

# The Times

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## Stop crosswalks

Mississauga council is reconsidering the use of pedestrian crosswalks in the town and there is a danger that endorsements of the concept by several agencies may convince councillors to approve the crossings.

Specifically, the Mississauga Traffic Safety Council cites letters from Toronto deputy police chief John R. Murray, the Peel County Board of Education and the Peel-Dufferin Separate School Board to back its recommendation that the crosswalks be introduced.

Deputy chief Murray said he supports the use of pedestrian crosswalks "so long as it is introduced with adequate publicity; the crosswalks are properly used by pedestrians; and the motorists drive with proper care." Surely the safety council realizes that such hypothetically perfect circumstances would insure the success of any pedestrian safety program.

The two school boards responded in support of crosswalks on the basis that they augment rather than replace the existing system of school crossing guards. Both boards should take a cue from a May 31 Times report. In it Enid Britten, who is in charge of busing with the public board, said she doubted that parents would consider letting their children use the crosswalks. The report also quoted several crossing guards who felt crosswalks would weaken the guard system.

Much of the potential support for the concept seems to stem from the theory that if pedestrian crosswalks work in Metropolitan Toronto they will help prevent accidents in Mississauga. That was obvious when town council asked traffic coordinator John Bonvivre to investigate the number of Metro traffic facilities directly related to the installation of crosswalks.

Don't our councillors realize that conditions in Mississauga are far different from those in Toronto? Either that is the case or the civic leaders are ignoring the logic of Mississauga deputy police chief Doug Burrows who argues that crosswalks work only in areas of high density population where streets are narrow and traffic is relatively slow-moving. That combination is rare in Mississauga.

Councillor Harold Kennedy said in April that the Traffic Safety Council should make a recommendation on crosswalks only from the point of view of safety and ignoring the cost involved. If other councillors agree to such largesse with taxpayers' money they should seriously be considering the installation of pedestrian signal lights or additional crossing guards.

Pedestrian crosswalks do not belong in Mississauga.

## Let Caval fight

Caval Associates' quest to build the \$3.1 million Mississauga Sports Centre still hangs largely on a commitment from the town for rental of ice time.

Caval president Rex Faithful says he fears going ahead with construction when there is the possibility the town could build their own facilities.

Whichever way you look at it, such a commitment still amounts to taxpayers' dollars backing private enterprise.

We suggest Caval prepare to fight it out in the marketplace. It is unlikely the town would build superfluous facilities when most municipally-run arenas are losing in excess of \$100,000 a year. A Parks and Recreation official has said the centre doesn't need a long term lease, it will get the business anyway.

If the town (i.e. taxpayers) back development who will rightfully own the complex after 25 years: not town taxpayers but the developers. It is an unacceptable proposition.



They could've found a better place for these Cable T.V. pedestals!

## Observations

The Canadian Community Newspaper Association awards presented during the weekend in Montreal bear witness to the high calibre of weekly newspapers in Peel County. The Brampton-Bramalea Guardian, The Mississauga News and The Times finished one-two-three in the general excellence category for Canadian weeklies with a circulation of 6,000 or more. To our friendly (usually) rivals we offer our heartiest congratulations. May they enjoy it while it lasts.

A score is a goal is a score in sport — unless the word becomes repetitive in a newspaper report. Then sportswriters turn to synonyms to get the point across. Just for fun we came up with a list, a "score" board so to speak. Here it is: Fire, trigger, knock in, snatch, strike, dump in, hit, find range, tally, take care of scoring, put on the board, rip in, drill in, net, hammer home, whack in, smash in, pot, rap in, count, connect, snare, drive in, punch in, slap in, rifle, pop in, beat, blast, slip in, shoot, rack up, snag, reply, respond, collect, explode for, drill. We're sure there must be more. If you can add any clichés to this list, let us know.

There's a lesson to be learned from a series of local weekend break-ins.

Mississauga police report that nine apartment suites on Riverspray Crescent and two on Floor were entered by force. The thieves apparently chose suites where uncollected newspapers signalled the absence of occupants. If you plan to be away, stop delivery of your paper or ask a neighbour to pick it up.

This week's Canadian Magazine has an excellent piece on Olympic pentathlon

hopeful — Debbie Van Kiekehelt. There's only one problem: anyone reading the story would never know that Debbie has ever set foot within the boundaries of Mississauga despite the fact that she lives here with her parents and that she attended Clarkson Secondary School. It has become a habit of the Toronto media to adopt all successful athletes, performers, businessmen, etc. who live within a 50-mile radius of Metro as natives. It is only when they lose or their luck is down that reporters and broadcasters bother to recognize their real

places of residence.

Acting Mayor Lou Parsons often says he is better with the one line zingers after a good night's sleep, so he must have rested well before last week's council meeting. Keeble Cable president Gordon Keeble had just told council he would be the first company to offer 18 channels. Shortly afterward a young lady representing Erin Mills Cable revealed her company would have 24 channels. "Seems that you have been outdone" teased Parsons. Keeble retorted, "what she has today we'll have tomorrow." Looking the lady up and down, the acting mayor shot back: "I doubt it."

We had a grass fire in our back yard at 2300 South Sheridan Way last Wednesday afternoon. The Mississauga Fire Department was called but before they arrived a group of kids playing in the area found an old water bucket filled it with water and doused the mini-blaze (left). Everything was under control by the time the firemen arrived.



Junior fire brigade...

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