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'It's An Area I Love Very Much'

Peel County - Biography Book

New regional manager a visitor for 22 years

The present city manager of Halifax will become the Region of Peel's first chief administrative officer.

Cyril M. Henderson, 55, takes over the regional manager's job Jan. 1, 1974 when regional government becomes effective.

Henderson says he is intrigued "by the dynamism in the area."

He is familiar with Peel County because his in-laws

own property in Caledon Hills.

"I have come to the area at least once a year for the past 22 years," says Henderson. "It's an area I love very much."

He says Halifax is undergoing similar controversies over growth as Mississauga.

"I was aware that in Mississauga the rapid growth direction is being

questioned," says Henderson.

"That's true in Halifax also, but with another base — historic preservation. They are trying to keep the quaint old buildings in a quaint city."

He has been involved in regional planning in the Halifax area.

"We have had tri-level conferences. Things have gone well there because of the strong federal presence in the Halifax area," he says. "Federal support is available to an extent and the municipalities get to give inputs. It's good for discussion, but not necessarily for decision-making."

Henderson has been city manager of Halifax since June 1970.

He was born in Los Angeles of a Swiss mother and British father and had dual American-British citizenship. He was raised in England and is now a Canadian citizen.

Henderson is an honours graduate in civil engineering and earned his masters degree in city planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is also a fellow of the graduate school of public administration at Harvard University. His Harvard studies were in public policy,

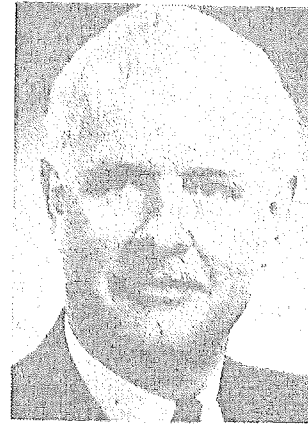
administration and economics.

He has worked with the state planning commission in Tennessee and as city planner for Modesto, California.

"The reason I didn't stay in the States is because flag-waving became pronounced," he says. "If I was going to be waving any flag, it would have been the Union Jack."

"But I was in Canada when we got our flag and although I still have some sympathies for the Union Jack, the Canadian flag is mine now."

Before assuming his duties in Halifax, Henderson served as municipal manager for the District of North Vancouver from 1959 to 1970.



CYRIL HENDERSON

During that period, he served as the first chairman of the Regional Administrative Advisory Committee to the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

During Henderson's

tenure in Halifax he became interested in devising programs to remove people from the welfare rolls.

Henderson is married and has six children, four of whom still live with him: three sons ages 9, 11 and 12, and a daughter, 15.

He also has a daughter, 22, and a son, 20, both of whom attend Dalhousie University.

"My son is on the student senate and quite interested in politics," says Henderson. "I'm not that interested in politics myself, but I'm in the sort of profession where one shouldn't meddle in politics."

Henderson says he and his family will probably live in the Caledon area.

Peel Region chairman Lou Parsons praised the selection of Henderson: "It is my belief that the citizens of the Region of Peel are indeed fortunate to have attracted such a learned and distinguished public servant to be the first chief administrative officer of our new region."