

Comment

The Mississauga Times

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Dubious justice for Peel

Judge Durham rides again. In one of the most unbelievably drawn out power struggles between the courts and local government, Peel Family Court Judge Warren Durham has once again shown his distrust and dislike for dealing with the Peel Children's Aid Society (CAS).

During the past three years, Judge Durham has ridden roughshod over regional taxpayers. Because he chose not to use the CAS in dealing with troubled youngsters brought before his court, Judge Durham instead sent them directly into group homes and ordered Peel to pick up 100 per cent of the \$37-a-day tab. There are 57 such children from Peel in group homes around the province today.

But earlier this spring, Peel won a major victory in Ontario Supreme Court. The court found that Durham and other family court judges did not have the right under the Juvenile Delinquent Act to send these children into the homes and order us to pay. The decision meant the

saving of millions of dollars of local tax money.

Instead, if the children were first handed over to the custody of CAS, the provincial government would pay 80 per cent of the daily cost of then placing them in group homes.

But a supreme court decision wasn't about to stop Judge Durham from expressing his dislike for dealing with CAS. Last Tuesday, using a loophole in the Juvenile Delinquent Act, he put a 15-year-old girl into the custody of an employee of Viking Homes who then, in turn, stuck the child into a Viking home in Kingston.

Peel has correctly decided to appeal his decision.

The fact that a public servant can continue to ignore both the wishes of the community and the Ontario Supreme Court while claiming some superior ability to assess the needs of troubled youngsters is an insult to both Peel's CAS and its social services department.

Councillors more equal?

One of the definitions of a quorum in the Webster's dictionary is "a select group or company."

Some Mississauga councillors want to make the select company in the city even more select. Recently, general committee reversed a decision by the recreation committee that six members, whether they be councillors or citizen members, be the quorum for meetings.

The politicians wanted to make sure that at least three of their members were on hand before any official business could be conducted.

If the city truly values the input of the citizens it names to committees, then surely those members must have equal status at the committee level with councillors. The citizens know that they are only sitting on an advisory body and realize council can do as it wishes with their recommendations.

But within the confines of committee deliberations, there should be absolutely no difference in stature, voting

power or anything else between citizens and councillors.

The recreation committee has asked general committee to reconsider its policy. General committee should also ask the planning committee to change its rules as well.

At planning committee meetings, there must also be a certain number of councillors to form a quorum. There is already more than enough political input into the planning process. If councillors cannot attend meetings, they have no one to blame but themselves.

It would not be a tragedy if no councillors showed up at a planning session. The citizen members would not take the opportunity to recommend the city be dismantled, and even if they did, councillors must still endorse the recommendation.

If Mississauga's citizen participation on committees is to be more than lip service to equality, there should be no distinction between councillors and citizens in making up quorums for meetings.



Reader says guns are as "easy to buy as toothpaste."

Government still stalling on sensible gun laws

It has been 2½ years now since a young Vancouver department store employee was shot to death at night by a 14-year-old who had broken into the store. A little over two years ago, the bloodbath at a Brampton high school occurred. It has been almost two years since an Ottawa student went on a similar violent rampage. Despite the uproar following each incident and the demands for more sensible gun laws, absolutely nothing has changed.

Legislation was introduced, then withdrawn. A new, much watered-down bill has recently been introduced in the House of Commons, but it is doubtful that even this piece of mild, sensible legislation will become law.

The government won't admit that it is stalling on

this matter because of very strong pressures from gun-lovers. The gun people won't admit, or perhaps don't realize it, but they have allowed themselves to be easily manipulated like sheep by very powerful international and American forces who keep their connections to this Canadian issue well hidden.

And finally, all the good, sensible people who agree that we need better gun laws and better gun education have done next to nothing to support the cause.

They have falsely taken for granted that these changes will somehow mysteriously come of themselves, or else they have foolishly deceived themselves that they can do nothing. More letters and calls of support to MPs from concerned

citizens could have made the needed changes a reality by now.

Despite the many violent gun incidents that have occurred in recent years, guns are still as easy

Turn the dump into rec area

I am a resident in an apartment building, below Sheridan Mall, which overlooks the almost-filled garbage dump on North Sheridan Way.

If ever there was an area in Mississauga that required recreational space, it is in the Sheridan Mall area. Why then has the City of Mississauga not tried to develop this dump land for public recreational use.

to buy as toothpaste. Hundreds of thousands are being sold every year with hardly any controls on who sells or buys them. This should not be allowed to continue.

Stephen Jalsevac

The land sits vacant, seeping with liquid garbage and methane gas.

I urge every member of the public to start complaining to the city and to those who represent them to have this land cleaned up, bicycle and pedestrian pathways put in and other recreational facilities developed.

Mrs. K. Dawson, Mississauga

Columnist's remarks rapped

I am writing in an attempt to clarify certain remarks which appeared in a column written by John Stewart in the June 8 issue of The Times. After reading "Kennedy's Longevity," I am not exactly sure whether Stewart's words were presented in defence of, or in opposition to, the gentleman who has devoted the past 10 years of his life to the service of the residents of Mississauga South in the provincial legislature.

