

# Comment

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# The Times Mississauga

## Students just add to confusion

The student walk-outs at several of Peel's high schools this week offer a disturbing indication of how some members of our society are often too willing to act first and ask questions later. Some of those who walked out in protest over teacher-school board contract negotiations were probably as well informed as any non-participant in the issue. Many simply allowed themselves to become embroiled in something they really knew nothing about. This year's salary negotiations are being predictably marked by the new teacher militancy, and that is not necessarily wrong. Teachers have fallen further and further behind over the last few years and despite the state of the economy and the limited funds left in the

board's budget, they are determined to get a fair slice of the pie. But the confused action by diverse groups of students is blatantly irresponsible and will do nothing to help or hinder the issue. Without a common reason for walking out how can a few hundred kids even get their message across—some are mad at teachers for their limited work to rule campaign while others are mad at the board for not presenting a better first salary offer. Not that many years ago such action by students would have earned them a quick suspension. It is a credit to the majority of them that only a relative few joined in the walkouts despite the lack of punitive measures by the schools.



## Waterfront questions persist

Faced with the prospect of losing yet another year in their attempts to launch the Mississauga Waterfront Plan, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has decided to go ahead with a reduced program. It was a decision based on the realization that the economic and environmental consequences of the full plan were beyond anything anticipated back in 1967 when the scheme was originated. The frustrations in getting approval for A.E. Crooke's Park alone have been so discouraging that it is almost a wonder that authorities did not follow neighbouring Halton's lead and

just abandon the whole complicated waterfront mess. The lesson of Crooke's Park commits the authority to the kind of thorough pre-evaluation of the Lorne Park Bay proposals which weren't undertaken in Lakeview. If those plans are viable, and the city and province are still under severe financial constraints perhaps the federal government could display the same generosity that prompted it to contribute substantially to Toronto's waterfront parkland dedication. It's an investment all of Mississauga would appreciate in the future.

## Recycling group has four point reduction plan

The garbage site crisis at Heart Lake has brought to light once again the importance of alternate approaches to our garbage problem. The cost of picking up and disposing of garbage is \$25 a ton. The more the population of Mississauga and the region of Peel increases the greater our problem will become. This points to the importance of doing what we can to reduce the amount of garbage. I would suggest that the Heart Lake episode is merely one of many future problems. It is our feeling in the Recycling Committee that the problem can only be solved through a long term program of reduction. There are many ways of doing this of which I would submit the following are several which most people can easily follow.

- When you purchase an item purchase it for contents and not the package.
  - Before you buy ask yourself do you really need that new item.
  - Compost — instead of throwing garbage into a paper bag why not turn it back into the soil. For full details on this contact the Garbage Coalition, 43 Queen's Park Cres., Toronto, 928-5432.
  - When purchasing paper make sure you buy paper containing recycled post consumer fibre. It costs no more.
- I would suggest that the promotion of this concept is in the best interests of all concerned. In this specific issue the delay in building can only cost potential home buyers more money.
- CHRIS SNYDER,**  
MISSISSAUGA RECYCLING INC.

## Concerned Citizens call for car pool system

The following letter to Mississauga council has been filed with The Times for publication. We respectfully request that arrangements be made to provide the "Mississauga Concerned Citizens' Group" with the following information. We are concerned over forecasts of tax increases in the city far in excess of the 11 percent increase announced by the Board of Education. Would you provide us with a report on the number of staff employed by the city at Dec. 31, 1973, excluding police? We would request that the total wage package including fringe benefit package be computed for 1973, based on a full year for each employee. We would then ask that you provide us with the same information on numbers and costs based on a full year for staff as of May 1, 1975. Please include cost of added rental accommodation added in 1974 and 1975, and the costs of furnishing this accommodation. We are concerned about a reported large increase in city staff, as we understand several departments formerly at city level are now at the regional level. Would you kindly give us the complete cost of all consultants used or engaged in 1974 and 1975, and a list of the projects commissioned to consultants? May we suggest that the Pirri Fruit Market property immediately be used as a location for the assembly of car pools? We have seen no examples of energy conservation by the city, so perhaps in a small way this would help.

