

Graydon started a Petty tradition

Peel Brg. Scrapbook

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NOT FOR CIRCULATION



Graydon Petty put humor into Streetsville council meetings with his famous "Pettyisms."

One of the perks of attending the last years of the former Streetsville council were the "Pettyisms" which came to be part of the last portion of the official agenda.

Pettyisms were started by Graydon Petty, councillor for Ward 2 during the last term of the council before the town was swallowed up by regional government and the new City of Mississauga. Born in Streetsville, he lived and taught school in Burlington before moving back to his home about 12 years ago and purchasing a house on Queen St. (Mississauga Rd.) in the centre of town.

He had run twice for Burlington council, and when he moved here, he took a shot at his own ward and won handily.

It was during the "announcements and new business" part of the council agenda that Petty would, as he says, "spout" off a few witticisms. As they got better and better, the other councillors like Jim Graham and Fred Kingsford started to join in until a real competition was going. It was a genuinely fun part of the meeting which the

what are they doing now?

council, press, and audience used to look forward to in those days.

"I guess it started," he said, "because I thought that this was a time to make statements as part of the agenda." But as time went on, he admits "it did get a bit carried away but it was fun."

He was one of the "black sheep" on that council for being in favor of the town joining in with regionalism during a time when the council was officially opposed to the idea.

"The town was filled up and there was no place to expand," he said but being chair-

man of the town's transportation and traffic committee he saw plainly that it would be best for the town to be integrated in a regional bus service with regional roads, regional lighting and signage, and regional police.

Had the town not gone regional, he says he would have run again for council. But with attending City and Regional meetings, he knew it would take up too much time from his teaching career. He still teaches in Halton and is with W.I. Dick Elementary School in Milton. His teaching career has spanned 26 years.

But though his political-municipal days are over, the community involvement is not. He is an active board member with the Peel Children's Aid Society, involved with the Streetsville Sea Cadets Crops, and still, with the Streetsville Drop-in Centre. Petty still follows the provincial, federal and municipal scene with great interest.

Today when council and Region are involved with mega-buck financing and the fun seems to have gone out of municipal council meetings, it would be nice to have a few Pettyisms injected into the running of government.

Peel Brg. Bk

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PETTY, Graydon