

Rail trestle is called a 'death trap'

By RICH MURZIN
Times staff writer

Port Credit residents living near the train trestle where 17-year-old Mark Garside was killed Saturday say there's no way to make the bridge any less of a death trap.

"It has always been dangerous and always will be until they put an electric barbed wire fence around the thing," said a patron of the Royal Canadian Legion bar which overlooks the railway bridge.

Garside, who lived in Milton but worked with his father at Mississauga's St. Lawrence Cement plant, was walking across the bridge with five friends about 3 p.m. Saturday when they encountered an east-bound freight train.

One escaped injury by lying beside the tracks and four reached the end of the bridge. Garside ran to within 10 metres of the end of the bridge when he was struck.

Police said the youths were jumping from the bridge into the Credit River before the incident.

A manager of the Legion bar, who did not want to be identified, said he has tried to stop children from using the bridge as a playground.

"I have called the cops a couple of times but by the time they get here the kids are gone," he said. "They can see the CN (railway) cop coming from a mile away."

Frank Danby, a 36-year resident of Front Street, can see children jumping off the bridge from his front yard.

"In the past, many times I've hollered at kids," Danby said. "You know what they tell you. You just sort of give up after awhile."

Canadian National Railways fenced a stretch of track approaching the trestle and the Legion fenced its parking lot after a senior citizen was killed crossing the bridge a year ago.

"It's all beaten down," Danby said, pointing to a corner of the parking lot fence just yards away from the trestle.

The uppermost portion of a four-foot fence overlooking the river valley has been cut and pulled back, rusted into an easy access to the tracks. At the same corner, another section of fence is bent into a convenient crawlway.

Peel Coroner Dr. Kevin Flynn said he will not call an inquest into the death.

3 men contemplate vacant trustee seat

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

At least three ward 7 residents plan to seek appointment to the Peel Board of Education to replace Bruce Robertson who resigns Sept. 1.

John Walmark, who lost to Robertson by 88 votes in 1978, says there is a "pretty good chance" he will apply for the position.

Walmark is president of the North Applewood Homeowners' Association and was the leader of the Applewood community's successful fight to keep at least one school open in their area.

The 33-year-old Harvest Drive resident is national sales manager of a Canadian clothing company. If Robertson had sought re-election in the Nov. 10 election, Walmark says he would not have run.

"I am concerned about the split in the community," says Walmark. "I didn't want to see another

Applewood-Sherway confrontation."

While Walmark led the forces trying to keep one Applewood school open, Robertson unsuccessfully fought to keep Sherway Public School open.

Walmark says that if he decides not to run, David Chornomod, president of the Westacres Parent Teacher Association, will likely seek the appointment.

Besides Walmark, two other candidates who ran in 1978 are also interested.

Said Zafar, 44, a health care management consultant and a former member of the city of Mississauga's human relations task force, said he will apply.

John Barrett, a 34-year-old warehouse supervisor, also plans to apply.

The board has not yet received any written applications for the position.



ROB BEINTEMA/THE TIMES

Dr. Wycliffe Baird will fight appeal on 'principles'

Fire won't stop him

Group home may open despite arson

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

A fire which gutted a proposed group home on Dundas Street East may keep the home from opening, but it won't keep Dr. Wycliffe Baird from fighting for its final approval.

Arson is suspected in the recent fire at 851 Dundas St. East, which caused extensive damage.

In March, Mississauga's committee of adjustment had approved use of the structure for a group home for homeless adolescent girls with emotional problems. The unanimous decision came despite considerable opposition from residents. They said the home was poorly located and its tenants would have an adverse effect on their children.

Last Friday the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) was to hear an appeal of the committee of adjustment's decision, but

Marguerite Chapman, a neighboring landowner, withdrew her appeal before the board without explanation.

However, four ratepayers asked for the opportunity to express their opposition to the home. They said they did not appeal earlier because Chapman was already opposing the application.

The OMB hearing officer asked Dr. Baird, executive director of Four Maples Group Homes, whether there was any need to hear the case in light of the fire.

