suggested that during the "protracted debate" on the Official Plan by the previous council, "there was not enough candid dialogue." The mayor claimed that Mrs. Spence or any councillor could have "found out the truth" by talking to department heads.

"I've discussed the plan with all the commissioners over a long period of time in private meetings," replied Mrs. Spence, "and I've never heard about these things. This is not the time to be told about 'grave reservations.'"

She claimed city commissioners were paid to express their professional reservations publicly.

PLANNING AGHAST
Planning Commissioner Russ Edmunds said he was "really aghast at what the mayor has said." He said that he was "very upset" by the information, especially after a "solid year" of effort to get the Official Plan into its current shape.

Edmunds said that Taylor, who was not present at the meeting, was the chairman of the sub-committee on transportation for the plan. "The problems between the planning and engineering departments are well known," commented Edmunds. "But if this is going to be how things are done, the co-operation will only worsen rather than get better."

Edmunds asked that other department heads support his comments, saying "we might as well get it all out on the table." Other commissioners did support Edmunds' remarks.

Later in the week Taylor indicated he had not seen a report on the Official Plan which Edmunds had prepared for general committee. One of the recommendations in that report, asking for an effective face-to-face staff liaison between city and regional staff, would take care of the majority of his concerns, Taylor said.

He commented that the transportation problems referred to were "not that big," that they shouldn't be resolved before the Official Plan is finally adopted.

WANTS REGION CONSULTED
Mayor Searle was particularly adamant that the

region be consulted before the draft Official Plan goes to the public for final comment.

The concerns of the two levels of government should be incorporated so that there is not a series of confrontations, he urged.

Searle said he could not understand Edmunds' concern that a commissioner had serious reservations.

Edmunds replied that those reservations should have been stated far earlier in the process. "If we had not settled anyone's concerns, they should have stood up and said so," he explained.

Edmunds agreed with Searle that direct liaison with the region was important. "Hopefully, we can go hand in hand with the region to the province with the plan."

CITIZEN SUPPORT
Councillor Hazel McCallion also expressed shock at the mayor's announcement. She pointed out that many of the transportation decisions made by council in the Official Plan were opposed by staff, but supported by citizens. If council wants to reconsider those decisions, more public meetings will have to be held, she said.

Mrs. McCallion accused Searle of trying to "scuttle the Official Plan with this manoeuvre."

She said he had opposed the Official Plan for three years "and now has an opportunity to put his negativism in action. I feel terrible that he used a commissioner to do it."

Searle replied that if asking questions is negativism, then, "God bless honest negativism."

Searle took "mild issue" with Mr. McCallion's use of the word "scuttled." He said he was surprised that "there's so much hysteria about a difference of opinion. There's nothing sinister about the mayor and a commissioner meeting."

TAYLOR SPEECHLESS
New members of council elected Dec. 6 seemed taken aback by the debate. Councillor Larry Taylor of Ward 4 said he was "speechless."

Frank Bean said he was worried that the Official Plan not be clouded with political overtones. "Let's not lose sight of the goal." The concerns he had heard expressed seemed "rather nebulous," he suggested.

Somewhat obscured by the heated debate was a report by Edmunds plotting a path to completion of the Official Plan.

Besides proposing direct liaison with the region, the

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