

City leads nation in predicted hiring increases

Mississauga manufacturers and businessmen have cast a strong vote in favor of their own financial futures as indicated by their commitments to increase staff sizes in the first quarter of 1978, a situation revealed by the latest corporate survey carried out by Manpower Temporary Services Ltd.

In fact Mississauga led all cities in Canada in the net hiring increases anticipated by local firms over the next three months. This is a major reversal of the attitudes towards corporate growth expressed by companies here last summer when Mississauga rated amongst the lowest major centres in the

nation. The survey shows that 13.1 per cent of local companies intend to increase staff size. Manpower has for 20 years carried out these quarterly surveys of selected companies across Canada and around the world to determine the expected increase in the number of people they employ.

Because it works on a forecasting term of just three months, the survey has shown itself to be a highly accurate barometer of immediate business trends. Mississauga was included in the survey taken for the first time this year with about 50 area companies taking part.

According to Manpower's local area manager Brenda Weir, the figures show that only 4.7 per cent of companies here foresaw staff growth over the summer but now, during a normal slump time in the Canadian economy following Christmas, fully 13.1 per cent of Mississauga industry is committed to increasing their payroll list.

Ms. Weir said that the first quarter of the year is notoriously bad for most companies and that the 13.1 per cent growth rating here is a good sign that local businessmen have decided to stop the waiting game that they and most others across Canada have been involv-

ed in for the last two years.

"Industry has held the line on hiring since the winter of 1975-76. Now they recognize that we are not about to enter a depression and they appear to be committing themselves to getting on with business."

The survey revealed that 26.3 per cent of Mississauga firms intended to increase their staff sizes to some degree in the first quarter of 1978. This is countered by the fact that 13.2 per cent intend to decrease their staff sizes leaving a net increase level of 13.1 per cent.

Fully 55.2 per cent of Mississauga employers foresee no change at all and

5.3 per cent of those surveyed ventured no opinion on the next three months of their operation.

On a national scale, however, the employment outlook for the next quarter shows little sign of improvement and the overall picture remains discouraging. The necessity to reduce current staff levels is anticipated by 15 per cent of the companies surveyed across Canada, up from 13.8 per cent during the last quarter of 1977, but still comparing favorably to the disturbing 19.8 per cent that reported staff reductions during the last three months of 1976.

As expected, reductions in staff are particularly strong in wholesale and retail trade reflecting a general post-Christmas slump in sales.

Only 12.3 per cent of the nationwide survey respondents anticipate increasing staff during the first quarter of 1978, about the same as for the first quarter of 1977 but far below the 19.8 per cent of firms that anticipated increased hiring during the three months before Christmas. Mining, finance, insurance and real estate are the categories of companies that forecast the major increases during this winter.

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Many objectors to ward changes

By JOHN STEWART

Ontario Municipal Board member D. S. Colbourne got a geographical, historical, and sociological review of Mississauga this week as the presiding officer at a hearing on new ward boundaries.

Chairman Colbourne heard the city present its case for new political divisions within the municipality and listened to a number of objectors who offered amendments and even totally alternative configurations.

The two-day hearing in Toronto considered a bylaw passed by council last May which divides the city into a new configuration for elections. In order for the new boundaries to go into effect for the municipal polling this November, the OMB must endorse the proposals fairly quickly.

Colbourne reserved judgment after the session this week. A written decision is expected to be handed down later this month or in February.

Ward 6 would be divided

The main bone of contention at the hearing, as it was earlier at city council, was the proposal to divide up the present Ward 6.

The council position provides for a new Ward 6 bounded by Oakville on the west, Highway 10 on the east, Dundas Street on the north and the QEW on the south.

That would leave a new Ward 8 to the north bounded by Dundas on the south, Oakville and Milton on the east, the hydroelectric right-of-way on the north and Mavis Road on the east.

Objectors rejected this basically east-west division, saying that the area should be divided on a north-south axis with the Credit River acting as a natural boundary. Among those supporting that position were the two current Ward 6 Board of Education trustees, Tom McAuliffe and Fawn Currey.

John Calvert, the principal planner in the planning department's research and long range planning section, argued that the division would create two wards with similar interests. The proposed Ward 6 would consist of older residential neighborhoods, such as Sheridan Homelands, Sherwood Forest and Westport while the northern area would have more recently developed areas.

