Chronology of the Amalgamation forming the City of Timmins (1973)

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Preface

This chronology with its associated documentation is about a key event in the history of Timmins and Northern Ontario – the amalgamation that formed the City of Timmins on January 1, 1973. The new "super-city" of Timmins had a population of about 42,000 and an area of about 1,240 square miles (3,212 square kilometres); it became, by area, the then largest city in Canada.

The Act to Incorporate the City of Timmins-Porcupine, which is the legal basis of today's City of Timmins, was submitted to the Ontario legislature and passed through three readings during June 1972. The Act provided that the then Town of Timmins (1912), the Township of Mountjoy (1951), the Township of Tisdale (1911), which included Schumacher and South Porcupine, and the Township of Whitney (1911), which included Porcupine, would be amalgamated into the new City. As well, 31 surrounding unincorporated townships and a portion of the Town of Iroquois Falls would be annexed to the new City.¹ January 1, 1973 was the effective date of incorporation of the new City, though its name – the City of Timmins – and the new City Council were chosen by election in October 1972.

The term "consolidation" has also been used in Timmins to refer to the amalgamation. For this chronology we have used the term "amalgamation" in our titles and descriptions, as it is more widely used in contemporary debates and the scholarly literature on municipal government in Ontario and other areas of Canada. Here we treat the terms as meaning the same, though we understand that for some persons the terms can have differences at least in tone; of course, in making reference to original titles or quotations we use whichever term was used in the original.

¹ At its first reading, June 22, 1972, the proposed Act (Bill 195) listed for annexation 24 unorganized townships as well as the portion of Iroquois Falls. For the second reading, June 27, the government added seven more unorganized townships for the total of 31. Hence, when passed on June 20 and assented to on June 30, the new City covered the three amalgamated townships of Mountjoy, Tisdale and Whitney (the Town of Timmins was within the Mountjoy and Tisdale township areas) plus the surrounding 31 annexed townships and the annexed portion of Iroquois Falls. The total calculated area of 1,240 square miles is based on the 34 amalgamated and annexed townships (at 36 square miles each) or 1,224 square miles plus 16 square miles annexed from the Town of Iroquois Falls. (The total area figure was obtained later from the government by then *Daily Press* reporter Greg Reynolds.)

The chronology begins with an early expansion of the Town of Timmins, by annexation, in July 1921, and concludes in January 1973, the first month of the new City of Timmins. In the early decades there were several events indicating municipal expansion and possible future amalgamation but events begin to multiply from 1965 on. With each event we have noted at least one source. References are provided at the end of the chronology in a bibliography and list of primary sources, although not all the documents we have reviewed in our research are referenced in this chronology. Further, to provide a more useful research tool for others who would like to do a broader study of the Timmins amalgamation we have enlarged the bibliography to include selected material on amalgamation in general, on Ontario's history during the period of the Timmins amalgamation and on scholarly and journalistic writing on the history of Timmins.

The history of the Timmins amalgamation has many dimensions and several are so far not well documented. Given the limited time and resources we had available, we have focused on relatively accessible public materials directly from or about local governments in the Timmins/Porcupine region, provincial municipal organizations and the provincial government of Ontario. Future research could consider documenting the roles of and interactions with less visible organizations and groups in the urban development and amalgamation process, not least of Indigenous people on whose land the amalgamation took place. Since municipal access to tax revenue, especially from mining, was such a major issue in the Timmins amalgamation, the role of the mining industry in affecting taxation and municipal form is of obvious importance and needs attention. Greater documentation is also needed on the role of the forestry industry, land development and real estate interests, and the local businesses communities. Partisan political interests are often played down in discussing the amalgamation process, though they did play a role in the Timmins amalgamation, especially at the provincial level, so the role of the political parties requires work. Similarly, the dimensions of class, gender and minority status in municipal government and amalgamation have received relatively little attention, so further work is needed on the role of francophone organizations, labour unions, women's organizations, farmers' associations and church, religious and charitable organizations.

The primary research on the chronology was done by Rick Duthie, an MA graduate in History from Laurentian University: rduthie@laurentian.ca. Editorial work was done by Dr David Leadbeater (Department of Economics, Laurentian University): dleadbeater@laurentian.ca. The chronology was researched and written during May to September 2015, with a few minor corrections and additions later. Our work and its associated documentation about the Timmins amalgamation is part of a larger project, The Northern Democracy Initiative, on the contemporary economic and political development of Northern Ontario. This stage of the Northern Democracy Initiative has been supported by a grant from the J.P. Bickell Foundation; co-applicants for this grant were David Leadbeater and Lloyd Salomone, filmmaker, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, formerly of Timmins/Schumacher.

