

# Here come the '80s Finances will be a problem



City planning commissioner Russ Edmunds: "We'll be more than a bedroom."

## Energy will dictate future

By MARY LOUISE BIRKS  
Times staff writer

In the next decade Canadians will be forced to alter their lifestyles by the infamous dynamic duo — inflation and the energy crunch. Rising costs and energy shortages will force many Mississauga residents to look for jobs in this city or move nearer their place of work.

No one is more aware of the potential impact of these factors than Russ Edmunds, Mississauga's planning commissioner. Yet, he firmly believes, from a planning perspective, Mississauga's future looks rosy.

"Our single most important goal in the '80s is to obtain a balance of jobs and housing to combat the community problems that will result from the energy crunch," says Edmunds.

### 55 per cent commute

Edmunds hopes increased office development in the city centre area in the '80s will lure management companies and other industries to Mississauga. He's optimistic that new and relocated companies will provide job opportunities for many

Mississaugans who commute to jobs in Toronto. He points out that industrial building permits granted by the city are up about 33 per cent over 1978.

### Transit must improve

About 56 per cent of Mississauga's 280,000 residents commute to jobs in Toronto and the city hopes the numbers of commuters will be reduced by 15 per cent in the near future.

Edmunds is convinced the availability of new job opportunities in Mississauga and the energy crisis will force many residents to look for jobs closer to home, thus increasing the city's growth.

"Mississauga has the capacity to be much more than Toronto's bedroom and if I didn't believe that, I don't think I would stay here," he says.

Energy shortages will mean increased ridership on Mississauga's public transit. Undoubtedly, the transit service will have to be improved to meet the demand, says Edmunds.

"Face it, no other fuel will be developed in the '80s that will replace gasoline, so more people will have to

use one-vehicle transport," he says.

It's estimated Mississauga's population will grow by 10,000 to 12,000 every year for the next four or five years Edmunds admits. It's possible this projection is "overly optimistic."

Edmunds predicts residential development will slow down as the demand for that type of housing drops off in the '80s. "The current demand is for detached and semi-detached housing, but in the future we'll probably see more of a mix of townhouses and apartments, many catering to special needs, like seniors' apartments," he says.

### New city hall

Energy conservation will definitely influence the construction of buildings in the '80s. Developers will focus on the possibility of solar-assisted heating for houses. Consequently subdivisions will probably be laid out with special attention paid to the direction houses face.

Edmunds is excited about the proposed development of the new city hall and city centre for Mississauga.

About eight acres of land has been set aside for the proposed city centre, which will include the new city hall, an art gallery, a central library and possibly a convention centre and a symphony hall. The proposed site is located on the north side of Burnhamthorpe Road, west of Highway 10.

### Future looks rosy

"The design of the city hall and city centre will be chosen following a national, or better still, international architects' competition, which the city intends to hold in the '80s," says Edmunds, who's confident the winning design will surpass that of the award-winning Toronto city hall. "Only the best will be good enough to compete."

Edmunds admits financing will always govern the magnitude of city services and public construction. "Always looming overhead is the consideration that you have to make sure you've got enough money to accomplish what you want to do," said the planning commissioner.

Financing city services in the '80s will be a major problem, predicts Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion.

"Mississauga will have to dig deep," says the mayor. "The city will have to continue to find ways to increase the efficiency of city services, while making every effort to reduce the costs of operation."

The mayor, who won't say whether or not she'd like to be at the city's helm through the '80s, blames "inflation factors" for the city's troubles.

"There's no pleasant horizon ahead," says McCallion, who's adamant that raising taxes isn't the best solution to financing city services in the '80s. "We've got to hammer home that the people aren't prepared to accept upping taxes again and again. The major difference between the private and the public sectors is, if the private sector plans poorly, a business bankrupts, but if the public sector plans poorly, you can always up the taxes."

In the next decade the mayor believes energy conservation will be a determining factor influencing the city's growth.

"We've been building on the basis that oil will never run out," she says.

"In my opinion, the magnitude of the energy problem isn't fully recognized. In the immediate future we're going to have to adapt quickly and start looking at building construction with the energy supply in mind."

City manager Ed Halliday won't dispute that the city's budget situation will be "extremely tight" into the '80s.

"For the moment service levels will stay the same, but somewhere down the line there will have to be increases to the ratepayers to maintain the levels of service," says Halliday.

He anticipates that construction will begin on the new city hall and city centre by the mid-80s. "Right now city staff is housed in offices all over the place and it's costing us a fortune," he says. He says the city will lease extra space in the new building to help pay construction costs.

In the '80s city staff could possibly work a four-day week. "We'll be looking at alternative hours for city staff in the future as a consequence of the city's effort to conserve energy," Halliday says. "If the energy crunch gets tight enough, we might consider shutting down the city hall for one full weekday to save energy."

## Violent crime increasing

By TOM MALONEY  
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Whether presented to the media or politicians Peel Regional Police chief Doug Burrows' message is consistent: give us more men.

The song is the same when he discusses the role of the local police in the 1980s.

Burrows predicts an increase in violent crimes in Peel during the next decade, based on the continued growth of the community and the lack of cohesion resulting from rapid growth.

"And there are a lot more places vulnerable for armed robbery, such as milk stores," says Burrows, chief since inception of the force in 1974. "There is a lot of money being transported back and forth because of the expanding state of industry."

Burrows, a University of Toronto psychology and sociology major, says the ratio of police officers to residents in Peel has slipped from

one officer to 650 people to one to over 700 since 1978.

"Obviously priorities have to be established," says Burrows. "The main priorities have to be in areas where crimes will have a long-term effect on the community."

First on that list of priorities is violent crime: rape, murder, armed robbery and manslaughter, other areas of prevention and service may suffer as a result, says Burrows.

Burrows has already warned of the day when police may not be able to respond to minor complaints such as noisy neighbors.

"It becomes a false economy," says Burrows. "People will either have to accept less service or have other lesser trained and paid people (to handle minor problems). It seems ludicrous to have highly-trained police officers spending time on them, especially with a backlog of cases. It could be done by those who are even among the un-

employed in our society now."

Those who have seen police cars sitting at intersections waiting for minor offenders may disagree that police are overworked. But Burrows insists exposure is crucial to maintaining confidence of the public in its force.

"That type of enforcement is usually in response to a lot of complaints from the neighbors," says Burrows. "I don't mean there aren't going to be times when officers appear to be not doing too much, but they may be watching for something people aren't aware of. Also, we have to have officers free to accept calls."

Burrows says the police need several improvements in the '80s.

From the governments, Burrows wants not only financial support to hire more officers, but also to institute computerizing that would place information at an officer's fingertips, rather than in the

microfilm system currently in use. Computers can also compare fingerprints automatically, saving hours spent checking manually.

From the courts, Burrows requested a system more conscious of man-hours spent by police. He says "it's getting better," but that his men are still spending unnecessary time in courts waiting to testify.

From the citizens of Peel, he wants understanding. "One thing people neglect to realize," says Burrows, "is that we operate 365 days a year, and our doors are open 24 hours a day. We must be able to respond to calls immediately — in many cases we can't defer calls." To ensure continued harmony with the public, police insist on better training and education among their officers. Burrows was the first Ontario police chief to introduce psychological testing in recruitment and does not intend to stop the practice.



Burrows: Give us more