

# Century of maple syrup making tradition at William Black farm

The day of the black iron pot steaming with the bland sweet vapours of boiling sap is over for the 135 year old Century Farm at R. R. 4 Rockwood. Instead William Black has been adapting himself to the most modern method of refining maple syrup as he pours the freshly gathered juice into his newly installed evaporator.

With over 100 years of syrup-making as part of the history of this wonderful old sugar bush, the slow charcoal burning method of pots strung in a row over a low fire was outdated years ago when William Black was a small boy and, since that time, he has seen the innovation of evaporators replace the original slow and smoky method, until the present system which will be utilized to boil down the sap from over 300 trees on the Black farm, the original homestead of his great grandfather, James Black Esquire.

According to the veteran maple syrup expert, the best time to gather the buckets of sap is between the hours of 4 to 6 p.m. in the evening with the empty pails left attached to the trees to catch whatever there is of the night's run which is usually only in small quantities as most of the catch is confined to daytime hours.

It takes 25 to 40 gallons of sap, depending on sugar content in the various trees, to provide one gallon of syrup and conscientious Bill Black, proud of his particular product, insists that the expedience of sap being boiled as soon as possible after its extraction from the trees, makes for more delicious syrup, free from the possibility of bacterial content. The new evaporator method produces approximately one gallon of syrup an hour and, by the end of this year's run, will have produced approximately 40 gallons.

It takes strength and stamina to operate a maple syrup still and, although many producers start early in the spring to insert the spiles into the maple trees, William Black believes that the same amount of sap can be gathered in a shorter span of time just as efficiently. As he has found the first two weeks in April the most highly productive ones, every year he prepares at that time, for the annual "big run".

Carefully manipulating a heavy tractor through the trees, he collects the daily supply of sap and pours it from the small pails attached to each one, into a larger vat awaiting on the trailer device attached to the tractor, continuing through the sugar bush until each pail has been emptied, to be transported laboriously back to the smoke house where it eventually is poured into the evaporator. As each batch of luscious syrup reaches its final boiling completion, it is then drained off into large pails available for that purpose. From which it will be later measured into jars for customer sales.

Right now the Black farm boasts only the evaporator and a partially completed smoke house. Next year, however, more equipment will have been installed and the frame building will be closed in and finished.

One hundred years of syrup making history and, although the new method of processing could be considered more modern and updated, producing greater quantities of delicious nectar at a faster rate of efficiency, it still remains that the real maple syrup fever is not just "reaching for a product from the grocer's shelf" but rather, it's a walk into the open bush in the tangy fresh spring air when the frost has barely left the snow patched ground, and viewing in the distance a steamy smoke shack about which the succulent smell of simmering sap lingers heavy, permeating the country air with the subtle scent of maple juices.



WILLIAM BLACK waits for Peter Milton to pass him a bucket of maple sap to be poured into the larger vat on the trailer. (Photo by Lorraine)

## Visits to home commended to C.W.L. by Father Elliott

Last Wednesday's meeting of the Catholic Women's League was a highly successful one with nearly all members in attendance. Mrs. Harold Hawkins was the chairman for the evening substituting for the president Mrs. Joy Haliburton who was ill with the flu.

Father Elliott opened the meeting with a prayer and the usual round of business was completed with Mrs. B. Bacon reading the previous meeting's minutes and Mrs. J. Holman, the treasurer's report.

During the "new business" period another day was affixed to the presently running agenda of eucharis with Monday, April 20 set as the next date 8.30 p.m. as the time; the reason stipulated as the one for the change of days was that Friday nights had been proving to be too busy. Mrs.

Evelyn Dales will be convening the next card affair at the rectory and she expressed the hope that many people in the township would attend. Mrs. Herb Saunders gave a report on the Gracious Living program which the C.W.L. had recently sponsored and it was accepted that that had been a highly successful evening.

The visitors who had been to the Eden Home for the Age were also on hand to give their report and the C.W.L. ladies were pleased to hear that Mrs. Lucy Roslyn had quite enjoyed her visit and found it a fulfilling and rewarding experience. Mrs. Vincent Symott volunteered to accompany Mrs. Herb Saunders on her next church visit to the home.

It was decided that the meeting in May would be held in conjunction with a Stanley Brush Co. demonstration with the prizes to be kept on hand at the rectory to be used later as draw prizes or for other league enterprises.

