

School strike averted

The Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board and its 1,400 teachers have avoided the strike nobody wanted.

Negotiators worked out a settlement last Tuesday which was quickly ratified by the board. It quickly approved a two-year agreement with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

Ward 3 Mississauga trustee Maurice O'Kelly says, "there was a determination by the trustees to stay at it, and try to avoid a strike vote. The teachers didn't really want a strike so we made a last-ditch effort. We didn't want a strike vote, which has a bad psychological effect, let alone a strike." A provincially-conducted strike vote had been scheduled for last Thursday.

Details of the settlement have gone out to teachers, and they are to meet in Brampton later this week to consider ratification.

The agreement calls for a salary increase this year, retroactive to last September, of 7.5 per cent. Increments and fringe benefits bring the total settlement to 11 per cent.

The salary increase for the next school year will be 8.5 per cent. Principals will receive an additional one per cent increase each year.

The settlement will require the board to find another \$400,000 to \$500,000 in its budget.

Asbestos worries city workers

By MARY FERGUSON
Times staff writer

Some city staff are refusing to enter public buildings where asbestos has been found, a report by city manager Ed Halliday says.

The asbestos sampling in city-owned buildings started this week after a report to city council by Halliday last week.

His April 23 report says asbestos has been found in Huron Park pool, Petrescue Community Centre, Burnhamthorpe library and city hall.

The sampling will be done by the Ontario Research Foundation at a cost of \$8,000 to \$10,000. Results of tests in 20 city buildings will be analyzed within 10 days.

Halliday said city staff "have isolated some trouble spots" but city program co-ordinator Bill Hodgson said "we've just been told there is a possibility" of asbestos in certain areas.

Using building specifications and plans Hodgson said staff can locate areas where asbestos may have been sprayed on walls, or pipes for fire-proofing, decoration or acoustical reasons.

Since 1975 it has been illegal to use asbestos spray, but Halliday said "some contractors had it in stock and used it afterwards".

The ministry of labor's acceptability standards are two fibres per cubic centimetre for occupational areas, Hodgson said. In other areas, such as public buildings, the guideline is .04 fibres per cubic centimetre. In the natural environment there are no less than .02 fibres per cubic centimetre.

Hodgson said no areas are being closed to the public and added he did not know of any areas where employees were refusing to work.

Halliday refused to comment on where the employees had refused to report to work due to asbestos. He originally asked council to discuss the matter in camera "in order that there was no panic with the public" but was overruled by council members last Thursday.



Albert Ritchie serves one of his last cookies to Erin McInroy, 2

The kids will all miss the cookiemobile man

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

The man who drives the cookiemobile is retiring.

Albert Ritchie may drive the bookmobile as far as the grown-up world is concerned, but the younger generation knows the truth.

Ritchie has been driving the bookmobile, the travelling Mississauga library contained in a tractor-trailer, for 16 years. It started off as a part-time job and worked into a full-time effort later.

About a year-and-a-half ago, Ritchie noticed that when the bookmobile made its stop in Meadowvale South it was particularly busy. While mothers chatted to each other and looked for reading material, the kids made a lot of noise. That's when he introduced

the famous mobile cookie box.

"He just got fond of the kids, and spoiled them rotten," kids Barbara Wright, one of the library assistants on the bookmobile. "After a while when they would come in, they'd say hello to Mr. Ritchie, and then go straight over to the cookie box and shake it."

More than once, a lucky youngster was treated not only to a cookie, but to a perch on Ritchie's knee as he read them a story.

"Last Saturday in Meadowvale a young child came in and asked me, 'where's the cookie man?'" recalls library assistant Diane Lee. "I told him that he didn't work on Saturdays. The child walked over to the cookie box and said, 'I know what's in here.'"

The longtime Mississauga

resident, who plans to do more gardening at his Cooksville home, hopes there'll never come a day when the bookmobile stops running.

"It kind of puts you in mind of a friendly old corner store," says the soft-spoken 65-year-old. "To me it's a terrific service for people who don't want to travel too far, or for older people who don't have transportation. I'd hate to see it fade out."

Ritchie officially retires as a full-time employee today, but that doesn't mean the end of his treats for visiting children. Although he plans to relax and enjoy retirement, he will still be working part-time in the bookmobile.

The children of Mississauga will be happy to know that Albert Ritchie isn't ready to retire his cookie box yet.

