

SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

By DON EDWARDS
Staff Reporter

Jim Naish is a Mississaugan who has his roots firmly planted in this area.

Born and raised in Port Credit, he can trace his family tree back to the 1830's in these parts. As a matter of fact, his mother still lives in the home where he was born on Helene Street in Port Credit. This house is one of the oldest in the town of Port Credit, being in existence for approximately 150 years.

Still a relatively young man at 48, Jim Naish has been a very active and energetic personality in the Port Credit-Mississauga area, especially since his return from service in the last World War.

In 1957 he was asked if he would consider helping with the election polls in Port Credit. He gave the matter some thought and then decided to throw his hat into the election ring himself.

COUNCIL YEARS

Unlike recent election campaigns in Port Credit, there were eight candidates running for three seats on council that year.

"I managed to pick up the third seat," Naish recalls, "and spent the next three years on Port Credit Council."

During his tenure on council, Naish served as council's representative on the library board, was chairman of parks and recreation and was chairman of the fire committee. He also served as a member of the Credit Valley Lions swimming pool committee.

A number of major undertakings were carried out during Jim Naish's time on council. The Don Rowing Club and the Mississauga Canoe Club made their home on the

banks of the Credit River in Port Credit; a plebiscite was carried out in the town which gained 10-1 approval for construction of the Port Credit Arena and the groundwork was carried out for construction of the Port Credit Library.

FAMILY BUSINESS

Jim Naish and his wife, Nettie, have one son, Jimmie Jr., aged 12, and a daughter, Susan, 10.

"My family operated the Creditview Dairy on the Lakeshore Road in Port Credit for a number of years and I worked there until it was sold in 1948 . . . with the exception of three and a half years which I served with the Royal Canadian Navy," he recalled.

Following the sale of the family business, Naish went to work with the Quinte Milk Product company for a while and then took employment with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. At the present time he is an inspector at the Ontario Food Terminal.

Following his terms on Port Credit Council, Naish became an executive member of the Ontario Lacrosse Association. He has played a major role with the OLA for the past nine years, serving as president for three years. During that time the Ontario Lacrosse Association has grown from a 12 or 13 team organization with about 5,000 youngsters playing the game to a 32 team operation and somewhere in the neighborhood of 65,000 boys on teams in this province.

AMATEUR SPORTS

Two years ago, Premier Robarts presented Naish and another Mississaugan, Carl Madgett, with awards for their contribution to amateur sports in the province. The

same year, he (Naish) appeared before Ontario's Select Committee on Youth, chaired by Syl Apps, with a group of Indians from the Six Nations Reserve and a number of other people.

"We drew quite a bit of interest from the government as a result of that meeting," he said.

Earlier this year, after fire destroyed most of the Cornwall, Ontario plant where most of Canada's lacrosse stick supply originated, Naish quickly met with Ontario government officials and this business was soon put back into operation.

"It is interesting to note," he said, "that Carl Madgett, who lives in Malton, was recently appointed to the physical fitness committee in Ottawa which made him the first lacrosse man to gain a position on this committee."

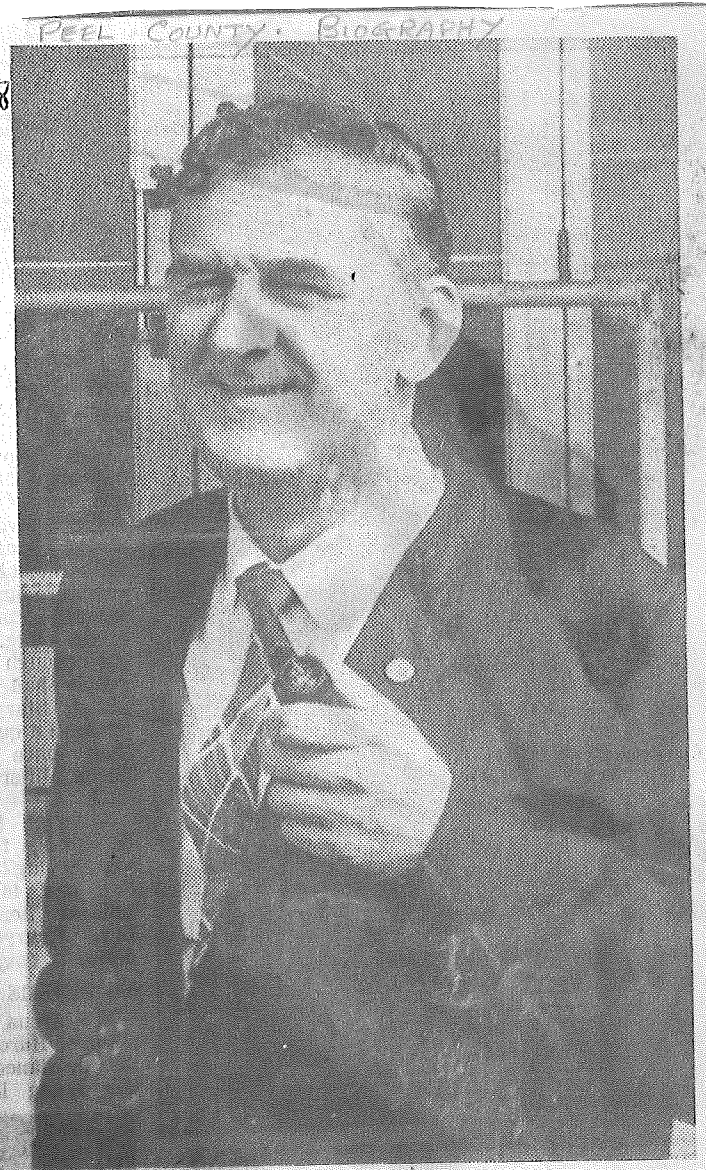
PUC RACE

During the last municipal elections, a number of people approached Naish with the suggestion that he run for Mississauga Council. He felt that he couldn't spare sufficient time for that role at the present but ran for the public utilities commission instead and won by acclamation.

"People should take a more general interest in their community," the 6-1 PUC commissioner declared.

"What we need sometime in the future here is a radio station of our own which could cover all of Credit Valley. In my mind this is becoming a necessity in this area."

Aside from his obvious interest in municipal affairs and his love for amateur sports, with the emphasis on la-



Staff Photo.

JIM NAISH

cross, Naish served nine years on the Port Credit Arena board; is a trustee with the Port Credit branch of the Royal Canadian Legion which boasts a paid membership of 780; has been a chairman of the Anne Street Hall for a

number of years, and he and his wife are attending members of Port Credit's First United Church.

All in all, Jim Naish devotes a great deal of his time to the municipality in which he lives.

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