Father Elliott took the opportunity to commend the ladies for their visiting project to the Eden Home saying that it was a necessary work of mercy. He also congratulated the C.W.L. for their interest in the educating of Isobel Cardonne specifying that, next to lack of food, lack of education was the most difficult task, and that this young girl was being educated through the help of the C.W.L. Father Elliott was very pleased. After the meeting was adjourned a delicious repast was presented by Mrs. Roslyn during which Mrs. B. Bacon was presented with a prize she had won in the monthly draw.

### ONTARIO'S FORESTS

Ontario's productive forests cover 164,471 square miles, 48 per cent of the land area; 148,280 square miles are on Crown lands, and 16,191 are privately owned.

# Rockwood News

## Great response to Cruz crusade

Not one empty area was available for seating in the John F. Ross High School auditorium in Guelph last Tuesday evening when Nicky Cruz enthralled a captive audience during his "Nicky Cruz Crusade" testimonial night.

Nicky, a young Puerto Rican lad who had been literally dragged up in the ghettos of New York City, arrived in Guelph totally unknown except through the writing abilities of Rev. David Wilkerson in his book "The Cross and the Switchblade" in which Wilkerson had depicted the life of teenage gang wars, one gang of which had Nicky Cruz as outstanding leader.

Telling his story in broken English he told of his association and eventual leadership in the Mau Mau hatred group before the age of 20 and continued his story about his meeting with David Wilkerson and said that, through his introduction to Christian thinking while attending one of the rehabilitation "outreach houses" sponsored by the Assembly of God Mission House and conducted in a christian atmosphere, he was touched by spiritual uplifting. Having attended the services originally with some of his street fighting cohorts and having laughed at Mr. Wilkerson's challenge of "daring to love one's enemies" Nicky said that he and his friends had planned to go to the meeting to heckle but, after becoming acquainted with trumpeter Rev. James Stahl, who presently resides in Guelph and is associated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church there, he and some members of his gang broke down and were sold on what christianity was all about.

The 900 theatre type seats were filled, the aisles containing 500 chairs from the John F. Ross Collegiate lunch room were jammed, and the stage also was packed with a moved audience of people of every denomination and church affiliation, some very young and many older. It was the biggest event to have been ever staged in Ross Hall at any one time and reportedly was the greatest religious response to have been held in the City of Guelph for many years. Half and half was the age group division and, if skeptics really believe that religion is falling off they should have been in attendance.

The Reapers, a young Hamilton group consisting of three lads garbed in green jackets, supplied the music with two guitars and a piano, giving renditions of modern religious hymns and, as the evening was concluding, approximately 150 teenagers moved to the front of the stage to proclaim and attest their faith, many of whom had come from Rockwood, Guelph, and other outside areas.

Wittily comical, but with earnest reverence, Nicky Cruz had talked to his audience telling them about the power of God, strongly influencing its Christian attitudes. He was sponsored by the combined Evangelical church of Creswick Baptist, the Pentecostal Church on Speedvale Avenue, the Rosedale Alliance and the Calvary Baptist Churches in Guelph, and Tuesday's meeting was, according to many who attended, a revelation to see such free desire on behalf of so many young people to reach out and find Christianity.

As one lady related later, "It's about time someone put in a few good licks for God!"

## First caper for season

According to equestrian authorities Wellington County has the greatest horse population in all of Ontario and possibly in Canada and not the least of any organized group encouraging greater interest in this field is the popular troupe of Rockwood Trail riders who have gradually increased in numbers from only a handful of interested riding cohorts to the now established association with riders from many sections of Eramosa, Esqueving and Nassagaweya.

Last Sunday's sunshine provided a great day for the first caper of this year's spring season

and saw approximately 30 riders assembling for take off from the Club Arena at Pat Dales farm in Rockwood. The route down the 4th line, through the Rockery property and continuing on across the Circle S ranch was a 2 1/2 hour trek combining nature and prowess with stimulating dashes adding to the activity of the day.

With more horses and riders to be seen frequenting the area country roads it is just another reason - for those raising speculators to believe that this wonderful pastime is truly on the move - forward.

## Eramosa council accepts Rockwood's requisition

At their regular meeting held in the Council Chambers the Eramosa Township Council:

ACCEPTED requisitions for 1970 from: P.V. Rockwood - \$11,775 plus 4 mills for garbage; P.V. Eden Mills - \$2,014; Grand River Conservation \$5,212.43, and the Eramosa Recreation Committee for \$2,500.

PASSED a resolution that the township solicitor be advised to institute the necessary action to close a portion of Mill Street in Eden Mills and the costs charged to the interested parties.

HEARD a request by the police village of Rockwood trustees that a by-law be set up to collect an impost tax on all who apply for a building permit to erect a dwelling in an old subdivision who have not come before the Committee of Adjustment and have not had to pay a severance fee.

