

And you thought signs were simple things

By PAUL WILLIAMS
Styrofoam lettering should be affixed to the side of Mississauga's \$35 million city hall to identify it, says Councillor Hubert Wolf.

The lettering, which could be cut on a bandsaw in a city workshop by one of the recreation and parks department's 1,300 employees, would be an uncomplicated and inexpensive way of identifying the city hall, explained Wolf at a recent recreation services committee meeting.

Wolf's remarks, which were not put in the form of a recommendation to council, came during a remarkable debate on city hall signs.

It seems the city has run afoul of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications. Mississauga does not have ministry approval to erect any signs facing Hwy. 10.

However, there are two signs: a new one beside the roadway leading into the city hall parking lot reading City of Mississauga, City Hall; and an older one reading City of Mississauga, Robert Speck Civic Square, near the highway.

Recreation services committee was asked by the clerk's department to give staff direction on the matter.

To complicate matters, on the day of the committee meeting the newly erected sign was in a state of disrepair following complaints from the city to the contractor to improve the sign's shoddy appearance.

With Wolf and Councillor Harold Kennedy leading the debate, the committee wrestled over the dilemma of what to do with the signs.

Wolf, upset that the city should have to seek approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, recommended that City Centre Drive, City Hall, City of Mississauga should be placed on the east side of the building so people using Hwy. 10 knew what the building is.

After Kennedy pointed out that Robert W. Speck Civic Square should be on the sign, Wolf changed his mind and told the committee that Mississauga City Hall, Robert W. Speck Civic Square, City Centre Drive should be on the side of the building.



"The Woolco sign can be seen from the highway. So should the city hall sign. The letters should be eternally illustrated letters or floodlit," Wolf said.

The parks and recreation commissioner, Ed Halliday, who had no idea why this matter was before his committee, reminded the committee that staff wanted direction on what to do with the existing signs.

"There is also a possibility the city hall may be moved so you must consider that a new sign would be expensive," warned Halliday.

Kennedy, still ignoring the question of what was to be done with the existing signs, suggested the east side of the city hall be lettered Robert W.

Speck Civic Square, City Hall. "If this goes to committee like this, all hell will break loose," Kennedy predicted. Wolf changed his mind again, saying he didn't think Robert W. Speck Civic Square need go on the side of the building because "a lot of people don't know who Robert Speck was."

"We may have to put a story on the building," he added.

Vivian Franks asked why the address of the city hall need go on the side of the building. "One City Centre Drive should be on the sign so people that are going to 55 City Centre Drive don't come here," explained Wolf.

It was left to citizen representative Charles Brown to come up with a suitable motion which the recreation services committee approved.

It recommended that lettering be affixed to the east side of the building reading Mississauga City Hall; a city crest be located near the north entrance, a suitable sign be constructed at the northwest corner of Hwy. 10 and City Centre Drive reading Robert W. Speck Civic Square, One City Centre Drive; and the existing socket of the partially erected sign be dismantled.

Now the recommendations must go to council, "where there will be a fair bit of debate," predicted Halliday after the meeting.

Dad pleads for son's release

A Mississauga father, who last week asked that his teenage son be held in custody to await trial on numerous breaking and entering charges, pleaded for his son's release Thursday after a judicial foul-up.

At a bail hearing June 16 for Stephen John Ellis, 16, Justice of the Peace Dick Burrill accidentally made an illegal detention order to hold Ellis in custody at the Salvation Army's House of Concord in Brampton.

Legally, an accused person denied bail must be held in custody in a provincial jail or other institution, not a private facility like the House of Concord.

At a further hearing last Thursday to correct the error, the assistant crown attorney, Brian Trafford, refused to consent to Burrill's plan to vacate his previous order, which would have resulted in the release of Ellis.

Trafford changed his mind, however, after hearing testimony from the boy's father, Dr. Roger Ellis of Mississauga.

Dr. Ellis said his son was detained because of "evidence presented by myself on June 14 that I wanted my son kept in custody to obtain psychiatric assessment."

Dr. Ellis said he had since made arrangements with the

Salvation Army and that his son was willing to live at the House of Concord.

Trafford consented to vacating the detention order

and Burrill ordered the boy's release on \$5,000 bail with no cash deposit and with his father as surety on condition he live at the House

New bus link recommended

Council is being asked to approve Mississauga Transit service to the Toronto International Airport in Malton starting Sept. 1.

General committee recommended to council this week that route changes proposed by Mississauga Transit be adopted. The changes would result in a revision of route 7 to provide service to the airport.

Route 7 runs from Square One shopping centre to Westwood Mall via Highway 10, Eglinton Ave., Dixie Rd., Derry Rd. and Goreway Dr.

The revised route would run between Square One and Westwood Mall via Highway 10, Eglinton, Dixie, Hwy. 401, Renforth Dr., Toronto International Airport, Airport Rd., Derry and Goreway. The service would continue to be once every hour.

In a report, Transit Manager Ed Dowling noted that the change would eliminate service on Derry between Study St. and Dixie and on Dixie between Derry and Hwy. 401.

"From statistics we have compiled, the rerouting would affect only a few people but in

return more passengers would be served," the report stated.

