

John Fraser will run his own shop

BY SID RODAWAY

He's big and burly, leaning on his elbows with tie undone and sleeves rolled up. His dialogue moves straightly toward each point.

John Fraser presents anything but the image of the man soon to be the head of Ontario's fastest growing educational giant, the Peel County School Board.

When he moves up to the directorship in August, replacing the retiring J. Archie Turner, Fraser intends to run his own shop — and that means there is going to be some changes.



JOHN FRASER
Next director of education

Although the HS-1 "annual book of rules" issued by the Ministry of Education is designed to lay out an educational system that provides both freedom of choice and guarantees no child misses the basics needed to achieve literacy, there are some loopholes. "School boards have to exercise greater leadership to close them," he feels.

Unlike some critics, Fraser is convinced the existing system allows the individual school board to use those freedoms. "There is an uncertain climate in education and I want to clarify that climate. We must stand squarely and look at where we are going."

Fraser had been quoted recently as saying that Canadian primary education is in rough shape. He still thinks that's the case and that he may have the solution.

BANDWAGONISM

As he sees it some school boards have been guilty of "bandwagonism." They jump after every new trend without really knowing just how good they are.

Specifically he cites cases in British Columbia where the British Infant School System is being tried. In some schools there as many as four or five different teaching systems (methodology) in use, without any evaluation procedure to determine which one is best.

On the other hand he doesn't want a reactionary backlash against change that would lead to "analysis paralysis." Fraser hopes for a system that encourages changes, but only when such changes are shown to be improvements.

"The system requires evaluation because we must be able to tell how well we are doing but formal end-of-term examinations do not serve this purpose. They tell how you placed in comparison to others in the system but they don't identify the problem areas."

The newly-introduced Item Analysis testing program will provide a fast diagnostic method of determining who is doing what wrong and where. Within days of the testing the teacher will be able to reinforce the learning areas in which individuals or classes are falling behind.

The new Primary Thrust Program goes far beyond provincial guidelines in beefing up the basic skills of reading and mathematics, according to Fraser.

"The enthusiasm we are putting into the new core curriculum shows the high expectations of this board. I know we can accommodate the growth in Peel and still provide a quality education."

NEW STRUCTURE

Despite the prediction Fraser claims it will take a new administrative structure to do it properly. The system has grown 34 per cent since its inception in 1969 but there have been no structural changes.

In that direction he has already launched a reorganizational study that will identify the services needed and how to deliver them. Because planning has been unable to keep pace with growth he will initiate a planning department and try to improve the already good liaison with municipal planning boards.

"But my review of the administration does not necessarily mean a big influx of personnel," Fraser wants to assure the tax paying public.

Changes can be made without manpower increases. To improve the flow of feedback from the teacher in the classroom to the men who hold the power, Fraser wants to "flatten out" the existing tiered power structure. As it is now designed authority flows down to the classroom but the system discourages a teacher going straight to the top with a complaint.

"Possibly we need smaller administrative school areas based on existing communities rather than geographic boundaries."

Fraser sees himself as the delivery man of the needed services to keep the 70,000 student system running smoothly; and, the fewer administrative levels, the better the delivery, he says.

"Basic literacy must be one of our objectives in primary education. A child must be able to communicate."

Although Fraser draws the line at singling out Peel County, he does admit rapidly-growing school systems "tend to concentrate on physical growth and can forget the educational program that goes on inside."

"I want to see the primary program receive the emphasis it needs," he says.

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Frozen like moonmen under an exploding star, children at Burnhamdale Park use playground equipment as vantage point for viewing Monday night fireworks. (Times photo by Ray Saltz).

Carry high density fights to court, Port Credit ratepayers urged

BY SID RODAWAY

PORT CREDIT — High-density development opponents should carry their fights with developers to court if necessary, Port Credit Residents' Association member has been told.

"Ask your town council: Who are you going to be with in a fight, us or the developer?" urged Murray Mogan, vice-chairman of the Council of South Mississauga Community Associations. He was guest speaker at PCRA's annual meeting Wed.

The group's biggest concern is a Carlton Holdings Ltd. plan to build 685 condominium units — mostly stacked townhouses but including one 200-suite high-rise — at the west end of town. The project will generate as many as 2,500 residents, a 25 per cent population jump for Port Credit.

Public pressure last week prompted council to delay the third reading of a levy agreement with the developer and to schedule a public hearing on the issue for May 28.

