

# What's ahead for Rockwood, Eramosa?

Little cheer is being predicted for Canadians who live and work in Canada according to year-end economic reports and, as the 1970 calendar slides into another decade, residents of Eramosa may well ask themselves what they can expect in the Township of Eramosa. How will regional government affect them in their particular situation? And in Rockwood, how protected is the Village in regard to takeover from stronger areas, and what are her chances of advancement?

Here's a quick look at what some of the men closest to township and Village politics have to say.

## LOSS OF LOCAL AUTONOMY

Loss of local autonomy: "January 1st, 1970, will mark the takeover of the assessment by the Provincial Government and from there Regional Government is predicted. It has already been instituted in the region surrounding Ottawa and the Niagara Peninsula and studies are being carried out in Halton, Peel, Kitchener, Waterloo, and in Wentworth. The City of Guelph and County of Wellington will be commencing a study early in 1970 and whatever this study evolves will mean a further loss of self government to the smaller municipalities. We are told that advantages will be the curb on overlapping of various departments such as roads, planning, administration, etc. I believe that the time is now for us to decide what we want for our lower tier of government." - Cam Lush, Township Reeve.

## COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS

County School Boards: Larger area school boards could be a good thing if kept in line, so it doesn't get too expensive and rural areas get a fair share of income tax dollars which it will cost for new systems. Right now it is difficult to make any comment or to see benefits from a system that has only been operating for one year as the boards must have enough time to get established and know themselves where they are going." - Murray Smeltzer, past chairman of the now dissolved Eramosa Township Area School Board who served on the Continuing Committee for five months on the present Wellington County School Board.

"We have seen the disappearance of the township school boards which were replaced by the county school board system and this is the first year in the existence of the township that there was not local representation on the School Board. Taxpayers will well remember the year 1969 as the one when they had to bear a 10 mill increase in the cost of education due mainly in part to the formation of the County School Board system." - Cam Lush, Township Reeve.

## CONSTRUCTION:

According to the Ontario Water Resource Commission speculations, Rockwood could double its present population of 925 in 20 years. However, much depends on the water and sewage installation. According to informants there are approximately 40 or 50 people waiting right now to build in the

Village. It is hopeful that only small scale industry will move in but not enough to change the present scenic beauty and atmosphere in Rockwood. In 1970 it is foreseen that there will be a new firehall and also the proposed 1970 post office will be constructed with top priority rating on the old Rockwood public school property." - Ken Murray, newly elected Trustee Chairman.

"With the acquisition of water and sewage in the Police Village of Rockwood there will be a rapid growth within the village both in population and in building. Because of the restrictions which will be imposed by the Province's Planning Branch, however, land severances and building in the rural part of the township will be sharply curtailed. This will be brought about with legislation to the effect that an owner must have at least ten acres for a building lot, and this I strongly oppose. There will be a continuing rise in road maintenance due to the increased travel on township roads." - Cam Lush, Township Reeve.

## PROTECTION:

"We have, presently, a membership of 24 men on the Rockwood Fire Brigade serving Rockwood and all of Eramosa township. The recent purchases of a new fire truck, pump, and other sundry equipment will find the proposed fire hall which will, hopefully be built and in operation by 1970, heartily acceptable for housing such equipment. One new innovation was the 1968 installation of radio equipment in our truck so that we can be in constant contact with all of Wellington County and can call for extra equipment required for emergencies. At the present time the number of men serving on the brigade is adequate until such time as the Village grows and more men are required for the larger area coverage." - Carl Meadows, newly elected Fire Chief.

## CHRISTIANITY IN THE VILLAGE:

"If asked what the most single most encouraging thing about the Church life in the community happened to be, little cogitation would be

required before expressing the feeling that it was the increasing spirit of love, charity and co-operation which has been made manifest over the past year between the Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches in Rockwood. This co-operation was shown in 1969 by a joint venture in Christian education and, in addition to joint services on the Sunday closest to November 11 and the Sunday closest to Christmas Day with each of these endeavours supported by both clergy and laity with a quite remarkable degree of enthusiasm. For the 1970's village church men and women can look forward to first, a continuation of existing cordial relationships; secondly, with the arrival of a resident Roman Catholic priest, an expansion of ecumenical endeavours insofar as it is deemed practical; thirdly, with the current discussion of church union between the Anglican Church and the United Church of Canada it is much to be hoped that these two

denominations will be able to form a discussion group involving church officials from each denomination in order that closer understanding may be gained, in addition to the discussion of ways in which we can share our work, worship, and witness in this place." - Rev. Peter Tucker, Rockwood United Church of Canada.