We would like to acknowledge the help of several persons who provided valuable assistance in suggesting sources and locating documentation. Karen Bachmann, Director/Curator of the Timmins Museum, was especially helpful in providing access to local archival materials. These included an earlier chronology in the possession of the Museum written by Jack Watson (n.d.), former City Clerk of the City of Timmins; we used the earlier chronology as an initial road map and have quoted from it directly. Steph Palmateer, City Clerk of the City of Timmins, facilitated access to digitized records of the City. Karina Douglas, Reference Librarian, at the Timmins Public Library gave us a thorough review of materials available in the Library and also located newspaper reports on early annexations and amalgamations. Greg Reynolds, former reporter and Managing Editor of the The Daily Press of Timmins during the period of amalgamation, kindly lent us two special anniversary editions which he wrote for the Daily Press as well as other useful documents. Marthe Brown, Archivist of the Laurentian University Archives in Sudbury, guided us though the local Timmins materials held at Laurentian University. Snezana Vukelic, Manager of Information Services at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in Toronto facilitated access to pre-amalgamation documents from the Ontario Municipal Association and the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves (which later merged to become the AMO). Serge Paquet, Reference Archivist at the Archives of Ontario in Toronto, helped focus our search of provincial government cabinet materials during the amalgamation. The librarians at the Laurentian University Desmarais Library in Sudbury were very helpful in locating and ordering materials, particularly microfilms of the newspapers. As well, Karen Bachmann, Karina Douglas and Lloyd Salomone reviewed the first draft for errors and made useful suggestions, as did Vic Power, Greg Reynolds and Jack Watson on a later draft. To all these we express our gratitude as well as note that any errors that might still be in this chronology or its references remain our responsibility.

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Chronology of the Amalgamation (1973)

1921

July 11, 1921 – A meeting of Timmins Council votes to apply to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for annexation of the new Hollinger Gold Mine townsite containing 150 new Hollinger homes. [See *Porcupine Advance*, July 13, 1921, "Hollinger Gold Mine - annexed to Timmins"]

August to September, 1921 – Petition collected in Mattagami townsites in Mountjoy Township and sent to Timmins Town Council for annexation of Mattagami and Mattagami Heights to Timmins. The petition is reported to be "unusually well signed." [See *Porcupine Advance*, September 21, 1921, "Mattagami Heights - petition for annexation to Timmins"]

1922

February 13, 1922 – Timmins Council votes to apply for annexation of the Mattagami part of Mountjoy Township though there are concerns that the annexation could increase costs to Timmins. [See *Porcupine Advance*, February 15, 1922, "Timmins - Mountjoy annexation approved"]

April 18, 1922 – Timmins Council holds special meeting of Timmins ratepayers at the Old Empire Theatre to discuss the annexation of Mattagami and other possible areas. It is reported that the meeting almost unanimously favours expansion of the Town and endorses the annexation of Mattagami. [See *Porcupine Advance*, April 12, 1922, "Timmins - meeting to be held to discuss annexation of outlying areas"; *Porcupine Advance*, April 19, 1922, "Mattagami Townsite - public meeting for annexation"]

December, 1922 – Timmins Council receives official approval of the annexation of the townsite of Mattagami Heights. The Porcupine Advance comments that "It has been a comparatively long time between the first steps to secure the annexation and the final completion of the matter." [See *Porcupine Advance*, December 20, 1922, "Mattagami Heights - annexation to Timmins is official"]

1924

February 18, 1924 – Application for Annexation of the Town of Timmins for part of the Township of Tisdale "Rochester Townsite." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1j "Annexation"]

1929

April 30, 1929 – Ontario Railway and Municipal Board meeting in Timmins hears arguments and approves annexation of Gauthier and Bartleman townsites by Timmins. [See *Porcupine Advance*, May 2, 1929, "Timmins - annexation of Gauthier and Bartleman townsites approved as of Jan 1st, 1929"]

January, 1937 – "Timmins Mayor J.P. (Jimmy) Bartleman holds a meeting in town hall with Tisdale Reeve David Kerr and Teck Township (Kirkland Lake) Reeve R.J. Carter. They form the Association of Mining Municipalities of Northern Ontario. They want more revenue from mines." [Watson; *Globe and Mail*, January 18, 1937, p.4, "Mine Towns Form Group at Timmins – 'Secession' from Southern Ontario Not Discussed at Meeting"]

September 28, 1937 – Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) issues Annexation Order to Town of Timmins for parts of Township of Tisdale. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1k "Moneta 1957"]

September 28, 1937 – OMB issues Annexation Order to Town of Timmins for parts of Township of Mountjoy. [See Timmins Public Museum, 990.66.1k, "Moneta 1957"]

1937 – "The Town of Timmins celebrates its 25th anniversary of incorporation but has problems meeting the demands created by a mining boom. There is talk at the municipal and provincial level about consolidation but nothing happens." [Watson]

1941

December 22, 1941 – Timmins Council approves a bylaw to annex the McIntyre and Coniaurum properties in Tisdale Township. It is referred to as "the Schumacher annexation." [See *Porcupine Advance*, December 23, 1922, "Tisdale Township - part annexed by Timmins: McIntyre and Coniaurum properties"]

December 29, 1941 – Timmins Council has aroused "a storm in Tisdale." Tisdale Council meets and passes resolutions characterizing the action of Timmins Council as "discourteous," "undemocratic" and "impertinent." Tisdale Council views Timmins' annexation is proposed "in order that it [Timmins] may obtain greatly increased revenue" and that the annexation would greatly increase the taxation burden on Tisdale taxpayers and residents. [See *Porcupine Advance*, December 31, 1941, "Schumacher - Strong protest from Tisdale re annexation to Timmins"]

