

Expansionist Parsons gambles on political future

By FRANK TOUBY
By provincial appointment, Peel Region Chairman Lou Parsons won a three-year reprieve on his career as a local politician. The 39-year-old Parsons entered Mississauga politics as a "reformer", winning a Ward 2 council seat in 1968. The issue he won on was the need to provide more recreational facilities. There was also a lot of suspicion of people in office. I was one of six against the four members of the old council," he says. Parsons was appointed by council to be reeve of Mississauga, following the death in April 1972 of former Mayor Robert Speck. In that same year, Mississauga residents and ratepayer groups stepped up their activism against the development explosion which spattered more high-rise apartments and high-density developments across the town. Their activism brought today's "reform" majority to the new city's 10-member council. Parsons didn't run for office in that election and he concedes his chances of

winning election would have been slight. A real estate man, Parsons was a strong, pro-developer voice on town council. The image would have been an anathema to a political candidate on Oct. 1, 1973. Appointment to the regional government chair saved Parsons a possible three-year wait in the netherlands of local politics. While his political star was rising in the eyes of the provincial government, Mississauga voters angry with town developments policies would probably have doused it. Parsons is a power politician with strong connections in the provincial government which rules municipalities with an iron fist. His strength is in back-room wheeling and dealing; he is a master negotiator and a hard compromiser. He does his home work, has privity to information from higher-up connections and speaks with the confident haughtiness of a mathematics professor who has analysed all possibilities and discovered the single right answer.

Parsons sees his chairmanship as "the coach of the regional team whose job it is to make sure we have a winning team." His "team is a mixed assemblage of 21 elected councillors from Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. Not all of them care to define Parsons' role as that of coach. For one thing, "coach" is too dictatorial a term to come tripping off the tongues of the present seven-member "reform" block on Mississauga council. Parsons is expansionist at a time when many members are seeking to constrict development. Parsons has been blocked on several issues where he pushed, though he wins more than he loses. An important issue still in the air is whether Parsons is to be given a vote on each of the region's five committees. The issue comes up tomorrow at regional council. Parsons wins that issue, he will have — as an appointee — more voting power than any single elected member of the regional council. He wants that

political scene. But government is Parsons' major interest, and he is hoping the gamble will pay off in later years. Parsons says Peel Region must act quickly to provide more housing. Its an issue that runs head-on against much of the reform sentiment. "Half of Mississauga's population is under 19," he says. "So you can see we're going to have a need for one awful pile of housing in the foreseeable future, even if just half of them decide to stay here. "It's a horrendous task to make an accommodation available to kids at a price they can afford," he says. Peel Region unemployment is at zero, he adds. "We have got to make sure there is a labour pool available to attract industry so we can get adequate assessment." More labour means more children, means more taxes

for schools. Does it also mean more industry again in a vicious cycle? "I don't know," says Parsons. "Under the Toronto-Centred Region Plan, Mississauga is to have a population of 675,000." But he acknowledges the figure is inconclusive — that 675,000 need not be the ultimate maximum population but merely a figure which could in the future be augmented again, because of a need for more housing in the province, or more assessment for the region. "I don't think the province has planned that far ahead," he says. He sees the biggest job ahead for the region as that of getting organized. Although some politicians are already quietly predicting property taxes may increase as much as one-third because of a regional government, Parsons says it is too early to

decide whether there will be any increases. But he does strike out at the system of property taxes which confine government to old assessment figures in times of inflation. "The costs of government rise to meet the cost of living," he says, adding that regional government deserves a bigger slice of provincial — "and hopefully federal" — monies. He is aware that his stint as regional chairman will colour his political chances — for better or worse — in the future. His hardest task will be to find a common ground with the reformer elements on council. If the mood in Brampton swings a weight toward the slow-growth advocates, Parsons may have to bend in a direction where he is a bit brittle. However, if a near-future recession does hit the area

hard, Parsons' expansionist leanings could bring him glory by attracting more jobs and industry to the region. Parsons has a firm hand on the regional reins, but it remains to be seen whether it means anything when he pulls them.