Your columnist speaks of the "enormous dedication to Kennedy" and if this be so, surely Doug Kennedy has done something to earn that trust.

What does upset me, however, is Mr. Stewart's remark that he received a press release "from the chairman of the 150th Anniversary Committee of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Dixie. It seems Doug recently addressed the congregation and, as a little push for his campaign, the press release was prepared."

Utter nonsense, Mr. Stewart. First of all, I did not address the press release to you, nor to anyone else in particular. I thought maybe either Diane Reinhart or Connie Rae might have dealt with it since, I understand, they are responsible for community news of this nature on your paper.

Secondly, the Kennedys have been a part of our church history from the early 1800s and as a representative of that family "Doug" was approached in the autumn of 1976, long before last week's election was even considered, and he accepted our invitation to speak on May 29th of our anniversary year.

Being involved in the midst of a re-election campaign, Mr. Kennedy might

have felt justified in requesting that the anniversary committee reschedule his visit — after all, the church is not even in his riding — but he fulfilled his commitment to us and his sermon was appreciated by all who heard it.

I later prepared the press release for delivery to our two local newspapers (neither one of which carried it) and if Mr. Stewart had bothered to check, he would have discovered that news releases have been issued to your paper following visits to our church this year by Bishop Garnsworthy, Archdeacon Wilkinson, Rev. Reginald

Stackhouse, Rt. Rev. Edward Scott, who is the Anglican Primate, and Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon. We have other visitors scheduled and more press releases will be on their way. I thought one of the purposes of a community newspaper was to keep citizens informed on what was happening in their city.

The church and its organizations are not involved in pushing anyone's campaign. Obviously, that is not our purpose, nor does Doug Kennedy need it.

On a more personal note, old-timers in the area will tell you that I

come from a long line of good Liberals and have worked for at least half a dozen Liberal candidates over the years. My father was once president of a local Liberal association and participated in a parade of celebration following the election of Mitchell Hepburn a good many years ago.

But for the past couple of provincial elections, I have had the opportunity to support Doug Kennedy. That has nothing to do with the church I attend or an anniversary program I helped to create. I may, in fact, have voted to support our own heritage — and in that, John Stewart, you are probably correct.

Frederick M. Keteheh, Chairman, 150th Anniversary Committee, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Dixie.

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City bus system under fire

In the last few months, I have been a regular rider of the Mississauga Transit system. I'm very unhappy to say that I'm not pleased with the attitude of some drivers and the service to the Lakeshore area.

I am an employee at Square One and live at 480 Lakeshore Rd. E. I usually take Route 14 or Route 2 South to the Lakeshore. I then must wait for anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes, or walk three miles to home. Should I reach the Lakeshore and meet a west-bound bus, the driver will accept my transfer, but demands a further 50 cents once he turns at the Pine Avenue terminus. I don't begrudge the driver his wages, as any public service job is trying at times, but when I ask for a schedule and get, "The same as the old TTC Route," or when I ask if bus "A" will connect with bus "B", I don't expect to be told, "If you're lucky."

One evening in winter I left Square One at 9:50 p.m. and arrived at home at 11:45 p.m., having stood

most of that time awaiting a connection. That is quite disgusting. We would like to think of our city as free from crime, but 40 minutes on a street corner in sub-zero weather could be an invitation to any mishap.

Again, about the service in question: Why should it be necessary to travel five miles by transit to go one and one quarter miles from home? My four-year-old son was registered for swim lessons at Cawthra Park Secondary School and I felt it was a bit of a walk for a child of four. When I enquired about bus service, I was told to go west on Lakeshore (Route 23) to transfer at Elizabeth Street to the Cawthra Line, which meant, again, not only time but miles in difference.

I can appreciate that Mississauga is still a growing city, but how about having some of the city or transit planners start travelling by public transit or wake up to the needs of this city. I've talked about this with friends, com-

plained verbally to the Mississauga Transit and am willing to take up a petition if it will improve our service. I have the support of many Lakeshore-

MRS. LINDA VALADE

'Lowest of the low'

I am fully aware that the public is warned not to send cash by mail. I am also fully aware that many redeemable coupons are paid by firms sending coins through the mail in cardboard coin holders.

Having said all that, let me tell you about a little note which grandpa wrote to his three-year-old granddaughter, addressed to her, personally: "Dear Andrea: We found your 28 cents from the birthday cake. It was on a dining room chair. Love, grandpa." The coins were taped to cardboard, folded over, so that there was no indication of the contents, except perhaps that the envelope might have been a trifle heavier than normal.

The envelope arrived at its destination —

area residents and schools. I'm writing this plea to you upon recommendation from Mississauga Transit.

Mississauga to Bramalea — completely empty, having been neatly slit at one end and the note and coins removed.

You lowliest of low out there, whoever you are, do you know what you have done? You have smeared the reputations of thousands of honest, diligent fellow Post Office workers who would scorn to stoop to such petty theft. You have cast suspicion on the entire Canadian Post Office system. You have down-graded still further your own union, which already has an unenviable reputation.

I was going to say something about your conscience, but anyone who steals 28 cents from a little girl has no conscience and is beyond hope. MARY TEDDER