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PALLETT FAMILY

## Pallett won't give up

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# Eviction deadline looms for farm family

By CAMERON RENTON

Dave Pallett of Pleasant View Farms led one of the largest public protests in Mississauga's history last week and is planning another one.

Close to 200 angry people participated in a colorful demonstration against the Toronto Dominion (TD) Bank for selling 40 acres of land, located on Dundas St., east of Dixie Rd., the Palletts had owned for 125 years.

A protest to TD's head office in Toronto will be held next week, but Pallett refuses to disclose the exact date so "the police won't be prepared for us," said Pallett.

"The community has pressured us into holding another parade — in downtown Toronto," says Pallett. "There's a lot of bad blood and bad feeling over what the bank has done to us. It will be quiet but highly organized."

He doesn't promise that it'll be as quiet when a sheriff acting on behalf of the bank attempts to evict Pallett and his tenants Oct. 1.

"There's going to be a big showdown on Monday," he says. "There is no way we're leaving. The sheriff will have to remove us physically."

The tenants consist of 24 people with low incomes who live on the Palletts' old homestead property in six trailers. All are angry at the 14-day notice they received to vacate the land.

"It's utterly crazy," said Arnold Kreff, who has rented a 1/4-acre chunk for 24 years. "No one can be expected to move on such short notice. Besides, not one of us can afford to go somewhere else, and if we do move, we'll lose our jobs in Mississauga, because no one wants us here."

Others affected by the sale of the land are 12 small businesses which employ 54 people throughout the year.

"This whole thing stinks," says Josef Lorenz of Mississauga Memorials. "When the bank evened things up with the Palletts, they killed 12 businesses. My business was very promising and they destroyed it."

The TD Bank refuses to take responsibility for the upcoming evictions. "At this point it's all in the sheriff's hands," says Sue de Stein of the TD Bank. "He will determine what is necessary to obtain vacant possession of the land."

The Palletts owe the bank \$2,068,258 as a result of accumulating interest on their mortgage, but argue there was no need to sell their land and that it was sold far too cheaply. Pallett requested a meeting with TD Bank's chairman of the board, Richard Thomson, and president Robert Korthals, a few days after his demonstration.

But de Stein says "both are aware of the entire situation and do not believe Mr. Pallett has anything new to say."

(For an in-depth look at those facing eviction see page 7.)