Upholstery

Let our craftsmen make your suite like new again

EFFICIENT 10 DAY SERVICE

- Competitive Pricing
- Workmanship Unconditionally Guaranteed
- Excellent Range Of Quality Materials
- Free Estimates & Advice By Appointment
- Wood Refinishing
- Pick-Up & Delivery Service

OUR EXPERT ADVICE IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Call NOW!

Head Office & Plant 678-2626
Oakville Customers 845-3134

ROYAL CREST UPHOLSTERY
7502 BATH ROAD, MALTON, ONT.

Square One Manager

Non-resident spearheads city celebration festivities

Curiously enough, a non-resident is the leading light behind the only festivities celebrating Mississauga's emergence as a city. George Becher, manager of Square One, says his involvement in City Celebration Days was the result of his being "happily surprised" with the number and dimensions of community activities in the area

when he came here to work last October. "Basically I used to work in downtown Toronto and I looked upon Mississauga as a sleeping ground for Toronto. "When I took on the job here I learned there really is a high degree of involvement. I found it was a great place — not because of

what politicians and business said — but because of the people. "I felt we should have a program to show newcomers to the city and also show people in neighbouring communities who we are." Thus Becher pursued City Celebration Days which started Monday but is keyed up for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. More than 30 community groups have been given space in Square One to display their activities and another 12 entertaining groups will perform concerts, skits and dances on stage just inside the main doors. Displays range the quietest — to the energetic, badminton and judo — to the public service realm — such as the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire film outlining the problems and prevention of venereal disease. The on stage performances reach a climax Saturday with continuous entertainment from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Surgery saves MP's finger

Mississauga MP Don Blenkarn lopped off about an inch from the fourth finger of his left hand on New Year's Day, had most of it sewn back on that night, and was in his constituency office working the next day. "I was in the basement of my cottage at Hockley Valley turning off the furnace when the floor's trap door came down on my hand. It took a big chunk off."

Blenkarn took the end of the finger to hospital in a paper bag, where surgeons conducted plastic surgery to fuse the finger together. "I lost a little of the bone and it hurts like hell, but I've been able to get some work done." He missed Commons debate Friday because the medication he was taking made him ill and forced him to come and spend the day in bed.

Miss Gismondi complained. The coroner's jury finding that mechanical failure caused the accident came despite a claim by a little brother's limited lawyer that evidence showed there was no failure. Coroner K.R. Baxter, in charge to the jury, said that from the evidence "it is still hard to understand what actually happened. The jury recommended that the wearing of seat belts and shoulder harnesses should be mandatory. Neither of the dead drivers was wearing a seat belt when the accident occurred."

Accident victim complained of car defect, inquest told

A Mississauga woman who dies in a head-on collision in Weston Nov. 9 had taken the vehicle into a car dealership twice to complain of accelerator jamming but the company could find nothing wrong with it, a coroner's inquest was told this week. Marie Gismondi, 47, died when her car crossed the centre line on Weston Road near Sheppard Avenue and collided with a car driven by Luigi Innocente. Innocente was killed in the crash. The coroner's jury surmised that the accident was caused by a malfunction of Miss Gismondi's 1973 Ford Torino. They said the deceased woman may have been distracted by some malfunction, possibly the accelerator linkage or the throttle control. The accelerator of the Gismondi vehicle was found to be wide open after the accident. The woman bought the car from Little Brothers (Weston) Limited Oct. 5 for \$4,000 despite the fact it had 15,000 miles on it. Miss Gismondi was "badly shaken up" her sister testified at the inquest, by an incident she had earlier with the car. She was driving along Burnhamthorpe Road in Mississauga when the accelerator stuck. She had to hit the guard rail to stop the car. The woman's sister said she went with Miss Gismondi when she took the car back to the dealer. John Derrick, a friend of the dead woman, said she complained of the accelerator problem a few days after buying the vehicle. "She said that once, when she was getting some gas, it suddenly took off like a jet," he noted.

