

## Famous Rockwood Pot-Holes Thought 20,000 Years Old

The picturesque village of Rockwood was the subject of a feature article in the Hamilton Spectator. Mrs. Hazel Mack of Eden Mills wrote the interesting article, which is reprinted here.

One of the loveliest natural beauty spots in south-western Ontario, Rockwood village on No. 7 highway, six miles from Guelph is fast becoming known as a pleasant, restful place to go.

It has two public parks but generally people prefer to seek out secluded spots along the river. Here they sunbathe and fish to their heart's content. Situated in the wide valley of the Eramosa River, Rockwood is partly hidden by the many fine trees that shade the streets and fool the casual traveller into thinking the village a smaller place indeed.

With a population of over a thousand, there are four churches, a busy candy factory and an even busier lime kiln. To the unobservant, however, none of the activity is apparent and Rockwood as a village represents a most modest appearance.

What is unique, however, are the only pot-holes in the district. They attract visitors for many miles distant and have been studied by geologists for generations.

According to Prof. F. F. Morwick of the Ontario Agriculture College, whose specialty is geology, there are no other pot-holes nearer than Ottawa. The next nearest are in Wisconsin, United States.

Oddities of nature, these pot-holes are given little attention by Rockwood residents. "Old stuff" to the people in the district, they knew of them as children and now don't bother. Newcomers don't know just what pot-holes are and seldom investigate.

**Devil's Well**  
Only one is in good condition, "The Devil's Well." This name was used to designate one of the famous pot-holes in Europe and was probably given to the Rockwood one by some early settler who had known of them in Europe.

Resembling a silo in shape, being perfectly cylindrical, it has a man-made opening at the base in a ravine. It is said that a teacher at the Rockwood Academy, fearing that some harm would come to his pupils when they persisted in going down inside on ropes to "see what it was like," carried over some tools and made it possible for the boys to go in and satisfy their curiosity. This was about 60 years ago.

The average person might better appreciate the pot-holes if they knew that they are believed to be between 20,000 and 25,000 years old. "At least," says Prof. Morwick, "it has been that long since glaciation." And it is supposed by geologists that the ice age lasted several hundred thousand years. The pot-holes were made by the stone boulders being turned by the flow of water and grinding deeper into the bed of the stream. This was nature's way of making a channel for water.

The many pot-holes that were once to be found bordering the Eramosa river in the Rockwood area are almost gone with erosion and time doing its work. A practiced eye can still find the remains of dozens but in a short time they will be completely gone.

From a high point in one of the parks known as "Lookout Point," the remains of other pot-holes show, where the river only partly covers them.

Much of the area where the pot-holes are is owned by the Gypsum Lime and Alabaster Co. of Paris, Ont. The village of Rockwood, however, has leased it for 99 years, the lease to run out in about 70 years.

**Natural Park**  
In the meantime, the Grand Valley Conservation Authority would like to have control of the land from Everton village a few miles above Rockwood to Eden Mills, just below.

Ernest Benham, deputy-reeve of the Township of Eramosa would like to see the province take over control of this natural park land. He says it will be no time before the people in the cities of Toronto and Hamilton will need such a place for it is just a nice drive from Toronto. He thinks it is too big an undertaking for the Grand Valley Conservation Authority. Roads would have to be built down through the area to make it usable. There would be well over a thousand acres of land for a provincial park, depending on how much land was taken in on each side of the river.

The early settlers thought there was gold in the limestone in Rockwood. They also said there was plaster of paris and oil. The latter two products have been found in some abundance but no gold.

There are at least two caves known to be in the Rockwood district that are said to have rooms of a fair size. One is on the River Road, a much travelled road, admired for its lovely view. A. P. Coleman has a picture of this road and cave entrance in his book on geology but as far as is known, no one of this generation has gone in to explore. Many are curious but not enough to take a chance on falling rock.

