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Chief 'shudders' at fire prospects

By JOHN STEWART
 "Sometimes at night when I know there are only 45-50 of my men standing by and I look out at all those lights glowing, I shudder."
 That's how fire chief Joe Miller described his concern to city council this week for his under-manned fire department. He appealed to the "councillors, citizens and mothers and fathers."
 "This is a seven-day 24-hour-a-day job. If we don't do something now, we'll never get the chance again," Miller said.
 Despite his pleas, council approved the city manager's proposal to hire 13 new men this year, rather than 36, which Miller requested.
 In a report, Miller said his department had been undermanned for some time "and calculated risk has been our responsibility to bear."
 "Our standard response has been good but we have little or no secondary assistance for standby," the chief related. He said a consultant's report prepared recently for the firefighter's union cannot be taken too lightly.

The report concluded that Mississauga's fire department "is totally inadequate for the population, area and property values presently protected."
 Miller said he disagreed with several specific criticisms in that report.
 In a list of the 30 largest cities in Canada, Mississauga stood 28th in firemen per 1,000 people. The city has 93 firemen per 1,000, while the Canadian high is 2.39 and the average is 1.42.
 Holding up the list, the chief said it "speaks for itself." He indicated the list was more or less the bible for the fire protection and fire insurance business.
 Although he realized the cost of 36 more men would be high, he said he had to request them. "I'm going to continue to face the boys I work with and try to keep things moving the way they should."
 Miller said he feared that some day the firefighters will refuse to work because the department's vehicles aren't properly manned.
 His request was designed to man properly the vehicles the department has and to provide the secondary

crew "we need so badly when the chips are down" according to the chief.
 When there is a major fire and crews from three stations are called, there is a serious problem. "It's like there are nine holes with nine plugs. When you remove three crews 'you've got two holes you can't cover.' The problem is magnified in Mississauga because of the large distances between stations.
 Miller said that in terms of either per-capita coverage or travel time, Mississauga was low in its standards compared with other major communities. "We've been lucky the unions have been very co-operative," he said.
 A fire station on Dundas St. with 20 firemen had to cover an area where 50,000 people live, he pointed out.
 City manager Frank Markson said his rationale for hiring the 13 men was that they could work both the secondary back-up "scat" unit and be trained to man the aerial ladders, two of which are now unmanned. A se-



Joe Miller

Continued on Page 2

City hiring questioned

City hall may have "too many chiefs and not enough Indians," according to councillor Bud Gregory.
 During budget discussion this week, Gregory questioned the hiring of four more people for the city manager's office.
 "We keep hiring these managers and co-ordinators, none of whom provide a direct service to the public," he said.
 "The benefit will not be realized for a long time. In a year of an austerity budget, I wonder whether we should be filling our offices with high paid chiefs."
 Gregory said he was not trying to lean on anybody's budget, but he wondered who oversaw the manager's budget as the manager reviews other budgets.
 He was told it was council's duty to review the budget. The city manager, Frank Markson, said he expected

Howe confirms city arena plans

Gordie Howe is elbowing his way into the Mississauga sports scene.
 The hockey great, considered the best ever to don blades by many experts, has confirmed that he intends to run a huge new sports complex in the city at Dixie Road and Highway 401.
 Gordie and his sons, and Houston Aero teammates, Mark and Marty may also operate a hockey school from the site.
 Final drawings have been completed for the centre estimated to cost about \$4.5 million in total.
 Howe expressed enthusiasm for the scheme when the Times spoke to him in Houston this week. A full report of his comments appears on page 18.

Alderman acquitted in assault case

A Scarborough alderman has been acquitted of charges of assaulting police and criminal negligence laid after a dispute on Airport Rd. during the Queen Mother's visit last year.
 Robert Colling, 35, was stopped by Peel constable Robert Ewels, 29, as he tried to drive onto Airport Rd. from a service station lot. He had just returned from a trip to Montreal and had left his car on the lot. Colling was unaware of the Queen Mother's visit to Toronto, court was told.
 Peel police had blocked off the entrance to Airport Rd. to allow the Queen Mother's entourage to drive quickly through to downtown Toronto.
 Ewels testified during a previous hearing that Colling

said he had an appointment downtown and nothing was going to stop him from getting there. He showed his driver's license to the officer, but demanded the policeman's name and badge number, court was told.
 The alderman moved his car slowly along the shoulder of the road and struck Ewels, causing him to stumble, evidence showed. Ewels pulled Colling from his car and arrested him.
 Colling testified that he had moved his car because he wanted to talk to another policeman standing nearby.
 Judge Gerry Young said he felt there was a reasonable doubt as to Colling's guilt, and dismissed the charges.
 The alderman has laid a countercharge of assault against Ewels, which will be tried on July 7.