He went with Miss Gismondi to Little Brothers once as she expressed her concern in what he said "wasn't a friendly conversation." Police mechanic Maurice Walker said he wouldn't have believed the car's carburetor could be jammed completely open if he hadn't examined it himself. He failed to do so because of the situation in tests. Three mechanics for Little Brothers testified that there was no indication of the accelerator problem in tests conducted for a mechanical fitness certificate or when

Miss Gismondi complained. The coroner's jury finding that mechanical failure caused the accident came despite a claim by a little brother's limited lawyer that evidence showed there was no failure. Coroner K.R. Baxter, in charge to the jury, said that from the evidence "it is still hard to understand what actually happened. The jury recommended that the wearing of seat belts and shoulder harnesses should be mandatory. Neither of the dead drivers was wearing a seat belt when the accident occurred."



JANUARY SALE

<p>5501 3-seater sofa & chair. Honey or Terracotta colours. Was 832.00 799.50</p> <p>5502 3-seater sofa & chair. Coffee or Castor colours. Was 1449.00 1159.00</p> <p>5601 Rectangular teak table with extensions and four low-back chairs with seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 327.50 288.00</p> <p>5602 Rectangular teak table with extensions and six matching teak chairs with seat & back upholstered in brown-beige suede fabric. Was 796.50 699.50</p> <p>5603 Boat-shaped teak table with extensions and four teak high-back chairs with back & seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 632.50 499.50</p> <p>5604 Oval teak table with leaves and four chairs with high ladder back and seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 607.50 488.50</p> <p>5605 Oblong teak table with four wide ladder-back chairs, seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 547.00 444.00</p> <p>5606 A super elliptical table with four high ladder-back chairs, seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 877.50 747.00</p> <p>5607 Oblong Rosewood table with four wide ladder-back chairs, seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 817.50 749.00</p> <p>5608 Rectangular Rosewood table with extensions and four lowback chairs with upholstered seat in your choice of fabric. Was 547.50 439.00</p> <p>5609 Oval Rosewood table with four matching high-back chairs, back & seat upholstered in your choice of fabric. Was 1277.50 999.00</p> <p>5610 Teak sideboard, 59" long with 3 sliding doors. Was 249.50 199.50</p> <p>5611 Teak sideboard with 2 sliding doors, 72" long. Was 199.50 179.50</p> <p>5703 3-seater sofa, black frame with orange corduroy cushions. Was 329.50 259.50</p> <p>5704 3-seater sofa & armchair, high back in orange or brown corduroy. Was 670.00 639.50</p> <p>5712 Extra long teak sideboard, with 3 sliding doors & drawers. Was 579.50 499.50</p>	<p>5713 Teak sideboard with 4 sliding doors, 78" long. Was 349.50 319.50</p> <p>5714 Rosewood sideboard on distinctive U-shaped base, 59" long. Was 479.50 444.00</p> <p>5715 Rosewood sideboard with 3 sliding doors, 71" long. Was 369.50 349.50</p> <p>5716 Rosewood sideboard, 84" long. Was 417.00 349.50</p> <p>5801 Teak bedroom suite with complete Queen-size bed, triple dresser & mirror. Was 599.50 539.50</p> <p>5802 Rosewood bedroom suite, Queen size headboard, two night tables, triple dresser & mirror, Men's chest. Was 1562.00 1099.00</p> <p>5805 3-seater sofa & 2 chairs in brown corduroy fabric. Was 989.00 899.00</p> <p>5806 3-seater sofa & 2 chairs in beige fabric with chrome legs. Was 1338.00 1195.00</p> <p>5907 Vinyl easy chair in choice of black, brown, white or yellow. Was 299.50 259.50</p> <p>5908 Superb living room, grouping, 3-seater 2-seater & chair, natural leather with Rosewood frame. Was 3298.50 2222.00</p> <p>6001 Free-standing teak wall unit, enclosed cupboards, lighting included, 85" long. Was 759.50 699.50</p> <p>6002 