

## Council dumps study proposal

City councillors have dropped a study proposed by the previous council into the financial implications of Mississauga's withdrawing from the Region of Peel.

At a general committee meeting, council decided unanimously not to pursue the study, which was suggested by former councillor Chic Murray in response to a proposal by former mayor Martin Dobkin, to put a question on the ballot asking the public if they favored regional government.

Councillors Fred Hooper and Frank Leavers both spoke against the study, but suggested some report on duplication of services at the two levels be pursued.

Councillor Mary Helen Spence noted that the region's Bill 138 committee, formed last year to consider changes in regional legislation, had received a number of briefs about regional government. The brief from Mississauga was quite thorough, and included a number of positive recommendations, the Ward 2 councillor said.

"Unfortunately, most of the recommendations were not passed by the region," she said.

Councillor Hazel McCallion felt Ontario will make no significant changes in regional governments until several current reports, including the Hobart Commission report, are presented.

Mayor Ron Searle agreed that the Bill 138 committee "went absolutely nowhere." The motion on the financial implications of withdrawal was placed only so those councillors who favoured withdrawal could have information about the potential damage to the city, he explained.

It was unanimously agreed not to pursue the study.

## Walkway snow-removal agreement

Walkways leading to schools in Erin Mills and Meadowvale West will be cleaned by either the works or parks department, it has been agreed.

The park walkways have not been cleaned quickly in the past, resulting in difficulty for many schoolchildren. The traffic safety council have recommended to council that either the works or parks department do the job. The traffic council wanted the pathways to have at least the same priority for cleanup as sidewalks.

In a report, the recreation and parks commissioner, Ed Halliday, said his department can now remove snow from pathways between 24 and 48 hours after a storm, depending on the amount of snowfall. If council wants the job done within eight hours after a storm, it will cost an estimated \$6,700 this winter. It would cost an additional \$4,000 next fall.

To plow the entire 10 miles of path parkways in Mississauga within eight hours would cost \$35,000 a year.

City Engineer William Taylor said his department could clear the paths, but it would cost more money for contractors.

Councillor Harold Kennedy objected to the idea of having the works department clear the sidewalks and the parks department do the park pathways. When they are done at different times, there will be justified complaints from residents, he suggested. "Mr. Taylor and I will get together on this," commented Halliday. The two department heads will make a further report to council.

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## Fort fun

This is the season for snow forts. In fact, it's probably one of the best winters in a long time for building for snow forts. First, there's plenty of snow for construction, and second, it's plenty cold to keep it standing. Bradley King (left), 14, and Doug Martin, 12, have just put the final touches on their masterpiece. They're students at Valleys Senior Public School in Mississauga.

Times photo by RON POZZER

## Peel council okays Parsons' salary boost

By SID RODAWAY  
Lou Parsons, chairman of the Region of Peel, has had his promised salary raise to \$38,000 a year confirmed by the new regional council despite some protests that it should stay at the originally proposed \$35,000 mark.

In addition to the \$38,000 salary, Parsons will get \$4,000 to cover expenses and use of a free car.

The region will hold back \$400 annually to cover "his personal use of the car."

First appointed to the chairmanship by the provincial

government in 1973, Parsons was elected for the job for the first time at the 1977-78 regional council's inaugural session on Jan. 6. No one else sought the position.

In 1973, the salary was set by the province at \$27,500 a year. At that time, a Mississauga town councillor who also sat on the Peel County Council received a total remuneration of \$10,600 a year.

When the region was born and Mississauga became a city, both on Jan. 1, 1974, a

city councillor's total wage rose to \$20,000.

Since then, Parsons received a 10 per cent wage increase in October, 1974 and another \$2,400 increase last October.

In addition, he got \$2,400 in expense money and use of a car, bringing the total to around \$35,000 in cash.

On Dec. 16, regional councillors approved a \$38,000 salary for Parsons and increased the expense account to \$4,000 from \$2,400.

The final vote was 12 in favor and five opposed, with Mississauga Councillors Hazel

McCallion and Frank McKechnie among those against the increase.

Mrs. McCallion argued last Thursday, however, that the raise should not be confirmed by the new council because councillors "should set an example and hold salaries in line."

Larry Taylor, Mississauga Ward 4 councillor, said that while Parsons' job was certainly worth the \$38,000, he found it impossible to vote for pay raises at the top when social programs at the bottom may have to go begging in 1977.

He added that while from a legal standpoint the Anti-Inflation Board guidelines did not apply in this case, there remained a moral commitment to keep expenditures down.

But Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle and Councillors Terry Butt and Frank Bean all argued that the last council had made a commitment to

Parsons and he had sought reelection to the chairmanship on that basis.

"You can't promise a man a raise and then take it away from him when he gets the job," Searle said.

In an interview, Parsons pointed out that he, as chairman, earned far less than several of the region's senior administrative staffers. Peel's chief administrative officer, Cyril Henderson, earns a reported \$47,000.

"I'm in the position where, as the senior executive officer in the region, I earn less than the men under me," Parsons said.

Parsons is not exactly in desperate need of the money. He is well off by any standards as a result of his former co-ownership of the successful Parsons-Taylor Real Estate firm in Port Credit.

But Parsons said that it was the principle involved. He argued that if the regional form of government expects to attract top men to top posts, it will have to pay them competitive wages with industry.

## NDP ready for election: Busby

"If Bill Davis wants to force an election on Ontario this year, that's fine with New Democrats," David Busby said Thursday night at the Mississauga North New Democratic Party's annual general meeting in the Malton Machinists' Hall.

Busby, the party's candidate in the last provincial election in Mississauga North, came out swinging in his speech to the membership.

"Mr. Davis will be serving notice to the people of our province that he wants to go back to the kind of pompous incompetence his government displayed in so many fields before 1975."

In the September, 1975 election Busby was narrowly edged out by Progressive Conservative Terry Jones. He has indicated he will run again in the next provincial election.

Busby, an Anglican priest, told the gathering that for the last 18 months the province has had a chance to look closely at the New Democrats. He claimed that "they have been a strong, effective, and united group of people who look equal to the task of managing Ontario."

He said that the job of the official opposition, "as the Liberals never realized," is to become an alternative government.

"Ontario does not have to fear that a change in government after a third of a century would bring chaos," Busby said. "On the contrary, it would open up a dusty, clogged bureaucratic maze to fresh ideas and sensible change."

In welcoming an election in 1977, Busby claimed that "the era of the covert coalition between Conservatives and corporate power is coming to an end."

## Semi Annual Storewide Sale

Twice a year we have our storewide sale when ALL STOCK merchandise is reduced a minimum of 10% to a maximum of 50%. Upholstery models listed are only some of the many Mueller models on display. Similar savings on dining room, bedroom, occasional lamps & accessories from quality manufacturers, such as Gibbard, Hekman, Kaufman, Malcolm, Simmons, Stiffel, Thomasville, Vilas and White.

### SOFAS By MUELLER

2253½	87"	Tuxedo traditional, cut velvet, copper and gold, down back cushions, valance.	1130	695.
6610	78"	Contemporary loose back cushion, Lawson-wellness seat & down-down back cushions — roll Lawson arm — no valance.	1260	882.
6553	93"	Tuxedo traditional, 3 seat and 3 loose back cushions — bolsters — valance — copper on beige floral fabric.	1412	945.
6611	81"	Contemporary camel back English style, exposed stretcher base — single buttoned knife edge seat cushions — bolsters — multicolor tapestry.	1089	759.
6320	88"	Exclusive Tuxedo Traditional style with three Terylene filled back cushions and arm bolsters, spring edge, valance fabric textured damask — blue pattern on brown satin background.	1679	1175.
6453½	78"	High back traditional, three semi-attached back cushions, Spring edge, valance, fabric — unusual patchwork quilt type print in green-copper-gold.	880	495.

### MATCHMAKER SOFAS By MUELLER

6355	84"	Tuxedo traditional, shaped knife edge back cushions, valance, multi-color tapestry.	901	595.
6535	81"	Semi-attached shaped back cushions, Lawson arm, valance, spring edge, fabric — Eggshell, gold & blue stripe damask plus eggshell, gold, copper and olive striped damask.	945	659.
6342	81"	Traditional foam cap arm, three loose terylene filled back cushions, valance, spring edge, fabric — flame stitch pattern; multicolor, gold predominant.	945	659.
6354	78"	Traditional high back, three semi-attached back cushions, spring edge, valance, fabric — dark brown Green print with copper-gold-eggshell floral pattern, one side seat and back cushion outline quilted.	959	669.

### 2 PIECE SUITES (SOFA & CHAIR)

Cooper	2 pc.	80" Sofa, traditional, foam cap arm, curved front and back, three loose back cushions, terylene filled, soft edge, fabric — multicolor brocade.	1150	995.
Mueller	84"	High back (35") Traditional, semi-attached buttoned back, spring edge, valance, 2 pieces, 2 in stock. Style 6451-6453½.	1237	795.

