

Registered Charities

serves aviation but it also serves the local community. Those volunteer groups have added substantially to the improvement of life in Mississauga, Etobicoke and Brampton. They made the effort; they went to the airport and demanded an improvement in facilities. They are good examples of how volunteers groups can outdo the government. They can see a lot further than the government. The end result is a direct public benefit. The people got together out of concern to help make a better community.

Also in the Malton community, a series of ratepayers' groups, social clubs and interest groups got together with the Malton Community Council to advise governments on citizenship, education, day care and a range of other very personal activities, as well as conducting their own activities in their own programs. The result is that the small town of Malton, which normally would be drowned by the surrounding urban environment, has maintained its own identity. Volunteers got together and made the place a living entity unto itself; it is a very good community. The intent in this bill is to support such people and to use government services to underline and support voluntary activity.

Many times we have seen the government moving toward taking over a voluntary cause. This is not always very successful. Fortunately, the government is not doing that as much any more. The volunteer centre for Peel directs volunteers in hundreds of activities across the region. For example, representatives of the centre went to the government and obtained a student grant which enabled them to hire a student to work on a specific project over the summer. It is automatically self-liquidating; it is a summer project. When the student leaves, the volunteer activity will still be there and the benefit will still be there. It will be an ongoing benefit, thanks to the volunteers who are continuing to work through the centre.

We use the summer employment grant a lot across Mississauga to develop such a pattern. The Credit Valley Treatment Centre and the Mississauga Children's Fund obtained students to come in and do some of the special one-time work. The volunteers were there first; the volunteers will be there after the students leave. The federal assistance is enriching a special part of those programs and leaving these projects in a better position to contribute to Mississauga.

In the Peel Multicultural Council last January someone was hired under the winter program through CEIC. A staff person took the efforts of 45 different concerned multicultural groups and pulled them all together in order to give them some focus, a newsletter and a place to telephone during the day for help and for co-ordination. The grant will end some time in January, but the Peel Multicultural Council will be much stronger because of that person's contribution. I suspect the Multicultural Council will go out into the community to find some volunteers and businessmen who will fund that person's payroll through the year 1982. It is a very small amount of money federally, but it was a huge amount of money for the Peel Multicultural Council.

We find repeatedly across Canada that the federal government makes a very small contribution relative to its total

budget, but a huge contribution relative to the quality of life in local communities. There is no guarantee that the federal involvement will be welcome. For example, yesterday I was talking to Mayor Hazel McCallion. The McCallion family are deeply involved in the Bread and Honey Festival in Streetsville. This weekend, approximately 19,000 to 20,000 people will come to Streetsville for a one-day event. It has been totally operated without government assistance for ten years. The various exhibitors and participants make contributions, including myself. I do not know whether that counts as government assistance. Then, when the festival is over, it ends up with a profit which allows them to finance some work in preparation for the following year.

The same pattern is followed in Malton, Meadowvale, and Erin Mills. These volunteers get together without government assistance. The experience they contribute enriches the communities.

There was a startling example of this a couple of weeks ago. A citizen of the year dinner was held. Approximately 400 people attended, each of them representing hundreds more. Their intention was to pick one person, and by picking that person, the late Ted Glistan, they were able to celebrate volunteer activity and their own personal contributions to the city.

I think we underplay this too much here. We downplay the importance of volunteers too much in Ottawa. We do not pay attention to the impact of volunteers on the country and individual communities. People simply get together to have a good time. In doing so, they add depth and variety to their community. It does not matter if they are activist groups, such as the airport group or the Malton Information Centre, they go after a specific cause. They enrich the community by achieving their goal. It does not matter whether it is a sports group such as hockey or the track and field people who are in the Olympic class; they are adding greatly to the activities young people are able to enjoy in a huge area like Mississauga. It does not matter what role these people play in festivals, sports or activist causes, they indelibly change cities such as the ones in the riding I represent.

• (1630)

Looking at Mississauga from the outside, you might see it as just a huge suburb, but once you are there and involved in its life, you will find that what appears to be massive and anonymous is really broken down into a great deal of variety with active and intimate groups making the city much richer. A number of these people have done this with government assistance. I think they are proud to have received that assistance. I think they know that they cannot rely on it totally. They are pleased to receive it. Some of the programs which we have used in Mississauga, such as the summer student program or the winter program, have added greatly, not only to the individuals who have been hired but to the community at large.

I started off by saying I would be brief. I simply want to give recognition to the people who are doing a very good job in