

Comment

Mississauga The Times

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Improve hospital facilities

At the inquest into the death of Norman Reid, a 12-year old boy who died of severe brain damage after a traffic accident, it was learned that Mississauga hospital has no facilities for carrying on emergency brain surgery.

Dr. Hart Schutz, a neurosurgeon, said that the boy had to be transferred to a hospital in Toronto for treatment of his head injuries, because there is no arteriographic equipment at Mississauga hospital. He explained that a neurosurgeon "can't perform" without this equipment.

It should be noted that Schutz doubted that the delay required in transferring the boy was a factor in his ultimate death.

He did say, however, that in brain injuries where clotting of the blood is involved, "time is of

the essence," and that there is a need for neurosurgical facilities at Mississauga hospital.

While the capital expenditure for arteriographic equipment would be about \$100,000, the major costs would be incurred in paying for the services of technicians and a radiologist to operate it.

Unquestionably those costs would be high.

On the other hand, Mississauga's expanding population makes it inevitable that, sooner or later, someone will suffer injuries in which delay of treatment will mean the difference between life and death.

In a sense, then, until this situation is changed, we are all unprotected. If we accept the premise that human life is beyond value, the price of these facilities — however high — must be paid.

CVCA's boost is justified

Congratulations are in order to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for their 29 per cent increase in municipal levies and the boost they have given their overall budget.

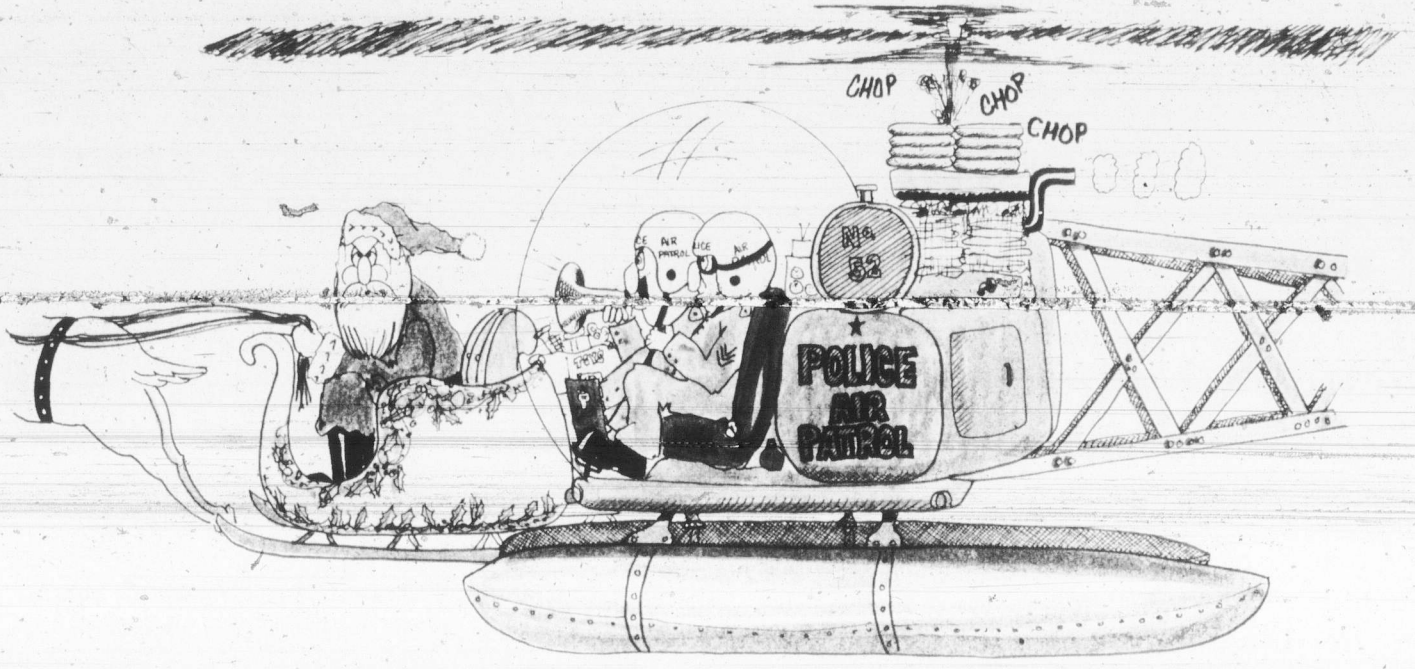
In these days of inflation, it is unusual to hear anything but grudging praise for healthy budget increases, but the CVCA's jump this year represents a catch-up that should probably have taken place long ago.