1942

April 22, 1942 – Continuing their opposition to the Timmins Council's proposed annexation, representatives from Tisdale express frustration and a "great anti-cooperation and bitterness that at present exists and which will be much more in evidence if the annexation policy is pursued." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1m "Annexations (past)"]

Spring, 1942 – "The OMB says it will hold a public hearing and also a vote in Schumacher on Timmins' request. The town withdraws it." [Watson]

August 28, 1947 – Annexation hearing and Order by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) re: approving for Timmins annexing a portion of Mountjoy. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives Item 990.66.1j, "Annexation"]

December 29, 1947 – Appointment for Hearing by the Ontario Municipal Board re: an application by the Corporation of the Town of Timmins for annexation of a portion of the Township of Tisdale. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1j "Annexation"]

1951

April 23, 1951 – Timmins application to the Ontario Municipal Board to annex a portion of Township of Mountjoy. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1j "Annexation"]

May 10, 1951 – "Ontario announces special extra grants to mining municipalities. Timmins gets \$10,000 and Tisdale \$25,000. An angry Timmins talks about consolidating the four municipalities." [Watson]

May 14, 1951 – "Timmins officially asks the province to study amalgamation. The province does nothing." [Watson]

1964

April 16, 1964 – Announcement of the Kidd Creek ore body find by the Texas Gulf Company. [See *Daily Press (Timmins),* Saturday, June 17, 1972, p. 4, "Kidd Creek: Another Would be Nice"]

1965

March, 1965 – Becket Report on municipal government released. [See Ontario Legislative Assembly 1965]

March 25, 1965 – E. G. Faludi and Associates Town Planning Consultants Limited prepare for the Town of Timmins, "A Preliminary Proposal for the Definition of the Ultimate Size of the Timmins Development Area." Report raises the following issues that need to be resolved among the municipalities: "In order to solve their problems, the above municipalities must come to an agreement on the following subjects a. total amalgamation, b. partial amalgamation of the areas to be urbanized and the creation of new municipalities, c. Annexation of parts of the municipalities by the Town, d. establishment of a joint service Commission, e. Regional Government, f. total or partial amalgamation." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2a "1-4 Amalgamation"]

April 5, 1966 – Premier John Robarts first introduces "Design for Development" to the Ontario Legislature. [*Legislative Debates* Fourth Session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature Tuesday, April 5, 1966, 2254-2260]

September 13, 1966 – Two hearings held by the Ontario Municipal Board in Timmins: Application of the Township of Mountjoy for amalgamation with the Town of Timmins in the District of Cochrane and Application by the Corporation of the Town of Timmins for annexation to the town of part of the Township of Mountjoy in the district of Cochrane. [See Archives of Ontario RG 19-20-1 "Timmins City (includes: Mountjoy Township, Tisdale Township, and Whitney Township.)"; Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1a-r "Amalgamation 1972"]

1967

1967 – E.G. Faludi releases The Future of Timmins: an Urban Renewal Study.

February 24, 1967 – Report of the federal Royal Commission on Taxation (the Carter Report) is published and faces opposition from mining interests [*Canadian Mining Journal*]

April 21, 1967 – Hon. J.W. Spooner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, addresses the Porcupine Planning Board issuing his support for an enlarged planning area. In his speech Spooner encourages the centralization of local studies. In this period, planning issues in Mountjoy Township had resulted in litigation between the township and its planning consultant Dr. Faludi. This conflict had influenced Whitney and Tisdale Townships to retain different planning consultants. Spooner urges representatives from the respective townships to cultivate their inter-municipal interests, which requires "coordination and resolution for the benefit of all." [See Archives of Ontario: Address by the Honourable J.W. Spooner, Minister, Ontario Department of Municipal Affairs, To the Porcupine Planning Board, Friday, April 21, 1967, Archives of Ontario, RG 19-4-2, "Timmins Porcupine Planning BD," Container #B269674]

May 15, 1967 – The Ontario Municipal Board recommends a larger scale amalgamation of the entire Porcupine as well as specifically compels the townships of Whitney and Tisdale to participate in the process. [See Archives of Ontario RG 19-20-1, "Timmins City (includes: Mountjoy Township, Tisdale Township, and Whitney Township.)"; Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66. 1a-r "Amalgamation 1972"]

August 31, 1967 – Report of the Ontario Committee on Taxation (the Smith Report) is released with recommendations affecting mining communities and provokes debate. [See *Globe and Mail*, September 1, 1967, p. B6, "The Smith Committee: 5 economic experts;" September 9, 1967, p. 7, "The Smith Report: An iceberg of tax recommendations"; Ontario Committee on Taxation (1967)]

October 17, 1967 – In the provincial general election, Municipal Affairs Minister J.W. Spooner is defeated in Cochrane South by a United Church minister, Rev. William Ferrier, a New Democrat. Ferrier is the MPP representing the Timmins area during the period of amalgamation [See *Globe and Mail*, October 18, 1967, p. 9, "UC minister beats Spooner by 800 in Cochrane South"]

1968

January 23, 1968 – The Association of Mining Municipalities emphatically rejects the province's Smith Report on Taxation. A brief drawn up by Pat Murphy and Harold Bondett claims the Smith recommendations would lead to bankruptcies for a number of municipalities. [See *Toronto Daily Star*, Tuesday, January 23, 1968, p. 16, "Mine towns oppose Smith tax proposals"]

