

News and views

By LORRAINE

The repercussions of the possible results of last Thursday's meeting in the Rockwood Town Hall regarding the new sewage and water plans, should be of concern to many people.

It showed a lack of communication between the village residents and its Board of Trustees inasmuch as the meeting was one which was, in effect, to present rates and plans on a new system which, according to many villagers, they really knew very little about.

Certainly to blame the town fathers for not publicizing meetings would be ironic because one of the greatest discouragements of village office has been the apathy of its residents who, ordinarily, do not attend local trustee assemblies. However, with the people count of April 30 it could be said that maybe more publicity in the past would have done the trick. If it worked once it very likely would have worked before so it is hopeful that the trustees and citizens can work out a better communication Media with more publicity on what is taking place in the village. Thus, when important items do crop up as they have and will again, everyone will know what's going on and be prepared for it.

As it is, this is probably one of the best trustee boards we have had for some time, conscientious, willing, and trying very hard to establish the rights of the community. Certainly, their ambition to see a new water and sewage system installed is one with the village residents in mind and, it must have been just as shattering to the trustees on Thursday night to realize that so few residents were acquainted with the facts re the new system, as it was for the residents not to feel that they were being pushed into something about which they had no control and at their own expense.

Many human elements and points of view were introduced which were also unexpected and, fortunately or unfortunately, depending upon one's point of perception, all of these views were valid. The irony of the whole thing of course, is that, no matter how it is all evolved, someone will be hurt and, sadly enough, it will come under the all-encompassing guise of "progress".

Main Street citizens of long standing for instance who have been hopefully anticipating the new system, have every right to be concerned at any delay inasmuch as they have waited three years for fresh water to be pumped into their taps rather than continue being subjected to daily trips to nearby springs as their only fresh water supply. These are the residents who, statistic-wise, are owners of one of the 27 per cent of polluted wells. Their great concern is for their children, the potential outbreak of possible disease, and that their promise of an adequate supply of water pure enough to drink direct from the kitchen tap will be fulfilled.

There are, of course, those members of our older citizen society who, on fixed incomes, wonder how the new costs will affect them and whether they will be able to afford the new commitments. Many of them have no need for another well and their sewage system is adequate. Their anxiety is also plausible and to be considered, especially as they wonder how a village the size of Rockwood could possibly accept the responsibilities of such exorbitant expense.

Another faction which makes just as much sense but about which less sympathy is extended, is from the point of view of the newcomers from larger areas and cities whose greatest considerations are, not to see the sewage and water proposal scrapped but rather delayed, until after the Metropolitan Toronto and Regional Transport Study report has been submitted by Premier John Roberts this week.

Many of these newer Rockwood citizens have watched the usurping of other small areas by big business manipulation and some of them feel that this report could give a greater insight into the provocations of how such a system could affect Rockwood. They reason that a few days' delay and consideration could well diminish the extent of the ravaging of just another small town. These same people came here for pretty well the same reason that many earlier residents took up their abode in this delightful village and they, too, have special attitudes for its preservation and consideration for its potential progress. They've been there and they know that once the string has been cut there's no turning back and they worry lest Rockwood could become just another large hunk of the metropolis of Guelph city, with its wonderful terrain and hills making potential dumping pits and its sleepy streets, heavily trafficked roadways.

What to think; who to care about. The threat of progress has its costs and certainly those pollution-conscious individuals who care about the Eramosa River also have a point. As one student of ecology from the University of Guelph put it, "One of the only pure rivers in Southern Ontario will soon be under attack".

Everyone is uptight and it was interesting to hear the number of Rockwoodites who were deeply concerned about passing any pollution problems on to their neighbors in Eden Mills. Unfortunately, this was not really the time or the place for Eden Mills to voice an objection as they should organize and present their grievances when the Municipal Board reviews and makes its decision. Not only do I suggest that they can but that it is their right to do so for their own sake.

One of my own major concerns is the fact of, as we understand it, the additional cost of from 20 to 60 thousand dollars to extend the outlet of the system to its proposed location beyond the conservation park rather than by the shortest route. If this is for the safety of the Grand River Conservation Authorities and at their request, then they should absorb the additional cost rather than charge the villagers extra monies.

Somewhere comes into this the question proposed by an area engineer from Eden Mills "Why not set the plant near the bridge on the Main Street beside the already established hydro transformer? In this way the excess flow would pass over three natural falls before hitting the conservation park thus aerating and oxidizing the water back to normal in a natural and less costly way".

Somewhat from my point of view, it would be foolish to entertain considerations for such a project without adequate thinking for proper town planning and, if this can't be in conjunction with the Eramosa Council, then steps should be taken to seek the authority. The whole idea of the sewage system is not to line any speculator's pockets but to fulfill a necessary requirement in the village of Rockwood and certainly to put the village in a sitting duck position for real estate mongers would be against all the dreams and principles of the dedicated citizens and their ancestors who have maintained this virgin valley and kept it the green belt metropolis it is.

Well, it seems from checking up with officials that we are adequately covered for growth and everything is under control. The powers that be are watching out for Rockwood village and, once the installation of sewers and water is installed a Planning Board is ready to spring into action at the slightest moment. In all due respect to Mr. Jones' engineering know-how at last Thursday's meeting, he did seem to be rather light-footed and fumbled the ball several times. However, much of the controversy which revolved around the system itself waned somewhat when Charles Letman of the O.W.R.C. gave his position which made sense.

