

# Comment

The Mississauga Times

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## A lingering discrimination

The recent short-term funding problem experienced by the special bus service operated by the Peel Association For The Handicapped points up the still present discrimination against handicapped individuals in our society.

Two converted vans provide less than half of the transit service that Peel's handicapped citizens need to get around our community. The association needs five buses but would settle for three.

Municipal transit operations receive both operating and capital equipment subsidies from the provincial government. The association's Peel Handicapped bus service for the handicapped does not. Instead it must rely on the charity of Peel regional government.

An even more telling example of bureaucratic discrimination, albeit unintentional, is the Wintario lottery decision not to give any grants to the Handicapped bus service.

In their Catch-22 way, the good folks at Queen's Park reasoned that because 51 per cent of the bus service's trips are to take handicapped people to doctors and hospitals, they were in effect, offering a health care service. It so happens that Wintario is not allowed to provide funds to anything related to health care.

In the meantime, Wintario goes on doling out the funds to obscure cultural and sporting groups while turning its back on one of this area's most worthwhile efforts at bringing the handicapped person back into the community.

Considering the millions of dollars being generated by Wintario, perhaps a rethinking of its intended purpose could, in the future, include such projects as the busing of handicapped citizens.

## A new-style chairman

Elected officials are all too infrequently commended for a job well done, that should not be the case with Robert Hall.

Hall, chairman of the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board for the past six years, has earned the respect of his fellow trustees as well as the staff and parents in the separate school system.

With patience, and energy, Hall was more of a conciliator than a firebrand leader at board meetings and as such, kept to a minimum the dissension and acrimony which have characterized the meetings of other publicly-elected bodies in Mississauga.

But that climatic phenomena, the winds of change, helped along by chance have resulted in Hall's defeat in the attempt for his third term as chairman and the election of Phil Catalano.

A draw from a hat determined the election after a deadlocked vote.

The Times regrets the loss of Robert Hall who was a full-time chairman who did his job well, but this doesn't mean we don't welcome the election of Phil Catalano.

Catalano, if you'll pardon the expression, has been something of a devil's advocate at board meetings, especially aggressive in the area of budget and finance.

At a time when the separate school board must confront the province and demand what it considers its fair share of the Ontario education tax dollar, this type of aggressiveness may prove valuable.

Unfortunately, unlike Hall, Catalano, as the owner of a busy clothing manufacturing firm, is not in the position to be a full-time chairman.

Having a full-time chairman was a luxury that has been lost, but we agree with Catalano's philosophy that if you want the job done, give it to a busy man.

## LATEST GALLUP POLL SHOWS TORIES WAY AHEAD



VOO-DOO ON TRUDOO

## She's surprised 'ghetto' label given complex

I would like to offer my opinion on the article on the front page of your Dec. 22 issue regarding Southdown Villa.

My letter is not about the rent increase. No one wants to pay more rent and I am no exception. The point that upsets me is the reference to Bromsgrove as a ghetto. It comes as a great shock to me to find out I am living in a ghetto. If Paul Vesna thinks this is a ghetto he couldn't have taken a very close look. These buildings are clean and well kept. Maintenance problems are dealt with quickly and efficiently. I have been here six months and have yet to see any vandalism in this building. I have never had to complain about another tenant.

Jim Crozier calls this complex a nightmare. It would make you think we are living in a shack in the slums of Harlem.

No doubt there are problems in this complex. You would have a difficult time finding any complex of 198 units whether rich or poor without problems. I am grateful to the superintendents for putting a great effort into the upkeep of these buildings. You couldn't ask for better superintendents and I do not believe they would ever be dishonest as is implied in your paper. Incidentally, I am not a personal friend of the superintendent.

It's really too bad your reporter only in-

terviewed the people with a negative attitude toward Southdown Villa. I wish he had knocked on my door. I am sure these people have a reason for complaining but there are two sides to every story. It would seem these problems are between the particular tenants and the management and do not reflect on the buildings as a whole.

My husband does not earn a great deal of money but that does not make us ghetto dwellers. We are a normal average family living in a nice, well-kept building with no major problems as far as we are concerned.

The impression given in your paper would make one afraid to visit this complex much less live here. If your reporter would like to talk to a satisfied tenant I promise I will meet him at the door wielding a knife or gun and we won't have to trip over any bodies in the hall to get to my door. I know your paper only printed what you were told but please print the different views on the situation. Not everyone feels the same.

If this complex is continually put down, no responsible family will want to move here and then we will have a ghetto. All the responsible tenants will then be forced to move.