Julie Sparkman, 2, registers disapproval of tulip as she inhales bouquet. Meanwhile, thousands of Victoria Day gardeners were striving to cultivate such a bountiful crop in their home plots. Times photo by RON POZZER

'See you next election' homebuyers tell council

By JOHN STEWART
 Amid hoots of "See you next election" and "We put you in and we can put you out," city council has voted 7-3 not to release 2,100 multiple-family units in North Dixie.
 The decision once again came before a council chamber filled with disgruntled potential residents who had been told by developer John Prusak that they would get their single-family homes at "bargain" rates if council released the multiple units.
 Following the decision,

Prusak rose to address council. When mayor Martin Dobkin ruled that the developer had already been given an opportunity to speak and would not be given another chance, Prusak turned to the audience to speak directly to them.
 As councillor Caye Killaby rushed from the chamber to call police and have Prusak removed, the developer exhorted the crowd to "Come with me. We will go down to Queen's Park right now."
 About one half of the

audience left the chamber with Prusak, a principal in Sullivan Construction Ltd. and Morenish Land Developments which are building the Rockwood Estate subdivision.
 The developer felt he had been insulted by some council members, who said residents were pawns who had been forced into pressuring council in order to ensure their reservations for homes.
 Council endorsed two staff recommendations after rejecting a motion to release the multiple-family units. That motion was supported by councillors Harold Kennedy, Ron Searle and Bud Gregory.
 No further processing of applications is to take place in the North-North Dixie and North Cooksville areas "until a clear plan has been formulated" to set out the transportation facilities required to meet the needs of future residents of these areas. That plan could be available within six months.
 A staff report estimated that the cost of upgrading transportation facilities, not including public transit, for the 100,000 people expected in the area would be \$50 million in today's dollars.
 The report recommended that any limited development to be released go ahead only

Tavern slaying decision near

A Halton county court jury yesterday heard final summations in the trial of two men charged with manslaughter and assault causing bodily harm in the death of a Hamilton man in Nov., 1973.
 In the sweltering 86-degree Fahrenheit heat of the courtroom, the jury also heard further defense evidence in the trial of John David Bonner, 28, of Mississauga and David Thomas O'Neill, 23, of Welland, formerly of Mississauga.
 The two are jointly charged in the death of Albert McCormack, 46, who died of a fractured skull. Both men had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

2 years for drug 'dreamer'

A "dreamer," who held up the Becker's milk store at 500 Hensall St. to buy a house in the country and spend his life selling drugs, has been sentenced to two years less a day definite and two years indeterminate.
 James William Mackay, 20, of Queen Frederica Blvd. was sentenced to the maximum reformatory term by Judge Gerry Young after pleading guilty to armed robbery and abduction.
 Mackay and Michael Blake Moffat, 17, drove up to the

Student job situation bleak

Clarkson centre (located in her ward) this month, she expressed similar doubts.
 "I don't think the problem will be finding the right students for the right jobs, but rather the jobs for the students."
 Miss St. Claire says the bulk of students registering at the Mississauga centre are from university, while the high school students won't be ready for employment until mid-June.
 "The students know that it's going to be hard this year, especially the ones who have gone out looking on their own without any results," she says.
 Consequently, those registered are willing to accept almost any kind of work, even though they are asked to specify their choice and the experience they have to offer.
 The centres are seeking employment opportunities in fields from general labor, office and clerical, recreation, and landscape to grass-cutting and babysitting.
 Last year the Clarkson centre registered 930 students, received 304 job openings from employers and filled 270 positions.
 This is the third year of operation for the Clarkson centre,

Inside

Track records page 18

Doggie etiquette page 25

Real estate overview page 33

Enjoy your complimentary Times

Editorials 6

Letters 6

Columns 7

Entertainment 13

Garden and Patio 15

Sports 18

People and Events 26

Business 33

Real Estate and Classified 34

Continued on Page 2