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Allan Randles looking for a change

Committee of adjustment stalwart calls it quits

By JOHN STEWART
Staff Reporter

After serving as a member of the Mississauga committee of adjustment since it was first formed in 1974, longtime Streetsville resident Allan Randles has submitted his resignation.

Randles, 68, says the job of being a citizen volunteer who listens each week to arguments for minor variances to the City's zoning bylaws is "becoming more demanding and less rewarding. The committee is dealing with far more serious issues and far more complex ones," Randles said in an interview.

As well as sitting in often lengthy hearings, the committee members spend a great deal of time visiting the locations of the applications to look at the sites first hand before the meetings. Although members recently received an increase in their honoraria to \$4,000 a year, Randles says the payment, even with a third of it being tax free, does not cover the cost of visiting the sites and the wear and tear on vehicles.

"I have other things I want to do," says Randles, who has also been a member of the Region of Peel's land division committee since it was formed in 1974. For the past three years, he has chaired the committee,

which deals with applications for severances of property. Prior to the creation of the City of Mississauga 15 years ago, Randles served on the town of Streetsville's committee of adjustment and planning committee.

John Keyser, the only other founding member of the committee of adjustment, says Randles "has made a very special contribution to the committee." As a former municipal engineer in Scarborough, Randles provided an expertise on the committee it otherwise would not have had. Randles often "saved" proposals for applicants because of his skill at identifying problems and suggesting how solutions might be worked out with the municipal public works department.

"He's been a terrific member," says Keyser. "He's put in a full 20 years of service to the committees and he's done his part."

Randles, who came to Streetsville in 1965, says he will continue his consulting engineering business, may use a real estate broker's licence he hasn't used much in the past, and will do some travelling with his wife.

The former business partner of Mayor Hazel McCallion says there has been a big change in the type and volume of applications coming before the committee since he first became a member. "The issues which come before us now are often far more complex than they should be," he says. "We've had some short-term decisions which have come back again, and there are some issues which require a lot more departmental study."

Although city council appoints the committee of adjustment, it is a totally independent body. While it takes into account the comments of municipal departments and city councillors, it makes independent decisions, which are sometimes appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board by the City. That leads to some tension between council and the committee from time to time.

Randles says he has not felt pressured by municipal politicians or staff, and he says he has always lived by the axiom that as a citizen member of the committee, "I have always made my decisions without fear or favor."

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