

# New PCB method could halt cement kiln plans

If one of the alternative methods of destroying PCBs being examined by the Ontario environment ministry can be proven effective, and quickly developed, the plan to burn PCBs in Mississauga could be dropped.

Ed Turner, acting director of the ministry's waste management branch, says the provincial government still believes that incineration in a cement kiln at St. Lawrence Cement is the most effective means of

destroying PCBs, the stable chemical compound linked to cancer and birth defects.

But he says the ministry might proceed with another method if it can be proven effective, and can be put into action more quickly than the cement kiln incineration. The opposition of Mississauga residents and city council to the St.

Lawrence experiments, has led to a protracted legal battle, delaying a public commission's inquiry into the process.

The environment ministry will spend \$400,000 in a one-year program at Kingston's Royal Military College to study the feasibility of PCB destruction in a plasma arc, a strong electric current.

A total of \$20,000 has been spent on an experiment at the University of Guelph to try to break down PCBs using chemicals.

In addition, the ministry will soon announce an experiment to destroy PCBs through high temperature combustion in a rocket engine.

## Wrong charge: lawyer

The Crown has laid the wrong charge against a postal clerk accused of overcharging customers, lawyer Victor Paisley told a provincial court judge last week.

John Wade, a 30-year veteran of the post office, is accused of overcharging customers mailing Christmas packages overseas. The Crown ac-

cused him of theft under \$200 from the post office, but Paisley told judge John Ord that if any theft occurred, it was from the customers and not from the post office.

Crown Attorney David Quick argued that Wade had no authority to charge the inflated price and that there was no intention to give the excess funds to Wade as a gift.

Judge Ord reserved decision on the matter, which began in early July and continued last week.

until Aug. 13.

Three postal inspectors testified Wade had been set up after being suspected of overcharging customers. Inspector Douglas Chambers went undercover to mail packages destined for Europe and was overcharged \$5.90 for the three packages.

In each case, the correct postage was affixed and the excess money pocketed, the postal investigators testified.

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# Most elderly on top floor of Peel homes

By RICH MURZIN  
Times staff writer

More than 65 per cent of the elderly in homes for the aged and nursing homes in Peel are housed on upper floors, according to a report being prepared by the region's social services department.

The report, portions of which were presented verbally at yesterday's Peel general council, was ordered by Regional Chairman Frank Bean after a fire at Mississauga's Extencicare Ltd. nursing home which has claimed 24 lives. A written report will be ready for an Aug. 14 meeting of Peel council.

Paul Vezina, co-ordinator of the report for Peel Social Services, said 860 out of 1,267 seniors are living on the second floor or higher in Peel's 15 nursing homes, homes for the aged and seniors' residences. The report includes Peel Manor in Brampton and Sheridan Villa in Mississauga, operated by the region.

Vezina said a number of intensive care patients are bedded on Sheridan Villa's fourth floor. He called housing

bedridden patients on upper floors a "double bind."

"If we were to put ambulant (mobile) people on the fourth floor, we would be making it difficult for those people to get outside," he said. "They would have to go up and down four flights of stairs."

About 60 per cent of regionally housed senior residents are healthy enough to go outdoors.

Vezina said Sheridan Villa is equipped with elevators but they are used most often for the transport of supplies.

"Old people instinctively don't like elevators," he said.

Peel will avoid such problems in the future, according to Vezina. A third regionally-operated home set for construction in 1983-84 in Mississauga will likely be a single floor, multi-wing building. A site has not yet been chosen for that project.

The regional report will also address the issue of installing sprinklers in nursing homes and seniors' residences.

## Death toll at 24

The July 14 fire at the Extencicare Ltd. nursing home has claimed its 24th victim.

Helen Bosanquet, 91, died in Mississauga Hospital last Wednesday. Thomas Locke, 70, remains in hospital in serious condition, the only survivor of the third floor where fire broke out.

Ninety-four residents of the home were supposed to be moved back last week, according to Extencicare vice-

president Don Sherman, but late last week he said the return has been delayed indefinitely.

Sherman said the clean-up operation has to be approved by the Mississauga Fire Department and the Ministry of Health before the 174 survivors will be allowed to return. Sherman said the clean-up would be reviewed again today.

Sherman said he could not estimate when the clean-up would be completed.



## Trinkets and Treasures

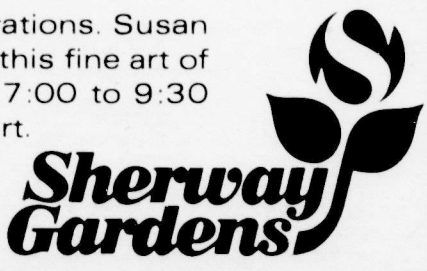
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