

Council crackdown on 'fast buck' builders



Setting sun signals end to outdoor hockey game for six-year-old Tim Quinlan. Tim and friends took advantage of natural rink created by weekend cold snap at Lakeshore Road and Inverhouse. (Times photo by Ron Pozzer).

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

Concerted action to turf out the "gypsies and fast buck artists" of the building trade is the number one priority item for council in 1973, Mississauga Mayor Chic Murray announced this week.

"It's pretty revolting to see young couples who have scraped together a down payment saddled with cracked ceilings and flooded basements. This is the result of rotten workmanship."

He called on council members to support him in petitioning the provincial legislature to introduce a private bill that would make licensing of builders mandatory in the town.

Murray warned that the building lobby at Queen's Park is a powerful one but he added that it is clear the Toronto Homebuilders Association (which covers most Mississauga builders) cannot police its executive let alone its membership.

"The good ones shouldn't worry but the way it is now I have had to call two or three in to put the heat on them. I've told them they will have to get their building permits by the mandamus route but it doesn't change things."

In the past year Mississauga has been plagued by several outbreaks of resident protest over shoddy construction practices. Citizens in Malton, Mississauga Valleys and Queensway Gardens have petitioned the town to clear up construction faults when builders refused to act.

Murray cited council's second target as the need for greater road subsidies from the province.

He said the provincial government has promoted rapid urbanization in Mississauga through the Toronto Centred Region Plan and the South Peel water and

sewer agreement, but is now holding back funds to adequately link the developments they have fostered.

"They went into a \$200 million capital debt to promote growth here. They need the growth to pay off the debt but someone forgot to tell the roads department (Department of Transportation and Communications)."

He pointed out that the town continues to grow at a rate of almost 20,000 people per year but roads grants remain the same.

"They say there are 900 municipalities in the province and that all should receive consideration but I doubt if 70 per cent of those are showing much growth. We are. They should shift the grants around."

As a third necessity for the town, the mayor noted the need for two-way communication between town fathers and ratepayer groups to ensure controlled growth.

Murray said liaison is needed to learn what alternatives resident groups have to problems.

As an example he pointed to the negotiations between the town and the Council of South Mississauga Ratepayers Association over population densities in the Lakeshore Community Study.

"We're now only 2,000 or 3,000 people apart but we had an awful time getting them to come to us with ideas."

"The quicker we can get into dialogue the better planned community we will have."

"Now is the time to start communication — not in the fall when we're out to get elected."

Earlier Reeve Lou Parsons had tendered a motion calling on all community association presidents to meet with council regarding the town transportation study.

Missed court appearance man is jailed for 30 days

Provincial Court Judge Donald August has sentenced a 25-year-old Mississauga man to 30 days in jail as a deterrent to the increasing numbers of persons who fail to appear in court when they are notified to do so.

Charles Bogert Thompson received the stiff sentence for his failure to appear Aug. 29 on a charge of obstructing a Mississauga police officer.

Thompson told the court that he had been out celebrating Team Canada's victory over the Russians the night before and had slept past the time of his scheduled court appearance.

Crown attorney Leo

McGuigan expressed concern about the effect of increasing instances of failure to appear.

"In York county, this offence is apparently becoming quite prevalent according to recent statistics and the frequency with which we've been dealing with it indicates this is becoming more prevalent here as well," McGuigan said.

"If the Bail Reform Act is to work, people must abide by it. If they fail to do so, I think this court should take a very serious view of it."

Judge August called the federal Bail Reform Act a good piece of legislation "to

assist, not cause hardship." In passing the 30-day sentence, he said he was concentrating on one aspect of the issue — the deterrent.

"When people are sent summonses or appearance notices and are scheduled to come before the court, they must appear," he said.

Thompson was fined \$300 or 35 days in jail after being convicted of obstructing Mississauga police officer Ronald Jones during a scuffle at the Villa tavern early Sunday morning Aug. 13.

Constable Jones testified that while he tried to put two persons he had arrested into

(Continued on page 2)

AUDIT STILL TO COME

Port Credit reveals budget surplus of \$25,000

PORT CREDIT — Reeve Frank Leavers has revealed to council that the town has a budget surplus of \$25,000 for 1972 compared to a \$64,000 deficit in 1971.

The figures are for Port Credit's operating expenses and do not include debenture debts of some \$2.8 million which exceed the entire 1972 regular budget by about \$100,000.

Leavers, the finance committee chairman, also announced that the amount of temporary borrowing on Dec. 31, 1972 stood at only \$55,000 or approximately 44 per cent of the then outstanding revenue from uncollected taxes.

A municipality is allowed to borrow up to 70 per cent of its outstanding revenue to continue operations until the anticipated income is received. With special permission from the province a town can borrow up to 85 per cent, a figure illegally exceeded by Port Credit council in 1971.

Late last fall the town's auditors had warned that the overborrowing situation would be repeated in 1972 unless some of December's bills were deferred until 1973. In the long run the auditing firm called for the establishment of a reserve fund to cover costs when income is delayed.

But the town avoided the short term overborrowing this time when some unexpected sources of cash came through. Town manager Bill Munden told The Times part of this was

the result of partial assessment from uncompleted apartment buildings and interest on other funds.

A special tax expert was hired last summer to reduce the amount of uncollected municipal taxes. They had reached a level of 13 per cent by the end of 1971 but had been cut down to a more acceptable 8.7 per cent by the end of 1972.