NORMA CROWDER  
 BROMSGROVE ROAD  
 MISSISSAUGA

## Fight over group home continues

I was pleased with the excellent article by Greg Snow, 'We all live on Haig,' in your Nov. 10 issue. At least he is not condemning us because of our feelings against having a group home established, you might say, on our doorstep. It is only because the media publicized the committee of adjustment hearing (because it was also an emotional one) that some of the supporters of the group home for retarded began their campaign of pointing their fingers at us and saying 'Shame on you Haig Boulevard.' Why not shame on you Lakeshore Boulevard and shame on you Edenhurst Drive? These were the first two locations that were turned down by the committee of adjustment because they felt that, in the latter case, "neighbors' objections would not provide the proper atmosphere or social environment essential for a home of this type."

One remark the Mississauga committee of adjustment and the Mississauga Association for the Mentally Retarded (MAMR) ignored was that of Sam Fiorelli (the owner to the north of the proposed group home on Haig) when he asked "why don't you have a group home next door to you?" I would like the public to know that we won our appeal on a point of law, or should I say two points of law. There is only one foot, 11 inches between the proposed group home and my property. The required distance for a home of this type is six feet. Also, the bylaw does not specifically allow a home of this type in an R-4 residential zoning. In his own words, Keith Hudson, executive director of the MAMR, under oath during the Ontario Municipal Board appeal, said that after meeting with the committee of adjustment, the association decided to "zone in" on the property on Haig Boulevard for the purpose of the group home. I believe that part of their reasoning was that, as we are only a moderate income area, they thought we couldn't afford to appeal the decision and that we would sit back and let them force it on us. Well, we can't afford it but we did it anyway.

I would like to point out another important factor: At the committee of adjustment hearing the MAMR assured us that this proposed group home would house only high

functioning mentally handicapped adults who would go to work and take public transportation. Then, during the appeal before the OMB Hudson stated that they would be moderately functioning retarded people. This means that once they established the group home they would be free to put low functioning retarded people in also. This would, in my opinion, be an institution, as they would need constant supervision. In fact, Smith, attorney for the MAMR, referred to the group home as an in-

stitution in his closing arguments. During my campaign, many residents of this area told me they would not mind working with or helping the retarded people (some do) but that they would not want the group home next door to them. Now, here we go again. The City of Mississauga and the MAMR are still fighting the residents of Haig Boulevard. We won our appeal of the committee of adjustment's decision to have 1043 Haig Blvd. as a house for men-

tally retarded adults but they are not willing to accept that decision and now we have to pay out more money to lawyers to try to keep our neighborhood the way it is. If their application for the right to appeal is honored then the appeal will be on Jan. 18 in Osgoode Hall. In the meantime, the MAMR has wasted thousands of dollars on this house that has stood empty for most of the past 18 months. It is our tax money and the con-

tributions from the public that have been wasted on this building and even if they win their appeal, there will have to be a few thousand more spent on renovations. So now I would like to know just how many more thousands of dollars do they intend to pay out of public monies just to have their way, whether it is good for the retarded or not. The same money could have been spent on a much more suitable property. GWEN OAKES HAIG BOULEVARD MISSISSAUGA

## He says appeal over decision on group home senseless

I am a resident of Haig Boulevard on which the retarded association is trying to get a home established. I had occasion to attend a hearing on this by the Ontario Municipal Board and the board ruled in favor of the residents of Haig Boulevard on a point of law.

Now the retarded association will not accept this and is appealing it again which is going to cost them a lot of money as well as the Haig Boulevard residents.

I for one cannot see the sense in this as it was pointed out to the retarded association that this would not be a fit place for this type of home. But they are determined no matter how much money it costs them.

The home they are fighting for has been sitting empty for a full year which to me is another waste. I get the impression that they are saying, "We don't care if the house is suitable or not

we are going to do it no matter what it costs" which I think is wrong. I also get the impression that they are not as concerned as they would have people believe.

I would like to ask what is the matter with using or purchasing one of the schools which are closing because of a lack of students. It would certainly cost no more than this house and there could be a lot more done this way I believe.

There would be more room to sit outside and more room for hobbies and recreation inside and they would still be mingling in the community.

In closing, I would like to say I do not know how many have donated to the cause of the mentally retarded but I for one hate to see this money spent on hearings just so the association can get a house to prove a point, and that

in my opinion is all they are out to do regardless of cost.

GEORGE WILLIS  
 HAIG BOULEVARD  
 MISSISSAUGA

## School looks for alumni

In connection with the forthcoming Centennial Celebrations of The City of Brantford, Ont. in 1977, The Brantford School of Instrumental Music (formerly The Brantford Boys Band, organized in 1931) would like to contact all former members, as an old home weekend is being planned.

If you are a former member (anytime between 1931 and 1976) of the organization and would like to attend this event, please contact the writer as soon as possible and state the particular time during the summer or early fall, that you would be able to attend, also give your present

address and phone number. Further information will be mailed to you, as soon as possible. FRANK MCKINNON, SECRETARY, 21 TECUMSEH STREET, BRANTFORD

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## CITY SLICKERS