Dr. Baird said he does not know yet whether it will be economically feasible to renovate the house for the purpose of the group home. The OMB has now set a date in September to hear the appeal.

Dr. Baird told The Times Monday that he wants the OMB to rule on the appropriateness of the home's location regardless of its future.

"I want to stand on principle

and I want to win on the principle" that the use is appropriate for the area, Dr. Baird said.

He said the location is ideal, because the house is well-removed from the adjacent neighborhood.

At the committee of adjustment hearing in March John Huether, supervisor for the Peel probation service, said more group homes for troubled youngsters are needed in Mississauga.

Dr. Baird indicated Monday that despite his belief in the value of the homes, "I'm tired of fighting." He added that his first love is medicine and, "I get no great financial benefits out of these things (group homes)."

Four Maples has no plans to establish new homes here in the near future. In March the committee of adjustment also approved a group home operated by the company at 38 Elm Drive which is now in use.

Four Maples also operates a home in Streetsville.

Bus drivers vote to strike

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

If a cost of living allowance were granted Mississauga Transit drivers, future labor disputes would be significantly reduced, claims a union spokesman.

Bob Callahan, president of Local 1572 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, says his 246 members, who may go on strike Sept. 8, want a cost of living clause similar to those for drivers in Toronto, Hamilton, London and Guelph.

"If we could get a cost of living allowance it would eliminate all this," Callahan said.

If a two-year agreement is signed, the workers want a cost of living increase as soon as possible. They are asking for a 10 per cent wage increase if only a one-year contract is signed. The city has offered salary increases of 8.1 per cent in the first year, and nine per cent in the second. Callahan calls that "totally unacceptable."

Monetary issues are the only thing keeping the two sides apart. The drivers now make \$8.65 an hour. Callahan says the workers have a good relationship with transit management. "We want a

settlement. We don't want a strike," he says. Negotiations broke off July 18.

No city employees have cost of living allowances, but Callahan says non-union municipal staff received bonuses this year which amount to the same thing. He says an 8.5 per cent salary increase granted to senior municipal officials resulted in some salary hikes of over \$5,000.

Transit manager Ed Dowling says the city's last offer, which was rejected by the union, was the fourth increase proposed. With the cost of fringe benefits provided by the city,

the municipal offer exceeds nine per cent in each year, he says.

The city's offer would leave drivers, who are the majority of the union members, earning \$10.25 in the second year of the contract. They now earn fringe benefits worth over \$3 per hour. These are also proposed to increase.

If a strike occurs, Dowling says, "we'll shut down the system, lock the gates and bring everything inside." The onus to continue negotiations lies with the union since they rejected the city's final offer, Dowling says.

Only on a Tuesday...

A 16-year-old Mississauga youth has been charged in connection with three crimes, all committed on Tuesdays.

Police say Westacres Swimming Pool's office at 2166 Westfield Drive was broken into early Tuesday, Aug. 5. A small amount of cash was stolen.

An apartment at 30 Central Parkway West was entered on

Tuesday, July 15 and \$400 taken. One week later on Tuesday, July 22, a 1974 Ford car was stolen from a home on Stanfield Road and driven to Toronto before being abandoned.

Charged with two counts of enter and theft and one count of theft over \$200 is Deano Robert Farmingham, 16, of Elm Drive.

Charged with two counts of break and enter and theft is Joseph McClain, also of Elm Drive.

She's bananas over litterbug

City Councillor Margaret Marland takes things to heart, like the goals of Mississauga's Clean City Committee. And she's infamous for going to great lengths to make her point.

The ward 2 councillor was appalled one day last week when a passing motorist tossed two banana peels out his car window onto the road. Incensed, Marland stopped her own car, retrieved the banana peels and set off in hot pursuit of the litterbug.

Catching up to the car at a stop sign, she leapt from her car and threw the offending peels back at the startled wrongdoer through the open window.

Actions, says Marland in retrospect, speak louder than words.



Marland a-peels