

Nurses accept contract, layoffs are predicted

All of Peel's 53 public health nurses returned to work this morning following approval of a new contract agreement reached Friday in an all-day bargaining session with a provincially-appointed mediator.

They had been on strike for one week starting June 14, followed by a five-week lockout. Nurses belonging to Local 61 of the Ontario Nurses Association voted Monday

morning to accept the agreement and 18 returned to work by 1 p.m. that same day to get Peel's community health services back in operation, according to Local 61 spokesman Julie Wheeler.

The Peel Board of Health voted yesterday afternoon to accept the agreement but board chairman Ron Searle told The Times before the meeting that the cost of the settlement would probably

lead to the layoff of between 10 and 15 nurses. The offer the nurses accepted grants voluntary arbitration to lower level salary increments. The main issue of

compulsory arbitration on all levels came off the board. In recent conversations, with the ministry of health, Searle asked for reconsideration of Peel's position so that enough funds can be made available to keep staff reductions to a minimum.

"Unfortunately, the more money the nurses demanded and got, the fewer of them would continue working," he said. "It is a tragedy to reduce community health services because money spent on preventive health care is really a saving rather than an expense."

Searle noted that Peel had shown it was different from other health boards in the province in that it continues to offer high quality preventive health care services in the fastest-growing municipality in Canada at one of the lowest per capita costs.

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CVCA fires manager of waterfront plan

By JOHN STEWART

George Biro, the project manager of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's waterfront plan, was fired yesterday.

Biro was handed a letter from general manager Harry Watson informing him that his contract with the authority was being terminated immediately. There were no reasons given for the dismissal, although there was a reference to clause six of Biro's employment contract. It is an all-encompassing clause allowing either the authority or Biro to cancel the contract with three months' notice.

The project manager, who was hired to try and cut the red tape with Queen's

Park and finally get the waterfront scheme going, was given three months' pay. He was told not to come in again after yesterday and to return all maps, documents, plans and keys in his possession to the authority.

Biro said yesterday he was caught off-guard by the action. "There was no reason given. I was just handed a letter."

CVCA chairman Grant Clarkson said yesterday that the only official comment from the authority would be "no comment." He said the decision to terminate the contract with Biro's company, Magic Management, was made at an in camera executive meeting Monday night. The executive un-

animously supported the action.

The chairman also indicated that the authority had been advised by its lawyer not to make public the reasons for the dismissal.

On several instances in the past, Clarkson has made reference to communication problems between Biro, the general manager and himself. He said at a meeting just this week that he felt the communication on the waterfront plan has not been very good at the authority.

Asked if the tendering of landscaping at Port Credit Park had anything to do with the dismissal, Clarkson refused to comment. The water management advisory board

was discussing the tendering Monday night when chairman Ken Whillans, who had attended the earlier executive meeting, suddenly asked that the meeting go in camera. The board was then informed of Biro's dismissal.

A complaint was received from the second low bidder on the landscaping contract. He complained that the low bid had been accepted by Biro after 2 p.m. last Wednesday, the deadline for submissions.

Clarkson said he did not believe the reasons for Biro's dismissal would ever become public. A resolution passed by the executive committee stated only that the contract with Biro's management company would be terminated. The chairman said that there has been no determination of how Biro will be replaced. General manager Watson will handle the waterfront plan on an interim basis.

This latest dismissal comes after a series of staff problems at the authority. Last year, conservation services director Gus Ribeiro and land use planner Scott Cline both resigned. Then in December, environmental planner Michael McCartney and project co-ordinator Steve Shawcross were fired. They were told budget constraints caused their dismissal.

Ribeiro, McCartney and Shawcross all criticized the authority for not considering technical advice from staff seriously enough. They felt the authority did not put enough emphasis on long-term development of policies

and was being overwhelmed by the urbanization of the watershed without sufficient policy statements to protect the environment.

None of the firings to date have been authorized beforehand by the full authority. The general manager has the power to fire and hire staff as he wishes.

McCartney said yesterday that "you could see it (Biro's dismissal) coming. It was only a matter of time until they got rid of him. He was the only one of the original group left."

