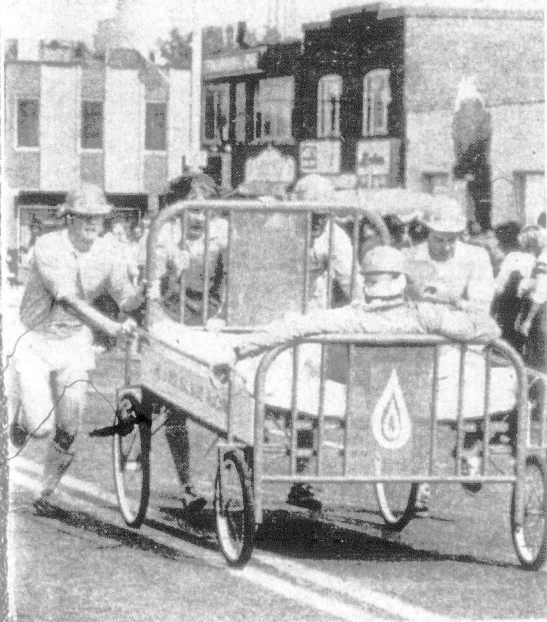


Push!



GORM LARSEN/THE TIMES

The winners

Here are the winners of the Fritterfest bed race — the team from Consumers' Gas with The Other Big Blue Machine.



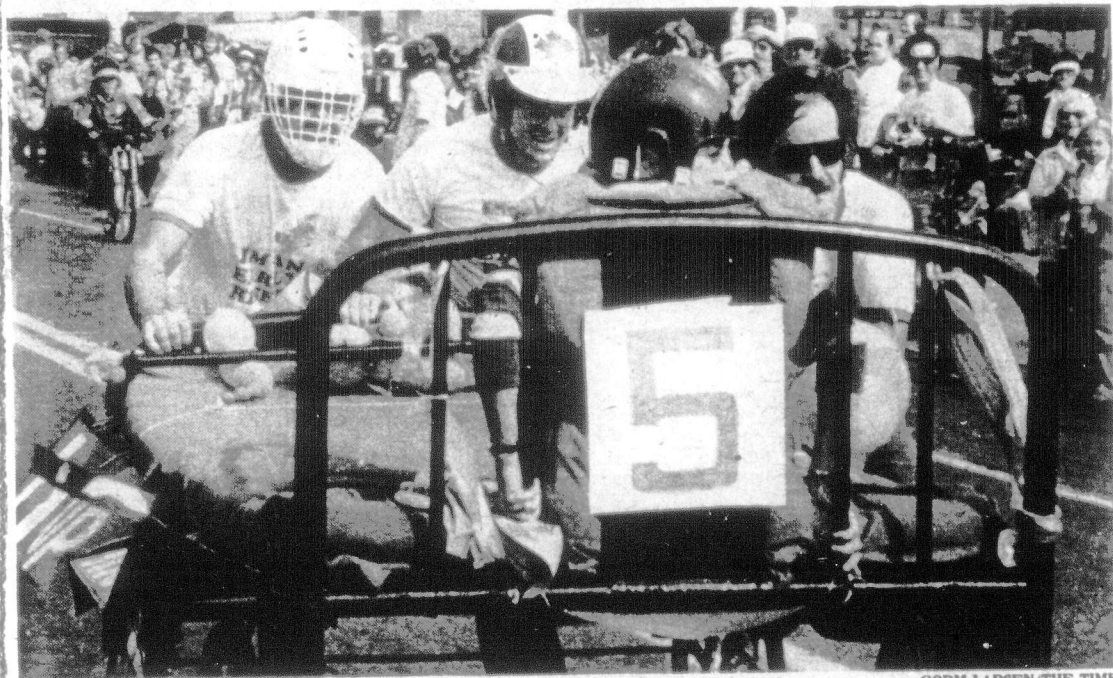
KEN KERR/THE TIMES

A united effort

The bed race at the Mississauga Fritterfest was organized by members of the Mississauga Fire Department. And as you can see, the fire department's team was not

only pushing, but plugging — for the United Way campaign in Peel. The United Way's goal in the region this year is \$1,150,000. The

campaign chairman is Lyle H. Doering, and the official campaign kick-off is being held today.