## RECREATION:

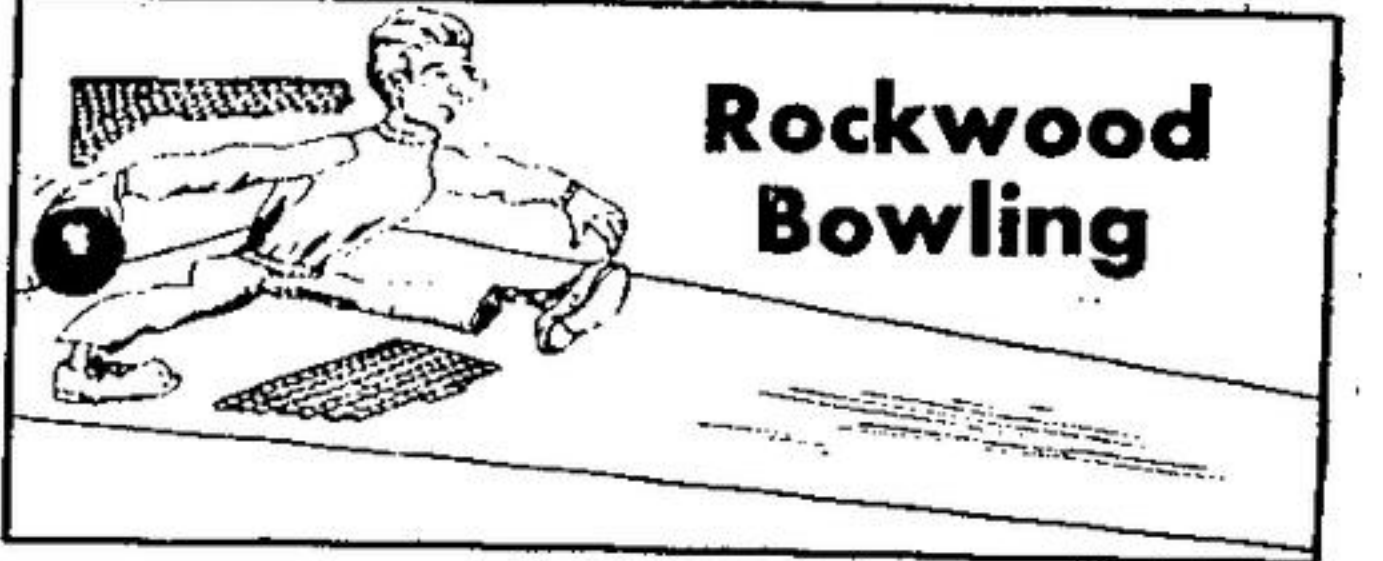
"The expansion of recreation facilities in the Township is a must." - Cam Lush, Township Reeve.

"The Eramosa Township Area School Boards, although now dissolved, were responsible for updating new school curriculum programs in Physical Education and the gymnasium facilities provided at the newly built schools in the Township are a timely innovation as these two auditoriums serve social communitywide purposes as well as facilitating social activities, school concerts and public meetings." - Murray Smeltzer, Past Chairman of Eramosa Township School Board.

The Free Press contacted the president of the Eramosa Recreation Committee, Dave Bacon, requesting a report on that committee and its accomplishments and objectives for the coming year. Unfortunately however, we were not able to get this at time of going to press so it is hoped that it will be available for next week's edition.

## THE LAST WORD:

"It would appear that, with the soaring costs of education etc. municipalities will have to have a larger tax base than property taxes or they will have to be subsidized substantially more by the Province. As it stands now, the course of things to come in the 1970's should be interesting in the municipal field as well as from the standpoint of social and economic development" said Township Reeve, Cam Lush and on behalf of his wife Edna and himself he wishes to extend to everyone a "Happy and Healthy New Year and Decade".



## Rockwood Bowling

Carney's 7 vs The Neighbors 0, May Swackhammer 465, Begoodorbeques 5 vs Norton's 2, Vic Williams 659, Gail Bacon 642, Vic Davies 641, Vic Nightingale 585.

Four Corners 5 vs Whitewashers 2.

Stratton's 5 vs Queen of Hearts 2, Dick Dupuis 861, Shirley Salmon 671, Ted Jestin 610.