Construction time key factor

The time of construction is a key factor in determining the common interests of wards, contended Calvert. "The new Ward 6 will be more settled in its planning patterns," he said.

Erin Mills South in the new Ward 8 is fairly well developed as well but more construction is coming in neighborhoods 107, 108 and 109, 101 and 106. The Creditview community along Mavis Road is in the ward and additional development is expected on lands west of Winston Churchill absorbed from Oakville in 1974.

Robert Phillips, a resident of the Credit Woodlands argued that the Credit River, and not Dundas Street is the more natural divider of the area. He noted that the bridge over the Credit at Dundas does not provide a strong communication link.

The proposed boundaries will divide the historical

relationship between the Old Erindale Village and Erindale Woodlands, he remarked. "Our social links have grown over the Dundas Highway," he noted, "but it's much harder to go over the Credit."

Phillips and trustees McAuliffe and Currey all stressed the fact that the new ward lines will leave proposed Ward 6 without a high school.

Phillips said there was a parallel family of schools on each side of the river and suggested that the proposed configuration could leave parents to deal with four trustees over a single high school issue.

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Battle looms over bylaw on smoking

A battle appears to be brewing between Mississauga's legal department and the Non-Smokers' Rights Association over the comprehensive anti-smoking bylaw ordered by council earlier.

The legal department said this week that it cannot endorse the bylaw which would prohibit smoking in a host of public areas, such as lobbies, elevators, lineups etc. City solicitor Basil Clark says he will present the bylaw for council's consideration, probably later this month, but he won't stamp it with his departmental seal.

Clark says the Ontario Municipal Act only allows municipalities to impose a bylaw prohibiting smoking in food stores with more than 10 employees.

Even though other municipalities, Ottawa and Toronto, have the more-stringent bylaws, Clark says their authenticity has not been challenged in the courts. Several lawyers have claimed the bylaws aren't legal.

Gar Mahood, executive-director of the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, claims he clarified the legal point in question when he appeared before council last year in support of a new bylaw.

"This was all discussed quite openly. I told the solicitor and council that there were jurisdictional problems," Mahood notes.

He says Ontario has stated that municipalities have the jurisdiction to pass a strong anti-smoking bylaw under the act. Although municipal solicitors have questioned this interpretation Mahood says "in this type of dispute it is up to the junior government to force the hand of the senior government."

"You can pass a bylaw and let the courts arbitrate," adds the executive-director. "A bylaw is only illegal if it has been quashed by the courts."

Neither Toronto's bylaw, which went into effect Oct. 1, nor Ottawa's, which has been in place for over a year, have resulted in any prosecutions.

It is expected that council will consider the question at its meeting Jan. 23.

Students sue restaurant for back pay

By SID RODAWAY

Although a bankruptcy hearing is scheduled for Jan. 20 for the year-old Mark Twain Showboat floating restaurant in Port Credit, seven local students and their high school teacher are taking the company to court next Tuesday for non-payment of \$1,463.79 in back wages.

The five boys and two girls, all students at South Peel Secondary, had worked through the fall as part time dishwashers on the 81-year-old former Mississippi paddle wheeler. Their paycheques, however, bounced when the kids tried to cash them.

Their marketing and merchandising teacher, Jim Owen, was enraged by that news and last fall launched a suit against the Mark Twain Showboat under the old Masters and Servants Act. A hearing has been set for Jan. 10 in the provincial court at Hensall Circle.

In the meantime, the Ontario employment standards branch of the ministry of labor filed an "order to pay" against the Showboat that gave the firm until yesterday to forward the funds owing several employees to the employment standards branch.

Regional manager Klaus Wehrenberg told The Times that nothing had been received as of noon on Tuesday. He added, however, that his department would give the company until Friday to get the cheque into its hands.

After that the case will be handed over to the ministry's legal department for processing through the courts.

The Mark Twain first opened for business just before Christmas in 1976, a full 10 months after the owners had hoped to go into operation.

The paddle wheeler had served as a restaurant in Chicago from 1961 to 1970 and was then floated to Buffalo to continue there as a restaurant. But the operation soon went bankrupt.

Purchased by the then 28-year-old Renco Pecotic and partners Steve and Tony Curic, the old boat was towed to Port Credit where it was hoped it could be put back in operation within six weeks.

Canadian fire and health regulations were found to be much tougher than their American counterparts and after 10 months of renovations the net investment total-

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Heading home

Times photo by Ken Kerr

The cold weather has prompted the formation of several natural skating rinks around Mississauga. This one in Port Credit park affords these two skaters a late-afternoon opportunity to try out their blades.

