

Streetsville aims

By NANCY ENRIGHT

Streetsville may have a downtown mall within the next year or two similar to Oakville's street mall which runs until June 30, according to ward nine councillor Hazel McCallion.

"It was always our ultimate objective to make part of the downtown area a pedestrian oriented core for a certain time of the year," Mrs. McCallion said.

"The problem right now is the regional road system. Until we can discourage truck traffic through Streetsville, and divert the main north-south traffic along Erin Mills Parkway, a mall isn't feasible. But it is certainly our intent to have a mall, especially if Erin Mills Parkway becomes an expressway without any bottlenecks," she said.

The Streetsville mall would be on an experimental basis, like the current Oakville mall.

The three block area of Oakville's summer mall, from Dunn to Navy Streets on Lakeshore Road, opened on June 16. If successful, the mall will be expanded to an adjacent section in 1975, with the anticipated goal being a complete downtown mall in 1976.

"Sixty per cent in dollars of the actual physical materials used in the mall will be returned to the town of Oakville," according to mall coordinator Ron Cooksley.

Natural materials such as flower planters and tile bench components were donated by the National Sewer Company and will be returned for further use by the company after June 30.

Oakville high school students worked in the rain last Monday evening setting up the mall and horticultural students from General Wolfe high school planted flowers and shrubs, donated by Sheridan and Clargreen Nurseries, as a class project. About 80 students were employed in the mall's construction.



Hundreds of residents braved threatening skies to attend the official opening of Oakville's downtown summer mall. The mall, which spreads over a three block area from Dunn to Navy streets, will be open until June 30.

..while Oakville experiment favourable

Merchants along the Oakville mall core are generally in favor of the summer mall, although some are complaining that lack of parking facilities is hurting business.

Harry Van Setten, owner of Continental Pastry, thinks the mall is "tremendous" and that it is definitely helping business.

With the store operating both inside and outside with a sidewalk cafe, Van Setten says they are extremely busy.

"People who don't usually come downtown because they live in North Oakville and the shopping malls will come down here and see our restaurant," according to Peter Skretas,

Valley projects encroach creek: CVCA

Developer Bruce McLaughlin "got away with murder" in the Mississauga Valleys project in planning buildings close to water-courses, says the CVCA's director of conservation services.

Mrs. Sheila Watson told the Conservation Authority Thursday that the plans for the development were approved by Mississauga before the Authority had the types of controls on subdivision plans which it has now.

"As far as I'm concerned there's also a school in the floodplain area there," Mrs. Watson said adding that in one portion of the Cooksville Creek it appeared that 11 houses could be flooded out in a heavy rainstorm.

"They can put a subdivision plan on 1,000 acres and there's no time limit on when they have to develop," Mrs. Watson went on, "They can put in a huge plan by building a section every year."

"If they were submitting the same plan now it would never be approved," she said. "All we can do is put pressure on because they're going to want to submit more plans again."

The director of conservation services explained that building permits are all that is required for some structures planned dangerously close to the creek.

Alec Raeburn of Caledon described the distance between some buildings and the creek as "only a stone's throw away." He was on a recent walk along the creek arranged by Mayor Martin Dobkin.

"There are only certain things we can do within the law," pointed out Mrs. Watson. She said if the Conservation Authority wanted to comment on the construction or require changes it could only do so when the houses are sold.

"That's just a little late," remarked Mrs. Hazel McCallion, councillor for ward nine in the city.

owner of Oliver's Steak House and Tavern.

"If they don't come in right away, they might remember our restaurant and come back for dinner another time," Skretas said.

Skretas' main concern is that the mall be extended to last from six weeks to three months instead of 16 days.

"If they had it longer next year, I would like to get a license to operate an outdoor cafe with tables and umbrellas like they have in Europe," he said.

Due to the restaurant's location near the corner of Lakeshore and Navy Streets, Skretas feels that parking isn't a problem.

"They don't have to walk that far and I think it's a pleasure to walk through the mall with all the flowers."

The lack of parking facilities near the mall area has definitely hurt Hennessey's Cigar Store, according to owner Pat MacLean.

"I'd like to know where all my morning clientele have gone. I suspect they're down where all the parking is. With my type of business, people are in and out and don't look around. The mall isn't helping my business, but I don't have anything against it, other than the parking," she said.

The manager of T.N.T. Surplus Stores, A. Fraser, feels the mall is a "nice idea" but that free parking should have been provided by the town.

The store is close to Navy Street where cars aren't allowed to park or stop.

Fraser also thinks that the mall should last up to two months, "especially when all the high school kids did such a beautiful job constructing the mall."

Tom Marquette, of Jack Fraser Men's Store, believes

negative response to the mall, claiming that the sidewalk sale never benefited the store before.

"We're getting mixed feelings from our customers, mainly because of the parking," the manager said.

"In our type of business, where we can't really put on a sidewalk sale, and only stay open one evening a week, the mall doesn't help," she said.

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