

Growth not a solution: McCallion

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN
The management of growth, whose importance Mississauga voters made ringingly clear Oct. 1, has the empathy of most municipalities across Canada. Streetsville Mayor and Mississauga councillor-elect Hazel McCallion says. She was an Ontario delegate to the federal-provincial-municipal Tri-level conference held last week in Edmonton.



HAZEL MCCALLION
problems of supplying facilities anymore," Mrs. McCallion claims. Root cause of the municipal dilemma is money. "Everyone recognizes that property taxes are regressive. People can't be loaded with any

more property tax. We obviously need a better system of revenue sharing with the provinces and the federal government." That was the upshot of the three level meeting as delegates agreed a special task force should be set up to analyze the present state of public finance in Canada. conditional grants with so many strings attached simply isn't working. They are not based on realistic assessments of local needs because the federal government isn't close enough to the situation," the Streetsville mayor says. She claims the income tax dollars contributed by Mississauga, Streetsville

and Port Credit residents to the federal kitty just aren't returning in sufficient quantity to help supply the amenities needed in a modern urban area. What's more, too much of that revenue is burned up through "duplication of administrative efforts" as the money filters through two levels of government, she adds. Therein lies one of the factors in urban sprawl. Growth begets assessment, which pays for some amenities, but never enough to curb greater growth for assessment to buy more amenities. The game of catch-up is most vivid in Mississauga. Mayor McCallion cites the town's radio advertisements as an example of municipalities grabbing for people for assessment purposes. "They say we've got all the room in the world here for people. Come out to Mississauga, it's a great place to live. When the people get out here they find there are hardly any facilities. "Nobody was bragging about 30,000 people-a-year growth in Edmonton." But to stop the people

assessment circle a greater and more even dollar flow is required. Yet the federal government, represented by Urban Affairs minister Ron Basford, refused to even allow the farm revenue sharing to appear in conference recommendations. "They are hesitant to give up their control on the people's money—the money that people here give up in income tax," Mayor McCallion charges. However, she is hopeful that the task force will bring into effect some public accountability of the facts and figures of transfer payments and conditional grants. She says Ontario, at least, has recognized the municipal quandary. Treasurer John White promised at the conference to match provincial growth with increased grants to municipalities. Peel South MP Don Blenkarn says the system is a "bad, old situation. Ottawa is not putting the dough back where it should be spent. "Instead they are carrying on with crazy experiments in the Department of Environment with upwards of 2,000 scientists. This costs

a lot of money, but since they have no power in Ontario it isn't cleaning up Lake Ontario or building municipal sewage plants." He says Progressive Conservative policy would be to divert money directly to the provinces for specific works and adds that the Tory housing caucus is considering direct grants to municipalities to help bring down shelter costs. "The constitution is pretty clear on this. The federal government only can collect income taxes, but there is nothing wrong with giving a bigger chunk of it back."

Ratepayers' information is 'absolutely false': Searle

Deputy Reeve Ron Searle says some activist ratepayers who are "instant gashoups" are distributing "absolutely false information" about planning proposals in the Clarkson-Lorne Park area. Searle told planning board he had attended a meeting where he had seen "frightening" misstatements of fact on a questionnaire circulated to homeowners. "The chairman of the meeting, Ted Humphries, refused me permission to speak," the deputy reeve complained. He said the questionnaire suggested: that the QEW was to be expanded to 12 lanes; that part of the Texaco refinery was to be rezoned to allow a shopping

centre and high rise development; and that there would be 20,000 new people living in Lorne Park south of the CNR tracks. "This is the kind of thing that creates the confrontation we want to avoid," said Searle, pointing out that the entire Lakeshore Community Study covering an area between Oakville and Port Credit south of the tracks calls for a population of 17,000 persons. Saying the questionnaire had no validity whatsoever, Searle called it "sickening that this is the kind of material some activist ratepayers distribute to their members."

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One-day jail term for thief

Provincial court Judge John Ord has sent an 18-year-old Mississauga man to jail for one day on a charge of theft over \$200. "I have to impose a jail sentence," Judge Ord stated Thursday in convicting Ronald Ash who was also fined \$350 or — in default of payment — 60 days in jail. Ash pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing two Simpsons Sears black and white televisions from Kuehne and Nagel Warehousing Limited at 6451 Northwest Dr. The accused was a fork lift operator at the plant on the date of the offence, Sept. 26. Ash gave police a statement at the time of his arrest saying he had put the televisions on a truck when the truck driver requested them as a favour. Ash "Got a couple of televisions and threw them on the back," the statement said. The truck driver told Ash that if he ever wanted anything he should just put it on the truck and the driver would later deliver it to his home. "This is not an inexpensive matter," Judge Ord commented in sentencing the 18-year-old married man, who had no previous criminal record.

NDP meeting
South Peel riding New Democratic Party members will gather Thursday night at Queen Elizabeth Senior Public School for their 1974 general meeting to elect a new executive. In addition to the election, members will vote on changes in the local NDP association's constitution and listen to the main speaker of the evening, Lupe Gamoa, a representative of the United Farm Workers Union in California.

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