

Councillor McCallion only one to vote against Lou Parsons

By SID RODAWAY
As expected, Lou Parsons has been elected to a second term as regional chairman by the new Peel council at its inaugural meeting on Thursday.

He was appointed to his first term by the province in 1973 when regional government began here. Although the region advertised that anyone could seek the office, Parsons was the only nominated candidate for the chairmanship.

Mississauga Councillor Hazel McCallion, a long-time critic of Parsons' chairmanship, cast the single dissenting vote in the council poll.

She explained later that she voted against Parsons because he had "insulted" the people of Streetsville last fall when he accused local residents there of "communist-style tactics" in their fight against a Meadowdale-area regional garbage dump.

Mrs. McCallion added that Parsons was also guilty of withholding information from Malton residents about plans for the Malport piggyback truck-train terminal. It had originally been slated for construction near north Malton neighborhoods. After much protest, Canadian National agreed to build the terminal farther north, in an industrial area of Bramalea.

She said she would continue to work with Parsons in the new term and that her anti-Parsons vote did not imply she would not support him when she felt his position justified it.

The inaugural session was held in the Lester Pearson Theatre at the regional administrative headquarters in Bramalea. About 500 people — many of them friends and relatives of the recently

elected council members — attended the event.

"Let me tell you not every day on regional council is as nice as this one," Caledon Mayor John Clarkson told the first-time members of council with a chuckle.

Parsons was nominated by Caledon Councillor Alex Raeburn, who claimed Parsons was young, tough, smart, aggressive, ambitious and a man who "likes to go first class."

He added that there was nothing wrong with doing things first class because "when you do it right you only have to do it once."

Raeburn praised Parsons for his lack of parochialism in not favoring Mississauga, his home town, in his rulings.

He cited as an example Parsons' stand on the regional garbage dump — when he told protesters from Mississauga to back off and let the planning of the urgently needed dump site proceed.

Raeburn said that it took "guts" to take an unpopular stand that would destroy his chances of seeking elective office in this area.

The nomination was seconded by Brampton's re-elected mayor, Jim Archdekin.

"I have not always agreed with Lou, but I have great respect for him," he said. Archdekin called for council to give Parsons its full support over the next two years.

In accepting the nomination, Parsons predicted a long and hard job to keep costs and taxes down. "Municipal government in Canada is in difficulty because we depend on fixed sources of income to provide services."

"We are more fortunate than most other provinces; our provincial government has been more generous," he said.

Parsons touched on the areas that he saw as being expensive and that would grow more costly over the next two years, including the garbage-disposal problem, the need for upgraded regional roads, growing social services — stemming in part from increased family break ups — and the high cost of sophisticated police protection.

Parsons praised Peel police and their chief, Douglas Burrows, but called for increased levels of provincial support for police services.

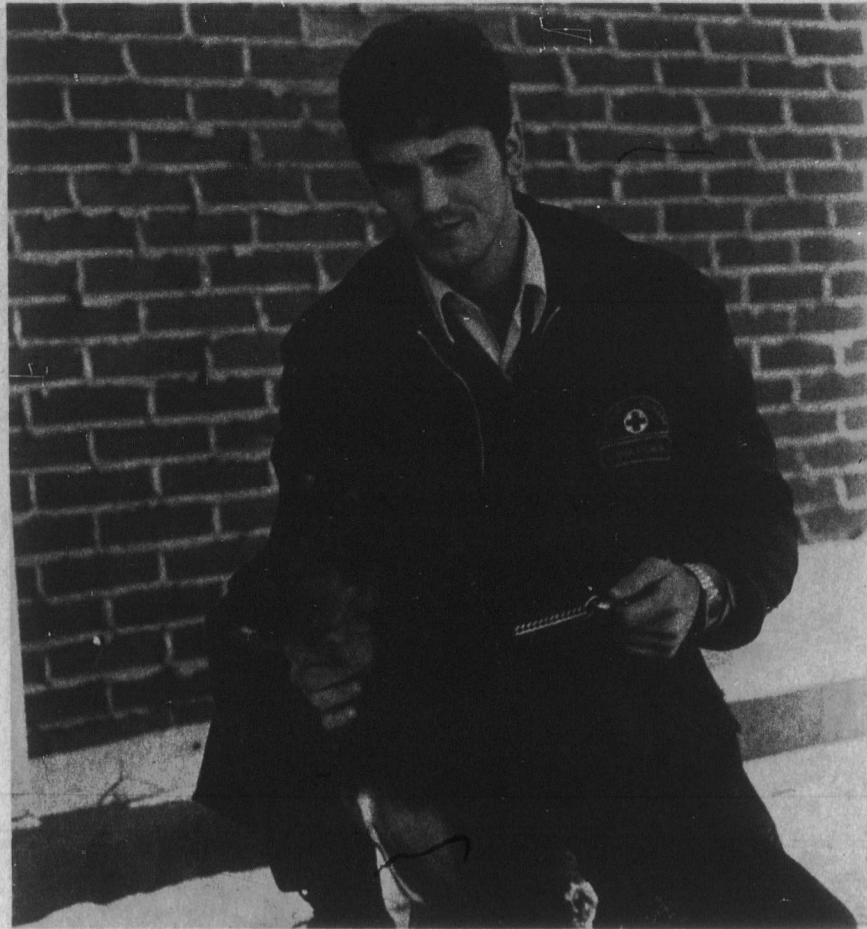
He said that police protection in Peel costs every man, woman and child an estimated \$40 a year.