The service, if approved by council, would be on a trial basis for three-to-six months.

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Fred Hooper seeks Ward 6 seat

By JOHN STEWART

Urging the election of business-minded persons such as himself to council, the former president of the West Erin Mills Homeowners Association has announced his candidacy for the Ward 6 council seat.

Fred Hooper, 55, president of his own company and manager of marine activities at Ontario Place, made the announcement at a press luncheon at the Credit Valley Golf Club this week.

The Sheridan Homelands man was critical of the "shoddy fiscal management" of the present council and what he called its preoccupation with "bickering."

Hooper said he had no intention of being negative, but added he was tired of the "confrontation-style politics at city hall and what he considers excessive civic spending."

"I intend to bring a more responsible attitude to council and I sincerely hope that a number of other people will also start working toward that goal."

One of Hooper's principal targets in his remarks was what he called the proliferation of staff during the present term. He said there was no question that some departments were "empire building."

Hooper, a former three-term chairman of a board of education near Kingston, said he was alarmed that the city staff has grown so much, especially when regional government took over many of the local responsibilities in 1974.

He said, for instance, that the regional roads department took over 75 per cent of total roads responsibility and yet the city's engineering department had grown by 23 per cent.

It was Hooper who presented a brief from West Erin Mills ratepayers to council earlier this year asking a bevy of questions about tax dollars and requesting a mill-rate increase of less than 10 per cent.

Although residents got the hoped for restraint, he said, "I have to this day never had an answer to one of those 100 or so questions from city staff, the mayor or the ward councillor." He considered that a "blatant lack of concern" by city hall.

A budget overview indicating the city's dim financial status was presented earlier this year, but Hooper claimed its effects were now "fading away" as council talked about spending money on a number of other items.

He wondered how Mississauga is going to afford the long-term costs of proposed programs, stressing he felt council was "fishing for revenue" with its proposed increase in lot levies for developers.

As an example of council extravagance, Hooper cited the construction of the \$480,

000 David Ramsay pool in Thornlodge Park. He said the pool would only serve 5,000 people and was much more than the community had ever asked for. "We know the extravagance involved. It's there."

Council did keep taxes down this year, but Hooper said the reason was largely the West Erin Mills brief. He said council cut the budget in areas so that the ratepayers' group didn't get the credit.

Hooper is the second candidate to announce that he will seek the seat being vacated by Councillor David Culham, who is running for mayor.

David Hasan, chairman of The Erin Mills Peoples Organization, has already announced his intention to run.

Hooper, the father of five, questioned a proposed central library of 100,000 square feet which is in Mississauga's five-year capital projections.

He said it was twice the size of city hall and was almost three times bigger than Toronto's central library,



Fred Hooper
which has served one million people for many years.

Mississauga already has a central core area near Square One shopping centre and does not need to move city hall to the Cooksville area, Hooper said.

He urged more concentration on industrial growth, claiming the city had dropped to a 70-30 residential-industrial balance in the last few years.

Hooper said the city could not go on with "endless" studies and consultants. He said council often avoids making a decision by constantly referring matters to staff.

Commenting on the garbage-dump issue, the candidate said he did not know enough about the alternative sites to say if Site 4 in the "hole-in-the-doughnut" (the city's large, central undeveloped area) is the best location. "Site 4 is not in Ward 6 so I'm well pleased."

He urged that part of the present sanitary landfill operation in Ward 6 become a park.

The Pyramid Cres. resident believes recycling can be made to work, but criticized council for reducing garbage pickup for single-family homes to once a week.

Reducing mill rate increases to less than 10 per cent is good, but not when such essential services must be sacrificed, he said.

Referring to a letter he received from Mayor Martin Dobkin seeking help for the mayor's "confrontation" with

developers over the lot levy issue, Hooper said the word confrontation "horrifies me dreadfully."

"We've got park coming out of our backside" was Hooper's response to a question about land acquisition.

He said there were other priorities of more importance, "especially when we can't develop all of the parkland we have now."

If councillors devote a lot of time to their jobs, perhaps they are worth the \$26,350 salary proposed by an independent commission, according to Hooper.

But he does not believe that the job requires full-time attention. "There are those who have made it full-time."

If he finds the job does require full-time attention, he will give it that, he said.

Hooper, a former member of the Town of Mississauga's recreation committee, claimed that council was not at city hall to interfere in the day-to-day running of the municipality. "They are there to give policy. But policy has not been handed down by this council."

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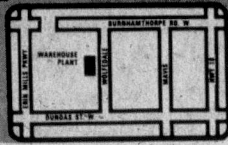
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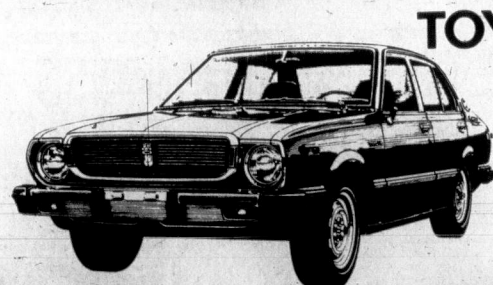
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