

Peel playing politics with workers' lives: union leader

BY JOHN STEWART

Peel County and other local governments who oppose the provincial takeover of construction safety inspection are playing politics with workers' lives, a Toronto union representative has charged.

Clive Ballentine, business representative of the Toronto Building and Construction Trades Council, says better controlled provincial inspections are opposed by local

municipalities "because they don't want to lose a little bit of power."

A bill proposing the jurisdictional changeover to the province, the Construction Safety Act, has been held up in the legislature while a task force report is prepared. The task force was requested by the municipal liaison committee which accommodates local government comment on new legislation.

The Safety Act is a result

of a brief submitted in 1968 by the Construction Safety Association of Ontario, jointly representing management and labour. The brief called for legislation to provide uniform safety inspection enforcement across Ontario.

Ballentine says labour has supported provincial inspection since 1962. "Under this setup in the new act, we will have consistent enforcement. The way it is now, some places have the

dog catcher acting as safety inspector."

The union representative further claims there has been a decline in enforcement because of the delay in passing the legislation which was originally designed to go into force in June. In the meantime the Ministry of Labour has offered municipalities its inspection forces if they pass a bylaw authorizing the move.

Peel county's general two

committee balked at this prospect last week when it passed a motion opposing provincial takeover altogether. The motion came amid charges that "big government" was trying to undermine local autonomy. In reacting to that resolution, Ballentine and Norman Leblanc, a union representative who lives in Mississauga, charge that Peel "is one of the bad areas" for safety inspection. "The only adequate in-

spection area in Metro is the City of Toronto itself," Ballentine claims. In all the other areas there's laxity. From North York right around there's inconsistency. The Trades Council representative says one half of the 30 municipalities who were offered provincial inspection through the bylaw have accepted the offer. But only one, Etobicoke, has been in the Metro area. Ballentine attributes this to

"politics." Norman Leblanc, a representative of Toronto Local 1747, which is affiliated with the Carpenters Union, says his experience has shown Peel County "was the worst inspection area around Toronto. In many instances we had to force the safety inspector to do his job. 'The inspectors seemed to be saying to the builder — 'I'm sorry' — when they had to enforce safety standards," Leblanc claims. "Of

course, they're not all like that." The resident of 234 Louis Dr. in Mississauga believes pressure can be applied to local safety inspectors at the moment. "It's easier for the developer when enforcement is up to the individual municipalities than if the province does it," he says. Leblanc also points out that construction safety is the only inspection work not controlled by the province

and applied uniformly. The Construction Safety Act, on first reading in the House, was not opposed by either management or labour and received unanimous approval. If there were any problems with safety enforcement after the bill came into effect, one advantage for both labour and management would be the chance to go straight to the source at the

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The Times

Serving Mississauga, Port Credit and Streetsville

VOL. 35, NO. 11 WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 1972 FIFTEEN CENTS

Spot-zoning bids split, one okayed

BY FRANK TOUBY

Mississauga councillors approved one Lorne Park spot-zoning and deferred another Monday.

A proposal by Bloordeale Developments Ltd. to degrade Official Plan zoning from R-2 to R-3 on part of a 17-acre site on South Sheridan Way about 500 feet west of Indian Grove won quick council approval.

Area residents oppose the change which would permit 79 R-3 lots and 12 R-2 lots. R-3 zoning allows minimum lot sizes with as little as 50-foot frontages.

Resident opposition swayed councillors to send back to planning board a proposal by Ture Anderson (Eastern) Ltd. to build a gas station, "mall-type" shopping plaza and 20 R-3 houses.

The entire area is zoned R-2 under the Official Plan. Ture Anderson's site is about 25 acres on the south side of South Sheridan Way, east of Streambank Drive and Crestdale Road, and north of a Hydro right-of-way.

QUOTES EDITORIAL

Brian Johnston, a member of the executive of the Tecumseh Area Residents' Association (TARA), told council the residents oppose any changes in the Official Plan for the area.