**E. A. PROUSE**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

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**'Cart control needed'**

Regarding "A ticket for taking a shopping cart" (The Times, May 7): I am pleased to read that city council is trying to control this problem. This is an issue which has concerned me greatly for quite some time. There are numerous stores in this area which are afflicted with this problem. If I may name a store which has the greatest problem with this matter, it would have to be Food City at the corner of Sheppard Avenue and Dundas St. East. Their carts are abandoned everywhere. Down the length of Jaguar Valley Blvd., down Sheppard Ave., down Paisley and even up to the Camilla Park area. They are left abandoned behind the apartments where children play with them and eventually put them in the creek, where they're left for good, if they're not taken apart and left to litter the entire area.

Surely this problem can be licked and I say this because the A & P store strictly prohibits cart removal. In this store you either carry your purchase out or claim them at parcel "pick-up". If you don't have a car I suggest people might use one of those portable folding shopping carts. I wonder if people realize that these carts cost about \$45-\$60 a piece. I also wish to bring to everyone's attention, when you patronize these stores and others you must pay for the loss of carts in your food costs. I hope when other people read this, some more concern will be aroused regarding this matter.

**MISS A. SIEMONS**  
MISSISSAUGA

## 'Board pay offer is unreasonable'

It would appear that teachers are frequently subjected to severe criticism in the media nowadays for salary requests that, although they may appear unreasonable on the surface, simply represent attempts to catch up with the effects of inflation on paycheques that were never large at any time. Given this situation, it may be useful to present the other side of the question; that is, the unreasonableness of the salary offer made by the employer, in this case the Peel Board of Education. The Peel Board has recently seen fit to offer its secondary school teachers a salary and fringe benefits package of which the following are the major features: an overall salary increase amounting to 6.5 percent, with no cost of living allowance whatsoever; withdrawal of the existing cost of living allowance; withdrawal of the allowances paid to assistant heads of departments for their additional responsibilities; the withdrawal of the Board's contribution to the extra health benefit premium payment; the withdrawal of the grievance procedure; the withdrawal of the transfer and tenure clauses in the contract; the withdrawal of severance pay and retraining allowances, and, finally, a partial withdrawal of the recognition of the teachers' negotiations committee. It should be emphasized that each of the above withdrawals is an item that has been in operation during the current school year, and, in most cases, for the past several years. Indeed, most of the above are standard in teacher contracts throughout the province. As a secondary school teacher of some ten years' experience, eight of which have been in Peel, and as a Peel

taxpayer, I am sure that the above information will be of interest to fellow sufferers from property taxes. Together we can only stand in awe and wonder at the manner in which the publicly elected trustees responsible for the above offer are conducting the public's business. The fact that this selfsame group of trustees recently increased their own salaries by 100 percent may be of some relevance. Further, it is questionable whether any competent management negotiator in any comparable situation in business or industry would care to make such a derisory offer to any group of employees. What cloud cuckooland of detachment from reality the trustees were inhabiting when they made this offer, one can only surmise. However, one fact stands out clearly; the damage done to teacher-trustee relations in Peel is already severe. The further consequences for education in Peel can only be worse if the trustees persist in their present course. Teachers are a particularly long-suffering and much put-upon group of public employees. Their reaction to the studied insult that the above offer represents has been, understandably, considerable anger and indignation. Consequently, contingency committees to prepare for the eventuality of strike action are being formed throughout Peel, and the possibility of a full-scale strike in the fall cannot be presently ruled out. As one teacher who much prefers the classroom to the picket line, I can only hope that the Peel trustees will soon come to their senses and start negotiating in good faith.

**A. D. SHENFIELD**  
MISSISSAUGA

## Variety Club thanks

I can hardly be accused of being laconic but I am finding words pitifully inadequate to express the appreciation of all of us in Variety for your outstanding contribution to the huge success of the Variety Club's recent Bike-A-Thon. There is no question that the excellent publicity coverage helped make it all happen.

I believe a good place to start would be to share with you our joy and gratification in the results of the project. On the six bicycle courses over \$240,000 was pledged, despite the rather poor weather, \$70,000 of this amount being contributed by the Mississauga Course! Just tremendous.

You will undoubtedly hear directly from the Variety Club but I feel constrained on behalf of the entire Mississauga crew, to extend our grateful thanks.

**JAMES W. CAMERON**  
DEPUTY COURSE MARSHALL