Newly hired professional staff should allow more rigid enforcement of regulations on development which has been

allowed dangerously close to watercourses in Mississauga in the past.

It has been a rough year for the Conservation Authority with the continual discouragements in launching the Mississauga Waterfront Plan foremost among the problems.

The CVCA has been the subject of heavy criticism in the past year by some municipal councillors. Those councillors can make a vote of confidence for the improvements they have been seeking by approving the healthy municipal levies this year.



"Okay buddy...pull over...!"

'Grey House opulent for group home'

The following letter to Mayor Martin Dobkin has been filed with The Times for publication.

I did and I do object to the use of the "Grey House" for troubled boys, but not for the reasons that might appear to be obvious.

Although I see in the various newspapers that the Children's Aid have rejected the use of this house as a group home for boys, there are several thoughts I wish to share with you on the subject.

One of the reasons for putting youth in group homes is to give them a feeling of belonging — a home and family with which they can identify. We all have a pattern we followed in growing up, to make us into what we become. The home we come from is a large part of the patterning, and in giving us the image we have

of ourselves. Since group homes are a method of rehabilitating our troubled children, they should in all respects be as near as possible to the home a youth can identify with, and therefore should, in all respects, be as close to the "norm" as possible. How can anyone expect children from all walks of life to be suddenly put into a mansion built for the family of a manufacturing company president, and feel "at home"?

The house in which a "Group Home" is established should be as inconspicuous as possible to allow the inhabitants to blend in with the surrounding community, and as nearly as possible to become part of it. If special children were housed in the Grey house, set apart from the others in the neighbourhood

as it is both by location and appearance, it would be as if we in Mississauga were putting them and their problems on public display. People would come down here sight-seeing and point the finger.

The establishment of group homes is one way of seeking an answer to what to do with kids who have gotten into trouble, can't be sent back to their former environment and accommodation, but yet should not be sent to a penal institution. It could be a good solution. These kids could belong to any one of us, our friends or relatives. They need a chance, but not in a mansion. Cannot the Children's Aid Society rent or purchase "average" three bedroom homes?

Historical societies are trying desperately to revive and preserve our

Canadian heritage. The "Bradley House" is a good example in Mississauga of a group home or, no group home. It is possibly the only one of the lovely old houses of Port Credit that has a chance to be preserved as a legacy to future generations. There is, at present, a family living in the house. This family was given a verbal promise of "first refusal" and I cannot see that one group of people should be treated in bad faith and turned out to make room for another group approximately the same size. The proponents of a park on the property in question campaigned on the basis that they want the property for public use. If a group home for youths, "placed there at the discretion of the courts", were on the property do you think the public at large would use that park? And

would the trees really be preserved?

● Apart from the issue about a group home or no group home, there is something I am concerned about. Were the proper procedures followed in this instance. How come Councillor Killaby (from another Ward) was in the party which visited the property but the Councillor who represents this Ward was not? Why was he not kept informed?

● It is my understanding that Council requires a citizens' group wanting to be heard by council, to give two weeks' prior notice to Council. Is it not only fair then, that issues that concern the people should be tabled far enough ahead so citizens have the opportunity to learn of them in plenty of time to act — say three weeks prior to discussion and, therefore, possible decision by the council?

● I think Councillor Searle owes the people of this community a public apology for the slurs he has cast upon our characters and morals. He did not talk to any of us to get his facts straight. Many of the local residents here are, or have in the past, been very active in volunteer work of many kinds towards the betterment of Community and are sympathetic to the cause of group homes.

At least one other community refused to have this home in their neighbourhood and were not vilified in this manner. Why have we been singled out for such denunciation? The people of this neighbourhood are as fine a group of people, both collectively and individually as can be found anywhere. We are an active and concerned citizenry with very strong, very vocal and sometimes very differing hot objective opinions on all matters pertaining to the area we live in.

