

Spratt heads west

By NORM ALEXANDER

"I'm very pleased to be going, but I regret leaving Mississauga." This was Peter Spratt's reaction, when the Executive Dean of Humber College was named president of Vancouver's Capillano College.

Speaking about the state of the community college in Ontario, Mr. Spratt commented that "the initiation of the community colleges was the greatest thing Bill Davis has ever done for Ontario."

He stressed that the community aspect of community colleges is of the greatest importance: "It really grates me when people think of the community college as an institution for students between 17 and 24, when it's really for people of any age," he said.

"Ontario's community colleges are dynamic, growing and getting better all the time, so that every year a higher percentage of Grade 13 graduates are now choosing to enter the community college rather than go to university," he said.

"We have a 98 per cent placement record at Humber and the income

difference for community college, as opposed to university graduates amounts to less than \$100 a year," said Mr. Spratt.

While emphasizing that community colleges are not "trade schools," Spratt said, "they meet the needs of industry and give the students a more saleable skill than university students have."

"There is a great need for new programs in the community colleges, especially for adult learning in the field of post employment education and we have had great success in this area, due to the high level relationships we have with business and industry, who identify their own needs and we react to the changes they suggest," he said.

President Spratt, a Grade nine dropout who later received a bachelor of arts degree from York and a master of arts from the University of Toronto, said that another factor in the growth of the community college is the increasing role of women in the community. They have forced the colleges to lend their support facilities to this group of involved citizens."

Capillano College, has only 1800

students as opposed to the 4500 that were registered at Humber this year. Mr. Spratt called Humber "the most innovative community college in Ontario."

"I feel that British Columbia is one of the only places in Canada where the frontier spirit still does exist and that was one of many factors for my accepting the presidency at Capillano," he said.

The Erin Mills resident spoke briefly of his attempt to gain the Liberal nomination for Mississauga, which he ultimately lost to Tony Abbott, who went on to win the election.

"I'm very happy for Tony and I've nothing but a good feeling about the incident — everybody came out a winner," he said.

Even though Mississauga will be losing a valuable citizen to British Columbia, Mr. Spratt may return to the area in five years, for as he noted, "I think a college president should only remain in office for five to ten years, because after that time, the institution becomes synonymous with the person heading it, instead of the community which it serves."



Peter Spratt, the 38-year-old Executive Dean for Humber College is the new president of Vancouver's Capillano College.