

Vote-date change asked

Municipal elections should be held no later than the last week in October so voters don't have to brave winter weather, according to Peel regional councillors. They have voted to endorse a motion by Brampton

councillor Terry Miller to petition the provincial government to set the municipal election day back from the present first Monday in December.

Miller said public response to municipal elections was generally low, and inclement December weather and nearness of the present voting date to Christmas season are both factors in keeping electorate interest down.

The resolution will be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for endorsement.

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This is one of the four houses in Park Royal that general committee has recommended be demolished.

Confused debate over fate of houses

Er... what was that again?

Following a debate in which two opposing motions by the same councillor were passed within a few minutes, a general committee has recommended demolishing four houses in Park Royal.

The four semi-detached houses are located on a road allowance planned for two future accesses from Sandgate and Padstow Crescents to a new development to the north of Park Royal.

Council last year decided to build the roads and have barriers placed across them until such time as area residents and council decide they should be lifted.

In the meantime, because

of a shortage of emergency housing in Peel, the regional social services department expressed interest in leasing the houses at a minimal fee.

But the houses were so badly vandalized that it was estimated an expenditure of \$9,000-\$12,000 per unit would be necessary to make the homes liveable.

Councillor Mary Helen Spence, who represents the ward where the houses are located, favored demolishing them. She said it was a "shame" that the houses had to be torn down, but they had been completely vandalized.

She noted the regional social services director had said that unless the roads remained unopened for five years, the expense of renovation could not be justified.

Mrs. Spence also questioned how such vandalism could take place without neighbors seeing it and reporting it to police.

"As soon as a house is empty for three or four days anywhere in the city, it's vandalized," said councillor Frank McKechnie.

Mrs. Spence put a motion that the two roads not be built for at least five years and that the homes be renovated for use by Peel region. The motion passed.

Councillor Bud Gregory subsequently asked that the question be reopened, apologizing for not paying attention at the time. "I can't see spending \$24,000 of the regional social services department to put people in houses where city roads should be," he said.

Mrs. Spence said she didn't ask that her previous motion be approved, but presented it only to generate discussion. She then moved that the houses be demolished and her motion passed.

"This is a new thing we have here," remarked Gregory. "Now we present motions and then hope they will be defeated," he said.

Mrs. Spence indicated that the situation would not have arisen if council members paid attention to the business rather than holding private meetings during the general committee meeting.

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Riding plan sparks anger

Peel regional chairman Lou Parsons will try to meet with provincial officials at the earliest date to oppose the government's final riding-boundary proposals that would link the top half of Peel with Wellington County to the west.

The government report on the boundary changes tabled in the legislature on Dec. 10 says Mississauga will be divided into three provincial ridings, Brampton will become a single riding, and Caledon joined with Wellington.

An angry Caledon councillor, Richard Whitehead, has told regional council that the government plan is completely unacceptable.

He said it would isolate the northern half of Peel, just a year after the same government created the two-tiered regional government.

The Wellington-Peel riding would extend 75 miles from Bolton in the east to Clifford in the west. Whitehead said that Caledon would rather link with Brampton to form the most populous riding in Ontario than be forced to join an entire county outside of Peel's boundaries.

The government report follows submissions on the boundary proposals from Peel Regional Council that called for both Brampton and Caledon to be divided into separate ridings.

In Mississauga, the three new ridings would be Mississauga South, including all of the city south of the Queen Elizabeth Way; Mississauga East, all the land east of Highway 10, south of Eglinton, west of the Etobicoke border and north of the QEW; and Mississauga North, the rest of the city.

The enormous Mississauga North riding will encompass most of the future growth areas of the city, including Erin Mills, Meadowvale, Malton and parts of the Mississauga City Centre development area. Peel is now divided into two provincial ridings: Peel South represented by Doug Kennedy, and Peel North with Premier Bill Davis.

HE TAKES JAIL

A man who refused voluntary treatment for alcoholism will be serving time in jail instead. Melvin Mackinnon, 36, of Toronto has pleaded guilty to causing a disturbance by being drunk in a public place and failing to appear in court.

Evidence showed Mackinnon refused to leave an apartment at 241 Lakeshore Rd. in Port Credit and got into a fight with the tenant.

He began shouting obscenities in the hallway, and continued the argument with police officers on the street outside until he fell over.

He was arrested and taken to the police station where he was released on an undertaking to appear in court. He failed to appear.

Noting that Mackinnon had three previous convictions for being drunk in a public place, Judge John Ord offered to send him to Ontario Correctional Institute for a voluntary program of alcoholism treatment.

Mackinnon, however, shook his head and said, "Just jail me. I don't care if it's one or two months. I'll do my time and then go out and look for work."

Judge Ord sentenced Mackinnon to 30 days in jail for causing a disturbance and 30 days concurrent for failing to appear.

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