

# The Times

MISSISSAUGA

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## Council's 'indecent haste'

With regional government impending, a lame duck Port Credit council is waddling to developers' tunes in secrecy and, as one resident termed it, "with indecent haste."

In a rare show of long overdue outrage, over 100 Port Credit citizens confronted their arrogant and inept town council Monday night.

Most told council they have no faith in the Port Credit government and several suggested councillors resign. It's a good suggestion, but probably a pipe dream.

That council, which decides public policy in private and barricades itself from citizens by a maze of Catch-22 rules limiting public access to the council floor, should resign.

With a boldness born of ignorance, Port Credit council has placed itself in a mindless race against imagined atrocities Mississauga will impose on the little town. Like most of council's thinking, that is ridiculous.

Mississauga has drastically reduced densities adjacent to the very Carleton Holdings site which aroused Port Credit residents to angry confrontations with their council.

The little town is already

overcrowded and this last-ditch effort by council to increase the overpopulation by another 25 per cent deserves public wrath.

It is one in a chain of incredibly poor decisions the town has suffered at the hands of its final council which has been compromised by heeling to special interests.

Mayor Cy Saddington, Reeve Frank Leavers and Councillor Terry Butt all said there were no secret meetings with developers of the Carleton property.

But on three different occasions two reporters and a town resident were barred from meetings when the development was being discussed. Neither press nor public were ever informed the meetings were being held, or invited to attend.

Such deception is a common practice of Port Credit council. It is not a practice of Mississauga council which has no meetings away from the eyes of the press and which any citizen can address at almost any time without special arrangements.

For the abused citizens of Port Credit, amalgamation with Mississauga can't come fast enough.

## One-quarter vote no good

The spectre of having an electoral riding with 135,000 voters is not pleasing to MP Don Blenkarn. Nor should it be a happy state of affairs for each of those constituents.

But that could be the upshot of a stall in the recommendations of a commission studying the redistribution of federal ridings.

Effectively, it would mean your vote has 25 per cent of the value of a Prince Edward Islanders ballot. This becomes even more unbalanced because the present Peel South riding generates far more federal revenue than the island.

If the redistribution legislation

was introduced now the riding would be split into three, with the equivalent of 2.5 representatives.

That still isn't equitable with other areas but we would have Mississauga North, Mississauga South and a piece of the Oakville riding.

But legislation may not be introduced until after the next federal election, meaning the changes could be two to four years off.

Only the realization by residents that they are less than a full Canadian with a full vote, plus some concerted pressure, will change that situation.

## Write On!

By Frank Touby



They say the meek shall inherit the earth. That's probably not true. The irresponsible will inherit it.

But if the biblical prediction is right, then I may be one of the inheritors. You see, I hate fighting.

And that's a problem because Susan loves to fight. We have a lot of arguments about it.

If I'm going to be drawn into a fight at all, it has to be early in the morning. Unfortunately, that's her favourite time. "You left the light on outside all night," I remind her.

"I don't want to hear about it," she says through her toothpaste. "Just shut up about the +!+!#! light!"

"I'm just saying it because Alberta is raising the price of natural gas and we're contributing to the energy crisis," I explain. "And don't tell me to shut up. You're starting a fight."

"Well if you'd just shut up about the light I wouldn't tell you to shut up," she says, chomping on her toothbrush.

"Now you know we always have fights in the morning," say I. "You should exercise a little control."

"You should control your metabolism and drop dead," she says.

"See? You're starting a fight! Why did you pick this pair of trousers with no hip pocket? Where'll I keep my wallet?"

"If you didn't have the style and colour sense of a dockworker you could pick your own clothes. And while we're talking about picking, it's about time you started picking up after yourself."

"I can't do that. It would be bad for your mind. You'd have too much spare time to watch TV soap operas."

ETC., ad nauseum. She just loves to fight. It's beyond me. I've always been a pacifist.

Then too, I always am aware of gross inefficiencies that abound in my household. They are especially visible in the morning, for some reason.

Like toothpaste tube squeezed in the

middle. Or dust atop the medicine cabinet. Then there's the fact that her hairbrush is always lying on the basin while mine is always stashed away in a different drawer where I can't find it.

These things are very important in the morning. That's when I bring them up and that's when she always starts a fight.

Some people can't take constructive criticism.

I, on the other hand, am always open to constructive criticism.

"You left the top off the deodorant stick and now it's dried up," she says. "How am I supposed to go to school with wet armpits?"

"What makes you think I left the top off? You're the one who leaves lights on overnight and doesn't turn the water taps tight enough," I say tenderly.