Elmer's Alley Cats 5 vs Untouchables 2, Bill Elliott 691. For the annual turkey roll there were six prizes consisting of a turkey, ham, cake, cheese and two boxes of chocolates, for each team. Stratton's 68, Carney's 62, Queen of Hearts 59, Norton's 59, Begoodorbeques 53, Elmer's Alley Cats 52, The Neighbors 48, Four Corners 46, Whitewashers 43, Untouchables 35.

## No deer in park blame snowmobiles

Of deep concern to Rockwood Conservation Supervisor, Jim Muir, is the fact that many

snowmobile operators are not applying proper park courtesy and are running over and snapping off many valuable trees and causing considerable damage.

In an area where many rabbits and deer normally exist, officials report that not one deer has been seen in the vicinity of the park this year and blame for this is attached directly to the noise of the machines.

"It is regrettable but stipulations may have to be set" said Mr. Muir, "That no snowmobiling will be allowed in the Conservation Park."

# Rockwood News

More Rockwood News on Page 4

## New Year's Eve celebration always has waiting list

Hundreds of balloons, colorful streamers, noise makers, and paper hats all added to the gala excitement of the Rockwood's ninth annual New Year's Eve Celebration Dance held at the Town Hall last December 31.

Don Rowan's lively four piece combo orchestra of guitar, accordion, fiddle and piano, beat out the music for some 60 village and area couples to dance to.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Row were the lucky winners of one of the door prizes with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Goyers and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Leslie also sharing in the good fortunes of the evening.

The executive members of the enterprising group responsible for the annual New Year's event are Don and Winnie Hiltz and Ray and Betty Death, who were with the original executive when the idea of such a village dance party was contrived. "Only about eight of the first group attending at the town hall nine years ago are living in Rockwood now" said Ray Death, "and there have to be limitations on the number of people who can reasonably get into the Town Hall at one time, so naturally, there is quite a waiting list." And it is so. Many people attending the yearly affairs work their way onto the regular list only to have to sit out for a year or two because they have missed one event and, as the biggest local attraction on such an important night, everyone wants a ticket.

Three fat and succulent turkeys were cooked, carved and presented at 1.30 a.m. along with all the trimmings of super special holiday salads fit for a king, pickled eggs, rolls and coffee.

The executive members acted as hosts and hostesses for the evening and Marg. Hart was the checker. At approximately two o'clock a.m. Ray Death put on a running film display showing the past four and five years of parties during which exclamations of amazement at hair transfigurations and dress lengths were expressed with jocularly. Even the gentlemen's Khrushchev trouser legs aroused chuckles of amusement as everyone at the party enjoyed reviewing themselves and their friends.

## Stately elm topples

A land mark for over 100 years, a beautiful old elm tree, now ravaged with Dutch elm disease, had to be cut down on Monday, just five days after the new year's beginning. The four foot thick tree was one which stood in elegance in the midst of cedar bush down by the Conservation Park Beach and it rose above all others in its vicinity.

## Single car accident

Sunday night's winter weather conditions were partly responsible for an accident on Highway 24, just east of the fifth line of Rockwood.