Archdekin and Raeburn then presented Parsons with a "first-class cigar" and escorted him to his chair at the head of council. He was sworn in by Barry Shapiro, a county court judge.

Claude Bennett, Ontario minister of industry and tourism, brought the provincial government's congratulations. He said in a short speech that regional government offered the best chance of keeping taxes within proportion, while still delivering the services.

Mississauga East MPP Bud Gregory delivered Premier Bill Davis' note of congratulations to the returning councillors. Davis stated in the letter that those re-elected to Peel's municipal offices had delivered "stellar service" over the last three years.

Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle told the audience that while Mississauga council would continue to "jealously guard its own sovereignty," it would also recognize the sovereignty of the other two Peel municipalities (Brampton, Caledon) and the need for co-operation on matters of common interest.



Pet of the Week

Brian Wright, a staffer at the Peel animal shelter on Mavis Road in Mississauga, shows off Sack, who is looking for a home. Sack is a hound, female and two

years old. If you would like to adopt Sack, phone the shelter at 279-5960.

City Days meeting Jan. 16

A meeting to form an organizational committee to plan City Days '77 will be held at Mississauga City Hall, Committee Room A on Sunday, Jan. 16.

So far, there are not enough Mississauga residents involved in City Days and the public is invited to participate in the planning of this annual event.

Last year, with the assistance of Mississauga's recreation and parks department, the festival was planned by five local service clubs: Jaycees, Lions, Kinsmen, Civitans and the Canadian Progress Club.

The event was held on

Saturday, Sept. 11 at the mouth of the Credit River.

Activities included a pancake breakfast, salmon derby, parade, cycle race, dog shows, sports and demonstrations, as well as many displays by local clubs and art groups.

The festival was first held in 1975 to celebrate Mississauga becoming a city in January, 1974.

Any person or service group wishing to become involved in the planning of City Days '77 is invited to attend the meeting.

For further information, call Jim Hoshko at the recreation and parks department, 279-7600, ext. 406.

Clerk says councillors okayed contrary policies

The general committee of the 1973-76 council dealt with so many recommendations from its committees that it sometimes adopted two opposite recommendations on the same subject at the same meeting.

City Clerk Terry Julian informed the general committee of the new council this week, in supporting a streamlining of the committee structure, that "some poor recommendations got through."

He said that often council would pass policy recommendations from sub-committees and pass something contrary to that policy "six weeks or six months later because you didn't remember adopting it."

"You're referring to the stupidity of councillors," remarked Councillor Mary Helen Spence, who favored retention of all advisory com-

mittees with citizen participation.

"If councillors do their homework, it will be easier if there are less committees," suggested Julian.

"Yes, we'll have a lot less business to deal with," replied Mrs. Spence.

"A lot more could be done by staff which council now does," countered Julian.

"Sure, we could leave it all to staff and we could all just go home," Mrs. Spence said.

Later Mrs. Spence said it was "all well and good to

leave everything up to staff. I'm sure we can get rid of all the citizens' representatives if we want to and we'll certainly save the staff a lot of time. But trying to get issues dealt with some level of concern is something else."

Councillors voted to eliminate two of the four major policy advisory committees in the city, administration and finance and physical services. Planning and recreation and parks were retained.

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