

**The Times** Mississauga

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## Our man 'Bob'

Mississauga Mayor Robert Speck, known simply as "Bob" among Peel political leaders and a good slice of citizenry, took his hardest stand in 16 years of public service last week.

He allowed doctors to substitute the heart of Richard Woniewicz, a 14-year-old Toronto boy critically injured in a subway accident, for his own ailing heart.

Only Speck knows how difficult the decision was.

Essentially it was a case of maintaining a fairly static lifestyle or gambling for the chance of better health.

Speck, while speaking to a Times reporter a month ago in a telephone interview, was asked a hard but necessary question.

"Are you awaiting a donor for a heart transplant operation?"

He partially exposed a carefully guarded secret. When caught off-guard he answered: "I can neither confirm nor deny that. I will do what my doctors advise me to do."

Speck has been missed in his position as mayor. Although council has pulled smoothly in his absence, the personal touch he brought to any conflict or difference of opinion was sadly lacking.

It is ironic, at the same time, that publicity surrounding the dangerous transplant operation was an extension of his greatest contribution to the town — namely his ability to promote Mississauga throughout Canada, and in some cases the United States.

He has participated in several organizations outside the sphere of Mississauga. He served as president of the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves and has sat on the Toronto Planning Board.

In strictly public relations related service he has endorsed the town at exhibitions in New York City and other leading centres of commerce.

It is still not known whether Robert Speck will return to civic duties.

Recuperation from such an operation takes time. Checking and double-checking could last six months.

Depending on the outcome of the next few critical months Speck will face another tough choice — whether to return to the rigors of municipal office or call it quits.

The Times does not wish to bias his decision or the desire of the public with opinion.

We can only wish him a speedy recovery.

## Take a taxi!

There's a fellow we know who hosts an annual New Year's Eve party—a bash to be specific.

And each year as guests arrive for the festivities he greets them at the front door with a large bowl, collecting car keys from those who are driving. The keys are stored safely away in a cupboard, the party begins and a good time is had by all.

At the end of the evening, the host who is a non-drinker himself, calls taxis for those of his visitors who appear unable to drive home safely. On New Year's morning he and his wife return their friends' cars.

The whole process may seem a bit overdone to some people but then our friend, the host, claims none of his guests has ever been involved in an accident—and he's been putting on such parties for almost 20 years.

Friday night is New Year's Eve and party time in Mississauga. To everyone we say, have a ball; but if you drink, don't drive — take a taxi. The result will be a safer and happier time for all... besides Mississauga's taxi drivers can use the business.

Happy New Year!

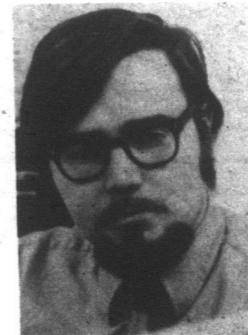


"looks like we're in for a good year!"

## Observations

The space on this page is normally reserved for the observations and comments of The Times' editorial staff. This week, the last date of publication in 1971, we thought we would turn things around and let you the reader make your own observations about us. Now that you know who we are

we'll expect to hear from you more often. If you see us on the street, don't be afraid to say hello. At the same time we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. (P. S. The photos on this page are available for framing or as you wish in convenient dart board sizes)



SID RODAWAY  
Reporter



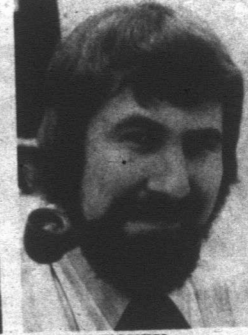
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