"The ball will be in your court on the 28th," Mogan said. He advised that the group take the route that will best stall the development until Mississauga takes over under anticipated regional government in 1974.

The land is zoned for up to 18-storey apartment buildings with 10 per cent

ground coverage. Carlton Holdings must obtain a committee of adjustment variation to allow 25 per cent land coverage for the predominantly low-rise project.

Mogan warned that the issue is not high-rise versus low-rise but rather high density versus low density and claimed stacked townhousing generates an equal population to the older high-rise plan despite a drop of almost 50 per cent in the number of suites.

He criticized town council for engaging in "parochial thinking" to plan land use as if they were living in a vacuum unaffected by what happens in neighbouring Mississauga. Mogan cited the revised Lakeshore Community Study that would

put single family homes up against the western border of Port Credit on land directly adjacent to the Carlton properties.

He suggested PCRA should argue that Port Credit will soon be part of Mississauga and that co-ordinated planning is needed.

Mogan also said that the plan of attack should not include continued "insults and plain talk" against

council. "I've never seen a council talked to the way you talked to them."

On May 14, 100 demonstrators jammed Clark Hall to condemn the Carlton plan.

An entire new association executive was elected by acclamation during the Wednesday PCRA meeting. They include chairman Chris Mackie, vice-chairman Hellen Batty, treasurer Dorothy Harrison and secretary Ron Morris.

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Town to erect barricades on two Park Royal streets

Barricades allowing only pedestrian traffic will be built on two streets linking a new subdivision and the established Park Royal community if a planning board recommendation is adopted by Mississauga council.

The board made the recommendation after hearing a parade of residents from Padstow and Sandgate Crescents complain that the new streets would increase traffic and jeopardize the safety of their children.

The public meeting was called to discuss an application by Phi International Corporation. The company plans to build 201 single family homes on 57 acres of land between the present Park Royal Community on the south and South Sheridan Way industries on the north.

The residents had no objections to the developer's plans except where two short

road accesses to Sandgate and Padstow were shown. But they were vehement in opposition to those streets.

Ratepayer Stan Hancock said "Padstow might as well be Slaughterhouse Avenue" if the street is built. The Padstow resident said the proposed road would provide the nearest access to the Park Royal shopping centre.

"We have 200 children, I would estimate, on either side of the street," he said. "There would be chaos and havoc if more traffic were added. A crescent is defined in the dictionary as the first quarter of the moon. If you cut a hole through the middle, it's no longer a crescent."

Several residents claimed access to Winston Churchill Boulevard and South Sheridan Way is enough without providing potential shortcuts for residents of the subdivision to shopping and recreational facilities in the neighbourhood.

Deputy planning commissioner Russ Edmunds said the new development should be incorporated in the present community. "It was not planned as an island," he said. "There should be provision to get to community facilities."

He said he couldn't envisage the chaos residents foresee on their streets.

The ratepayers had suggested extension of Phedora Drive to Southdown Road or the possible construction of a road over a creek in the area as alternatives to the two streets.

The board accepted a motion that the roads be constructed now, with barricades erected to make the streets into walkways. If at some future date, the majority of the established residents want the barricades taken out, the matter will be reviewed.

Councillor Glenn Grice said he personally felt there should be a tie between the new and old developments. "In a few years, the people in the area may want to go north or south more easily," he said.

Council has used a similar procedure once before for an application in Applewood Heights. Roads were built with barricades and at a later date the barricades were removed at the residents' request.

SWEEP projects

Continuation of the urban watercourse study plus an open space study requested by the Town of Mississauga will be two SWEEP projects undertaken by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority this summer.

The watercourse study, which involves flood plain mapping that will provide guidelines to restrictions on future building, has been partially completed under a winter works program.

A report will hopefully be available at the end of the summer.

The open space study will investigate the best potential use of greenbelt lands in Mississauga.

Fifty-two students will be hired for 10 or 20 week periods with the general wage being \$2 per hour. For the first time this year more girls than boys have been hired under the provincial program.

Some of the other student projects will be construction

of nature trails in various conservation areas as well as in Streetsville parks.

General roadside clean-up and grounds improvement is included in the program as are tour guides on nature trails and gabion construction.

Some of the other student projects will be construction

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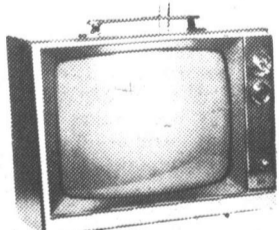
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