PASSED a resolution that the clerk be instructed to contact the township solicitor as to charging an impost tax on unsevered lots when application is made for a building permit on registered plans of subdivision.

HEARD a request from the board of trustees of the police village of Rockwood that council proceed further with the applications for water and sewage systems by instituting the various by-laws required by the O.W.R.C. The following data to be included in the said by-laws in the proper places: domestic flat rate - \$60 per year; industrial and commercial

minimum flat rate - \$96 per year; frontage by-law; exclude 100% of flankage; sewage purchase on water bills for; domestic use - 180% and commercial use - 180%

PASSED a resolution that a by-law to execute an agreement with the Ontario Water Resources Commission for the supplying of water in the Village of Rockwood, be read a first, second and third times, passed and numbered accordingly, subject to the approval of the Ontario Municipal Board.

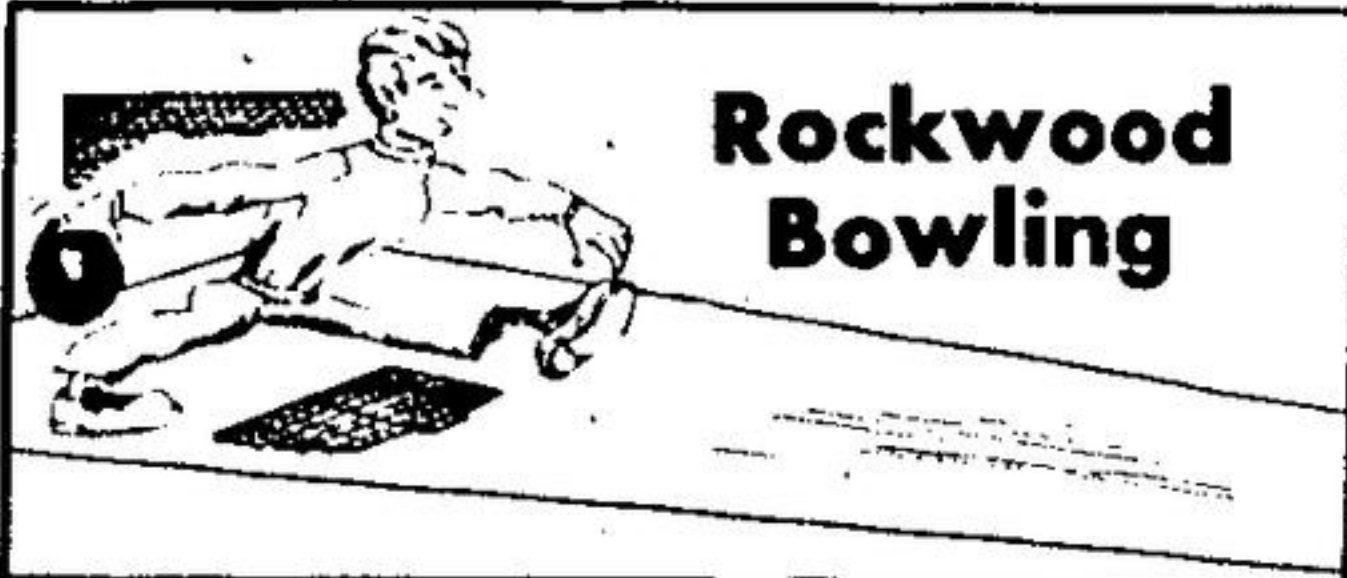
PASSED a resolution that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Eramosa agrees to settlement of the appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board of the County of Wellington 1969 assessment equalization in accordance with proposed compromise at 70% as set out in a statement under which the township will bear 6.96% of the 1970 levy for the County of Wellington and that Abraham Acker, Q.C. counsel for this township be instructed to complete settlement accordingly.

PASSED accounts amounting to \$47,880.94, general accounts \$40,376.23 and road accounts \$7,504.71.

ADJOURNED the meeting until the date of Monday, May 4, 1970 at 7.30 p.m. or at the call of the Reeve.



CHOPPED WOOD goes into the fire box which will keep the still temperature at a continuous heat level, as William Black insists on sap being boiled as soon as possible. Kathy and Peter, the children of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Milton of R. R. 3, Acton, enjoy helping. (Photo by Lorraine.)



## Rockwood Bowling

Only weeks to go and the Stratton team is still reigning unsurpassed with 134 points. Second place Carney's sport 122; third positioned Begoodorbegones have 115; fourth spot Neighbors hold 104; fifth shows the Norton's with 101; sixth has Queen of Hearts with 100; seventh the Four Corners with 93; eighth place Elmer's Alley Cats have 89; ninth place is tagged for the Untouchables with 80 points; and the Whitewashers still hold the tenth rung with 77.

