

The Ontario Municipal Board hearing into proposed new ward boundaries was held in Toronto last week. Map at left shows present boundaries, at right are proposals. Main objection at the hearing centres around the east-west division of Ward 6. Objectors prefer a north-south boundary along the Credit River.

OMB hears objections to ward proposals

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Nancy Rahn, secretary of the West Erindale Homeowners' Association, called the schools issue a "red herring" and fully supported the city's position. She claimed that using the Credit River as a divider would be a "ghetto policy." There will be no problem with inter-ward interaction, she maintained.

Mrs. Rahn said the more established residential areas in the new proposed Ward 6 would not get as much attention to their problems if they were lumped in with growth areas which tend to create more problems.

A councillor should have a mixture of new and old areas, felt Phillips. He noted that by 1986 the proposed Ward 6 would only have 34,700 people while Ward 8 would have 55,150. This discrepancy would be reduced by a north-south split.

Highly-populated wards

Calvert said the three wards — eight, four and three — which would be created with Dundas as their southern boundary and proposed Highway 403 as their northern one, would all have high populations. The city's proposal will make it easier to create a fourth ward in the future within that "tier" of divisions, he argued.

McAuliffe said a division at the Credit would "just be fairer, no matter who the political representatives are." He called for a more equitable distribution of the workload for the growth areas which cause "unreal problems."

The other major argument during the hearing was the contention by Port Credit resident Chris Mackie that the land west of the Credit River should be joined to Ward 2.

He said the western part of the former town no longer had the homogenous, historical connection with the lands on the east side of the Credit.

Since much of the development which will affect this western area is in Ward 2, Mackie felt the area should have political representation in Ward 2 as well.

Would lose 'American side'

Testifying on behalf of the city's proposal was former Port Credit mayor Tom McCollum. A 40-year resident of the town, who served as Peel warden in 1965, McCollum called Port Credit a "closely-knit" community that should never be divided. He joked that the western side was called the "American side" at one time while the eastern area was the "Canadian side."

"We don't want to lose the American side," he commented.

City solicitor Basil Clark pointed out that the removal of the western portion would throw the population figures for Wards 2 and 1 out of whack.

Mackie, who cross-examined city witnesses in meticulous detail, said in concluding his testimony that he still felt the proposed boundaries could be improved. But he admitted that the drawing of boundaries was a "vexing problem that defies rational analysis."

"Any ward boundaries are, at best, arbitrary," he noted.

Mackie was the seconder of a motion by the city's civic government committee in 1975 which initiated the idea of an independent commission to study ward boundaries and political salaries.

The proposed boundaries are closer to the goal of representation by population and must be applauded for that Mackie said. At present, Ward 6 has a population of 53,133 while Streetsville has only 8,362 constituents.

If the OMB approves the city's proposal, the new boundaries will be in effect for the election later this year. If changes are required or the proposal is rejected for some reason, the existing boundaries may still have to be used.

The good and bad ahead in '78

By JAMES BAILEY

There's good news and bad news coming up in the year of 1978, according to Mississauga psychic Alfred Ward.

Ward, who in past years has foreseen the election of U.S. President Gerald Ford, the political demise of former Mississauga

mayor Martin Dobkin, and the resignation of Richard Nixon, thinks 1978 will be a good year for the economy.

"The Canadian dollar will start to climb back up in the spring and will reach \$965 in U.S. dollars by 1979," he says.

"Major job creation

programs will take place and we will be receiving large contracts from foreign countries for our raw materials."

There will be a fall federal election, Ward believes, in which Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will once again emerge victorious — "but it will be very close, with maybe even a minority government."

Maggie will cause a lot of bad publicity by telling embarrassing things about their marriage, and he'll resign shortly after the election.

That won't hurt the

cause of Canadian unity, however, the psychic says. "I don't think Quebec will separate. There may be some drastic action taken, but we'll find they're only putting up a tough front, that behind it they're very weak."

In local politics, Ward believes we haven't heard the last of Dr. Martin Dobkin. He says that Mayor Ron Searle will be re-elected in the election next fall, "but he's going to have problems with the

past mayor. He (Dobkin)

doesn't like defeat and he's going to try and rise up again."

On the brighter side, Ontario will be the scene of a major oil discovery this year, Ward feels. And we'll be enjoying a hot, clear summer because "energy fields around the earth seem to be changing."

That temperate climate will be perfect for watching the UFOs which Ward believes will be appearing in increasing abundance around the Lake Ontario area.

Councillors' committee priorities kept

An expected wrangle over appointments of councillors to various committees has failed to materialize.

When Mayor Ron Searle first introduced his recommendations for appointments, based on priority ratings submitted

by councillors, he said some people were unhappy about the recommendations.

He said he wished to avoid a "big hassle" about the problem, so it was referred to general committee where it was quickly settled.

Most of the recommendations followed the priority ratings of councillors fairly closely. Council had to add one member each to the planning and recreation and parks committees because Searle had mistakenly recommended four instead of five elected members.

Named to planning were incumbent councillors Mary Helen Spence, Frank McKechnie, Hazel McCallion and Larry Taylor. Ward 7's Terry Butt replaces Fred Hooper.

The recreation committee has the same composition of councillors as last year — Hooper, Frank Leavers, Frank Bean, Harold Kennedy and Butt. Councillor Larry Taylor had selected recreation as his number one priority, but was not named.

Returning to the street names committee are McKechnie, Hooper and Butt.

Because of his expressed interest in the dealings of the traffic safety council, Bean has been added to that body. Council will now have two representatives, as it did several years ago. Ward 1 Councillor Kennedy, who helped initiate the safety program, returns.

The administration task force group, set up to

review the city's internal administration, was a high priority for almost every councillor. The five members named were Bean, McKechnie, Hooper, Taylor and Spence. Taylor and Spence replace Butt and McCallion. All councillors can sit in on the meetings and participate in discussion.

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee members will once again be Spence and Leavers.

Taxicab authority representatives are McCallion, Butt and Leavers.

The representation on the conservation authorities will not change because appointments to both the Metro Toronto and Credit Valley bodies were made for two years.

Leavers and McKechnie will sit on the environmental advisory board, which is convened at the call of council.

Searle is an ex-officio member of all city committees with voting privileges.

Students suing

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ed some \$4 million, far more than originally anticipated.

Other principals in funding the project were the Bank of Commerce and the Federal Development Corporation.


The 500-seat operation features two full-size dining rooms, two bars and a private dining lounge. Business has been brisk, particularly over the Christmas holidays, but the original heavy renovation costs had forced the operation into a tight corner. Paycheques were bouncing, rent for the dock space at Port Credit Harbor fell into arrears and suppliers went unpaid.

One supplier, St. Lawrence Foods Ltd., applied to place the Showboat into bankruptcy in an effort to recoup some of their losses. But at a Dec. 21 hearing in bankruptcy court, the supplier asked that the petition be withdrawn.

Hired by the petitioner, Coopers and Lybrand Ltd., trustees investigated the Showboat's finances. Although the petition has been withdrawn the courts set a new hearing date for Jan. 20 to await comments from other creditors.

Coopers and Lybrand representative Alan Driver told The Times that he couldn't reveal any details about the Showboat's finances but predicted that it would probably not go into bankruptcy because with the long list of liabilities it wouldn't be in the best interests of the creditors.

One source that asked not to be identified, said efforts are being made behind the scenes to arrange for new investors to put up the capital to allow the Showboat to continue operation.



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