August 13, 1968 – Timmins and Kirkland Lake representatives of the Association of Mining Municipalities oppose mining tax revisions [in response to the Smith Report] proposed by Inco. Timmins and Kirkland Lake representatives express these revisions would ruin their respective towns because, unlike Sudbury, "they have no mines or processing plants within their borders." [See *Globe and Mail*, Monday, August 14, 1968, p. B2, "Timmins, Kirkland Lake oppose change in mine taxes proposed by Inco; "April 24, 1968, p. B2, "Ontario likes Inco proposal on smelter tax"]

October 16, 1968 – Meeting held with representatives of four townships to discuss Ross Pope & Company Proposal for an Area Government Study. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.2a "1-4 Amalgamation]

November 28, 1968 – Statement by the Premier John Robarts re: Design for Development Phase II. [Robarts (1968)]

December 2, 1968 – Statement by Minister of Municipal Affairs Darcy McKeough re: Design for Development Phase II. [Robarts (1968)]

1969

January 1, 1969 – Timmins and surrounding townships experience mergers of their respective school boards. [See Davis (1969); Archives of Ontario, RG 19-6-7, "Speeches and Statements 1968 & 1969," container B269888. Note: of William Davis to Mr. Murray K. Killman, November 21, 1969]

January 15, 1969 – "Regional Government Address" at Laurentian University by Mr. J.A. Kennedy, chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). Kennedy expresses that "Regional Government design should aim for three particular goals: 1. A broader tax base bringing in all processing industries under a municipally assessable situation. 2. Maximum efficiency of all services particularly those common to all municipalities. 3. An improved financial position." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.2a-ah "1-4 Amalgamation," Letter from G.A. Brillinger] March 13, 1969 – Meeting held in Toronto on possible consolidation of Porcupine area municipalities. The clerks of the four area municipalities and the treasurer of the Town of Timmins, R.H. Pope and A.G. Tomlin meet with Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs W. Palmer and others of the Department of Municipal Affairs. They discuss "with the Deputy Minister the ideas which had been developed to date with respect to the possibility of the four Porcupine Area Municipalities consolidating and at the same time taking in additional areas outside the boundaries of the four municipalities which were presently in unorganized territory." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.2a-ah, "1-4 Amalgamation." Note the document "Memorandum re: meetings in Toronto on March 13th & 14th, 1969 respecting possible consolidation of Porcupine area municipalities"]

March 20, 1969 – Darcy McKeough Minister of Municipal Affairs delivers an address to the Empire Club of Canada entitled "Municipalities: Where the Action Is." He gives his typical call for an overhaul of the municipal system.

March 22, 1969 – MPP William Ferrier sends a telegram to the government demanding it compel Texas Gulf Sulphur Co. of New York to build a smelter in the Timmins area. [See *Globe and Mail*, March 22, 1969, p. B2, "Timmins wants force applied to get smelter"; March 12, 1968, p. 9, "MPP describes mining firm as Scrooge of the North"]

March 26, 1969 – Meeting held with representatives of all four Porcupine municipalities to discuss a study on consolidation of the four municipalities. Meeting includes Ross Pope & Company and representatives of the Town of Timmins, the Townships of Mountjoy, Tisdale and Whitney along with the Deputy Minister and C.R. Wilmot, Municipal Roads Engineer, Ontario Department of Highways, to outline plans with respect to a study on consolidation of the four area municipalities. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.2a-ah, "1-4 Amalgamation"]

April 18, 1969 – Letter sent by Ross Pope & Company to four Porcupine area municipal clerks confirming they have been authorized to undertake the Porcupine Area Consolidation Study and requesting the formation of several municipal committees to assist in the study. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.2a-ah, "1-4 Amalgamation"]

May 5, 1969 – First meeting of the Consulting Committee on the study of Porcupine Area Municipal Consolidation is held in the Timmins Council chambers. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2a-ah, "1-4 Amalgamation"]

June 24, 1969 – 400 delegates of the Association of Mayors and Reeves convention approve resolutions calling for closer consultation with the provincial government on regional government. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.1a-r, "Area Consolidation – Fire Commission"] June 25, 1969 – Department of Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough introduces the New Assessment Act to the Ontario Legislature. The Act is intended to be "the cornerstone of reform for our system and structures of local government." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.1a-r, "Area Consolidation – Fire Commission"]

July 28, 1969 – The Ontario Police Commission releases its report recommending that the Town of Timmins and the Township of Tisdale amalgamate their respective police services. The report, which had been requested by the Timmins Police, was based on a survey of police requirements carried out between April 15 and May 15. [See letter dated July 28 with attached report from the Ontario Police Commission to J.E. Bergeron, Clerk-Administrator, Town of Timmins held in the records of the Clerk's Department, City of Timmins]

September 18, 1969 – Meeting held in Timmins about regional development, as part of three development conferences held in Northern Ontario. Minister Darcy McKeough meets with elected representatives and municipal officials of the four area municipalities. The conferences are aimed at countering the widespread belief that "the government neglects the north" and to "demonstrate to you in a very forceful way that the government of Ontario is very definitely not neglecting the north." [See Archives of Ontario, RG 19-6-3, Container B269871; *Toronto Daily Star*, Monday, July 21, 1969, p. 12, "Ontario out to its' not neglecting North"; *Globe and Mail*, September 3, 1969, p. B2, "Queen's Park to travel to people for northern development talks"; October 4, 1969, p. A3, "An elevated rebel builds a northern base"]