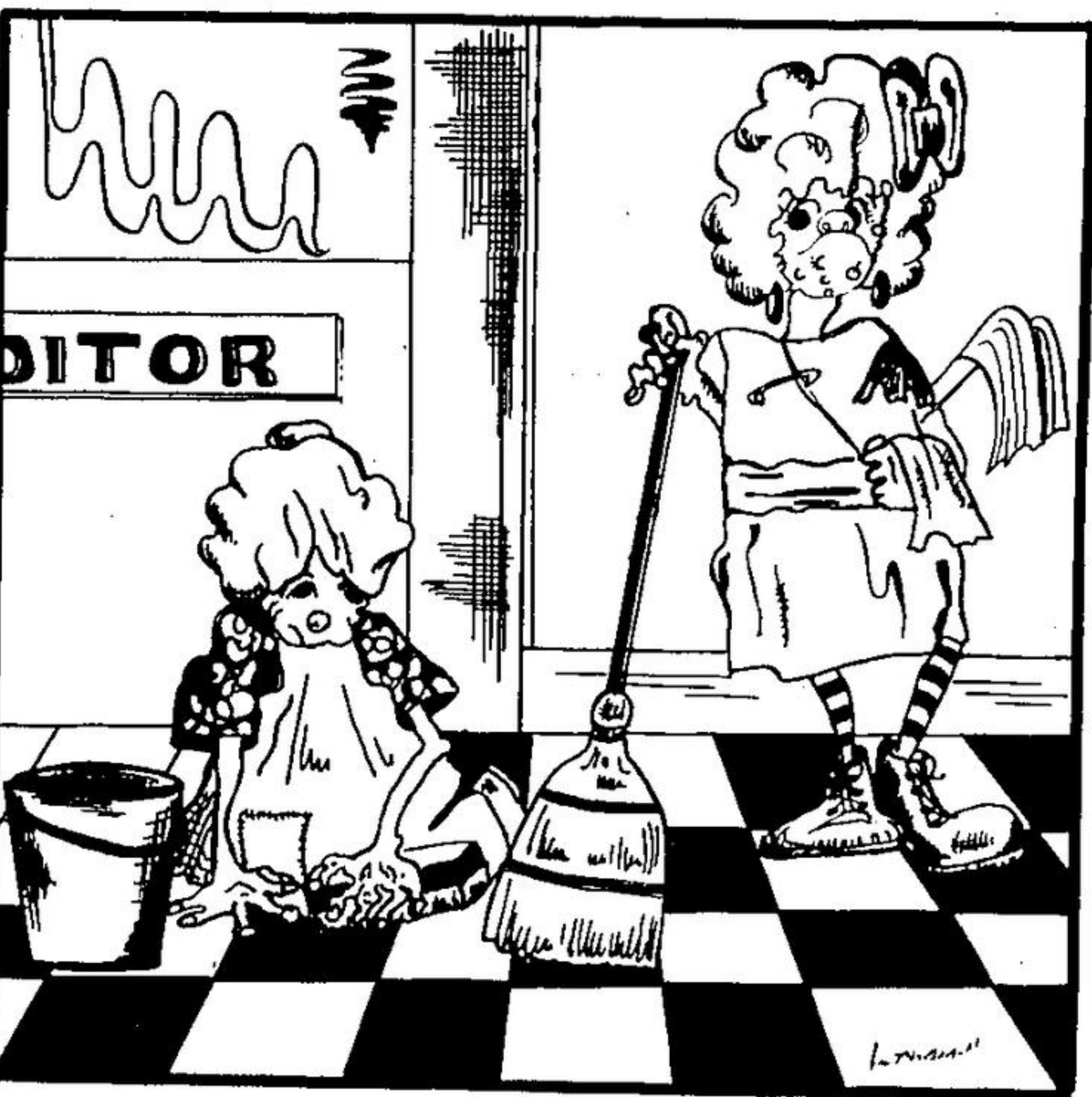
Jean Catharine of 139 McNaughton Street, Chatham, was driving towards Guelph when she pulled back in from the passing lane behind another car. She lost control of her vehicle, it turned over and slid along on its roof for some yards before coming to a stop.

Although the driver was not hurt her 1966 Mustang was damaged to the extent of \$350 to the roof, right side and motor.

## No skidoos on sidewalk

Snowmobile and skidoo operators are reminded that an early 1969 by law was passed by council prohibiting the driving of vehicles on sidewalks with a warning that offenders will be prosecuted.

Doctor to portly patient: "Follow this diet, and in two months I want see three-fourths of you back here for a checkup."



"COR BLIMEY, MABEL, IT SHORE AIN'T TRUE THAT BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER GIRLS".

## Comin's and Goin's

Best wishes are extended from Rockwood villagers to Mrs. Leola Day on Main Street on the occasion of her 80th birthday on Wednesday, January 7.

The Al Nichol Girl's Softball team was treated to an evening of fun and adventure last New Year's Day when they were invited to attend a snowmobile and horseteeding party at the Shilo Ranch. Refreshments were supplied by the generous Nichol family hosts right at the Ranch clubhouse and, along with some of the smaller Nichol relatives and small fry, the girls on the team had a wonderful time. Marion Bane, Richie Rusk and his wife also attended.

Friends of Mr. D. D. Stewart are concerned about his illness with pneumonia at the Guelph General Hospital and hope for an early recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Death and family spent last Sunday enjoying a belated New Year's roast goose dinner at the home of Betty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, of Erin.

On Saturday afternoon, January 17 there will be a mammoth toboggan rally at the Rockwood Conservation Park when some 200 contestants

from Guelph and area will participate in runs racing from the pavilion down over the lake.

Some 71 children and 4 adults from the village and on the outskirts of Rockwood, along with two groups of local Young People's crammed into the big school bus to be transported and participate in one of the first skating parties of its kind. Leaving at 1.30 p.m. from the St. John's Anglican Hall it was marvellous to see such glowing happy faces pull away for an afternoon of indoor skating. Although a slightly crowded affair which was offset by hotdogs and hot chocolate, everyone was hopeful that it will be repeated again soon and many thanks should be awarded Ivy Ritchie for organizing and driving the bus to Hillsburg.

