

The Times

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Good news and bad news

Like the recent flourish of gag lines the federal Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act for Ontario contains some good news and some bad news.

First the good news: The elimination of Peel South to make way for the proposed ridings of Mississauga South, Mississauga North and Oakville is a happy gain under any terms. Instead of one Member of Parliament to represent almost 200,000 residents south of Steeles Avenue, we can look forward to the services of three MP's.

And now for the bad news: the boundary revisions are based on the Canadian Census conducted June 1, 1971. As a result, the Act's architects, under chairman J. L. Wilson, have failed to consider recent growth statistics in Peel and the impending population boom in Mississauga's three major developments—Erin Mills, Meadowvale and Mississauga Valleys. With further electoral district revisions not expected until 10 years hence, it is apparent

the South Peel area will soon be faced with another era of inadequate federal representation.

Another major disappointment is the proposed physical layout of the three new ridings. By chopping off all of Streetsville and part of Mississauga and lumping them in with Oakville, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission has not only introduced more confusing borderlines to an already bewildered electorate but has also flouted the unifying trend that will almost certainly be created by the anticipated Peel-only and Halton-only regions.

In any case Mississauga will likely have to live with the commission's edict for at least another decade. Our only hope is that the Liberal minority government can survive until the Readjustment Act is implemented. Another election under the existing scheme of representation is totally undesirable.

Builders must be licensed

Reorganizing Mississauga's overworked department of building, zoning and licensing is a welcome first step in straightening out the town's problems with builders.

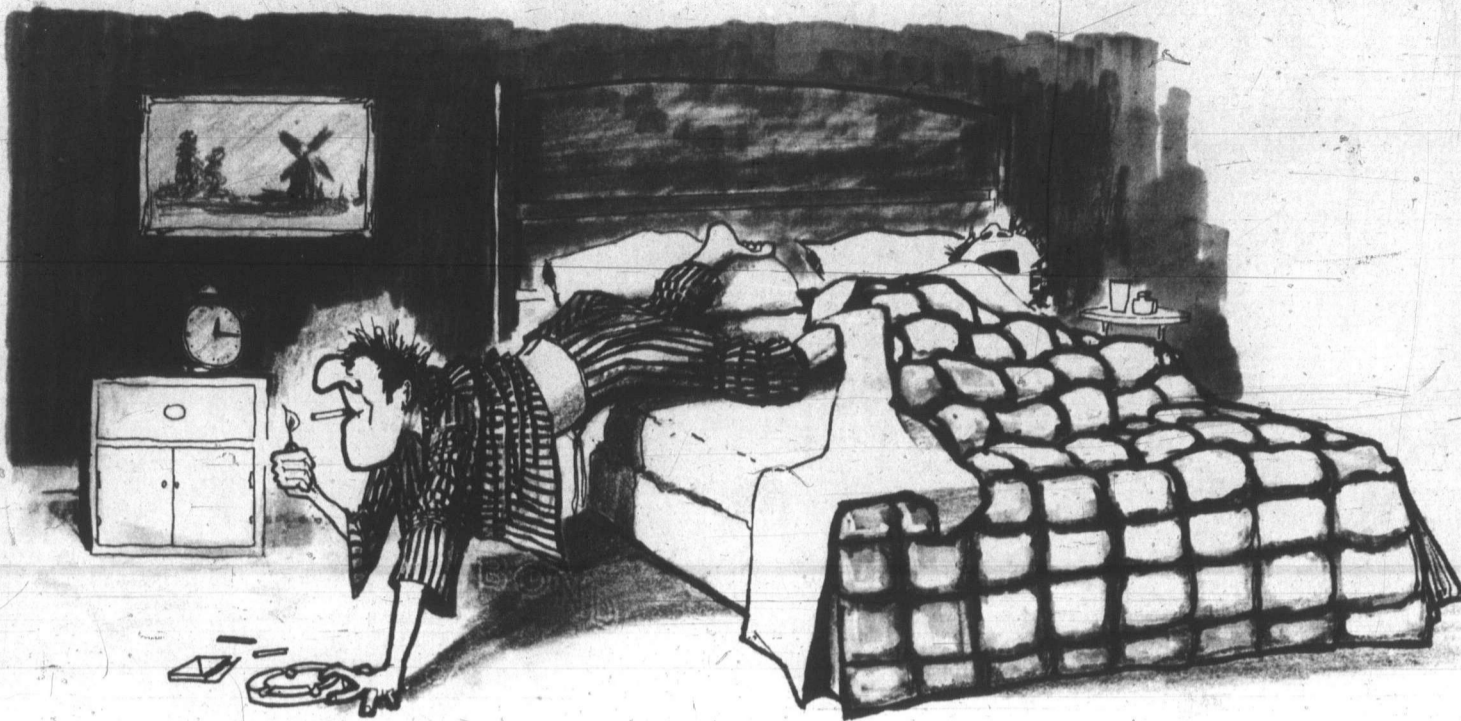
Since taking over the department last summer, director Ernie Bodnar has made some positive steps to increase efficiency. He has delegated more authority by creating posts for two deputy directors, improving on the old system where perhaps too many routine decisions could only be made by the director.