Quoting from last week's Times editorial which rapped council's general committee approval of the spot-zoning, Johnston said, "It is a senseless change that benefits no one except developers and wrongly compromises an attractive residential area with smaller lots and undesirable businesses."

"Council has no business imposing unwanted development in a stable neighbourhood everyone thought was protected by the official plan."

Johnston was critical of the gas station and shopping plaza proposals.

"The residents of the area don't want the noise of trucks unloading in the middle of the night. The residents don't want another unsuccessful shopping area which will in time get run down, housekeeping agreement or not. Bankrupt businesses can't pay for housekeeping."

"The residents don't want a place nearby for their children and teenagers to hang around in gangs looking for the kind of excitement that hanging around generates. And we don't need it."

WINDOW DRESSING

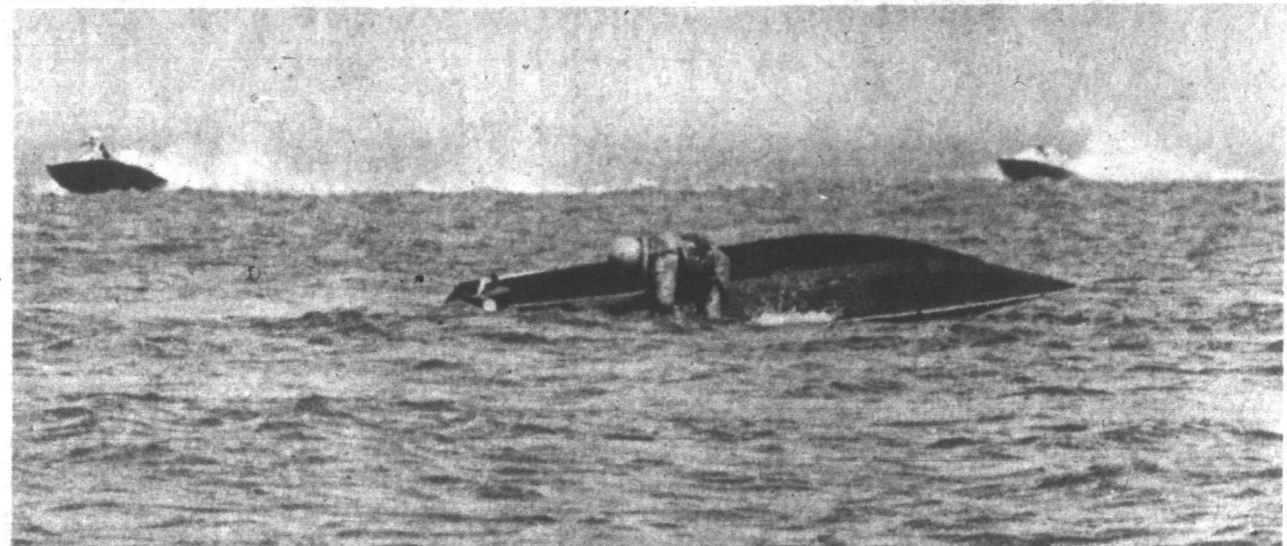
Referring to Ture Anderson's two reports from local consulting firms which Reeve Lou Parsons has termed "window dressing to enhance the developer's proposal", Johnston said:

"One of those surveys recommended a store density of 6.25 square feet per capita as being ideal. In an article (in a Toronto newspaper) concern was being expressed that over-storing was becoming a problem in some parts of Canada."

"The consensus among department store operators was that 3.5 square feet per capita is a reasonable equation. The City of Calgary with 6.86 square feet per capita is considered to be over-stored."

"I submit that department store operators, with their huge investments and their resources for research, are more credible than a couple of local consulting firms who have no vested interest in the action taken on their recommendations."