Dick Dupuis scalped a 776 leader in last week's bowling

competitions to give his Stratton's team a 5 to 2 victory over the Begoodorbegones as Vic Willmas netted a 727 point catch. Whitewashers came up with a straight 7 to 0 win over Elmer's Alley Cats and the Neighbors beat out the Norton's team with a 5 to 2 score. Bill Garner's 739 score blended with Neighbor Doug Battenham's 654 despite the Norton's head lady's production of a 661 game catch from Irene LaVoie. Alice Johnson was in fine fettle as she bowled a 625 score for the Untouchables who made a 7 to 0 win over the Four Corners and Carney's victored the Queen of Hearts with a 5 to 2 score. Doug Carney managed a 652 point catch for the victorious Carney's as Ted Jestin made a 708 point attempt for the Queen.



THE FIRST two weeks in April are prime time for gathering maple syrup and Peter Milton collects the sap by hand during an especially fast-running period. The century farm of William Black at R. R. 4, Rockwood, has a long history of maple syrup making, but the old methods have been changed. (Photo by Lorraine.)



## HAPPENINGS at ROCKWOOD CENTENNIAL SCHOOL

Mary Gooyers defeated Mr. Love in Ping Pong and won \$1.00!!  
Ian S. and Jack D. beat Colin M. and Rene M. 11-9.  
Charlie M. and Mike F. defeated Alan W., Mike L., Charlie M. and Mike F. defeated Ian G. & Jack D. 17-13.  
April 10 Grade 8 boys, the yellow's with capt. Charlie A. lost 7-9 against Charlie M's team (Red).  
Grade 7's had a floor hockey game April 13. The result was a tie 3-3.  
Mrs. Pundick has donated a painting which she painted. The proceeds are being donated to the Quebec Educational Trip. Judy Hospes

WELLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Schedule of Kindergarten Registration 1970

General Information

- 1) Morning registration will be held between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and afternoon registration will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 2) Only children of public school supporters living in Wellington County will be accepted for admission to kindergarten in September, 1970.
- 3) Evidence of public school tax support will be required either through a 1970 tax bill or a 1969 assessment notice. (If you do not have such evidence at the time of registration the school will have forms that will have to be completed and certified).
- 4) A child must be 5 years of age as of December 31, 1970, to be eligible to be registered for kindergarten in September, 1970.
- 5) A birth certificate will be required as proof of age. (Forms for applying for birth certificates are available at the schools).
- 6) A public health nurse will be in attendance.
- 7) If further information is required, please contact your neighbourhood school.

ERIN TOWNSHIP - Brisbane - THURSDAY, April 23 - 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
OSPRINGE - (register at Ross R. MacKay or Brisbane)  
ROSS R. MacKAY - TUESDAY, April 21 - 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
WEDNESDAY, April 22 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

ERIN - WEDNESDAY, April 22, - 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Dr. T. H. Evans  
Chairman

D. J. Wilson  
Director of Education

# ROOT'S TROUT FISHING CONTEST

OPENS APRIL 25th - CLOSES JULY 4th  
\$100. VALUE IN PRIZES FOR THE LARGEST FISH BY WEIGHT, CAUGHT IN OPEN WATERS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.  
TWO BIG CLASSES - IN TWO DIVISIONS  
Speckled and Rainbow - Adult and Junior

Get your free entry form at  
Root's Hardware Rockwood  
- we sell fishing licences

## WIN!

A Medallion rod and case. Value \$37.50  
One for each class in the adult division. Lifetime guarantee-Carboly tip, Stainless guides. On display at Root's

ADULTS 2nd PRIZE - \$5.00 in fishing equipment-your choice  
FIRST PRIZE - JUNIOR DIVISION - \$5.00 in fishing equipment-your choice  
SECOND PRIZE - JUNIOR DIVISION - \$2.50 in fishing equipment-your choice

### Warehouse CLEARANCE

OF QUALITY RODS, REELS AND FISHING ACCESSORIES

WE WON'T TELL YOU NOW BUT ROOT'S HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!  
SAVINGS UP TO 50% ON A FULL RANGE OF FISHING EQUIPMENT

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL, THE LEARNER OR THE LINE WETTER.  
IF THE KIDS NEED A NEW ROD OR REEL, ROOT'S HAVE JUST THE THING

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SPINCAST REELS REG. 3.95 NOW 2.98  
REG. 14.95 NOW 7.95 REG. 9.95 NOW 7.98

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