"They pushed Scott and Gus into resigning. They finally found an excuse to fire Steve and myself and now they've found an excuse to fire George."

McCartney said Biro's dismissal was "just amazing — there's no other word to describe it." The former CVCA employee, now with the provincial ministry of natural resources, says the loss of technical staff is especially disturbing to him because of the vulnerability of the Credit watershed which he described as "beautiful."

Watson said yesterday afternoon that he foresaw no problems in handling the waterfront plan because of the firing. He said the 6-0 executive recommendation would probably go to the full conservation authority at its meeting in September.

Before then the management committee will meet, probably in camera, to determine how the waterfront plan should be handled now.

City asks mayor to give charges leading to probe

By JOHN STEWART

City council will ask Mayor Martin Dobkin to outline the original nine allegations which "persuaded him to call the (judicial) inquiry."

However, they will ask Dobkin to use fictitious rather than real names. After a two-hour council meeting Monday, filled with the bitterness which has come to surround the inquiry issue, council decided in a 5-2 vote to ask Dr. Dobkin to reveal the secret allegations. The inquiry was quashed by the Ontario Supreme Court because it did not particularize specific charges under section 240 of the Ontario Municipal Act.

Council also decided Monday to ask the provincial attorney-general to return all of the inquiry files to the city solicitor. The material includes both the original allegations and the Ontario Provincial Police investigation based on the information by Judge Ray Stortini that further allegations warranted investigation. Councillor Ron

Searle said again Monday that all allegations had been proven untrue.

Although council approved two sections of the final motion put by Searle, they defeated a suggestion that another judicial inquiry might be called. Searle wanted an outside counsel (J.J. Robinette's name was frequently mentioned) to examine the inquiry files along with city solicitor Basil Clark. They would also examine the affidavit by Dr. Dobkin's former executive assistant Dr. Gordon Watt which suggested the inquiry may have called the mayor for political gain. Then the pair of lawyers would recommend whether a proper inquiry under Section 240 would be called, with particular charges.

That motion was defeated 3-4. In favor of investigating the new inquiry were Councillors Searle, Chic Murray and Caye Killaby. Opposed were Councillors David Culham, Mary Helen Spence, Frank McKechnie and Hubert Wolf.

The motion to reveal the allegations on a John Doe basis was passed 5-2 with Councillors Wolf and McKechnie opposed.

Dr. Dobkin said after the meeting that he would consult his lawyer about the possibility of answering the motion. But he pointed out that it is not necessary to reveal a person's name to be subject to libel or slander. It was because Dr. Dobkin could be sued for libel, if the allegations were not true, that he and city solicitor Basil Clark recommended the inquiry April 28, 1975 without specific charges.

Dr. Dobkin also said Monday that he believed the public "has to know on what basis I made the judgment to recommend the inquiry to council." But he said that could not be done while he, Councillor Hazel McCallion, lawyers Joseph Pomeroy and Noel Bates and builder Jan Davies are being sued for \$900,000 in a civil suit. Ward 3 Councillor Chic Murray and

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Portuguese honor saints

Thousands of Portuguese thronged the streets of Mississauga during the weekends of July 17 and 24 to honor the saints of their heritage. Streetsville's Portuguese celebrated the first weekend for the Lady of Good Voyage, the Azorite saint who calmed the stormy Atlantic for a Portuguese fisherman, with a candlelight procession Saturday evening winding up with mass at St. Joseph's school, dancing in the Vic Johnson arena, and first communions on Sunday morning followed by

bazaars, more masses and feasting. Last weekend Cawthra area Portuguese celebrated the festival of Salvador Do Mundo — Lisbon's Savior of the World, with dancing, bazaars and Sunday morning communion with a 4 p.m. parade followed by mass attended by Mississauga's only priest to deliver masses in the native language, Father Eduardo Resendes. More feasting followed.

Firm to study another dump site

Despite calls for a private engineering firm to "bow out gracefully" from a study of the newly-proposed garbage dump site in northwestern Mississauga (Site B) because of alleged "prejudice," regional council has given Proctor and Redfern Ltd. the go-ahead to proceed with preliminary feasibility study.