Visiting Russians fit all the cliches

By SID RODAWAY

"They're good boys, these Russians, they do exactly as they're told and they love French fries," said bus driver John Myers after dropping the Soviet's Traktor Cheljabinsk team off at Port Credit Arena Thursday afternoon.

Canadians eager to please the visiting Russians hockey team were concerned about the type of food they liked best. They needn't have worried.

Meat and potatoes, meat and potatoes. Hate those baked potatoes but love those French fries. That about summed up their tastes.

Les Gall, energetic owner of the Mississauga Golden Arrows, was eager to play host to the Russians even though he knew there was little chance of his bottom place Ontario Hockey Association team beating their guests. He was right, they lost 11 to 4 to the Soviets.

Gall had worked out a deal with La-Talento Steak House in Sheridan Mall for the Russian boys to be fed salami sandwiches before the game and a steak and roast beef dinner afterwards.

"At first they were worried if the Russians would like the food but I told them to take it easy — if the Russians don't like the food, that's just too bad." After all, they were only in town for a few hours — a bad review from them wouldn't hurt business.

Gall is one of the more "colorful" OHA team owners and admitted to this reporter while we waited for the Russians to arrive that he had a standing reward of \$25 ready for the first of his players to snatch him a Russian sweater. "I don't care how they get it, I just want one," Gall said. "It would be a priceless treasure to me." He never got his treasure.

The Traktor tour of Ontario is not exactly your Team Canada series. There was little notice and no advance men to smooth the way.

City of Mississauga officials had only

found out about the Thursday game at Port Credit Arena a few days before. City Hall public relations director Jim Kaakee just had enough time to rustle up some ceramic beer mugs flaunting the Mississauga crest and some official City of Mississauga lapel pins for gifts.

While waiting for the Russians to arrive Kaakee reminisced about his involvement some nine years ago with a Canadian tour by the Moscow Selects. "In London they gave each of these guys a set of golf clubs and a bag. Now you have to remember that 90 per cent of them have never seen a golf course — I think the nearest one is in Czechoslovakia — so they traded them off to Canadian players for hockey pucks, sticks and tape."

Kaakee felt the city beer mug and pin were good gifts for the Russians (at least the equal of pucks, sticks and tape) but he was a little embarrassed by the lack of advance notice and preparations. In fact Kaakee couldn't resist humming the old Mickey Mouse Club song while pacing the lobby of Port Credit Arena.

The Russians arrived around 4:30 p.m. direct from Orillia and a 6 to 4 victory there on Wednesday night.

Penetang Midland Coach Lines driver John Myers liked the Russians. "They are well behaved and very polite. When we're driving they just like to sit there and listen to rock and roll on the radio." A certain fish-out-of-water atmosphere followed the team. Most had never been to North America before. Their stern looks, fur hats and tendency to move everywhere as a group gave them an almost cliché-like Russian appearance.

Later, just before the start of the game, in front of 800 paying customers, the Russians most likely missed the unintended gaffe surrounding the Canadian national anthem. A tape of the Russian anthem as played at the Montreal Forum was followed by "Canada" sung by Roger Doucette entirely in French. The

crowd took that and the announcer's pronunciation of the Russians' names with equal good humor.

Mayor Ron Searle officially welcomed the Traktors saying that he hoped "while they are with us that they make many long and enduring friendships." Just how

long and enduring they might be can be assumed in view of the fact that they left for Brantford following the post-game beef dinner.

As well-behaved and self-conscious as they might have been on their first trip to our country, they knew what they liked. Upon seeing the Port Credit Arena

change rooms one Russian player made the motion of clearing his nose. The rest of them took things as they found them.

It seems that meat and desserts are the biggest head turners for these boys. Bus driver Myers noted that the night before in Orillia the team had eaten dinner at a

local Ponderosa Steak House. Not exactly haute cuisine but first-rate by their standards — the players returned two and three times to the dessert tray and salad bar. To a bunch of Russian boys raised on black bread and borscht a Number 4 special at the Ponderosa is a dream come true.



When a Russian hockey team passed through Mississauga last week there was no need for pre-arrival

jitters about whether their palates would be satisfied. The team bus driver reported their enthusiasm for such

North American delicacies as French fries and Ponderosa steak.