Council moved in the right direction by authorizing more personnel for the department, and Bodnar has drawn a reasonable and seemingly efficient organization chart.

Certainly more thorough inspections by the department's field personnel will go a long way toward preventing such messes as plagued homebuyers in Malton's Morning Star area and Cooksville's Queensway Gardens.

But the greatest need is for the town to insist the province permit it to institute licensing and examinations for every builder. The majority of builders and subcontractors want to do a workmanlike job. Licensing won't hurt them at all.

But the town needs some teeth to clamp down on the incompetent or unscrupulous firms, and the threat of revoking their licenses to do business in Mississauga is a mouthful.



Is that New Year's Resolution number ONE or number TWO!

'My son is being used because he can score'

Letters to the editor

Let me begin by offering a vote of thanks to the coaches, managers and executive whose considerable time, energy and devotion contribute to the development of our youth through organized sports. While their intentions are invariably good, their methods are occasionally misguided.

On Dec. 17 I learned that my son Ken, age 8, in his first year of hockey, has been arbitrarily removed from his present first place team, and 'drafted' to the last place team in the paperweight (house league) division. My son worked hard, never missed a game or practice, was elected captain of the team by the other players, and until today, was on top of the world.

In spite of the fact that the season is exactly half over, and that the deadline for inter-team player changes was Nov. 15 (according to the league rules), the executive has decided that Ken's scoring ability should belong to the last place team.

In the name of equalizing the teams, the executive has completely disregarded their own rules and destroyed the spirit and fellowship that my son had formed with his teammates and coaches. Ken is being used because he can score goals. My son is grief-stricken, I am disgusted.

When minor sports executives start using my son and completely ignoring

his needs or feelings as an individual, it is time to examine our objectives. I was hopeful that the Malton Minor Hockey Association was committed to an intelligent approach to youth development. I see, however, that scoring ability is uppermost in the minds of at least some of the

executive, to the exclusion of all other considerations including their own rules.

I feel that the decision to move my son completely undermines the philosophy of developing skill, team fellowship, spirit, co-operation and sportsmanship through minor sports.

My son wants desperately to remain with his present team where he has an investment in effort and

friendship and, according to league by-laws, is and should be entitled to do so.

I have requested that the association executive rescind its decision. They have refused. The choice proposed by R. Sloat, chairman of the house league, and E. Armstrong, president of the Malton Minor Hockey Association is, 'change teams or let the kid quit hockey.'

I earnestly solicit your support in undoing this injustice, and putting this committee back on the rails, starting with their rules.

Donald Franklin
Mississauga

'Stop spending our money on comforts for trustees'

I have four children in St. James School. It is overcrowded and needs expansion. It seems that money can be found for unnecessary things but not for purposes like this.

I understand that four or five of the Board's employees, including a man earning at least \$27,000 a year, have recently travelled to Colorado in the United States on a four day trip to study the "open concept" system of teaching. The expense was estimated to be

about \$1,500, and to this must be added the salaries of the people concerned—and the time lost from their jobs, including the time for preparation. If there is one thing we parents and taxpayers do not need it is a study by this board of open concept teaching.

Further, I am told that 13 of the 16 board members, including the chairman, whose resignation from the board had already been accepted, recently flew to Vancouver for a conference

of the Canadian Trustees' Association. I can see no benefit from this kind of jaunt. Surely if it was thought necessary to send anybody, one or two would have been enough. The cost of this junket, taking into account air fare, hotels and living expenses, must have been in the region of \$5,000.

These are only two among many obvious examples of extravagant and unnecessary spending. I urge you to come down to the realities of life, which those of us who pay for all this have to face. Stop spending the money on your own pleasures and comforts and provide our children and their teachers with the facilities to which they are entitled.

