

Crossing guard crusader gets the axe

Police say she deserted post

BY JOHN STEWART

A crossing guard who was dismissed by the Mississauga police May 4 says she was fired because she was organizing guards to seek salary raises.

Dorothy McChesney of 2250 Hurontario St. was dismissed over the telephone by Constable Lindo Maritan. One day before the firing Mrs. McChesney and two other guards had notified police they were walking off their jobs for the afternoon. They were protesting the lack of action by police and

what Mrs. McChesney says was a broken promise that the department would consider their demands at a special meeting.

"Since February of 1972 I've been trying to get a raise for the guards," Mrs. McChesney says. "I had indications from the officers that they supported us and our supervisor, Mrs. Gaynor gave me a list of the 93 guards.

"I contacted most of them and only two were really against me," she claims. "On April 2 we went to the police station — about 30 of us — and I presented my letter stating our requests. They asked most of the guards to leave but some of us had a meeting with Deputy Chief (Gord) Stanfield, Sgt. (David) Yakichuk and Superintendent (George) Wilson."

Mrs. McChesney claims her group was promised that a police meeting to discuss the guards' demands would be held before the end of April.

When the woman discovered May 3 that no meeting had taken place, she and the two other women decided to "wake the police up because they've been fooling around too much."

GAVE NOTICE

Giving the ordinary notice of absence — more than an hour in advance — the women all missed their lunch hour shifts. One of them returned to service in the afternoon. Mrs. McChesney says the woman became frightened when an officer told her she could be charged if a child was hurt in an accident.

"They have spare guards"

Mrs. McChesney says. "They had lots of time to call them. A woman took my place."

One officer had to be posted at a crossing according to Sgt. Yakuchuk. He says Mrs. McChesney was fired for leaving her post and not for her crusade to have salaries raised.

The sergeant said he wasn't sure, but he believed the other women who went out May 3, had returned to their posts after missing one shift.

According to Mrs. McChesney, one woman returned and one, like herself, missed all afternoon shifts. Only she, however, was fired.

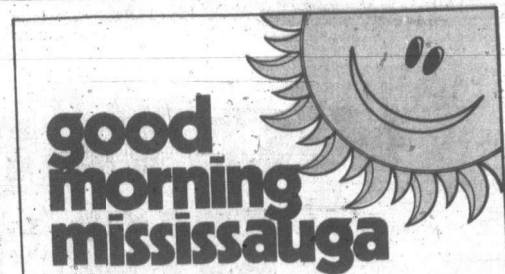
A crossing guard who refused to let her name be used said Mrs. McChesney was fired "because they (the police) felt she was the head of the movement to get us raises. That's definitely what it was all about."

Another guard supported Mrs. McChesney's claim that the employees had been promised a raise in March, retroactive to January. Declining to be identified,



DOROTHY McCHESNEY

the woman said the firing was "a rotten, miserable thing to do. She was fired because she was trying to organize us. After all, everyone should have the right to ask for an increase in pay. The police act as if seeking a raise is committing some sort of crime. 'It's a question of right and wrong,' the guard said. 'It's a terrible disgraceful thing to do to her.'"



Tree-saver policy blocked

BY FRANK TOUBY

Mayor Chic Murray's do-or-die opposition to the most significant conservation policy Mississauga council has ever considered, stalled a resolution which could prohibit cutting trees on private property in areas when development may take place.

The resolution, passed last week in council's general committee, was proposed by Councillor Glenn Grice. It came in response to a recently released study by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority which says the number and area of woodlands in Mississauga is small and the town should make every effort to preserve the areas for conservation, parkland and open space use.

The most controversial clause in the resolution states: "Whereas in several areas of the town, large stands of trees have been destroyed, and whereas in the public interest certain stands of trees should be maintained, therefore be it resolved that this town apply to the provincial government for permissive legislation to allow the town to regulate and restrict the cutting of trees on private property, in areas where the planning staff indicate that residential, commercial, governmental, agricultural or industrial development may take place."

Murray argued against the resolution, saying it goes "far beyond control of trees." He brought up the spectre of future councils using the power to dictate to property owners.

"I'm just afraid if we don't take some kind of action today there may not be any trees in 10 years," said Councillor Ron Searle.

He was joined in strong support of the resolution by Deputy Reeve Grant Clarkson, an orchard owner, and by Grice who owns a golf course.

"I do not fear this by-law," said Grice, "and I probably have almost as many trees as Grant (Clarkson)."

