

A Metrospan Community Newspaper

6 weeks to go in rail probe

By RICH MURZIN Times staff writer

The inquiry into last November's Mississauga train derailment will continue until at least mid-September says commission counsel Robert Armstrong.

The inquiry, adjourned until Aug 25 to give lawyers time to prepare their closing arguments, was supposed to finish by the end of July. Armstrong will be the first to present an argument, which may take four days

The extension should not cost Canadian taxpayers more than the \$1.1 million estimate first reported in early May

According to an official at the inquiry, the probe could come in slightly under budget.

The inquiry has heard 99 days of evidence, resulting in about 19,000 pages of testimony. Evidence and public submissions ended last Wednesday, July 30, and the inquiry has been sitting four days a week since Feb. 4.

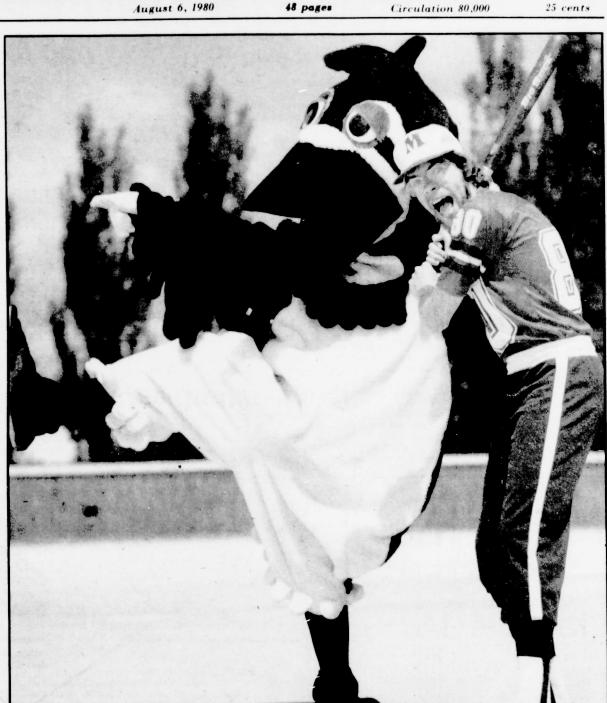
Armstrong said costs could be less than expected because office staff was decreased drastically at the end of June.

He added there was no problem with the commission's office space, on the fifth floor of the McLaughlin Building at 310 City Centre Dr., which was to be vacated Aug. 31. He said the commission has the option for two-week extensions on the office space.

These things take time, by and large, but comparing this commission to others, we've proceeded fairly promptly," Armstrong said. "I regret that it's taken as many months as it has but I think it's been worth it.

Drug rip-off

Pharmacists and doctors are the major victims in



25 cents

one of the most common crimes of today - drug thefts. An Erin Mills pharmacist has been robbed six times in 18 months and a Mississauga doctor says she has often been the victim of drug fraud. A full report is on Page 6 . . . Elsewhere in the news, a Peel report shows that most nursing homes house the elderly on upper floors. Page A cat burglar is on the loose. Page 4 In sports, Ellen Stewart has made the Canadian Olympic gymnastic team. Page The PCOs are finished for the year. Fage 23 24



Whaddya mean strike?

The bird (the one on the left) is B.J. Birdy, official mascot of the Toronto Blue Jays, and he's helping Times' news editor, columnist and softball team captain Chris Zelkovich prepare for Sunday's fund-raising softball game. B.J., in real life Kevin Shanahan, will be on hand at 7 p.m. Sunday at Erin Mills South Common Park as The Good Times Guys take on the dreaded Mississauga News Few Stars.

All funds go towards the South Common Community Centre. The fund kitty is already \$100 to the good, as that's what the loser of the game must donate. Maybe that's the real reason Zelkovich looks so shocked. The game features celebrities Andy Bathgate and Mike Kaszycki, door prizes and free sun visors to the first 200 spectators. Tickets are \$1 for adults and 50 cents for kids.

Page 23 They did it! Canoe?