

Peel growth robs other areas, PAGG forum told

The provincial government's proposal to structure Peel County as a region leaves the area wide open to "the rapacious plunder of profit-orientated developers" while allowing the hinterland of Ontario to stagnate, New Democrat MPP for Ottawa Centre Mike Cassidy told a Peel Association for Good Government (PAGG) forum this week.

Cassidy said that rapid urbanization and industrial growth in Peel would swallow assessment needed for places like Brockville, Cornwall and other sub regional centres.

"Do you think these areas like the prospect of static populations and losing their young productive people to the Toronto centered area. They will be left with only

the very young and old people," Cassidy claimed.

"They want an equitable distribution of economic growth — not the crumbs off Toronto's table."

Speaking at the forum on regional government to about 60 people, he noted the notorious council-developer "coziness" in Peel County. Developers "must have rubbed their hands with delight when they saw that Peel was left on its own."

Cassidy said the proposals for regions west of Toronto were thrown out of whack by the exclusion of Burlington from a metropolitan Hamilton region.

He charged that pressure by wealthy residents of Burlington "who did not want to be associated with a

steel town" had guided the province's thinking.

With Burlington free to allow a Halton region, the possibility of a Peel-Halton region — the most sensible alignment — was nixed, he added.

The New Democrat member quoted former Minister of Treasury, Revenue and Intergovernmental Affairs and regional government guru Darcy McKeough as saying in 1970 that Mississauga would be too large and powerful a town to allow a Peel-only set-up.

A second speaker, Liberal member for Kitchener Jim Breithaupt, argued that the Peel proposals were a "clear unmistakable political decision by Bill Davis so that the party in the rest of the province would not be upset by changes."

He said the only direct result of regional government in other parts of the province has been higher costs.

"The province had a \$1 million answer to the problems in Niagara and they paid York \$750,000 for their problems. But who's going to pay the price when most of the province is divided into regional governments?"

Breithaupt said the Liberal party wants to cease formation of regional governments until costs of the centralization are known.

Chinguacousy Reeve Bob Williams spoke on public participation in government. He pointed to the dangers of centralization in regions and said they could only be eliminated by mandatory citizen participation.



Constables Sean Egan (left) and Tom Kelly inspect a bridge spanning the Cocksville Creek, Mothers in the area say structure is danger to small children because of erosion to its foundation. (See story page 1).

Sheridan forum to debate region

The "definitive debate" on regional government in Peel County is promised by Sheridan College officials at their Peel '74 public forum March 30 and 31.

Up to 500 area residents are expected to attend the two-day forum at the new Chinguacousy Civic Centre where 35 well known authorities under the chairmanship of professor Anthony Adamson will present their analyses.

The forum will be divided into eight mini-forums so citizens may choose a subject of interest and participate in the discussion.

Pell '74 was designed to help clear away the confusion surrounding impending regional government, according to Sheridan's community relations director, Caye Killaby.

"Peel '74 is being staged to help folks achieve that better understanding through discussion with people who have most of the answers," she said.

Mrs. Killaby added that ratepayers associations and other citizens groups have already held preliminary meetings and have appointed delegates to Peel '74.

Truck by-pass may affect Mississauga

The Brampton truck by-pass could affect Mississauga if residents opposed to the selected route are successful in having it moved to the west.

Deputy Reeve Terry Miller of Chinguacousy, in making the statement to county council, said Mississauga and Caledon to the south and north should have some input in current discussions on the problem at a public meeting two weeks ago about 250 angry residents suggested the proposed route be moved.

"This new idea has to be taken in the overall county planning context," Miller noted. "This could make Highway 410 redundant in Mississauga."

Brampton Mayor Jim Archdekin argued that the by-pass was a local problem and should be dealt with by Brampton and Chinguacousy councils. They will deal with the matter and make recommendations before a special county meeting March 27.

Children's Aid Society executive appointed

Mississauga Councillor Ron Searle has been elected president of the Peel County Children's Aid Society.

William Appleton, former reeve of Streetsville, was named vice-president of the society. The executive is made up of nine county council appointees and nine members of the public.

Secretary for the new executive is Kay Bellian.

Past-president Barry Deacon has become treasurer.

Members of the executive committee are: Searle, Deacon, Bolton Reeve Hilliard Allan, Brampton Councillor Reverend John McBride, Mississauga Councillor Bud Gregory, Toronto Gore Reeve Mel Robinson, Nance Horwood, Fran Tkachuk and Stuart Rutherford.

PCS annual meeting

The fifth annual meeting of Peel Community Services will be held March 27 at 8 p.m. in the Chinguacousy municipal complex.

Guest speaker is Senator David Croll, who will discuss the Senate committee on poverty report which he helped prepare. The senator is a former member of the House of Commons who was once the youngest cabinet

minister in the British Commonwealth.

The Chinguacousy complex is located at 150 Central Park Dr. Bramalea. The public is invited to attend.

Rooms registry is 'still on the hook'

Consideration of a grant request from the Peel County rooms registry has been deferred again by county council despite an attempt by Reeve Lou Parsons to settle the issue.

Parsons said it was unfair of council to keep A Place To Stay "on the hook" over the matter. Council had deferred the question to obtain a legal opinion on the \$10,000 grant request.

The registry is now supported by an LIP grant and will cease to exist May 31 unless the county provides

funding. The service offers rooms at a minimum cost to persons on probation, outpatients from mental institutions, students asked to leave home, etc.

County solicitor Ron Webb told council the service would not conflict with zoning by-laws in Mississauga on Brampton but it would with one in Chinguacousy. That municipality has a by-law restricting occupancy of each single-family dwelling to blood relatives only.

Parsons, in asking for an

immediate answer, noted that there was a strong split of opinion on council about the service.

"I'm personally not in favour of it because it encourages young people to leave home to get welfare," he said. "But I think we should decide now and let these people know where they stand."

Council deferred the matter because the social

services committee is expecting a report from Peel Community Services next month on the value of the service.

Representative of A Place To Stay have told councillors they need all of the \$10,000 request to continue functioning at the present level. There is only \$5,436 left in the county contingency fund from which any grant would come.

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