Murray proposed a hypothetical situation to Clarkson where the by-law could interfere with his right to replace his trees.

Clarkson grinned throughout Murray's example. "I don't think permission would be unreasonably withheld," he told Murray. "And if they decided I shouldn't cut down the trees, maybe they'd be right."

Murray said he remembered 30 or 40 years ago when

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Resign! Port Credit council told

BY SID RODAWAY

PORT CREDIT — "If you worked for me you'd be fired," town council was told Monday night. "You should resign and put the town in the trusteeship of the province."

These were just a few of the angry comments of the more than 100 demonstrators who tried to jam into council chambers to protest a 685-suite condominium development at the west end of town.

The heated session followed two placard-carrying marches to Clark Hall. Fire department officials allowed 60 people into the general committee meeting while the rest waited outside for their turn to attack the Carlton

Holdings Ltd. plan. Mayor Cy Saddington bowed to public pressure on Sunday and overruled a council resolution that prohibits anyone from addressing a general committee meeting. In the end council agreed to call a special public meeting for May 28.

Council gave two of the required three readings to a by-law authorizing an agreement with the developer last week. It was the first public showing of Carlton's plans and was touted by the firm and council alike as a superior alternative to the 1,400 high-rise suites allowed by the existing zoning.

They had agreed to a per suite levy of \$850 after council was advised that the proposed \$1,000 levy would not stand up in court. The \$1,000 levy was proclaimed last fall as the unsurmountable dam that would hold back continued high density development.

"I heard council claim last year that it would fight further high rise," said Dorothy Harrison. "Some fight!"

"You have shown complete contempt for public involvement," charged town activist Chris Mackie. He pointed out that Mississauga's statistics show the development will create another 2,543 residents for a population density of more than 100 people to the acre compared to 20 to the acre in the rest of town. About 1,000 of those residents will be children up to 18 years of age.

"You should have insisted

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(Continued on page 2)



Dozens of placard-carrying kids waited outside while their parents jammed Port Credit council chambers Monday to protest a 685-unit stacked townhouse development.

GREGORY 'FRUSTRATED, POWERLESS'

San Tropez plan unstoppable

BY JOHN STEWART

Two hundred disappointed Applewood Heights ratepayers, concerned about overcrowding in their schools, were told this week there is nothing they can do to stop a stacked townhouse development at the northeast corner of Tomken Road and Dundas Street.

The San Tropez scheme, a joint venture by Paramount Developments and Victoria Woods, would create a projected population of 1,868 persons on a 13-acre site.

Ward 3 Councillor Bud Gregory, who represents the area where the project will go, explained to residents that there is nothing the town can do about the project. The land was rezoned from commercial to apartment designation in 1966.

The developers had filed a mandamus action to get approval for construction but they dropped it last week. They promised they will not build the last of six townhouses until the population generated from the rest of the project can be determined.

Planning staff believes San Tropez may generate more school age children than the area is designed to accommodate.

"I have completely opposed this project," Gregory says, "and right now I'm a frustrated, powerless politician. I don't agree with this plan at all."

The councillor says he is not convinced stacked townhouses are a viable alternative to high-rises and the developers have refused to give the town the time to study any other alternatives.

"I'm very, very disappointed in the developers," he adds. "They've put us in the position of having to proceed without determining what influence the scheme will have in the future. Frankly, they don't seem to give a damn," he said.

The number of school age children may, for example, force boundary changes for schools in the area, Gregory noted. He said the developers are sticking as closely as possible to the letter of the law.

"For instance, they're only supplying parking for cars that's required in an apartment zone, 1.25 spaces per unit — not the 1.5 required for townhouses."

Martin McBride, past president of the Applewood Heights Homeowners, says the public is dissatisfied with the small amount of playland in San Tropez. "The architect used every square inch he could to crowd housing into," he says.

Ratepayers, worried about the population of children at Dixie Public School, were told by trustees Robert Skipper and Ruth Thompson that there would be no boundary changes until the spring of 1974.

Busing of students, probably from the San Tropez development, would

be the likely solution to overcrowding. "It will cost taxpayers money and it's certainly not fair to the people moving in there," McBride commented.

He said residents, frustrated with their inability to influence the planning of the area, are hoping the population from the first five stacked units will exceed town standards and the remaining 80 units won't be built.

Judge assails lumber firm



JUDGE DON AUGUST

Yachting centre

A yachting centre planned for the former Canadian Steamship Lines warehouse and docks has received "fantastic interest," says developer Don Cole. Cole has set up an office at 1 Port Street and says he has received numerous requests from potential tenants.