Local children can now be seen skating merrily on the park skating rink during their school lunch hours.

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Optometrist  
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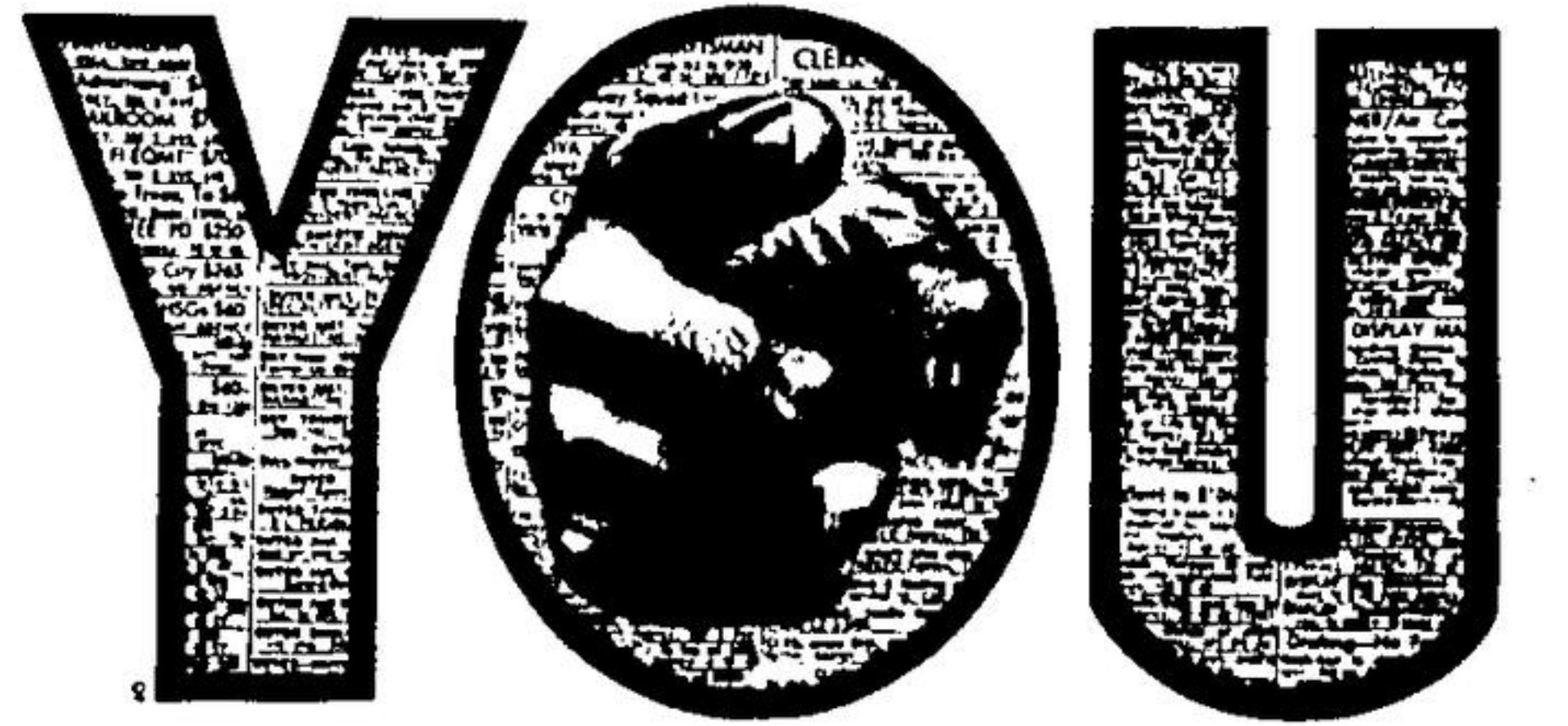
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# Antique Corner

FROM YOSEF DRENTERS' COLLECTION

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QUEEN

VICTORIA

LADY

During the reign of Queen Victoria it was natural to have an effigy of some sort or a picture of the Monarch in every home.

Those in the lesser wealthy bracket buying range could purchase such statuettes of Staffordshire, as a product of the 1860's with gold lettering reading "Queen of England." Some of this type have "Empress of India" on them.

Typical cottage ornaments, they were, at one time, a must in small homes, adapting themselves to scenes along with other china pieces of dogs and poodles.

