

DVP shutdown 'stupid'

TOM GODFREY
Toronto Sun

Mayoral hopeful rips city officials for closing parkway over busy weekend

City of Toronto officials had no real reason to create gridlock over the weekend by shutting the Don Valley Parkway with major events taking place downtown, critics say.

"The traffic congestion was a man-made problem," said Catholic school trustee Rob Davis, who's running against Councillor Howard Moscoe in Ward 15 in October's munic-

ipal election. "It was not a wrath of nature."

Motorists were required to have lots of patience on Saturday and Sunday while the DVP was closed for maintenance.

Some politicians said the work could have been staggered or done in off hours.

The closure affected many attending a Sikh Khalsa

parade, which attracted as many as 80,000 people.

There was also a soccer game between Toronto FC and the Seattle Sounders.

Davis said permits are being handed out for events without checks to determine whether road construction is underway.

"We know the Khalsa parade is the same day every

year," he said. "There has to be better communication between the different arms of the city."

Davis wants a task force to look into staggering the way permits are distributed to correspond with road construction.

"It was a stupid decision to close the DVP," mayoral candidate Giorgio Mammoliti said.

"The DVP is a major highway and it should be closed in sections so traffic could still go through."

He said the DVP is a main highway that links Toronto and just can't be shut down.

"This is not a good traffic scenario for the city," Mammoliti said. "City officials should have looked ahead and done better."

Toronto police had their hands full helping motorists get around the city.

Sgt. Robert Collins, of Traffic Services, said the parade and soccer game had traffic congested downtown.

"The activity was worsened by the closing of the DVP," Collins said.

Police said many north-south streets in Scarborough were busy as motorists tried to find alternate routes downtown.



MARK BLINCH/REUTERS

All in a knight's work

Combatants hug after competing in a re-creation of a 14th-century martial arts tournament, held by the Academy of European Medieval Martial Arts in Toronto yesterday. Combatants battled it out with swords, spears, pole axes and daggers.

Mammoliti wants bylaw cops armed

Greater powers, higher fines

Toronto mayoral candidate Giorgio Mammoliti says bylaw enforcement officers should be armed and given the power to arrest people posting signs or painting graffiti on city property.

Mammoliti said graffiti has become so much of an eyesore in Toronto that he's proposing increasing the fine for defacing city property to \$5,000 from a few hundred dollars.

"Graffiti is a big problem in this city," the York West councillor said. "Parts of our city look atrocious because of all the graffiti and signs."

He said some of the graffiti is painted by gangs and the bylaw for defacing city property isn't being enforced because of a lack of resources.

"Ours is becoming a city filled with illegal posters," Mammoliti said on Sunday. "We have to expand the number of enforcement officers and give them some teeth."

He said that many times enforcement officers are the first ones at a crime scene or emergency situation and can't do anything because they don't have the power.

"I am in favour of giving them guns and the power to



GIORGIO MAMMOLITI

"I'm in favour of giving them guns"

arrest people," Mammoliti said. "I think people will stop painting graffiti or putting up posters if the fine is high enough."

He said young offenders nabbed painting graffiti or posting flyers on bus stops or hydro posts should be subject to community service, along with their parents. The Ward 7 councillor said signs or events listed on the shows will also be subject to fines.

Mammoliti wants to increase the number of enforcement officers from 300 to 500 if elected mayor in October.

— Tom Godfrey

Grease fire causes \$100Gs damage

TAMARA CHERRY
Toronto Sun

An unattended pot of oil is being blamed for a three-alarm apartment fire.

About 100 firefighters were called Sunday to 100 Echo Point, near Finch Ave.

and Birchmount Rd., after a blaze erupted in the kitchen of a unit in the 23-storey building at about 9:15 a.m., Toronto Fire platoon chief John Thompson said at the scene.

The large response was prompted by a mother's fears

for her missing children. They were later found in the lobby with their father, Thompson said.

The fire, which caused \$100,000 damage, left two firefighters with minor cases of smoke inhalation, no injuries to residents and the 22nd

floor damaged by soot.

The firefighters were released from hospital by the afternoon, Thompson said.

"Please do not leave cooking materials unattended on the stove," he said. "This is a case of something left on the stove unattended."