But it still remains that it is our Rockwood citizens which we care about, our village, our neighbors, and our area, and sometimes it's the extra two minutes, or extra \$2 in the bank which can make the difference. To be or should not be. Is there a question?

Happenings at Centennial School

On Thursday April 30 the grade 8 boys had a floor hockey game. The teams were Reds with captain Charlie Allen and Yellows with captain Charlie McRae. Reds defeated the Yellows 9-7.

On Friday May 1 the grade 8 boys had a floor hockey game. The teams were Reds with captain Charlie Allen and Yellows with captain Charlie McRae. Yellows defeated the Reds 8-7.

The Button contest put on by the grade 8 girls to earn money for the Quebec Trip was won by Gary Law. He received a 29c chocolate bar.

On May 8 Rockwood Centennial School is putting on another dance for the "elders".



JOHNNIE PROVIS, five, stands happily with his rescuer, Dennis Death. Johnnie fell into the cold deep water of the river last Friday. (Photos by Lorraine)

Johnnie Provis, 5 rescued from river

Quick thinking on the part of two Rockwood lads saved the life of five-year-old Johnnie Provis of Main Street last Friday evening.

While crossing the bridge about 7.30 p.m. Dennis and Ronnie Death, two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Death, heard screams coming from the bank of the river and two small children stood looking into the water. Shelly and Chad Crooks had been standing on the embankment with Johnnie when he had fallen into the cold water which, at that particular spot, was approximately seven feet deep.

In a matter of seconds, Dennis had reached the bank and, fully clothed, had jumped in and grabbed the little boy as he was hobbling up and down, and pushed him backwards through the water to his younger brother Ronnie who had followed quickly behind Dennis and jumped into the water directly after him. Ronnie carried his young charge to the shore and transported him home to his parents who had no idea that their youngest son was anywhere near the water.

Johnnie Provis recuperated quickly but is now suffering with a bad cold from exposure in the water.

Increasing drug problem topic at Home and School

At last Thursday evening's Rockwood Home and School meeting the use of drugs was openly discussed with approximately 125 teachers, children and parents who, although not closely involved with the problem per se, were

also not naive enough not to realize its proximity and possibility.

The symposium composed of a youth counsellor from the Wellington and Dufferin County Drug Addiction service, Dave Coleman, a sergeant of

detectives from the Guelph City Police, Joe Clark, Dr. Gerry Omelon, of the Acton Medical Group, Grant McKee, principal of the Centennial Public School in Rockwood, and a grade 11 Centennial school student, Miss Barbara Marshall of Eden Mills, was an informative one in as much as it relayed to its audience the fact that, regardless of no actual personal contact with drug situations, all society had a special role to play in its rectification.

Sergeant of Detectives, Joe Clark presented a gray picture of the number of young addicts in the Guelph area and it was established that no one high school in the city had any more problems than the next and the trend of general usage was the increase with the trafficking of narcotics showing a 1200 per cent increase from 1969.

According to Dave Coleman who was in a position of direct contact with the social aspects of the reasons why so many young people and adults are becoming involved with such an expensive "reality escapement", the problem is not as much what drugs are being taken but rather

"why is there a need for drugs at all".

"This is the real problem" said the social worker, "and it is the first step in curing the habit when we establish that one does exist."

Joe Clark, when asked to what extent the various drugs affected a young person and how they were detected said that, "In the city of Guelph at least 10 per cent of the violent crimes are connected with users. They start off with marijuana and continue on until they are taking stronger drugs and, to support their habits they are forced to resort to stealing." The sergeant of detectives said that anyone who thought that drugs were not dangerous didn't know what they were talking about because even young people between 11 and 16 years of age were occupying beds in mental institutions with prognosis readings of "severe brain damage".

One member of the panel pointed out that the difference between taking alcohol and drugs was that, in the case of the former, the water content in alcohol and its method of evaporation in the blood stream was known but, in the instance of a spree, alcoholic consumption versus drugs, alcohol would wear off whereas drugs could cause indeterminate damage.

Curiosity and status symbols (Continued on Page B8)

COMIN'S AND GOIN'S

Several young lads spent a great deal of time last Sunday afternoon swimming and diving in their attempt to retrieve the glasses which Dennis Death lost during his rescue of little Johnnie Provis. To no avail however, and, unless consumed by one of its numerous fish the glasses are presently lying at the bottom of the Eramosa River.

Friends of Winnie Hills are sorry that she has been quite ill lately and hope that she'll be in better health soon.

It'll be a great day for volleyball spectators when, for a minimal charge, they may see a display of volleyball prowess between the Eramosa Fire Brigade and the Grade 8 Centennial School girls at the School gymnasium. Save your shekels and be there at 8:30 p.m. and all returns will be put towards the Public School Tour to Quebec.

San Diego, Disneyland, and Forest Lawn Cemetery were only a few of the sight seeing attractions which Miss Pearl Hamilton and Mrs. Wilfred Flewelling of R. R. Bellwood, visited on their two week trip to southern California. Arriving in Los Angeles on the American airlines Pearl and Mrs. Flewelling took the five day California parlour car tours and had a wonderful time seeing orange groves and many other colourful sights, returning home last Thursday.

Check your calendar for next Sunday, May 10, when Pat Dale's Farm will be the scene of the Rockwood Trail Rider's 1st horse show of the 1970 season. Hours will be set at 10:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and riders on horseback or on foot will be welcomed to the 16 class show

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