Teak Wall unit with bar cabinet, lighted glass display areas, 95" long. Was 799.50 749.50</p> <p>6003 3-sectional Teak wall unit, enclosed cupboards & drawers in bottom, glass display cabinets across top. Was 899.50 849.50</p> <p>6004 2-piece stacking wall unit, bottom section has drawers, top section is open bookcase, 49" wide Teak. Was 259.00 229.00</p> <p>6103 The "Penthouse" bedroom suite, teak with 110" headboard & bed frame, two night tables, triple dresser & mirror, Men's chest. Was 1881.50 1222.00</p>	<p>6104 Teak bedroom suite with Rosewood trim, play Queen size bed complete triple dresser & mirror, men's chest. Was 1053.00 889.50</p> <p>6109 Modular chairs, can be grouped into sofas, in choice of purple, brown or orange corduroy. Was 109.50 99.50</p> <p>6110 High back lounging chair with arms in brown leather. Was 389.50 349.50</p> <p>6111 Low back easy chair in brown leather. Was 299.50 269.50</p> <p>6112 3-seater sofa & arm chair in Tobacco coloured vinyl. Was 599.50 499.50</p> <p>6205 Teak wall unit, 75" long. Was 469.50 429.50</p> <p>6206 The HVS sectional wall system, in teak or rosewood. Save 10%</p> <p>6207 6-piece sectional wall unit, includes two 2-door cabinets, 5-drawer chest, open bookcase, glass cabinet and bar cabinet. Was 675.00 540.00</p> <p>6305 Teak bedroom suite on base, double size headboard with two free standing night tables and triple dresser. Was 403.00 333.00</p> <p>6308 Teak bedroom suite, men's chest, 2 night tables and Queen size headboard and triple dresser. Was 1362.50 1089.50</p> <p>As above but with King size headboard. 1104.50</p> <p>6407 Rosewood bedroom suite with Queen size complete bed, 2 night tables, double dresser, triple dresser & mirror. Was 2506.50 1499.50</p> <p>6501 Rectangular coffee table Teak. Was 139.50 119.50</p> <p>6502 Rectangular coffee table with heavy edge teak. Was 249.50 199.50</p> <p>6503 Rectangular coffee table, teak with glass top. Was 189.50 159.50</p>	<p>6504 Round solid coffee table with teak top. Was 219.50 169.50</p> <p>6505 Matching tables, 1 coffee table, 2 end tables, teak, 3 pcs. Was 188.50 169.50</p> <p>6506 Rectangular coffee table, rosewood. Was 149.50 129.50</p> <p>6507 Brass coffee table with square glass top. Was 299.50 269.50</p> <p>6508 Chrome glass coffee table. Was 94.00 69.50</p> <p>6509 Nest of tables, teak. Was 89.50 75.00</p> <p>6510 Writing desk with 2 drawers, teak, 23" x 39". Was 64.50 54.50</p> <p>6511 Writing desk with 3 drawers, teak, 23" x 39". Was 74.50 69.50</p> <p>6512 Desk with 2 drawers, teak with dropleaf. Was 139.50 119.50</p> <p>6513 Large teak desk with 3 drawers and filing drawer. Was 269.50 222.00</p> <p>6514 3-drawer desk plus file drawer, rosewood, 29" x 61". Was 749.50 666.00</p> <p>6515 Tea trolley, teak, on castors, with black Formica top. Was 94.50 79.50</p> <p>6516 Tea trolley, rosewood, on castors, with black Formica top. Was 119.50 99.50</p> <p>6517 Rectangular coffee table, teak with beige tile top. Was 109.50 89.50</p> <p>6518 Teak telephone bench with drawers. Was 94.50 69.50</p> <p>6519 Curtain, imported rugs and paintings. Half Price</p> <p>All items subject to prior sale.</p>
--	---	--	--

OAKVILLE AREA'S OWN KEYBOARD SPECIALIST

Come in and See our large selection of Lowrey and Wurlitzer Organs

Tremendous Savings Can Be Yours Now!

"WURLITZER" 3 Keyboard with Synthesizer Reg. \$3405. **\$2995.** Now... Demo Model-1 Only

From our Used Dept. you can choose such names: Hammond-Lowrey-Wurlitzer-Yamaha

Lowrey Heritage Now with Leslie Tone **\$1295** Cabinet Was 1595

Hammond L100 with Leslie Tone **\$1695** Cabinet

OAKSHORE MUSIC CENTRE LIMITED

342 LAKESHORE RD. E. • OAKVILLE • 849-7362

the house of viking

An International Collection of Contemporary Furniture

Mississauga
5200 Dixie Road (Warehouse Showroom—just south of 401—625-7202)

Open Daily 9a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE FREE DELIVERY AND SET-UP IN YOUR HOME. INTERIOR DECORATING SERVICE AVAILABLE)