October 31, 1969 – Ontario Conference on Local Government is held in Sudbury. In his speech Minister Darcy McKeough refers to "Design for Development" and says that, "[t]his, in turn, requires municipalities with sufficient population to keep the cost per person down to the lowest figure. It also emphasizes the need for an area to retain a sense of community on a sociological, economic, geographical and historical basis as well as to maintain a balance of interests among the various groups in the area." [See Honourable Darcy McKeough Minister of Department of Municipal Affairs to the Ontario Conference on Local Government in Sudbury, October 31, 1969, RG 19-6-2, container B269868]

November 7, 1969 – Federal Finance Minister E.J. Benson releases his White Paper on Taxation, which is criticized by the mining industry. [See "Tax Reform and the mining industry," *Canadian Mining Journal*, November 1971, pp. 31-33]

February 6, 1970 – Toronto Planning Board member Margaret Scrivener publishes letter criticizing Darcy McKeough's municipal policies. In it she writes that, "In view of The Star's editorial policy, I appreciate its generosity in giving me this opportunity to state frankly my opinion that annexation and amalgamation were Edwardian solutions to Edwardian urban problems; they were effective primarily in finite situations where populations were small, cities were easily comprehended, society was relatively well-ordered, and urban technology was still in its infancy ... " [See *Toronto Daily Star*, Friday, February 6, 1970, p. 6, "The City/ Ontario's \$100 million Grab for Metro"]

May 5, 1970 – Darcy McKeough states that the provincial government will move immediately to impose its new regional development plan on all municipalities starting in and around southern Ontario. Municipalities were to submit mandatory studies and McKeough promised "government help in the form of direct financial aid to new regional governments undertaking their first planning studies." He speaks of potential amalgamations and warns that "the province will 'move in and fill the void' if municipalities do not establish official plans." [See *Toronto Daily Star*, Wednesday, May 6, 1970, p. 8, " Development program starts right away municipalities told"]

July 20, 1970 – Minister Darcy McKeough, while on tour of parts of Northern Ontario, tells area municipal leaders that a preliminary report on consolidation of area municipalities is due mid-August. McKeough includes an assurance that "regional government for the north is some years away." [See *Toronto Daily Star*, Tuesday, July 21, 1970, p. 3, "Timmins-area merger plan nearly ready"]

November 17, 1970 – Reflecting a typical conflict over road maintenance, Mountjoy municipal officials send a letter to Tisdale council expressing disappointment about the condition of the North Road and requesting that they make the necessary repairs. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Tuesday, November 17, 1970, p. 3, "Council Looks At Road, Finds It Isn't Too Bad"]

December 5, 1970 – Councillors from Tisdale and Timmins respectively contest a bill stemming from taxes related to the operation of the MacIntyre Community Centre. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Saturday, December 5 1970, p. 11, "Township Told Don't Hold Breath Over Tax Payment"]

December 7, 1970 – Plebiscites on consolidation are held during municipal elections in Whitney and Tisdale Townships. A Cochrane district local election produces one of its lowest turnouts, but turnout is higher where there are the plebiscites. Voters reject the idea in both municipalities:

Tisdale – Consolidation as well as the idea of a two-tier system of municipal government are both rejected by Tisdale Township voters by a wide margin. Consolidation is rejected by 1,184 votes to 237. Two-tier government is rejected by 728 to 544.

Whitney – Voters are 90% opposed to consolidation, 164 opposed and 17 for.

[See *Daily Press (Timmins),* Tuesday, December 8, 1970, p. 5, "Low Vote Turnout Favors Incumbent," "Tisdale Township," "Turnout Is Small" and "Whitney Township"]

1971

January 16, 1971 – In the midst of a leadership race for the Progressive Conservative Party, candidate and Minister of Mines Allan Lawrence attacks fellow candidate William Davis and his spending on education. In a "subtle reference to Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough (another leadership candidate) and to Davis, Lawrence promised no more regional governments or amalgamation of school boards 'without a full consultation with the people involved.''' [See *Toronto Daily Star*, January 18, 1971, p. 67, "Lawrence speech on education cost 'insults' ex-trustee"; *Globe and Mail*, October 4, 1969, p. A3, "An elevated rebel builds a northern base"]

January 23, 1971 – Publication of the report *Design for Development: Northeastern Ontario Development Region.* In the same year is also published *Design for Development in Ontario: The Initiation of a Regional Planning Program* by Richard S. Thoman, Director of Ontario's Regional Development Branch from January 1967 to February 1971.