**Flowers and Birds**  
Photographers who like to take pictures of flowers haunt this Rockwood area at suitable times. They are to be seen, carefully setting up pieces of glass to keep the wind from causing a flower to

move. Bird watchers, too, find the birds they want to see with little trouble, for as well as many native birds, not seen in cities, the migratory birds follow the water courses and are often seen.

Recently Postmaster Day and his family were returning home one evening late and a young daughter, Jean, noticed a bird on the main street as they turned into the garage.

Mr. Day picked it up and took it to the bird sanctuary where it was identified as a blue-necked grebe. In migrating it had become either lost or injured in some way and landed right in the centre of the village. Unfortunately it didn't live but it was learned that a grebe cannot "take off" on land but must have water. It was one of the few ever seen here.

**Quaker Founders**  
There may be something in the fact that if a village is solely founded, it ended. Rockwood was established by members of the "Society of Friends," better known as Quakers. It was they who gave the place its first name of "Brotherston," a name that still seems a good one. One of the members of the society opened the Rockwood Academy, that was a famous school for learning in its day. Two of its pupils were Sir Adam Beck, father of hydro in Ontario and James Jerome Hill of railroad fame.

These same Quakers, founders of Rockwood, were Irish and it is probably they who gave the name of "Vinegar Hill" to that part of the highway in the village that goes in the direction of Toronto. Historically, Vinegar Hill has much meaning for the "Battle of Vinegar Hill" fought in 1799 during the Irish rebellion, it is said resulted in much slaughter. Tradition has kept the name alive but faulty memories have forgotten the reason for the name.

**Much to Offer**  
Few villages have as much to offer visitors as Rockwood with its fine scenery and a background that is rich in historical lore. There is another story that is most endearing and describes well how the people feel about their village. "When God finished making Muskoka," they tell you quite humbly, "he had some material left over and decided to use it in making Rockwood." And indeed, the region is much like the Muskoka Lakes district.

**Autumn Fishing Rivals Hunting On Small Lakes**  
EDMONTON (CP)—Sportsmen this fall are finding remarkable angling in small Edmonton district lakes that were stocked with trout last spring by the Alberta fish and game department.

Officials say the fishing has picked up considerably since the advent of cooler weather, and many persons prefer fishing to shooting during the autumn weeks.

One of the best fishing spots is near Muir Lake, stocked for the first time this year with rainbow trout fingerlings. A spokesman for the fisheries branch said nearly every angler was catching his limit of 11-inch trout.

Due to more favorable water temperatures and the abundance of food, the trout grow at a faster rate in small prairie lakes than in mountain lakes or streams.

The fisheries department says the only disadvantage is that stocked fish do not spawn and reproduce because lakes chosen for stocking do not have streams running in or out of them and thus the method is one of "put and take."

When a number of trout have been taken out by anglers, there is little competition for food. Fishing declines and all fish must be netted out and a new planting made.

Fisheries biologists have found the program works best on a three-year cycle. After planted fish have been in a lake for three seasons, they must be netted out and the lake restocked.

During some winters, oxygen supplies in the lakes become depleted, causing an almost complete winter-kill of the trout and netting of the fish is not necessary.

The Alberta government's trout stocking program is in its fourth year and most of the Edmonton district lakes which have been planted previously were netted last winter to make way for new stocking.



**FIELD STONES FOR FOUNDATION** of a new roadway leading to the Moffat Scout Camp are dumped by tractor, to be spread by scouts. The camp is being established on the farm of Scout Master Don Kennedy, north-west of Campbellville. The road must be built through the swamp that leads to the site chosen for the camp.

## Finish Bridge Reroute Creek

The new cement bridge on the fourth line near Ralph Denny's farm is now completed, but is still not open for traffic. The creek has to be rerouted and the old bridge torn out yet. They are trying to eliminate flood water from washing out the road.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Austin Young suffered a badly broken ankle last week. He was cutting wood and a tree lodged when he loosened it, the accident occurred. He will likely have to stay in the hospital another week. We wish Mr. Young luck with his convalescence.