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Tom Wood of Peterborough went for cool dip (top) on a hot day when his high-powered boat flipped 20 feet into air and unseated him during Aquarius Sportscraft Races. Wood, who was unhurt in spill, scrambles aboard overturned hull (bottom) as rescue boats move in. He and boat entered later heat in the races held Saturday on Lake Ontario near mouth of Credit River. See story page 7. (Times photos by Ray Saltz)

McLaughlin will flaunt CRTC dictates

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BY FRANK TOUBY

Developer Bruce McLaughlin is challenging the Canadian Radio-Television Commission's (CRTC) right to license cable television operators and is flying in the face of the recent CRTC decision to license five cable companies in the town.

McLaughlin intends to install a master antenna on the Univac building in his Mississauga City Centre development to serve not only his apartment buildings but the houses and duplexes in the nearby Mississauga Valleys housing project.

The system, known as master antenna television (MATV), would eventually have closed circuit production equipment and studios for production of local programming.

In essence, it is a community antenna television (CATV) system that operates only within McLaughlin's development.

McLaughlin executive Claude Lewis told The Times yesterday the firm's Toronto lawyer, Douglas Laidlaw, "doesn't believe CRTC can control cable television and that it is beyond the jurisdiction of the federal government."

"We believe the present license holders do not belong there. We feel as Mississaugans we can deliver a hell of a lot more to our citizens than some outsiders from Toronto who will feed them Toronto programming."

"We are looking to be prosecuted either by CRTC or by Keeble Cable TV (the firm which is licensed by CRTC to operate in the McLaughlin development.)"

"We have to be prosecuted so the courts can sort things out and I think we're going to win easily. There are already two such operations in Quebec and we'd like to see the Province of Ontario take over cable licensing," said Lewis.

McLaughlin will ask Mississauga council's general committee this morning for easements to permit feeder cables from the Univac antenna site to Mississauga Valleys.

"We are not looking for exclusive rights," said Lewis. "Keeble can put theirs in on top of ours. We will deal with them in the market place."

Hovercraft coming to CNE

The Canadian National Exhibition has approved a proposal that will bring a 74-seat hovercraft to the waterfront and pave the way for a proposed commuter service linking Toronto with Port Credit and Oakville.

A spokesman for Lia Travel Agency, Ray McCulloch, said the CNE was "forward looking enough to see the possibilities" of the Denny D-2 craft which will be used as an attraction at the fair.

Only hitch in the operation, McCulloch noted, was getting the craft from dry dock in Miami to the CNE for opening day Aug. 16.

He said the firm has been unable to contact a shipping company able to transport the \$278,000 craft. A local crew has offered to drive the 35 mph machine the 1800 mile trip in 10 days.

After the two week stint at the CNE Lia hopes to institute the waterfront commuter service.

The Metro Toronto Parks Commission and the harbour commission have both approved the commuter service subject to Department of Transport approval, McCulloch said.

If the firm is able to institute the commuter service McCulloch said the hovercraft could ease pressures on GO Transit facilities.

Based on a six-month or 1,000 hour service, fares from Port Credit to Toronto would be 85 cents. Year round service would drop rates to 65 cents. The trip would take 30 minutes allowing 10 minutes at full 30 knot speed.

Lia has options on two additional 74-seat hovercrafts and would acquire them if the service is a success.

Boy drowns in Credit River

The body of a nine-year-old Streetsville boy was discovered by a swimmer in the Credit River on Friday after friends noticed the youth was missing at the end of a hike through Churchville Park.

David Edward Comrie, of Barsuda Drive, was visiting friends when he decided to join a bike hike to the park conducted by the Streetsville Parks and Recreation Board.

After arriving at the park the children played and swam before embarking on an exploration along the river.

When he was discovered missing, it was first thought David had gone home.

Swimmer Tom Jeyes of Brampton subsequently discovered the body in the same area.

The dead boy is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick H. Comrie, a brother and a sister.

Bid to close dump squashed

The Supreme Court of Ontario has dismissed an application for temporary closing of the town dump.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Halliday, who live beside the fill site on North Sheridan Way, had applied to have the site temporarily closed because of the danger of explosion.

