

FELT PENS THEIR FATE

SWEEP kids loose rainy day respites

Fifty-three SWEEP students, who usually get rainy days off with pay, will be spending future periods of inclement weather marking the scenic route, on 26,000 map brochures prepared incorrectly for the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

CVCA manager Harry Watson says the Credit Valley scenic route is not legible and that "it looks as if the farmers got a little close to the Orangeville Reservoir with their spreaders."

The SWEEP (Students in an Environmental Enhancement Program) group will also use their felt pens to mark legends on the maps.

Esqueing Township Reeve Tom Hill is pressing for more information about the error. He asked CVCA chairman Roy McMillan why the information and education committee hadn't noticed the problem on the printer's proofs.

"Based on the information they had before them, the brochures appeared to be

quite satisfactory," McMillan replied. He said neither he nor the Authority manager had seen the proofs. Two closed meetings were held by the information and education advisory board when the error was discovered.

Hill complained that "if the printer didn't offer to do it over free of charge it must

have been our fault." "Well," replied the chairman, "let's just say that maybe there was fault on both sides."

McMillan added that the firm had offered to reprint the brochures at a cost of \$1,100. The original cost was \$2,100.

The plan to use the SWEEP students will mean that "we will have the maps almost the way we wanted them, for less cost than we originally expected," McMillan said.

Answering a question from a member asking how long it would take to "get rid" of the brochures, the chairman said one-and-a-half or two years.

Motorcyclist injured

An 18-year-old Mississauga boy is in the intensive care unit at Mississauga Hospital with a ruptured spleen and

multiple injuries after his motorcycle crashed Saturday.

Brian Bell, of 3510 Ashcroft Cres., lost control of his bike as he was driving along Forestwood Drive at about 1:43 a.m. Saturday.



"The girls at first thought it was a bit weird but they soon got used to us," admits Cliff Renfrew, 14, (right). He and Collin Perreire are among five boys enrolled in summer school Bachelor of Survival credit Course at Glenforest Secondary.



Write on!

By Frank Touby

It's getting too easy to ruin someone's neighbourhood in Mississauga.

Take the situation in Lorne Park as an example. In the rough triangle bordered by South Sheridan Way, Mississauga Road and Indian Road the zoning is R-2 under the Official Plan.

That allows for spacious houses on large lots. But along comes a pair of developers. Now any developer worthy of the name knows you can't make as big a buck throwing up houses on large lots as you can on smaller lots. More lots means more houses means more bucks.

It also means degradation of the neighbourhood by planting more concrete and unplanning more green space.

So the developer presents the town with a plan to get the zoning changed so he can make more money. He asks town council to make life a little worse for residents so he can make a lot more money.

And town council too often goes along. More houses means more people and more people means higher status for a politician — he's an official of a big town instead of a small town.

What good is the Official Plan? You can't trust it because your friendly neighbourhood politician may very well change it to accommodate a developer. And most of the changes going on in Mississauga today are decidedly worse for the people those politicians represent.

That was so obvious in the Lorne Park case.

The neighbourhood is strictly R-2 on the Official Plan. There is no benefit to anyone but the developer in changing the zoning.

The people who live in the area and vote for the politicians said they don't want the Official Plan changed at all.

But the developers had gone through all the trouble and expense of plotting bigger profits for themselves at the residents' expense. Councillors can't let them go away completely empty-handed when they've made such a valiant effort.

So even though there was no conceivable excuse for them to do so, your town councillors voted to degrade the neighbourhood in spots from R-2 to R-3.

One council member said that should be done because he'd "hate to see them go to the OMB and bring in townships in that area."

Bull!

The OMB doesn't punish towns for turning down senseless spot-zoning requests by forcing even worse developments on them.

Councillors will turn down the ridiculous request for rezoning to allow a "mall-type" strip plaza, but don't be amazed if they compromise by letting the developer slip in a "milk store."

And don't bet that the gas station will be turned down by council, even though there is one abandoned in the area.

The residents have to defend themselves against ruinous changes and most likely compromise by accepting some of the changes.

Why the hell should it be that way?

The system is screwed up and the politicians aren't helping it.

Mississauga councillors aren't really bad guys. In fact it's a better council than most towns can hope for.

But they're caught up in the growth frenzy that could turn this area into a cramped, over-populated and vastly inferior imitation of Toronto.

Nobody wants that. But I'm afraid that things are going to get a lot worse before — if ever — they get better.

Bit by bit, Mississauga council is voting to ruin this place.

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