May 31-June 2, 1971 – 28th convention of the Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves. The 707-member association votes to merge with its rival organization, the Ontario Municipal Association (OMA). [See *Toronto Daily Star*, Monday, May 31, 1971, p. 3, "Mayors and reeves' group may merge with its arch rival," Tuesday June 1, 1971, p. 25, "Metro chairman decries municipal board power," and "Bales hints more aid on the way to help newly formed regions"; *Globe and Mail*, May 31, 1971, p. 4, "Strong, single voice at Queen's Park sought: Conference of Ontario's two largest municipal organizations expected to approve merger," June 1, 1971, p. 4, "Solid Approach to senior governments sought: Province's mayors and reeves vote to merge group with Ontario Municipal Association," June 1, 1971, p. 4, "Heavy civic spending is deplored by Bales," June 2, 1971, p. 41, "Quality of local leadership is discouraging, McKeough tells meeting of mayors and reeves," June 3, 1971, p. 1, "Association seeks full evaluation: Stall further regional government mayors urge," and June 3, 1971, p. 9, "Sudbury mayor elected to head association"]

June 2, 1971 – Last day of the 28th and final convention of the Association of Ontario Mayors and Reeves. The Association urges the provincial government to halt the program of regionalization throughout Ontario. [See *Toronto Daily Star*, Thursday, June 3, 1971, p. 62, "Mayors ask for Moratorium on Regional Government"]

December 1971 – Ross Pope & Company release the *Porcupine Area Municipal Consolidation Study: Financial Aspects.* The study deals with "34 townships, 1,224 sq. miles. Feb. 8, 1972 is set for a meeting of the four [municipalities] on it." [City of Timmins Clerk's Department; Watson]

January 20, 1972 – John Bracken on behalf of the Township of Whitney releases "Porcupine Area Municipal Consolidation Comments." [City of Timmins Clerk's Department]

February 1, 1972 – Ted Proulx, Clerk Administrator of the Township of Mountjoy, expresses in a letter to Ross Pope & Company criticisms and concerns about the "Consolidation Report." For example, "Your report recommends that the Consolidated Area be under the control of the Timmins by-laws because they are the largest municipality. The Township of Mountjoy strongly opposes this!" [See Timmins Public Museum Archives, 990.66.1a-r, "Amalgamation 1972"]

February 4, 1972 – Reeve E.R. White of Tisdale Township releases statement critical of Porcupine Area Municipal Consolidation. [City of Timmins Clerk's Department]

February 8, 1972 – In the morning, "Tisdale announces it rejects the study and will only attend as an observer." In the evening, "At a meeting closed to the public, Whitney rejects the study and says it won't even discuss it." [Watson]

February 15, 1972 – Mountjoy in a resolution asks the Ontario Municipal Board to reopen the annexation hearing and to include Whitney and Tisdale in its application. Whitney and Tisdale openly object to any form of amalgamation and refuse to discuss the consolidation study. [See Watson; Public Museum Archives 990.66.1a-r "Amalgamation 1972"]

March 16, 1972 – "MPP William Ferrier (Cochrane South-NDP) writes Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough opposing forced consolidation and asking for the Minister's plans." [Watson]

March 28, 1972 – Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough delivers his budget speech, where he announces that the government has increased its funding to municipalities by \$75 million (\$47 million in grants to school boards, \$16 million in unconditional grants to municipalities and \$12 million in grants for urban transit systems). In the speech he also speaks of restructuring local governments in Sudbury and Waterloo and that his government was "continuing our studies for other areas of the province." [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, March 29, 1972, p. 12, "Extra Financing Good News For Municipalities"]

March 29, 1972 – "McKeough's reply [to Ferrier's letter] makes it clear either voluntarily or by force, amalgamation is coming." [Watson]

March 30, 1972 – "Ferrier releases the two letters and Timmins Coun. Don Collins predicts amalgamation before the end of the year." [Watson]

April 27, 1972 – "McKeough asks the four municipalities for their stand on the Pope report and on amalgamation." [Watson]

May 8, 1972 – "Without a recorded vote, Mountjoy decides consolidation is being rushed and wants time to develop as a separate entity." [Watson]

May, 1972 – Councils of the Municipalities of the Townships of Whitney and Tisdale submit "A Proposal For an Alternate Plan on Local Government Reform in the Porcupine Area." [City of Timmins Clerk's Department].

May 9, 1972 – "Whitney and Tisdale admit they have asked McKeough to approve a plan for a two-tier government with the bottom tier elected and a regional body appointed." [Watson]

June 1, 1972 – "Timmins council tells McKeough it is unanimous in its support for the merger of the four municipalities." [Watson]

--- Letter exchange between Miss Tracy Webb, teacher at St. Paul's School in Timmins, and Reeve Fern Tremblay of the Township of Mounjoy re: invitation for the Reeve to visit her class to discuss amalgamation. He says he is unable to attend. In his response he explains his version of the history of amalgamation. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1a-r, "Amalgamation 1972"]

--- Article in the *Daily Press (Timmins)* reports an approximate decrease of \$4,000 in Mining Revenue payments to the Township of Whitney. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Friday, June 2, 1972, p. 9, "Whitney Is Successful in Lowering Taxes"]

June 8, 1972 – Darcy McKeough's office sends a telegram requesting the presence of mayors, reeves and municipal leaders in the Porcupine area to attend a meeting at the McIntyre Community Centre. An announcement for consolidation is expected. [See Watson; *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Friday, June 9, 1972, p. 3, "McKeough Calls Meeting Of Area Municipalities"]