The well drillers have moved in to the lot on the fourth line corner of Robert Warne's farm. They are planning to set up the equipment soon to drill for water for the town of Acton.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Agnew of Brampton have returned from a short holiday at Flint, Michigan. They visited with Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Harris and family, formerly of Rockwood.

Mrs. Mary Agnew of Toronto spent the week-end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr.

Mr. and Mrs. William Bell of Waterloo spent Sunday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warne.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Fisher of Erin also visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warne.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Denny and Robert spent Sunday in Brampton with Mr. and Mrs. G. Aldham and Mr. and Mrs. Ever Denny.

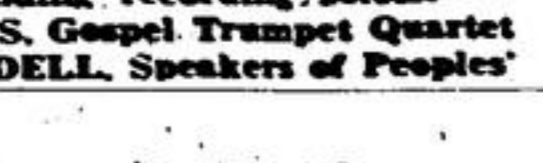
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swackhamer and Miss Nadine Swackhamer spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Art Swackhamer and Mr. and Mrs. Les Swackhamer.

Mrs. E. Freeman visited in Toronto with Mr. and Mrs. A. Skeoch.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Denny and family visited in Guelph with the latter's parents and Rev. and Mrs. Earle Leslie of Parry Sound.

Hallowe'en was a quiet affair in this area. However a few weird creatures fitted in on brooms and space ships, demanding their share of loot cached in the homes about. The home owners, properly intimidated, handed over the loot without a struggle and no retaliation occurred.

**COSTLY BREAK-IN**  
CHILLIWACK, B.C. (CP)—A \$100,000 fire which destroyed a building supply company structure here may have been caused by an acetylene torch, wielded by safe-crackers, R.C.M.P. said.

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## Churchill Finish Bridge Reroute Creek

The 1956-57 National Farm Radio Forum season started Monday evening, October 29, with good attendance reported by Halton county groups.

It was most fitting that the first topic under discussion concerned Canada's greatest asset and responsibility, her children, especially at school age. The topic was, School Milk.

All groups agreed that a program to supply milk to all Canadian school children should be developed. One group suggested that the welfare social worker could probably do more to help underprivileged children than schools.

Very few schools in Halton supply milk to school children but it was suggested that where feasible, the local dairies might deliver milk to the schools. Most felt some means of refrigeration would be necessary.

The third question dealt with the financing of such a project. Practically all the groups thought the government might give some financial assistance with parents, school boards or social groups paying part. One group suggested that some of the money obtained through the June set aside might be used for this purpose, thus advertising milk and improving the health of school children.

**SPECIAL SPUD**  
MEDICINE HAT, ALTA (CP)—A peculiar potato was grown by Arthur Kettle. Three potatoes joined together looked like a duck, with a head and beak, body and legs.

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## Support, Prayer Needed More Than Ever in Africa-Speaker

Halton Presbyterian, Sectional Rally was held on October 30 in Ballinacall United church, where the Melville Woman's Missionary Society acted as hostess. The theme for the rally was, God's Changeless Word, A Changing World.

The Acton Auxiliary led in the morning worship service. Miss M. Z. Bennett's thoughts on the Word threw out the challenge that women have a large share in the heavy responsibility of making good citizens in Canada. Great support is the return to the reading of His Word.

The afternoon worship service was led by the Milton group. Mrs. Foster centered her thoughts on Meditation. To overcome the world, we need many a still hour, when we can be face to face with the divine Master, the source of God's love. Only as we practise this inward stillness, will we have the workers we need, she said.

The splendid reports from the different groups showed a keen interest in the study book with the result that many babies of used clothing, layettes, blankets, etc. were sent to help those in need. The information and suggestions given by the Presbyterian officers were an added source of inspiration.

Mrs. Vrooman, the Candidate, Advisory Secretary of the Hamilton Conference, urged the ladies most earnestly to interest young men and women to train as workers for His kingdom.

During the lovely music provided by Acton, Church Hill Affiliated and Ashgrove Societies.

