

Mayor wannabe Lou Parsons out of the real estate business

Lou Parsons Realty Inc. is no more.

"I am no longer a residential real estate broker," Lou Parsons, a long-time stalwart of the local real estate community said this week. "I went in and resigned my brokers' license last week, but my four sons will be continuing in the real estate business."



PARSONS

Parsons, the founding chairman of the Region of Peel in 1974 and the chairman of GO Transit from 1980 until earlier this year, says there's been a change in the status of his life. "I'm giving consideration

to other things," says the 59-year-old.

A stint as the first-ever Canadian chairman of the American Public Transit Association opened the door to a lot of opportunities Parsons is now taking advantage of through his transit consulting company. Many of those opportunities are in the U.S. market.

Parsons' four sons, David, Michael, Tim and Tom have gone to work for Brian Sutherland and Brian Smith at Remax International in Clarkson. The franchise style of real estate operation, where salesmen are really independent businessmen is the way of the future, says Parsons.

He began his real estate career in the 1960s in a partnership with Seth Taylor. After Taylor's death

Parsons wound up the business when he became regional chairman, then worked for the development firm of Traders Associates for five years after retiring as chairman in 1979. He started Parsons Realty in 1984.

Parsons continues to remain

active in the community, chairing the Credit Valley Conservation Authority Foundation and is involved with establishment of the Peel Children's Safety Village. He also chairs the Transit Integration Task Force for the provincial government. That group is studying

new methods of fare integration in the Greater Toronto Area.

The former single family home at the northwest corner of Hurontario St. and Mineola Rd. which served as Parsons' headquarters is being cleaned out and will be sold.

The last time Parsons left the

real estate business, he got into politics. He says he still would like to run for mayor of Mississauga some day, but won't be a candidate as long as incumbent Hazel McCallion keeps running for reelection, as she plans to do next year.