

Job outlook here is flat survey shows

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Times staff writer

An employment survey released last week by Manpower Temporary Services has painted a gloomy picture of job prospects in Mississauga. More firings than hirings seems to be the prediction.

Yet, last year at this time, Mississauga led all cities in Canada in anticipated hiring increases by local firms over the next three months.

Brenda Weir, local area manager for the employment service, said the 1979 statistics for the first quarter do not necessarily mean there will be problems ahead.

The survey quoted 13 per cent of Mississauga firms predicting slight to moderate staff increases, while 16 per cent forecast a staff decrease. Of these, 2.6 per cent of city firms anticipated substantial layoffs.

"What's happening now is an evening-out process," said Weir. "It was a pretty sad year in 1977 as far as manufacturing and industry went. Businesses were hesitant about expanding."

"In 1978, businesses became less conservative and a new optimism was

shown. We are now in a stabilizing rather than a scare period."

Seasonal layoffs in the wholesale and retail trades and the construction industry are blamed for the low degree of business optimism. The survey's authors say the relative stability of other industries show some promise for the future.

Although job prospects for Mississauga are only slightly worse than the rest of the country, they are dismal when compared with Toronto.

Ten per cent of Toronto companies anticipated staff increases, while only six per cent predicted layoffs.

Bob Hunter, of Manpower Temporary Services' Toronto office, said Mississauga experienced an employment upswing in 1978 earlier than the rest of the country and the trend was just reversing to level things out.

He mentioned that perhaps the election of Hazel McCallion as mayor influenced employers who were fearful that the new mayor was not business-oriented enough.

Both Hunter and Weir agreed that the first quarter of a year is historically the worst time for employment prospects.

Wabukayne, Aquitaine

Lake - skating solution sought

The ban on skating at two man-made lakes in Meadowvale West will continue this winter while the city investigates the possibility of co-sponsoring a controlled skating situation next winter.

Whether it is authorized or not, hundreds of skaters are using Lakes Wabukayne and Aquitaine these days. The city has prohibited skating, mainly because of legal liability in case someone falls through the ice and drowns. Mississauga has been advised by its legal department that it will not be protected from legal action by

posting signs warning people to skate at their own risk.

Elizabeth Hull of the Meadowvale West Homeowners' Association told the city's recreation committee Monday that her group will work with city staff to try to develop a program of controlled skating under supervised conditions. The thickness of ice would be checked every day and signs posted to inform the public.

The committee wants specific information about the cost of the program and the details of controlling the activity. Under the proposal, skating would take place only on part of Lake Aquitaine.

If the Lake Aquitaine program is found to be unacceptable, then the homeowners in Meadowvale West may still be able to organize ice rinks in local school yards or parks.

Ward 2 Councillor Margaret Marland said the controlled skating idea would be "fabulous," if the legal details can be worked out.

Recreation staff will report back on the possibility of lifting the skating ban next winter.



GORM LARSEN/THE TIMES

An award for 'Hurricane'

Larry "Hurricane" McLean, a daredevil motorcycle rider from Mississauga, won an award for best dress outfit at the International World

of Motorcycles Show over the weekend. The show was held at the International Centre in Malton. With McLean is Rita Lee, a Playboy

Magazine Playmate, who presented the award. McLean's specialty is hurdling over a row of cars.

Animal shelter head shifted

Judy Loscombe, of the Peel branch of the Ontario Humane Society, has been transferred from her job as animal-shelter supervisor to the computer department of the society's head office.

Loscombe was informed of the transfer last week and she relinquished her duties as shelter supervisor on Thursday. She began work at the shelter on July 31, 1978.

The Peel shelter manager, Jim Hueston, refused to comment on Loscombe's transfer, saying it was "an internal matter best kept within the family here."

He said no replacement for Loscombe has been chosen yet.

Tom Hughes, executive vice-president of the Ontario Humane Society, paid a surprise visit to the Peel shelter on Dec. 30. He is now in-

involved with negotiations with the city for renewal of an annual animal-control contract, which last year cost taxpayers \$95,000.

Controversy surrounding the Peel branch of the society began to build as several board members, former shelter staffers and sources closely involved with the shelter told The Times last week that Loscombe was killing animals unnecessarily.

Earlier, a report criticizing management of the shelter had been released by the branch's board of directors.

Board members were not informed by head office of Loscombe's transfer and most seemed surprised by the news.

Board member Evelyn Fryer, who had smuggled five dogs from the shelter to prevent them from being killed, said the board would like more control over who works at the shelter, but head office wouldn't consider it.

Former board president, Don Clarkson, who resigned in October, had previously spoken to Hughes about having Loscombe dismissed, but Hughes refused to accept his suggestion.

Shelter committee member Eileen Chaplan said Monday that she was aware head office planned to transfer Loscombe, but believed pressure from the board and the newspapers

made it happen sooner than expected.

Mississauga's building commissioner, Keith Cowan, is now preparing a report on the pros and cons of the city assuming, instead of the humane society, the animal-control contract.

Texaco fire report 'quite controversial'

Mississauga Fire Chief Joe Miller says certain parts of the report by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office on the Oct. 2 Texaco refinery blaze in Port Credit are "quite controversial."

However, he declined to reveal what they are until city council has examined the full report.

Some of the report's recommendations have been made public:

- Petroleum industries should retrain staff at least yearly in safe operating procedures.

- Texaco should keep the municipal fire department informed concerning storage of materials and changes in firefighting procedures.

Miller said some valves and nozzles had been moved at Texaco without the fire department being aware of it.

- The municipal fire department should be given free access to the refinery grounds.

At present, Miller says, the fire trucks go only to the main gate. He is satisfied with this practice and feels that, especially in the event of a fire on refinery grounds, it is safest for firefighters to be guided by Texaco officials who know the refinery equipment best. Mississauga firefighters cannot be expected to know the chemical hazards of certain refinery machinery, Miller said.

- Development of buildings with large numbers of occupants, near oil refineries should be discouraged.

Miller noted Texaco was there before most of the residents and that precaution was up to the residents, not Texaco.

OMB to hear residents on McDonald's plan

Ratepayers of the Credit Reserve Association will tell the Ontario Municipal Board today what they think of the proposal to expand McDonald's operations on Hurontario Street.

The national fast-food firm has an application before the board to expand to the south to provide additional parking capacity. The whole day has been set aside so concerned residents can address the board. The meeting is in the city hall chambers.

Five full days of hearings have already taken place as the city of Mississauga has put its case opposing the expansion, and proposing instead that the property be rezoned and

redesignated in the Official Plan from commercial to residential. McDonald's opposes this plan. The restaurant says that it can resolve the traffic problems at the site, if its parking expansion is approved.

Andrew Adamson of the city's planning department and Doug Billet of regional planning staff have testified that the use is incompatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood and city traffic department spokesman Rob Wanless has testified about the large number of accidents near the restaurant entrance.

The OMB hearing is expected to conclude later this week.