"I know it was you because I left at 9 a.m. yesterday and you were still reading the dumb newspaper."

"I'm a newsman, I have to read newspapers. Besides, they're not dumb. They pay my living."

"They don't do very well. And you leave them spread out all over the floor."

"You're starting a fight again," I remind her.

"I have to go to school with dripping armpits because you left the lid off."

"I'm not sure that I did..."

"Yeah, that could be. You probably don't use deodorants."

"See how you start fights? You're accusing me of slovenliness. If I did leave the top off, I apologize. But it's done and over with. I can't do anything about it now, so it's silly to fight about it."

"You started it."

"Let's not keep arguing about it, I've got to go to work," I say sweetly. "Oh, and do try to remember to turn the outside lights off from now on. Okay?"

"Go +&+#!" she says. But I let it pass. I'm already late... and anyhow, I hate to fight.



"okay okay... that's enough!"

## 'Citizens are to blame for concrete metropolis'

### Letters to the editor

Here rests Mississauga, slowly lying from that malignant growth of civilized man. Yes, people, the tentacles of progress are slowly ending the peace and serenity which many of us cherished when first settling here.

While only 21 years of age, I often am amazed at the speed by which modern man has been able to transform the orchards and parks of my childhood into housing subdivisions and shopping plazas. It was merely 15 years ago when we children played in the forest behind us. We were often frightened of venturing too deeply into it, for fear of the lions and tigers the bigger kids claimed lived there. Well the bulldozers of development soon struck with force. In but a few months, they managed to turn our beautiful forest into a wasteland of sand and dust. The lions and tigers were shipped away along with the trees for some reason we children failed to understand.

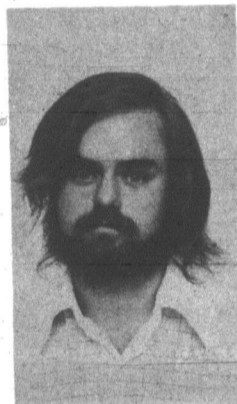
Then there was the nine-hole golf course a few blocks away. While teeing up for the first hole, we would often dream of the ball sailing in the air as a gallery of fans cheered us on. No, we never won the Masters but Glenleven Golf Course provided us with the fun and recreation few children are able to experience today. As you may have guessed, by now, this golf course is no longer with us. It's hills, which, in the winter we used to challenge with toboggans, are now levelled as a site for a housing project.

I also recall the beauty our town once enjoyed before being exploited by the monetary greed of development. The vast open space and slow pace of our town, once made it a joy to live here. There are a few amongst us who have experienced the peace this

community once offered. With our ever expanding technology, the quality of life evident but 10 years ago has become merely a metropolis of concrete.

One wonders what diabolical force has been the cause of Mississauga's so-called progressive evolution. Well, the blame rests on us all. Just as we fail to notice our childhood slipping from us, we fail to notice the obvious steps by which developers are stagnating our town.

It is only when enough of us prove to care about Mississauga that our town planners will realize they are following the wrong course of action. We must let them know we wish to maintain portions of our glorious past. If not, it is inevitable that we will succumb to the type of cancerous growth McLaughlin Associates, Don Mills Development and



Tim Jenkins

Markborough Properties, the big three developers of our town, seem to envision. However, it may still be possible to preserve those few features of Mississauga which allow our quality of life to be remotely bearable. The fight has started, will you once again sit on your apathetic behind or will you help plan the type of town you will be proud to have your grandchildren raised in? Decide now, glorious citizens of Mississauga, before it is too late. Tim Jenkins Mississauga

## 'Goodwill isn't enough'

In a recent public forum at Erindale Secondary School, it became evident through the answers of Reeve Lou Parsons and Mayor Chic Murray, that no amendment formula is incorporated in the proposal for regional government.

While one may agree that "goodwill" of all representatives is needed, as suggested by Mr. Parsons, and that the under representation of Mississauga may not in the near future present serious difficulty, surely it is silly to proceed on little more than "goodwill".

In 1974, Mississauga will have 66.2 per cent of the population and only 45.5 per cent of the representatives. However, this disparity will grow rapidly by 1980.

With the growing population within Mississauga, the selection of each regional representative will depend upon more impersonal, advertising oriented, and higher costing criteria.

Candidates under such a system must be more independently wealthy, have a personal axe to grind, and to be of a "more mature" age than is representative of the Mississauga population as a whole.

There are then, other consequences to this built in obsolescence of the regional formula which are as important as misrepresentation at the regional level. Surely an amendment formula or a periodic revision every decade is a necessity. David J. Culham 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 accept pseudonym to be used. The Editor.