Mayor Cy Saddington promised that the financial position of Port Credit would be even further improved in 1973 as a result of rising assessment that he expects will reach \$96.9 million, up \$5 million over 1972.

The extra assessment stems from recently completed apartment projects.

Meanwhile Reeve Leavers heaped praise on Munden's shoulders for the \$25,000 surplus situation and took the opportunity to pat council on its collective back.

He said much of the credit for the successful year was due to "the integrity of the present council as a whole," and "the combined co-operation of all committee chairmen."

Munden took over the reigns of administrative control last June after former clerk Alex Thomson and three other senior staff members were fired.

Chris Mackie, a member of the Port Credit Residents Association, asked council that the surplus be put to use in

reducing property taxes on residential properties. Port Credit homeowners are taxed under the highest rate in Peel County.

After the meeting association chairman Hubert Wolf echoed Mackie's appeal for a concerted effort in 1973 to lower the residential tax rate.

In an interview Wolf praised council for their successful efforts to stay within their budget but noted that in private industry simply staying within a budget is not considered a great accomplishment.

He also claimed that the beaming pronouncements by the reeve created an impression among the public that everything is different now and the town is back on the track.

"Remember we still have the highest taxes and our per capita debenture debt is still \$259 per person compared with Mississauga's \$179 per person debt," Wolf said.

He pointed out that in 1972 the town paid out \$169,432 to cover the principal of the debenture debt plus \$230,577 in interest.

"Those figures are still too high and council should make every effort to prevent the debenture debt from creeping higher."

Leaver's financial statement was based on estimates drawn up by Munden. The final audit must still be made.

Blenkarn spent \$48,399 during election campaign

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

Peel South M.P. Don Blenkarn says he probably spent more than the Liberal, New Democrat and Independent candidates combined in the Oct. 30 federal election.

In his election expenses accounting to Peel South returning officer Keith Shaw, Blenkarn claims to have spent \$48,399.26 of the \$50,751 contributed to him.

The Progressive Conservative member, who drew 31,984 votes over Liberal Bill Kent's 30,248, believes his spending is within the limits suggested by the proposed election expenses act.

He says that with "huge" postal allowances a candidate would have been allowed to spend \$55,000 in the 105,000 voter riding.

Liberal Kent, who has filed a claim of \$17,702 in expenses, feels the limit would have been \$40,000 under the pending act.

New Democrat David Busby and independent Michael Houlton have not yet tendered returns.

Blenkarn's largest expense was listed under goods such as booklets, signs and print costs — \$22,920.91. Under services such as costs for parties and insurance his expenses were set at \$13,873.95. Almost \$8,000 of that was for a video tape film presentation that was shown at shopping malls.

He listed advertising expenses of \$4,381.48. Personal expenses amounted to \$1,636.09 and rent claimed was \$1,670. Travelling expenses totalled \$392.10.

Blenkarn also had unaccounted expenses of \$3,521.73.

Major expense in the Kent campaign was advertising with \$13,554 being spent. He listed \$1,695 for postage, \$107 for petty claims, \$210 for rentals, \$925 for services, \$80 for travel, \$580 for goods and \$550 for personal expenses.

Kent said his major contributor was the federal Liberal Party with a donation "in the neighbourhood of \$5,000."

Blenkarn said the federal Progressive Conservative Party provided \$7,500 for his campaign.

Although the first time member said he would be in favour of making it law to fully disclose financial contributions, he did not want his backers' names published.

He did admit, however, that one party still anonymous to him had kicked in \$7,500.

"Whoever donated the money told my bagman he wished to remain nameless. I still don't know who it was."

Did he expect that party to come forward seeking favours at a later date? "Maybe, but I'd tell them to shove it. The reason I waited so long to get into politics was that I wouldn't be in a position to be influenced."

"During the campaign I was offered \$1,000 for a favour if I was elected. I told the party to neatly fold his money and place it."

Blenkarn said he might not spend as

(Continued on page 5)



Eyes of his admirers told the story after hockey star Paul Henderson received plaque from Mississauga town council "in acknowledgement of his great contribution on Team Canada in 1972." Henderson lives in Mississauga.

Man nabbed in Guelph linked to 3 robberies

Mississauga police arrested a man in Guelph Sunday afternoon and charged him in connection with three November robberies of a Malton gas station.

William Keith Nelson, 21, of Park Avenue in Guelph was charged with three counts of theft.

Ross's service station at 3019 Derry Road was held up Nov. 9, Nov. 17 and Nov. 29.

In each robbery a man entered the station with his hand in his pocket, told the attendant he had a gun, demanded all the money from the till and escaped in a stolen car. The cars were all recovered later.

The thief made off with \$287 in the first theft, \$100 in the second and \$72 in the third.

Index

The province has finally settled upon Jan. 23 as the date for a regional government announcement on Peel. Page 3.

Car pool

A group of Erindale parents have organized a car pool after school bus service for their children was discontinued. Page 5.

Computer

John Hart is employing mathematics and a basement computer to study the quality of change. Page C1.



Thriller

Erindale Raiders and Lorne Park Spartans combined to provide the most exciting high school basketball game of the season. Page B1.

Regulars

Editorials 4
Entertainment 6
Sports B1
Business C1
Real Estate and Classified C2
Kaleidoscope D1