Mississauga Mayor Martin Dobkin and Councillors Mary Helen Spence and Hazel McCallion all argued that Proctor and Redfern had shown a clear preference for the controversial Site 4 in the

middle of Mississauga's "hole-in-the-doughnut" south of Britannia Road on the Second Line West. In so doing they reasoned that the firm had prejudiced itself against the back-up site proposed by Mississauga council, Site B located in the northwest 400 acres of land of an 1,100 acre site between the Ninth and Tenth Lines just south of Britannia Road.

"We have to find a garbage dump site quickly and I don't want to hold it up," Mayor Dobkin said. "I wouldn't object to the region processing Site 4 if the region would also work on another site that might prove just as good — if we can be sure of that, some of Mississauga council would go along with it."

He added that no one knew yet if Site B near the Oakville border was a good enough site for a full regional sanitary landfill operation but if it turns out to be as good as the politically unpopular Site 4, then "we want to be able to switch."

Dobkin said he felt Proctor and Redfern was not the best choice to carry out the preliminary study of Site B because it had passed it over on their first search for acceptable sites.

Councillors feel plan may become political football

By JOHN STEWART

Several members of council are afraid that the delay in completing Mississauga's Official Plan Review will make the review a political football during the municipal election campaign this fall.

City planner Russ Edmunds presented a report this week to general committee explaining the reasons for the delay and giving a revised schedule.

Under the new timetable, the draft official plan will be presented to council in early September, to the public in October and will be approved by the city in draft form by the end of November.

Municipal elections take place Dec. 6. "It's unfortunate that this is going to be before the public just prior to an election," commented Streetsville's Hazel McCallion. "I feel it's a most inappropriate time to be dealing with this."

Mrs. McCallion felt it would become a "serious" political football and feared that "we won't get the kind of official plan the dollars we've spent warrant."

Edmunds said he saw no conflict between the election and the review and was hesitant about shortening the schedule, especially if it

meant reducing the time allotted for input from the public. Mayor Martin Dobkin said he didn't anticipate any

problems. He said the city had already adopted official plan goals and objectives, was well on its way to a downtown core

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Separate board may take fight for grants to court

By GREG SNOW

The Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board wants higher grants from the province for its 700 Grade 9 and 10 students and may go to the courts to get it.

Under Ontario legislation, all separate schools are legally considered elementary and, as such, even Grade 9 and 10 students in the system receive only elementary grants from the province.

The difference is about \$420 per student. The grant limit is \$1500 on secondary students and \$1080 on elementary.

"In our opinion this discrepancy in the grant structure is an injustice because costs are greater for secondary school students than elementary. The grant structure should be equalized," said board chairman Bob Hall.

The board has received a letter from its solicitor, Joseph Markson, which concurs with that opinion. Markson sought out other expert opinion before sending the letter.

According to Vice-Chairman Gerry Meehan, the letter says the board has grounds for approaching the Human Rights Commission because the grant system is discriminatory and that Markson also thinks the Supreme Court decision which ruled all separate schools to be elementary could be overturned.

The letter was considered in an in camera session of the board and will be made public at the next regular meeting.

"The matter will be considered by the board and then referred to the action committee. Any further steps will be taken in conjunction with the Separate School Trustees Association," said Hall.

He added that "the board was not anticipating any immediate action."



Wrong turn

A family whose property backs on Southdown Road near the QEW had an unexpected visitor during breakfast on Tuesday. At eight in the morning this large transport was unable to stop for a red light, struck a compact car in the intersection, careened across the road, smashed through a row of trees and finally stopped 40 feet from the house. The owner of the house said she was having her morning coffee when she

thought she heard something fall off a truck. When she looked out the window the truck was coming into the yard. The driver of the car, Elaine Clarkson of 1515 Swannage Rd., was taken to Mississauga Hospital with undetermined minor injuries. Ivan Smart of St. Catharines was the driver of the truck owned by Fairway Leasing in St. Catharines. He was uninjured.

Times photo by RON POZZER