### BARRYMORE

2439	86"	Buttoned roll arm Tuxedo style, three loose back cushions, down filled, spring edge, valance, stripe velvet in green.	1546	1295.
2047	73"	Shaped knife-edge buttoned terylene-filled back, spring edge, valance. Textured damask — gold on eggshell satin.	985	795.
2393	85"	Traditional, loose back cushions, shaped ends, down arm pillows, spring edge, valance. Special imported chenille type velvet.	1369	1195.

### OTHER SOFAS

Cooper	90"	Luxurious Traditional sofa with 3 knife edge back cushions, arm bolsters, jacquard velvet in orange-beige and brown colour.	1323	995.
Import	86"	Traditional tuxedo, three loose back cushions, arm bolsters, valance, spring edge, fabric — Green print — Dark blue background with olive-gold-persimmon bed scene with co-ordinated cushion borders and valance.	1100	895.
Import	86"	Traditional high back, semi-attached buttoned one piece style terylene filled. Shaped front, spring edge, valance, fabric — green gold textured damask.	1050	795.
Vilas	82"	Traditional Tuxedo style, loose cushion (four terylene filled back cushions) with four arm bolsters. Two wellness buttoned seat cushions, spring edge, valance, fabric — copper-olive-gold & eggshell striped velvet.	962	795.
Pine	72"	Perth Model — exposed pine frame, three loose seat and back cushions — multicolor print.	500	399.
Vilas	72"	Exposed maple frame — three loose seat and back cushions — multicolor plaid.	495	399.

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## City urged to lead way in controlling spending during vote campaigns

By JOHN STEWART  
Mississauga, "which must have led Ontario in election campaign spending, should now lead the province in controlling spending," a city councillor said this week.

Councillor Hazel McCallion made the comment in proposing council endorse a Private Member's Bill which would limit municipal campaign expenditures and make contributors public. The bill has been proposed by MPP Michael Cassidy (NDP, Ottawa-Carleton).

Mrs. McCallion put a motion endorsing the bill with the additional provision that contributions be considered a tax credit, as is done in provincial and federal elections where there are campaign spending restrictions.

"I think the declaration of campaign funds is extremely important to council and the public," remarked Mrs. McCallion.

Most councillors supported the idea of campaign limits in principle. Councillor Harold Kennedy suggested the idea could be incorporated in a Government Bill which would have much more chance of success.

Ward 6 Councillor Fred Hooper questioned the maximum spending limits allowed by the bill. For a city of over 150,000 population, such as Mississauga, candidates for council seats would be limited to \$3,000 and mayoralty hopefuls could spend only \$20,000.

In the last campaign, mayoralty candidate Gerry Townsend spent over \$45,000 while mayor Ron Searle and former councillor David Culham each spent over \$22,000.

"There are inequities in the areas which we have to cover," pointed out Hooper. He said that \$3,000 could probably provide for covering a ward the size of Port Credit two or three times, while the same amount would not allow one total coverage of the entire of Ward 6, the city's largest ward.

He suggested that a per-capita spending allowance would be better.

Councillor Mary Helen Spence thought the stated ceilings were adequate. She felt that if members of the public wanted information

about candidates, they could refer to press coverage.

"It's not necessary to spend thousands and thousands of dollars to get information to the public."

Mayor Ron Searle believes that "it is the candidate's own personal integrity which really governs spending." A candidate can use his own personal resources and say they are his even when they aren't and "there's no way to check it out," he said.

He wondered why "people who are in office always try to bring in legislation that makes it easier for the incumbent."

He said it is necessary for incumbents to be very careful not to use the office and staff which they have at their disposal for public purposes to seek personal re-election. "That is a very powerful weapon," he said.

"You can bypass any law," replied Mrs. McCallion. She said elections should not just be spending competitions. If there is abuse of the law, she said violations would eventually surface. "But without some guidelines, it will just be open warfare."

She claimed that the last municipal election campaign in Mississauga "was a perfect example of election campaigns completely out of control."

Searle responded by saying that in some ways the cam-

paign was a contest to see who could spend the least. "There were five weeks of advertising before I spent anything," he said.

An amendment to Mrs. McCallion's motion of endorsement of the spending limits bill was placed allowing for a per-capita spending restriction rather than a set amount.

Hooper noted that it is not feasible to have a \$20,000 limit for the mayor's post in a city such as Mississauga, which will eventually contain over 740,000 people.

The amended motion carried 6-3. In favor were Councillors Harold Kennedy, Frank Bean, Larry Taylor, Frank McKechnie, and Frank Leavers and McCallion. Opposed were Councillors Hooper and Terry Butt and Mayor Searle. Councillor Spence was in the chair and did not vote.

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