Crisis led detective to theft, court told

By TOM MALONEY
Times staff writer

A Peel Regional Police detective stole approximately \$1,000 worth of property from a police storage room although he was 95 per cent sure he would be caught, a county court judge was told yesterday.

Detective Roy Wood, 41, pleaded guilty to theft over \$200. Sentencing was put over by Judge Frank Dunlap until Wednesday, May 7.

Defence counsel Joseph Kappy, referring to three psychologists' reports, said at the time Wood committed the thefts he was undergoing a mid-life crisis. "It was as if he had suspended judgments and was seeking psychological punishments for himself," Kappy said.

Kappy said Wood suffered from a deep sense of depression and guilt because of personal problems, including separation from his wife of 16 years, two heart attacks and the fact that his sister had contracted leukemia.

Kappy asked Judge Dunlap not to jail Wood because "over the last nine to 10 months he has suffered a great deal." He also noted that a psychiatrist's report said incarceration could cause long-term psychological damage.

Peel police Detective Sgt. Dan Banting told court Wood stole over 20 items from a police property room in late July, 1979. Included were items such as a color television set and leather jacket as well as underwear, socks and razor blades.

Banting said Wood told Constable Dennis Vynchenko during an inspection of the goods that many of the items would make good presents for his relatives in England, where he travelled for a vacation July 24.

Vynchenko reported the incident to Detective Sgt. Ray Young.

After Wood left for England a search warrant was obtained and \$750 worth of merchandise was found in his Georgetown home.

Inspector James Wingate visited

Wood in England where Wood admitted guilt and resigned.

Detective Fred Gibson and Inspector Robert Middaugh testified they were shocked that Wood had stolen the property because he is a "hard-working, dedicated policeman."

Signs of vandalism

City council agreed Monday to try an eye-opening campaign in an effort to reduce the cost of vandalism to city property.

The city will no longer replace trees and shrubs destroyed by vandals. Instead, the city will erect signs in their place informing the public of the cost of the damage done by the vandals.

In addition, a flyer outlining the cost of vandalism to Mississauga taxpayers will go out with residents' 1980 tax bills.

Arrest made in stabbing

After three years of investigation, 4,000 interviews and a search that spanned Canada and reached into the United States, charges have been laid in the murder of Glenna Fox.

The Brampton woman was found dead in her car at the Bramalea City Centre May 13, 1977, prompting one of the most intensive investigations ever by the Peel Regional Police.

Yesterday, police charged Donald Eric Armstrong, 25, of Halifax, with second degree murder in the case March 25. Armstrong was also charged with attempted murder in the 1977 stabbing of Rita Bayer, of Toronto, in the parking lot at Mississauga's Square One shopping centre.

Armstrong is also wanted in connection with an incident at a Winnipeg shopping centre in 1977.

The investigation, which at one time involved a team of 24 policemen was headed by Detective-Inspector James Wingate, Detective-Sergeant Noel Catney, and Detective William Hawkins.

Another reason to avoid skunks

If you ever needed a reason to stay away from skunks, you've found one.

The Peel Region Health Unit and the Ministry of Health have both warned Mississauga residents about an increase in the incidence of rabies among skunks here.

According to the ministry, five skunks in Mississauga have been diagnosed as having the disease since February. Last year, 11 rabid skunks were found in Peel.

Clifford Clark, Peel Health Unit's director of environmental health, says the increase of rabies in skunks is a concern because they tend to live near built-up areas and come in direct contact frequently with dogs and cats, which can become infected if bitten or scratched by a rabid animal.

The health unit advises pet owners to have their animals vaccinated against rabies. They also advise people not to go to the aid of a wild animal which appears sick or unusually friendly.

Inquiry service free

Alex Campbell, finance director for Transport Canada, said the Mississauga Railway Accident Inquiry does not pay for general court reporting services, contrary to a statement he made in last week's Mississauga Times.

Only private firms pay for the service.

Dig down deep...

If you live in Mississauga and, as the average homeowner, your house is assessed at \$30,000 you'll be paying \$83.01 more in taxes this year.

The final tax bills from the City of Mississauga, Peel Board of Education and Region of Peel show a 7.6 per cent increase in taxes over 1979.

The owner of a home assessed at \$30,000 will pay \$269.64 to the city, \$607.50 to the board of education, \$154 to the region and \$148 for regional sewer and water charges. That amounts to \$1,179.14.

The greatest rise in taxes comes from the region (9 per cent) with the board of education raising taxes 7.2 per cent and the city 7 per cent.