Could not the term "whisper campaign" attributed to residents of the Elmwood South area, perhaps more readily be applied to the tactics of the instigators of this project? We didn't whisper, we never do. We speak right up.

SHIRLEY IZZARD
MISSISSAUGA

'Gas company ripoff'

The recent announcement by Consumers' Gas Company of a rental increase of 55 cents per month on their Gas Hot Water Heaters has got to be the biggest "ripoff" and "con job" of the decade, and is representative of the game currently being played by many major Corporations and Public Utilities in gouging the consumer.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, President of Consumers' Gas Company, is somewhat naive in thinking this rental increase can be justified on the basis of increased costs — labour, materials, etc. As far as I'm concerned this has no application to Hot Water Heaters that have been installed for several years.

For the benefit of Mr. McCarthy, let me make a quick calculation. We moved into our present home in May 1968 — 80 months ago. Therefore, 80 weeks at \$2 equals \$160 paid to date.

A tidy little profit when you consider the initial cost to Consumers was probably half this amount. Now they say increased labour and material costs necessitate the 55 cent increase. May I be so bold as to enquire of Mr. McCarthy, what increases in labour and materials? We haven't seen anyone from Consumers' Gas since 1968. The heater has been problem free and just to make sure I wasn't the exception, I polled

residents of our Street (36 homes) and found that practically all residents fell into the same category. I recognize and appreciate that Consumers' costs have risen, just as they have risen in every other Company, but does it not seem reasonable that Consumers should recover these increased costs directly in the areas in which they were incurred, such as new heater installation or gas rates. This I could accept but to their attempt at conning me, I object.

My alternative, of course, is to switch to Hydro. In Mississauga, for a small installation charge and \$1.75 per month (80 cents less than Consumers), I can have the equivalent heater or if I wish, I can purchase for approximately \$116. I am currently considering this alternative.

The additional 55 cents per month will not be felt by myself but I am sure there are families that will feel its effect. The point I would like to make is that I have no evidence that our elected representatives have taken any interest or any kind of stand on such matters to protect the consumer. If they fail to act on the minor 55 cents issues such as this, how can we ever expect them to act on some of the more important ones?

JOHN F. MCGINNIS
MISSISSAUGA

'Column was cheap and vulgar'

I had always imagined that The Mississauga Times was a paper that our community could be proud of, but by publishing Mr. James Bailey's article on Royalty (Nov. 20th) you have disgraced both yourself and Canadian journalism.

Mr. Bailey's article is in such bad taste that it can only be described as cheap and vulgar. Mr. Bailey does not like Royalty. Very well. Some others just as ignorant about constitutional monarchy as Mr. Bailey also do not. But to make fun of the size of a lady's nose or waist reveals much more about Mr. Bailey's bad manners than about the family he seeks to insult, and his shoddy buffoonery (exercised under the pathetic delusion that he is being smart and witty) is painful to

watch. Mr. Bailey (who, I am absolutely certain, has never met any member of Royalty and therefore speaks from ignorance) accuses the royal family of being pretentious. All I can say is that no more

pretentious piece of journalism has been published in any paper in Canada this year. Since you have seen fit to publish Mr. Bailey's article against a family which, by tradition and constitutional prac-

tice, is not allowed to answer criticism, perhaps you will be fair enough to publish my answer to that pretentious hack-writer of yours.

J. JOHNSON
MISSISSAUGA

'Bare facts, not skin'

A few weeks ago two ladies wrote you in reference to an ad you carried depicting a scantily dressed girl. I commend them for stating their views. I also had my views on the subject. A financial house is one of those institutions we look to as being something substantial and regarded with respect. This week the ad appears with the picture of a young lady fully clothed. Quite an improvement. Possibly in the course of time the advertiser will get in line with other similar organizations and simply state the bare facts of the service they can render.

At this time I would also like to refer to those ten kind hearted, generous souls who

sit on our municipal council and voted \$1,000 to buy gifts for the children of the staff. Perhaps another year these same councillors may be

moved to donate this amount out of their own pockets.

T.W. DOONE
MISSISSAUGA

Letters to the Editor

The space on this page is reserved for the readers of The Mississauga Times. We invite comment on any issue and are particularly interested in any letter which takes a point of view in conflict with our own as expressed in the editorials. All letters must be signed although, if circumstances require, we will allow a pseudonym to be used.

The Editor.