Kathleen Meany
Port Credit.

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.

'Street resembles wartime trench'

Streetsville isn't the only community which is being ravaged by Erin Mills. (The Times, Dec. 6)

Take a look at Dundas Street between Southdown, excuse me, Erin Mills Parkway and Winston Churchill. It looks like the wartime trenches in France. Or try driving along Liruma if you dare. Or bump your car over the lumps of clay along the Queensway near the new reservoir, which the people of Ontario are building in order to create land values for Erin Mills Development Company.

Let's get two things straight. First: many of the neighbours suffer from the way big developers take over a town; not just the ones in a separate municipality that happens to be nearby.

Second: To add insult to injury, the perpetrators of this mayhem are taking a free ride at the expense of the victims. For many years the lands owned by speculators in Mississauga have been assessed at prices as low as one per cent of the value while the properties of homeowners in the area are assessed at full value. This results in high taxes on homeowners being used to pay for the community facilities which create high land prices for free loading speculators.

In order to correct these abuses, we need a town council which has the brains to recognize the hidden costs of development, and we need a council which has the guts to make the speculators and developers pay their share for the benefits they receive.

Craig Cringan
Mississauga

'Blenkarn is doing job'

I would like to congratulate our new Member of Parliament Don Blenkarn on the fine job he is doing to represent us. For the first time in a long while government has become accessible to the average citizen.

Recently I had a small family problem over the delay in receiving an old age pension cheque; being Christmas this money is extremely important. I noticed Mr. Blenkarn's office phone number from his weekly article in your paper, gave him a call, and believe it or not he solved my problem — no delay, no fuss, no problem.

Before Mr. Blenkarn's election I would have had no idea how to contact my M.P. Now I see Don Blenkarn has a full time office in the area as well as in Ottawa, a well publicized phone number, he is writing a newspaper column every week and has already sent around an information newsletter.

If Blenkarn continues to keep in touch with his constituents the same way until the next election he'll have my vote.

Mrs. J. Henderson
Mississauga



Write On!

By Frank Touby

By the time you read this, perhaps America's most beautiful city will be a pile of rubble. It's a safer bet North Vietnam's most beautiful city will be that.

A California scientist with a good record for accurately predicting earthquakes has predicted a disastrous one Jan. 4 in San Francisco.

And depending upon the erratic state of President Nixon's mind, a disaster similar in horror could befall Hanoi at the hands of the United States Air Force.

Earthquakes and bombing of cities are two forms of violence which have much in common. They are senseless and unpredictable. They are indiscriminate and pitiless. And they are almost exclusively unjust.

It's quite ironic that an American city should be coincidentally "threatened" with the sort of destruction America is causing in Vietnam. But it's not ironic for that reason.

You see, there is a theory that pumping water into areas of the San Andreas fault may be sufficient to relieve pressures that cause earthquakes in California and the West Coast.

What's slowing down any progress is simply that the process is expensive. Of course, it's cheap in light of what America is dumping into that bomb crater they call Vietnam. And it's cheap in the light of what America's dumping into that garbage can they call outer space.

There seems to be such a scramble of priorities in the United States, and a predisposition to ignore the needs of its citizens, that I'm convinced its administration is psychopathic.

I can't believe the things America is doing. Growing up American was done with pride when I grew up there.

We were the good guys, we Americans. We believed in Democracy and despised injustice. Our soldiers loved children. They adopted war orphans and raised money to house homeless children. They wouldn't drop napalm on villages and bomb hospitals. Not Americans!

America never starts a war and American soldiers respect the lives of civilians. That's the image Americans had of themselves, rightly or wrongly, before Vietnam.

During the decade of costly fighting in Vietnam, life in America took a tumble. The sores of society grew gangrenous while America pursued some vapid objective in Southeast Asia.

Suddenly, in American cities it was dangerous to walk the streets. Crime, a severe symptom of a severe ailment, escalated.

Unemployment began rising and scandals of major import to the lives of most Americans burst across the American cognizance.

Insurance frauds are rife. Pension plans too often pay nothing and leave their "beneficiaries" destitute. Medical care and hospital care is often incompetent and always expensive.

Many cities are wallowing in pollution of all forms and are strangling from overpopulation. Automobiles persist as a major cause both of air pollution and death.

The state of Americans' health is lower than that of too many poorer countries.