--- Tisdale and Whitney Townships have distributed a petition stating that they are "strongly opposed" to consolidation of the Porcupine municipalities. In a letter, Mr. McKeough vetoed the Tisdale-Whitney amalgamation proposal writing, "I think it should be clear that only a system based on the consolidation of the existing four municipalities in the Timmins-Porcupine area holds promise for the strengthening of local government." [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Thursday June 8, 1972, p. 3, "Try to Arouse Public Against Consolidation"]

June 10, 1972 – "McKeough asks the public, the four councils and their staffs to attend a meeting in Schumacher to hear an announcement on area government." [Watson]

--- Association of Mining Municipalities of Ontario Conference is held in Schumacher to discuss mining revenue payments. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Monday, June 12, 1972, p. 3, "Committee to Discuss MRP With Province"]

--- Construction of a \$2 million shopping centre in Mountjoy Township is announced following receipt of approval from the Department of Municipal Affairs. [See *Daily Press (Timmins),* Saturday, June 10, 1972, p. 1, "Mountjoy Shopping Mall Cost Put at \$2 Million"]

June 12, 1972 – In a highly charged meeting at McIntyre arena "Darcy McKeough imposes consolidation." More than 300 people gather at the McIntyre Community Centre to oppose consolidation with picket signs. Large numbers of police are present. [See Watson; *Daily Press (Timmins),* Tuesday June 13, 1972, p. 1, "Consolidation Coming," Friday June 16, 1972, p. 4, "Consolidation Viewpoint: More Community Projects Attainable Under One Roof," June 13, 1972, p. 1 and "Police Guard is Heavy at Consolidation Meet"; Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1a-r, "Amalgamation 1972"; *Globe and Mail,* June 15, 1972. p. 2, "McKeough criticized for press invitation," June 13, 1972, p. 1, "1000 square miles: Timmins biggest city in McKeough plans"]

June 13, 1972 – Tisdale and Whitney municipal leaders plan to present Premier Davis with a petition and to "remind him of his promise not to force consolidation on this area." [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, June 13, 1972, p. 9, "Tisdale, Whitney Promise Fight"]

June 19, 1972 – Founding convention held in Ottawa for the newly formed Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the product of the merger between Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves and the Ontario Municipal Association. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Tuesday, June 20, 1972, p. 5, "Association For More Consultation"]

June 22, 1972 – Bill 195, an act to incorporate the City of Timmins-Porcupine is given first reading. [See Ontario Legislature (1972)]

--- "Statement By The Honourable W. Darcy McKeough on an Act to Incorporate the City of Timmins-Porcupine." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2a-ah, "1-4 Amalgamation."]

June 23, 1972 – Meeting is held with Claude Bennett, Parliamentary Assistant to the Provincial Treasurer, representatives of the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental affairs, the heads of Council for the four municipalities in the Timmins-Porcupine Area and others to discuss the provisions of Bill 195. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2m, "Public Works."]

June 27, 1972 – "The government announces it will amend the act to include the seven dropped townships and 16 sq. Miles from an eighth." [Watson]

--- Second reading for Bill 195 in the Ontario Legislature. In the ensuing debate William Ferrier, NDP member for Cochrane South, expresses that there is opposition to the Bill from Tisdale, Whitney and outlying areas. [See Ontario Legislature (1972)]

June 28, 1972 – Provincial government requests that the area municipalities establish a Steering Committee of local officials to guide the consolidation process. This was essentially a comprehensive set of instructions from the Province for townships [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2e, "Police Board Committee; 990.66.2m, "Public Works."]

June 29, 1972 – Bill 195 receives third reading. [See Ontario Legislature (1972)]

June 30, 1972 – Royal assent is obtained and the Bill becomes law. During the royal assent, 7 townships (Blackstock, Langmuir, Eldorado, Adams, Price, Thornloe and Denton) are added to the new city. The addition would bring Langmuir mine within the boundaries of the city. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Friday, June 30, 1972, p. 1, "Seven More Townships Come Into Boundaries"]

--- Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs declares that residents of the Porcupine will get more time to suggest names for their new city. The names of Timmins and Timmins Porcupine had been suggested without consultation of councils and residents of the area. [See *Daily Press (Timmins,)* Friday, June 30, 1972, p. 1. "Suggestions Are Invited For Name For New City"]

--- Rev. James A. Watton, Anglican bishop of Moosonee, writes to Premier Davis "to add his voice to the already sizeable chorus of objections made to the recent creation by legislation of the City of Timmins-Porcupine." He says there are arguments against the principle of amalgamation, but "the one tragic fact of the legislation is the way it was done." He refers to many people going door to door reacting against amalgamation: "They never had an opportunity or even the courtesy of a hearing. What they interpret as the mailed fist of arrogance fell with surprising suddeness. … A much deeper resentment and disillusionment with democracy has replaced a former suspicion." [See Laurentian University Archives, Diocese of Moosonee fonds, P032 - Synod Office, Government of Ontario, letter to The Hon. W. Davis, Premier, June 30, 1972]

July 13, 1972 – Province commits respective amounts of \$59,000 and \$150,000 aimed at funding the consolidation process, Steering Committees, etc. as well as transitional costs. [See Timmins Museum Public Archives 990.66.2m "Public Works"]

July 27, 1972 – Ross Pope issues invoice for fees relating to study based on population of area townships. Total is \$11,200 plus extra. Local Reeves were under the impression that the province would foot the bill. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1r, "Ross Pope and Company Report & Correspondence"]