The guest speaker for the day was Miss Edith Clarke, a missionary to Angola, Africa, who is home on furlough. She has spent some 20 years there and gave much insight into the work among the African youth at Means school. Many boys are heartbroken when they are turned away from school because of lack of room, she said. The girls are beginning to get more education. More and more responsibilities are being assumed by the Africans and the educated doctors, nurses, teachers and preachers, are more adapted to work with their fellow men. She has confidence that God's spirit will work in their hearts and minds, and help them to work out His will. They need whole-hearted backing and prayers more than ever before, for there are many adversaries, she declared.

## Forums Feel Financial Aid Necessary For School Milk

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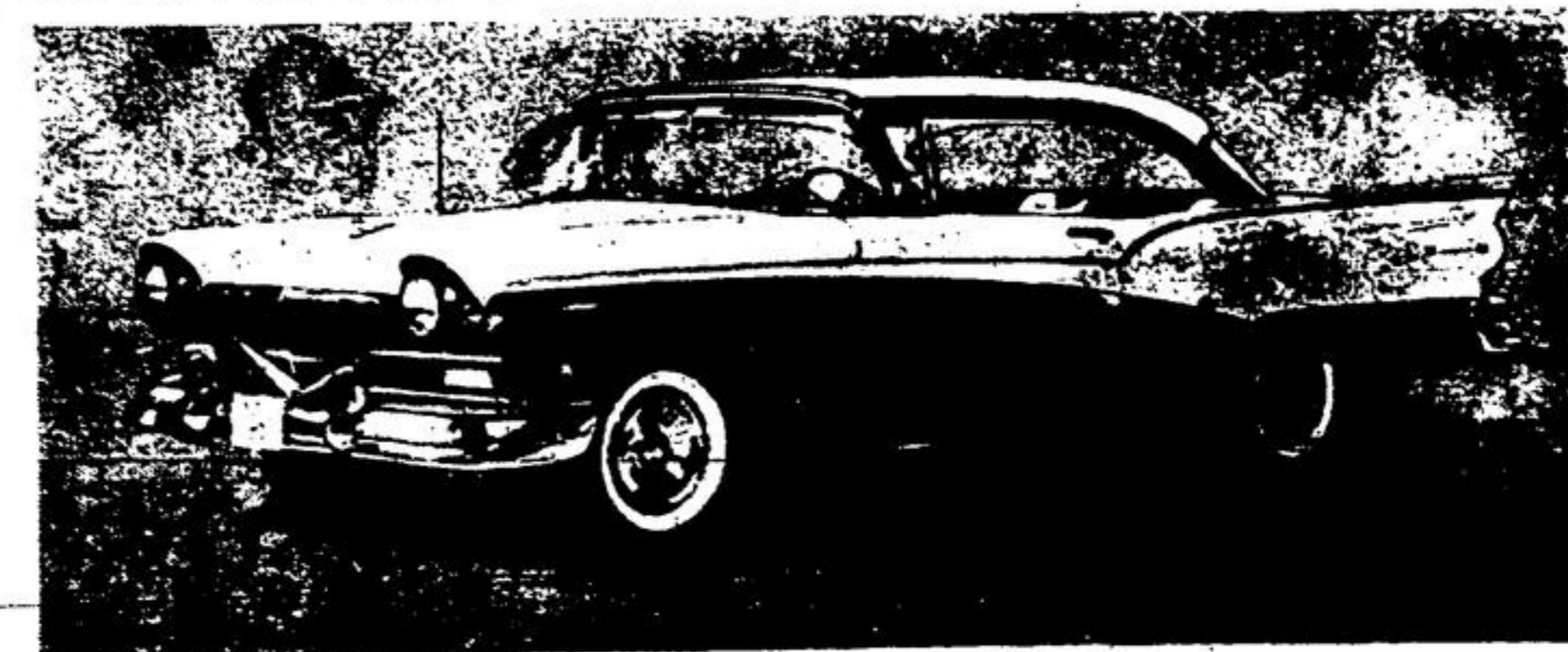
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