The operation hopes to house boat builders and designers as well as slippage for pleasure craft where lake freighters once harboured.

He has an "indefinite" sub-lease on the monster facility.

The firm was charged by the Environment Ministry after residents complained of sawdust being blown over properties near the lumber firm.

Asked by Judge August if June 11 would be an acceptable trial date, witness F.D. Janek said the company has had since February to prepare a case. Janek claimed he and other witnesses should not have to appear at the defendant's convenience.

"I totally agree with you" replied Judge August. "There is something wrong when a firm like Port Credit Lumber retains counsel on the day of a trial. But nonetheless we must give them time to consult with their counsel."



CY SADDINGTON Under attack

PREGNANT WOMAN BRUTALIZED

A woman eight months pregnant was tied to a bedpost early Sunday morning, slashed with a razor blade and burned with a cigarette.

Police say Mrs. Maisie McMahon of 1285 Rd. E. had her legs cut and was burned on the buttocks.

After being released she complained to officials at the Queensway Hospital where she was treated. Police were called in.

Charged with wounding and possession of a dangerous weapon is Mrs. McMahon's husband Joseph, 27.

He is expected to be remanded for a psychiatric examination before his trial.

In another weekend incident, Barry Strong, 27, of 181 Eaglewood Blvd., was charged with possession of an offensive weapon.

Police say a man was arrested following a domestic quarrel. A shot was fired through a back door from inside an Eaglewood Boulevard house and a second shot was fired into the air in the backyard.

Provincial grants bring tax cuts

Increased provincial grants to municipalities will reduce the general tax levy by an estimated \$20 per household in Mississauga and \$25 per household in Port Credit this year.

The reductions will come only in the general, levy and will not affect the educational levy, Peel South MPP Doug Kennedy said Monday.

Under the tax equalization formula, Mississauga will be receiving up to a \$1.1 million

increase. The police grant is up \$1.25 per capita generating \$184,000 and funds provided in lieu of payment to the county will be about \$200,000.

The per-student grant to the town has doubled to \$50 this year for Sheridan and Erindale colleges. Mississauga Hospital has also received a new \$50 pro rated bed allowance.

Port Credit will have an increase of about \$72,000 under the equalization plan.

New plan may kill school swap

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

A proposal by Mississauga council could squelch a school trade considered in the Lakeview area because of too much classroom space.

Mayor Chic Murray called Monday for a study into the town's purchasing of "a junior public school in the Ogdan Avenue area" as a recreation centre.

Since the Peel County Board of Education has 28 too many classrooms, the purchase would consume about 15 rooms of the surplus.

The public board and the Peel-Dufferin Separate School Board have been negotiating the trade of Allan A. Martin and St. Paul's Separate School in order to use up space. That move would reduce the surplus to 18.

Monday night six representatives of the Save the Allan A. Martin committee met with board trustees and staff for a fact finding discussion.

They were told by education ministry official Don Young that tight money for school starts has reached a critical stage and co-operation between boards must occur to use empty rooms.

The meeting had a conciliatory tone in contrast to an abusive forum last Wednesday when 500 parents and students waved placards and called the swap a "ripoff". Main concerns were the lack of a lunchroom at St. Paul's and the fact students would have to walk further to school. The board claims to have 150 empty classrooms across the

county and says 28 of those are located in the Lakeview area. The swap of the \$800,000, 15 room St. Paul's for Martin, a 25 room facility which would cost \$1.5 million today, was the only one of five alternatives the separate board would consider.

They need an enlarged facility to house their grades 9 and 10 programs. The province has refused an extension program for St. Paul's.

Public board figures indicate the 756-student Martin has a dwindling school population and will drop to 450 by 1979. Planned and proposed development for the school feeder system would supply only 552 Kindergarten to Grade 8 students in the future, it reports.

At the Monday meeting, board chairman David Curry stressed that both the public and separate board could veto the swap if financial arrangements to be worked out by the ministry are not satisfactory.

Just under \$400,000 is owing on 15-year-old Martin while most of the new St. Paul's \$800,000 cost is owing.

Trustee Ted Conover noted that the swap would not be the first measure to use empty classrooms. He said Brampton and Bramalea schools had been recycled and students distributed to other schools.

Staff told the parents group that cost of a new lunchroom at St. Paul's would be \$30,000 but Curry said if the swap is consummated, students will use nearby Cawthra Park Secondary School cafeteria facilities.