

An alternative to 'hanging around'

By GREG SNOW
Times Staff Writer

An army marches on its stomach, but it takes a lot of money to keep the stomach from growling, the committee of Mississauga city council responsible for distributing grant money has discovered.

The committee recently approved a little over \$35,000 in grants to 10 community organizations for the coming year. Almost half of that amount, \$15,000, was awarded to the Cadet Organization Police School (COPS).

COPS is the local army cadet corps, run with the co-operation of Peel Regional Police, which now operates out of the old Canadian Arsenal building on Lakeshore Road and the Malton Recreation Centre.

COPS started 10 years ago in church basements and local halls before moving into its present 16,000-square foot drill hall.

In addition to the \$15,000 grant from the city, COPS receives \$60,000 grant from the city, COPS receives \$60,000.

In addition to the \$15,000 grant from the city COPS receives \$60,000 from the Department of National Defence for uniforms and equipment, and \$40,000 support from Peel Regional Police, which includes the salary of a police constable who devotes full time to COPS, a car, expenses and secretarial assistance.

Grants totalling \$10,000 from the province of Ontario and Wintario bring the total budget to \$134,000.

In return for that investment, 250 young people between the ages of 13 and 19 (150 boys and 100 girls) are given an alternative to "just hanging around" five nights a week and weekends as well.

"I hate using the term 'keeping the kids off the streets' because you could lock them up in a barn and do that, but it is one of the things we accomplish," says Constable Rick Burton.

Burton was attached to Peel Police Youth Bureau for three years before volunteering to

take over the COPS job a year ago from Sgt. John Kelly.

"We have something here that will suit just about any young person," Burton says.

Burton points to a calendar of events which indicates that many of the cadets come to COPS just about every night of the week for practice in one of the group's two bands, parade drill, field training, survival training and fitness instruction.

Last year cadets went on 18 weekend excursions to places like Algonquin Park and CFB Borden.

COPS is just one small segment of the armed forces cadet program across Canada.

According to Colonel Peter Howe, director of cadets for the Department of National Defence, there are 63,000 cadets in the three branches of the armed forces in Canada.

In 1978, the federal government will spend \$21 million on the cadet program, Howe says.

"The aim of our program is to develop positive attitudes that cadets may use later in life," Col. Howe says.



Cadet Organization Police School (COPS) members drill in Mississauga. COPS was started here 10 years ago.

There are 250 young people in the organization.

Times Photo by Greg Snow

Peel moves to kill health board

By SID RODAWAY
Times Staff Writer

Peel Regional Council has voted 10-9 to be included with Halton and York regions in provincial legislation that will eliminate the semi-autonomous board of health and puts its services under the region's own social services committee.

The health board chairman and regional council member Harold Kennedy, was strongly opposed to any such absorption of the board by the region, claiming that public health costs would rise 25 per cent if the plan goes through.

Peel Chairman Lou Parsons told council that Peel should follow the example of Halton and York regions. Their boards of health will be eliminated with the passage of Bill 81, which is before the Ontario legislature. It will amend the original law that created regional municipalities. Boards of health are responsible for all areas of public health, including immunization and medical educational programs.

Parsons explained that Peel's social services

department is studying the possibility of creating a comprehensive human services department in Peel which, in turn, would take on all of the functions and responsibilities of the board of health and the Children's Aid Society.

COSTS

He told The Times after the meeting that the cost to the taxpayer need not be increased by such a move, if it is handled properly. He said the petition to the province to place public-health responsibilities in Peel under the authority of the regional council was reflective of the trend toward eliminating special-purpose bodies that function outside the regular elective system.

Parsons does not go as far as Mississauga Councillor Hazel McCallion in her total opposition to all special-purpose bodies.

He supports the continuation of both the police commission and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

McCallion told council that these tax-supported organizations were not as accountable to the public as freely elected city and regional council members.

PETITIONS

Both Halton and York regions got themselves specifically mentioned in the proposed legislation by way of earlier petitions.

But Parsons told The Times that Peel may have missed the boat by deciding to petition for inclusion after Bill 81 has already been given its first reading in the legislature.

"Amendments to the regional acts don't come around very often," he said. "It could be two years or more until the next one."

The voting process by which the decision was made by regional councillors was somewhat unusual on such an important issue.

On a first vote, the chairman counted 10 in favor and 10 opposed. He refused to use his tie-breaking vote on what he described as "too important an issue to be decided on such a close vote."

Some councillors wanted a recount, however, and on the second time around, the resolution to petition the

province for an amendment to Bill 81 was approved 10-9.

Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle was opposed to the proposal. He said the Peel Board of Health delivered the lowest cost per capita public health services in the province.

Bill 81's other regional reforms are mostly technical in nature. The one major area of disagreement in Peel is the continued provision for two-year terms of office.

Peel council has repeatedly asked for a

three-year term and voted again Thursday to ask for such an amendment, but there seems little chance of the provincial government giving way on this point. "I don't know what it will take to convince them to go for a three-year term," Parsons said.

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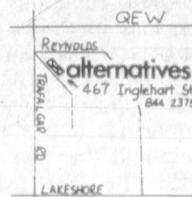
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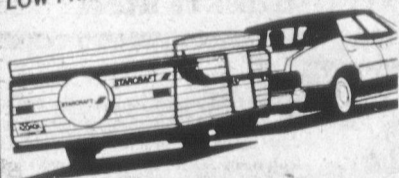
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