They are also seeking a permanent injunction against operators Berrill and Trustrum and largest user of the dump, the Town of Mississauga.

Their lawyer, Allan Shulman, said he would press for a speedy trial on the application for a permanent injunction.

Pair charged in mail thefts

Two men have been arrested in Mississauga and charged with possession of stolen goods and theft from the mails.

Constable B. Crocker of the Mississauga police was on patrol early Friday morning at Lakeshore Road East near Hydro Road when he saw two men acting suspiciously and investigated.

In the front seat of a car, the constable found a jacket containing a parcel of silverware still in its brown, addressed mail package. He also found some wooden ornaments in a box.

Charged are Ronald Moore, 25, a caretaker at the Port Credit Post Office and Richard Sellens, 23, of Hurontario Street in Mississauga.

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Long-distance runner Bryan Beckstead is planning another marathon in aid of UNICEF. The distance this time is 100 miles. Page 3.

Too young

Christine O'Reilly's three songs made the finals in a cross-Canada contest — but she's too young to win. Page 4.



Egg war did it

Staff writer John Kernaghan describes how an egg war turned a chicken farm into a riding stables. Page 5.

No respite

Incorrect markings on a brochure will cost SWEEP program workers their rainy days of rest. Page 6.



Still winning

The rejuvenated PCO lacrosse team has captured the first game of their playoff series with Rexdale. Page 7.

Recruiting

The Peel-Dufferin Catholic School Board is trying to attract more students to the separate system. Page 3.

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Three towns support Searle resolution will ask province to unveil region plan

South Peel municipal leaders will ask Premier Bill Davis, South Peel MPP Doug Kennedy and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough to outline regional government proposals scheduled to be handed down later this year. Mississauga, Port Credit and Streetsville Councils met Thursday in an attempt to iron out compromises on internal boundary stands. Port Credit and Streetsville have resisted a "plan C" that would dissolve both towns into Mississauga.

Noting that there had been agreement on servicing and representation yet there were irreconcilable positions on a merger, Mississauga Councillor Ron Searle urged the meeting with the province. Searle had introduced a similar motion at a county council meeting earlier that day but agreed to table it for

a month after Warden Lou Parsons appealed that the county "still had a chance to prepare a report that may have something to do with deciding our own destiny". In a surprise motion, that he said was "an admission of failure to an extent", Searle made an impassioned speech to county council suggesting the abandonment of local talks on regional government in favour of provincial action. SORROW

Saying that "it is with a certain degree of sorrow that I sponsor such a motion," the Ward 7 councillor called for a meeting with Kennedy, Davis and McKeough to express the "irreconcilable differences" among the municipalities with an eye to expediting legislation. "When the minister of municipal affairs spoke to us in this county council chamber in March of 1968,

telling us that the province would base its judgement on regional government on a consensus of the member municipalities," Searle said, "I stood up in the visitors' gallery and told him that I was waiting for such a consensus would be an exercise in futility. See editorial page C2

"And the result has been nothing but ill-feeling among the member municipalities. 'Thousands and thousands of words and paper have gone through the mill. All the municipalities have aided in reaching an expert technical consensus. But there has been no political consensus and there will not be one,' he snapped. "This is the most responsible thing we can do to avoid recrimination being passed around later. In the last few months I have seen

this council become nothing more than a medium for expressing personal opinions. PUPPET

"I feel like a puppet on a string. We've been sitting in our own sand box playing, 'Plan-It' and we've got sand in our eyes now and it's getting painful," Searle said. "The positions are so strongly drawn that there can be no departure from those positions. It's up to Big Brother and Big Sister to tell us what they want and then let us comment," he concluded. "I'm not prepared to throw in the towel yet," Warden Lou Parsons replied. The warden said the county still had an opportunity for input to the province if they could come to a consensus and make a report in the next 30 or 40 days. He called for "one last, grand effort."

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