August 28, 1972 – Steering Committee expresses a strong objection to the transfer of O.P.P. personnel from South Porcupine contrary to recommendations of the "Pope Report." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2e, "Police Board Committee"]

September 7, 1972 – Darcy McKeough, viewed widely as Premier Davis's "second-incommand," resigns from cabinet. [See *Globe and Mail*, September 6, 1972, p. 1, "Likely to accept McKeough resignation today: Davis postpones Cabinet shuffle, statement of policy on conflicts"; *Toronto Daily Star*, Thursday, September 7, 1972, p. 3, "McKeough has a quiet drink and heads home to his family," MacNaughton is named to take over from McKeough"; *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Monday, September 18, 1972, p. 5, "After Drop From Cabinet"]

September 11, 1972 – Nominations for council and mayor of the new super-city close at 5.pm. [See *Daily Press* (Timmins), Tuesday, September 12, 1972, p. 1, "Few Surprises in Nominations For Super City"]

September 13, 1972 – Regulation made under the City of Timmins-Porcupine Act 1972. A vote of the electors of the city to determine the name of the city shall be taken at the same time as the election for the first council. The names designated as selections are City of Timmins, City of Timmins-Porcupine and City of Porcupine. [See "Regulations Made Under the City of Timmins-Porcupine Act, 1972." Archives of Ontario, RG 19-20-1, "Timmins City (includes: Mounjoy Township, Tisdale Township, and Whitney Township, container B233000]

September 16, 1972 – The first Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) executive meeting is held in Timmins. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Executive Board also meets in Timmins at the same time. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2p, "Parks and Recreation"; *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Saturday, September 16, 1972, p. 1, "AMO Meeting: OMB Power Irksome To Municipalities."]

September 22, 1972 – Mayor Leo Del Villano returns from "Consolidation Meetings" held in Toronto. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Saturday, September 23, 1972, p. 9, "City-Wide Needs Must Be Studied"]

October 2, 1972 – The first municipal election is held for the new City of Timmins. The City Council has 15 members: the mayor and 14 councillors; one of the councillors is a woman. [See *Daily Press* (Timmins), Tuesday, October 3, 1972, p. 9, "Timmins Voters Decide Name," "Leo Sets Priority for Council Action," "Voters Turn To Experience In Choice of Council Members," "School Boards Have Many Familiar Faces," "Sights are Set on Recreation," "Mall Bylaw Worries Pope," "Leo is On His Way Out" and Wednesday, October 4, 1972, p. 1, "13 Men, 1 Woman Make up Council"; for costs related to election see Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.2r, "no title"]

--- "Timmins" chosen as new name for City in the election plebiscite. [See *Daily Press* (Timmins), Tuesday, October 3, 1972, p. 1, "Timmins Gets The Nod As New Name For City," and "Experience Preferred in Candidate Choices"; for Election controversy see *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Friday, September 15, 1972, p. 4, "For the New Name: Timmins Is Best Bet"]

October 5, 1972 – Ward 3 losing candidate Paul Maisonneuve campaigns to have the municipal election investigated and possibly invalidated because of alleged irregularities in the operation of polling. He claims that many Timmins residents were denied their right to vote. [See *Daily Press (Timmins),* Thursday, October 5, 1972, p. 9, "Maisonneuve Wants Election Investigated"]

October 26, 1972 – Soon-to-be Timmins resident Oksana Marie Mudruk issues a critical letter in *The Globe and Mail*. She voices her criticisms of amalgamation for residents in the area. [See *Globe and Mail*, October 26, 1972, p. 7, "Amalgamation"]

November 20, 1972 – Conflict and competition arises while Timmins and Area Library services are being consolidated. Library representatives from the periphery are perturbed due to their exclusion from this process. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1i, "Library Board"]

November 22, 1972 – Conflict and competition arises while Timmins and area Fire services are being unified. [See Timmins Public Museum Item Archives 990.66.1r, "Ross Pope and Company Report & Correspondence"]

December 11, 1972 – Mayor Leo Del Villano receives confirmation from Ontario Treasurer Charles McNaughton of the new City's name: The Corporation of the City of Timmins. [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1a-r, "Order in Council + Terms of Reference – City of Timmins"]

December 14, 1972 – Third reading of Bill 237, "An Act to amend The City of Timmins-Porcupine Act, 1972." [See Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.66.1a-r, "Order in Council and Terms of Reference – City of Timmins"] December 27, 1972 – Final resolution is passed at the last council meeting of the Township of Mountjoy. [Timmins Public Museum Archives 990.1a-r, "Amalgamation 1972"]

1973

January 1, 1973 – "The City of Timmins is officially born. It is 1240 sq. miles, making it the largest municipality in size in Canada." [Watson]

January 8, 1973 – First meeting of the new city council. [See *Daily Press (Timmins)*, Tuesday, January 2, 1972, p. 1, "New Council Sworn in at Thursday Ceremony," and Monday, January, 8, 1972, p. 3]

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RG 19-20-1, Municipal Incorporation Records.

Newspapers and Journals

Canadian Mining Journal

Daily Press (Timmins)

Globe and Mail

Municipal World

Porcupine Advance

Toronto Daily Star

Windsor Star