Food processors are permitted to market devitaminized junk that could starve a "well-fed" person who mistakenly tries to live on them.

These are some of the problems. They all require money, manpower and the intense attention of the United States government. In short, the problems require all the assets America is devoting to Vietnam.

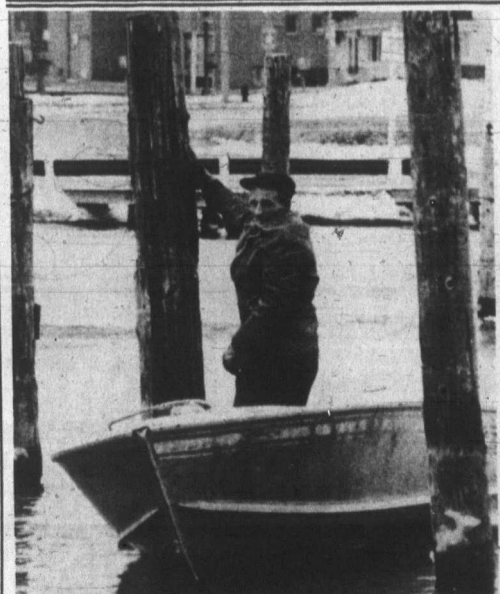
Nixon says the U.S. must save face so that small countries will take its defence treaties seriously. The question, of course, is whether the U.S. can have any face when its ethical foundations have been atrophied by its behaviour in Vietnam.

What is there to be won in Vietnam? What ever was there?

The administration's frenzy to extract some sort of "honourable peace" has dishonoured the country irreparably in this generation.

There are many Americans nowadays who identify themselves as such almost apologetically.

Ten years ago I'd have never believed that could happen. Now I wonder when it will end.



Don Rusk had Port Credit Yacht Club harbour to himself while he secured pilings to withstand winter storms.

Observations

... Maclean's magazine (January, 1973) writer William Cameron had these observations on Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's visit to Glenforest Secondary School, Oct. 18, 1972: "Trudeau shakes hands at a high school, two at a time, reaching into the crowd like a beekeeper into a hive. His face takes on an expression of mad amiability. The eyes expand, the teeth seem to protrude; he says the same thing as Stanfield, 'Hello, good to see you'... Well, what else?"

... The Post Office did a terrific job of keeping the mail flowing during the holiday season. For that the posties deserve full marks. But we couldn't resist a mention of one blooper that came to our offices at 2300 South Sheridan Way. Postmarked London, Ont. the letter was directed to a gentleman at 2300 Sun Life Building, Montreal 110, P.Q. 'Nuff said.

... Statistics Canada offers the following information on who is reading and watching what among students. Its education service reveals that 40 per cent of Grade 6 students spend at least 20 hours a week watching television but by the time they reach Grade 13 only five per cent allow themselves that luxury: Of Grade 6 children 72 per cent preferred the comic sections of newspapers. But interest in local and world news rises sharply at the Grade 10 level where 41 per cent showed interest in local news and 36 per cent in world news. In Grade 13 world news was tops with 48 per cent, local news

second with 41 per cent and comics 41 per cent. Only 18 per cent showed interest in editorial pages. However in Grade-12 surveys, comics were still the most read at 45 per cent, local news next with 44 per cent and world news close behind with 43 per cent.

... Weight Watchers of Ontario Limited has put together a list of New Year's mealtime resolutions. Among the suggestions: "Put your knife and fork down between bites and rest your hands on your lap. Without those weapons actively searching for morsels, you cannot keep up a constant exchange between your plate and your mouth."

... Snowmobilers take note: Canadian National railways officials warn that the company intends to maintain strict surveillance of its tracks and continue to apprehend and prosecute (under the Railway Act) snowmobilers who travel across tracks or along CN's right-of-way. Fines range up to \$100. Despite warnings and a surveillance program last year, at least three people were killed when their snowmobiles were struck by trains. Several more were injured.

... Santa Claus dropped a double whammy on Peel school board public relations man, Al Verch. From now on the moustachioed informer will end each year with a wallet as deflated as St. Nick's toy bag on Boxing Day, when he is faced with buying birthday presents and Christmas Gifts for both his wife Karen and baby daughter Jennifer-Jane Victoria. The bouncing first addition to the Verch clan was dropped down the chimney at Mississauga Hospital at 3:08 Christmas morning as a birthday surprise for Karen.