

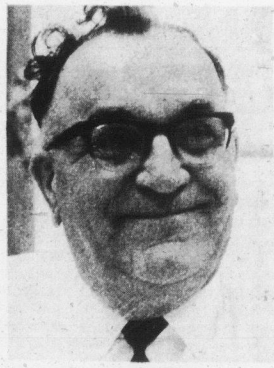
Your Guide To The City Inside

Chief 'shudders' at fire prospects

By JOHN STEWART
 "Sometimes at night when I know there are only 45 to 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, "if 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

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Serving the City of Mississauga

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

the same frugal approach by council that he had taken on other budgets.

Answering the charge that Mississauga was top heavy with executives, Markson said the greatest problem in civic governments is the lack of anticipation of problems.

He said that if council

wanted to get its fair share of revenue from the federal and provincial governments and make a full case, "you have to have the kind of staff that will bring the problems and situations to you."

He said the Smith report on taxation had warned that "the municipalities will always be run over unless they have adequate staffing."

Councillor Frank McKechnie said the policy-planning unit, which is part of the city manager's office, had already proved its value by providing justification for council's decision to take five percent land dedications in industrial subdivisions. "That could save us millions of dollars," he said.

Mayor Martin Dobkin supported creation of the new position of development officer. He said it was absurd that Mississauga, which has no development department, Councilor David Culham agreed. "We've let the private sector take the initiative and then we've complained about the results. It's time we took the initiative."

The development officer would co-ordinate the hoped-for influx of new commercial development, as well as oversee the organization of a public development corporation in the core area designated by the official plan review.

Council removed a \$14,000 item for a semi-annual public opinion poll of community concerns and decided not to hire an assistant for the development officer this year.



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

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.

'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 Moreish 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

after a long-term plan providing for transportation needs is formulated.

Planning commissioner Russ Edmunds said proposals contained in the consultants' recommendation for the official plan review seriously affected the area where Prusak's homes are located.

The consultants recommended a light rapid transit (LRT) system along the north side of Burnhamthorpe Rd. and moving Highway 403, originally envisioned to run east-west through this area, to a north-south route along the

Mississauga-Oakville boundary. If Highway 403 were moved and LRT approved, the plans in North-North Dixie should be reworked to reflect those significant changes, Edmunds said. He had no idea when the issues would be resolved.

Lawyer James Service, hired by Prusak to speak for the would-be residents, said the developer had complied with all requests by council.

Councillor Bud Gregory said a decision last December to register the lands in order to give the city the benefit of

considerable tax revenue was a commitment that the development would go ahead.

"It's time to say yes or no," he said. "If we say no, the developer has legal recourse and there's a good chance it will produce the results he has requested."

Gregory said he was afraid the city would lose benefits voluntarily agreed to by the developer, and disliked the approach of the developer to influence council. However, he maintained that this should have no part in council's decision.

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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.

In testimony heard late last week, a Tavern De France waitress told the jury she saw two men throw another from the top of the tavern's front steps. Georgette Dick said she did not see the man land.

Friends later found McCormack unconscious lying at the bottom of the stairs. He died three days later at Joseph Brant Hospital in Hamilton.

The jury was told yesterday Bonner suffers from alcohol-induced amnesia. Bonner told the jury last week he had no memory of the incident.

In summation to the jury, crown attorney Jim Treleven suggested Bonner has a "convenient, selective memory." Treleven said Bonner seemed to remember

"... everything but throwing poor Albert McCormack down the stairs."

2 years for drug 'dreamer'

A "dreamer" who held up the Becker's milk store at 590 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

milk store at 10:15 p.m. on Oct. 6, 1974 in a car stolen from City-Wide Rentals the previous day. While Moffat waited in the car, Mackay entered armed with a .22-cal. rifle. He had wrapped his face in bandages as a disguise.

Mackay demanded money from the attendant, a Chinese immigrant, and was given cash from the till. He demanded more, and the attendant brought out money from the back of the store.

Mackay then ordered the man into the car at gunpoint

and drove him to a nearby park where he was released. The two youths split the \$402 stolen from the store. They were arrested several days later by Peel detectives Noel Catney and Gord Mackinnon.

Defence lawyer John Smith told court the youth is a "dreamer" who wrote poetry and "saw meaningful things in sitting on a rock, looking at a lake." He said Mackay had become estranged from the work ethic at private school and "started hanging around

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Student job situation bleak

By NANCY ENRIGHT
 "Have a young summer — hire a student," reads the slogan of Canada Manpower Centre for Students.

There are two student placement offices in Mississauga — one at Southdown Plaza, sponsored by the Oakville Chamber of Commerce which covers the Clarkson-Oakville area, and the other at 39 Dundas St. E., serving students in Mississauga as a whole.

Both centres remain hopeful summer jobs will be found for the majority of high school and university students seeking employment this year. But if the first few days of operation are any indication, not many employers will be having that "young summer."

Says Susan St. Claire, supervisor of the Mississauga centre: "It looks like this is going to be a bad year. I've approached over 100 companies and only 10 have voiced any positive response."

"The majority say that it's not a good year economically and that they're just not prepared to hire students this summer."

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,

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