GORM LARSEN/THE TIMES

A team for The Times

Excuse us while we cheer and let our bias hang out, but that is a solid-looking team. Sifting along for The Times are (from left) editor Peter Armstrong, Glen West, ad sales representative, photographer Debbie

Sanderson and Jim Edmiston of circulation. The Times, we regret to say, did not finish within the top three.



GORM LARSEN/THE TIMES

Not on the schedule

The Fritterfest parade route had to be cleared temporarily at Hurontario and The Queensway to let Mississauga Fire Department vehicles through. However,

one of the fire trucks didn't make it. The engine stalled and these firefighters provided an unscheduled performance for the spectators.

Peel police HQ plan takes pounding

By MARK SMYKA
Times Staff Writer

Peel police felt the sting of financial restraint last week when regional council chopped \$1.7 million off a proposed \$11.5 million police headquarters. It refused to spend any more than was originally intended for the much-needed policy facility.

Architectural consultants told council it will cost \$11.5 million to build a new police headquarters and West Brampton divisional building on 7.5 acres of land opposite the Peel County Courthouse on Highway 10.

This figure is based on a four-month study to determine the space and equipment police will need eight years from now.

But council refused to approve the expenditure, saying it would not spend any more than the \$9.8 million it had originally earmarked for the project.

Consultant Dennis Peters, who now must decide where to cut \$1.7 million, said in an interview the \$11.5 million proposal contained no frills.

He said there are areas where equipment cuts can be made, but

there's no doubt that he'll have to reduce the size of the project.

Police now operate out of 52,850 square feet of rented office space — facilities which Peel Chairman Lou Parsons described as "totally inadequate."

Consultants say police will need almost three times that — 145,756 square feet — if they are to operate efficiently eight years from now.

Council was warned in the report that it can't afford to delay approval of the project. Consultants estimate the costs will rise \$70,000 a month after September 1, 1979. Peters said he still has time to bring in a new proposal so tenders can be called for by September next year.

Consultants have allowed three years (from now) for design and construction. So if tenders are let next September on schedule, police will be able to move in by 1981.

The problem facing council last week was whether to spend for the future or stay firm in what it thinks it can afford now.

The extra \$1.7 million would have built the kind of facility police think

they need in five years, and even that's dicey, according to the regional clerk, Rick Frost.

Frost, who was deeply involved in the consultants' study and who played "a devil's advocate role" in questioning the need for the facilities as they were identified, told council that in cutting \$1.7 million "you're not doing yourself a favor in the long run."

He doubted that even the \$11.5 million proposal would be adequate for future police needs.

But Mississauga Councillor Frank Leavers summed up council's position when he suggested consultants could perhaps allow building the shell of the project in some areas, but leaving it empty until money is available to complete it.

It's like building a house for the future, said Leavers. You can build a basement, but if you don't have the funds initially, you don't make it into a recreation room. You wait until you can afford it.

Regional Treasurer Peter Marshall said in an interview that if council had approved the \$11.5 million ex-

penditure, financing it in the first year would have raised the average Peel tax bill by \$4 to \$5.

Marshall also told council that it would have meant cancelling other capital works already planned. He said council's decision last month to try to maintain a zero increase in taxes over the next five years has already put the region's capital works program in jeopardy.

If the zero-growth policy is adopted, it will mean cancelling \$15 million — or one third — of the \$45 million in capital works projects already approved by council, said Marshall.

Brampton Councillor Terry Miller, who complained that the regional road projects have already fallen 33 miles behind schedule, said the additional \$1.7 million for the police project would further delay road works.

"I think everyone's in favor of building a new police headquarters, but I don't see how we can spend an extra \$2 million."

Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle argued against scaling down the pro-

ject. He said the \$9.8 million figure established by council earlier was arbitrary, and so is the \$1.7 million cut.

The consultants' proposal envisioned two new buildings, the headquarters as a multi-levelled and the divisional building beside it as one-storey, Peters told council. His report allowed for a firearms range, multi-purpose room and lecture classroom as additional requirements.

Correction

In the Sept. 13 edition of The Times, a story appeared which erroneously said Karen Lynn Hopper, 22, of 2440 Hurontario St., Mississauga, Richard Murray Essery, 27, of 228 Cury Ave., Windsor and Sheena May Stammers, 23, of 3612 Denburn Place, Mississauga, had been charged with conspiracy to traffic in narcotics. They have not been charged.

The Times regrets any embarrassment the article may have caused.