



## That time again

It's more summer than spring here these days and taking it easy in the tan-quality sun is Maret Nassar, 23, of Mississauga.

# \$30 region tax hike seen for average Mississauga home

Regional taxes on an average home in Mississauga could rise by about \$30 this year, according to estimates provided to Peel council's administration and finance committee.

Emphasizing they are "ballpark" figures only, Peel's chief administrative officer, Cyril Henderson, revealed that the regional government portion of a homeowner's tax bill could

reach about \$132 on a home assessed at \$30,000.

This represents about a one-mill increase over the 3.415 rate set last year by regional council. When sewer and water services are excluded, the increase is just over half of a mill, or about a 19 percent hike in regional taxes.

The 1975 operating budget will probably hover around \$25.3 million, \$5.3 million or

26 percent higher than the 1974 budget.

Provincial subsidies, grants and "unallocated revenues" will cover \$10.3 million of the budget, leaving just under \$15 million to be raised through property taxes in Caledon, Brampton and Mississauga.

The \$15 million local tax bill is 30 percent higher than the amount collected in 1974, but increased assessment stemming from the region's rapid

growth rate will keep the increase to 19 percent on the average home.

Long-range financial predictions set the 1976 operating budget at about \$30 million, resulting in another 22 percent mill-rate hike on an average home.

In an accompanying commentary on the 1975 budget estimates, Henderson warned that competing demands for the limited cash resources of the region would "require some difficult decisions by regional council."

He said that if demands on taxpayers' pocketbooks are to be kept in reasonable check, the consequences will be a reduction in the existing level of some services or at the very least, the maintenance of the status quo on most services.

Henderson noted council will have to decide whether taxpayers can afford, or are willing to pay for, some major programs. These include a large road

construction and improvement program that goes far beyond the level approved by the provincial government for grant purposes; further improvements in police protection, which the police say are necessary to maintain a high level of public protection; a major conservation authority land-acquisition program for flood-control along the Credit River; and increased social service programs.

## Public meeting on new official plan

# Despite competition, a pretty good turnout

Despite technical difficulties and competition from hockey playoffs, the first public meeting on the consultants' recommendations for the city's new official plan went off fairly well this week.

The Ward 2 gathering at Lorne Park secondary school had to compete with the seventh game of the Stanley Cup semi-finals between the Islanders and Philadelphia Flyers.

The organizing meeting of the Progressive Conservative riding association for Mississauga South, which drew about 100 people, was also held the same night.

Young voices drifting in periodically from the nearby school yard were a reminder of the pleasant summerlike weather. As if all this distraction weren't enough for the 75 who did attend the meeting, a synchronized recorded tape and slide presentation, which had worked perfectly in three rehearsals, did not run properly during the meeting and had to be abandoned.

Nonetheless, councillor Mary Helen Spence said at the conclusion of the session she felt the group had received the appropriate message. "A challenge has been thrown out to you."

"The issues here will affect your lifestyle for years to come," she added. "An opportunity is being given to you. It's an experiment in participatory democracy."

"Now we'll see if people care what Mississauga will look like or not," she said.

Mrs. Spence apologized for the fact that notices of the meeting were not sent out in the mails when they were supposed to be. The delay was apparently the fault of the post office.

The residents were told that they could form study groups to look into any aspect of the far reaching proposals on the official plan, which maps development strategy in Mississauga over the next quarter century.

Mrs. Spence said she and the public participation experts hired by the city would co-ordinate the organization of the study groups.

Planning commissioner Russ Edmunds said the public was being involved in the preparation of the official plan at the same time as the professional technicians and the politicians.

He explained that the lesson of the Spadina Expressway and the Lakeshore Community study battles had been that plans could no longer be presented to the public in a final form. "We're all in this action together," he said, "and we're starting at the same time."

He explained that this series of meetings was designed to inform the public of the consultants' recommendations and tell people how they could participate. A brochure containing the major recommendations of the consultants was handed out.

Edmunds said that in October, after the public had prepared briefs and studied the issues, another series of meetings would be held.

In reply to a complaint that it appeared the process was being rushed, Edmunds said, "We're not trying to ram anything down anyone's throat." He said that if the new official plan were not adopted before the next election, it might not be as favourable to another council and a new official plan might never be adopted.

One citizen asked why a

referendum could not be taken on the population projection of 625,000 for Mississauga by 1990.

"What we're doing through this process is getting your opinion," responded Mrs. Spence. "You could call the next five or six months a referendum."

Paul Carder, representing Ward 2 on the citizens' advisory panel, said residents of Mississauga had a "fantastic" opportunity to influence the shape of their future community.

He urged groups such as the Ward 2 advisory council, the Council of South Mississauga Community Associations (CSMCA) and Save Our Trees and Streams (SOTAS) to present their own briefs on the plan.

CSMCA chairman Murray Mogan has reservations about the lack of detail on input. He said it was a "great time for the doldrums".

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## School security department set up

A \$50,000-a-year security department has been created by Peel board of education to help stem rising vandalism.

The board has included money for the department in its \$100 million budget this year. Trustees have approved a recommendation by trustee Tony Aston to create a "resources protection" position.

Aston also wants the board staff to carry out a complete review of present school security and surveillance programs.

Vandalism to school property and buildings totalled \$8,929 during March this year.

Board business director Jack Brown said in an interview that such a security person could recommend improved anti-vandalism designs for schools and institute anti-vandalism education programs for students.

The position would also cover vandalism investigations and all security procedures.

## Shoplifting charge

Two Fieldgate Dr. residents have been charged in connection with an incident in which a security guard at the Towers Store, Dixie Rd. and Dundas St., was pushed away by a shoplifting suspect.

Two security guards approached the couple on the

parking lot. The man pushed one of the guards away, and the two sped away in a car.

Four days later, Carl Dennis Dorion, 31, and Diane Berthe Lauzon, 21, both of 3320 Fieldgate Dr., were arrested on charges of theft under \$200 and assault with intent to resist arrest.

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