## 'Port Credit takes brunt of irresponsible decisions'

The following letter to South Peel MPP Doug Kennedy has been filed with The Times for publication.

Before the bulldozers will start to tear the last island of natural beauty in Port Credit to pieces, to force the opposing majority into submission to conform with stereotype roads in "suburbia" I have made one last attempt to draw the province's attention to cruelty towards residents with deep roots in Port Credit. I have written to the Prime Minister of Ontario

and to the Treasurer.

How can the province justify a 40 per cent sales tax increase because they are short of money and at the same time waste huge sums of our provincial tax money for wasteful and destructive non vital road widening programs in residential areas. Because owners of 75 per cent of the homes concerned rejected this road widening program, it will be done by a by-law without the assent of the ratepayers. Financial subsidies by the province and borrowing by

the town will throw our finances again into a state of confusion. Another step to increase municipal and provincial taxes. We are not given the right to live within our means anymore and Port Credit has taken the brunt of such irresponsible fiscal decisions.

What does peoples participation and decision making in a democracy really mean if a council which will be out of office by the end of the year gets such sweeping powers to throw

the community into further debt and tax increases. Would it not be more prudent to re-pave our roads, improve a few drainage problems without the destruction of environment. It would save our tax-payers hundred thousands of dollars, keep our debts and our taxes lower, reduce the provinces subsidies and most important it would not interfere with our lives, with our environment.

In this technological age governments seem to loose

communications with the people. The ever increasing rate of violence reflects people's frustrations. Nobody listens. Nobody cares.

If your government created regional government to streamline planning and fiscal policies, why could we not wait with roadwidening and subsidies and debts until we belong to regional government and re-assess the real needs for our residential area "E" in Port Credit. If mistakes were

made in the past, it does not mean we have to do them all over again, just to be uniform. If we like to dissent, why not let us be different? Hubert Wolf Port Credit

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A little brotherly protection. Salvation Army Captain shelters sister from biting wind at sodturning of Army's Mississauga Temple Sunday. (Times photo by Ron Pozzer).

### Observations

Principal John Berges called it a "good learning experience" but it was just a pile of garbage to Lorne Park Secondary School students. After custodians at the school complained about students leaving their lunch bags in the cafeteria and creating a "ridiculous mess" Berges instructed the staff not to clean up the offending debris for a day. The frustration of following the student's culinary acts had already caused one disgruntled woman janitor to resign. Students and staff using the cafeteria for spare periods were duly impressed with the mess as the "strike" experiment wore on. After a discussion in one grade nine geog.aphy class everybody chipped in and the cleanup was completed in about 15 minutes. "I've never seen it so clean," the principal noted—adding with the voice of experience that the problem shouldn't recur, "for at least another couple of months."

A couple of county councillors were disappointed this week to hear that the testimonial dinner for retiring Peel county director of education Archie Turner would be held outside of Mississauga—at the Skyline Hotel. Frank Leavers of Port Credit wondered why local hotels couldn't be rented for the occasion. "Especially when education accounts for such a large chunk of local taxes," chimed in Ron Searle. The most likely explanation is that Turner, who has declared himself eligible for the position as regional chairman in a reorganized Peel, is more anxious to please the boys downtown than he is the local moguls.

Reeve Lou Parsons Monday turned his caustic tongue on... believe it or not... a developer. (You read right.) Developer Bruce McLaughlin had sent council a letter saying he fears there is still consideration of widening Mississauga Road where he has his home. "In my opinion the livability of our home would be negated," wrote Bruce. Lou took a drag on his cigar and observed: "It's unusual to hear Mr. McLaughlin complaining about changing his lifestyle—we hear a great deal of that in the opposite direction." Mayor Chic Murray reiterated the town's position that "we have no intention of ever widening Mississauga Road."

beware of phoney solicitors pretending to represent a "red feather" charity drive, warns Harry Ridgely, chairman of the Salvation Army's Red Shield drive. Ridgely says a man pretending to be a campaigner for "red feather" visited a Dixie-Bloor area residence and the place was later robbed. "All our workers have credentials," Ridgely says.

conflict of interest seems to apply to all except municipal lawyers. Ron Webb, an associate of our Peel North member Bill Davis wears many hats. He represents Peel County, the Peel-Halton Assessment office plus Caledon East and Toronto-Gore townships. You would think that somewhere along the line one or another of these groups would come into legal conflict, especially where his assessment work is concerned. Now that Bill has fettered his cabinet colleagues, we suggest he look at his business too.