

Controversy rocks Rockwood over sewers, water

Residents of Rockwood and area are reacting strongly to the waterworks and sewage distribution and treatment proposed for the village.

A concerned delegation of seven ratepayers attended a meeting of the Rockwood Trustees last night (Tuesday) complaining that the total cost of the water and sewage project is too costly for people at this time.

The trustees' ex-chairman Don Hills told the meeting that some people in the village will be paying over \$600 a year for the new services and taxes, a figure he felt was beyond the means of many people in the village.

Eden Mills residents are also alarmed at the project which they feel could pollute the clear waters of the Eramosa River and cause grief downstream. One resident said they would sue Rockwood if they went ahead with plans for the sewage system. "Right through to the Supreme Court."

There are others who are confirmed supporters of the need for the two systems in the village, regarding the move as a necessity for the health of the village. Wellington County health authorities have said problems with wells and septic tanks will increase and the situation is unhealthy now.

Other Rockwood residents are confirmed believers that the village can only afford a waterworks system at this time. They believe the sewage plant and system could wait until conditions are more amenable.

Another group thinks there could be a saving of \$200,000 in sewage costs if the plant outlet located at the dam rather than downstream from Rockwood. They circulated pamphlets asking residents, "Why should you have to pay this additional expense?"

One upshot of the controversy is an attempt to form a Rockwood and area ratepayers' association. A special meeting has been called for tonight (Wednesday August 26) at the town hall in Rockwood to form the association and discuss the proposed installation.

A circular states, "If our community is to be governed by the people of this township it becomes obvious that we must be heard both collectively and individually."

"Even with the partial clarification in the Acton Free Press of August 20," the circular says, "there still remain serious questions which we must investigate and have honored."

The meeting is called for 7.30 p.m.

Meanwhile a breakdown of the costs for the waterworks and sewage proposal were presented to the Rockwood trustees last night (Tuesday) and they follow:

WATERWORKS SYSTEM	
Well development (including land)	\$11,288.
Water treatment facilities	50,180.
Water distribution system	309,005.
Standpipe	55,000.
Land charges	500.
Engineering and contingencies	62,215.
Interest during construction	12,205.
Total estimated cost	\$500,393.

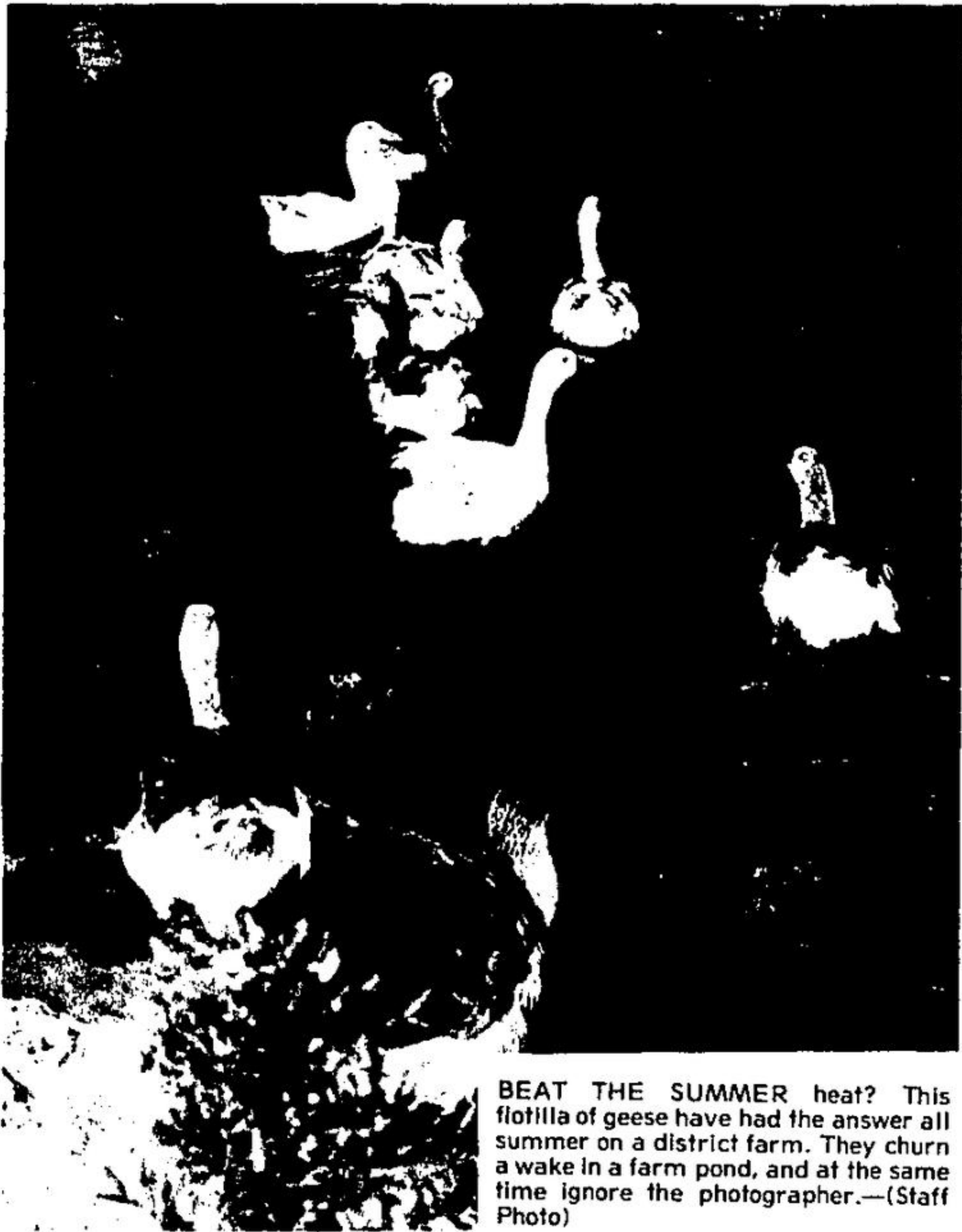
SANITARY COLLECTOR SEWERS — 253 HOMES	
Sanitary sewers, including house connections	\$392,115.
Sewage pumping station	52,120.
Trunk sewer	64,105.

Sewage treatment plant and outfall sewer	202,090.
Land acquisition for plant 8.29 acres	8,700.
Engineering and contingencies	107,960.
Total estimated cost	\$348,342.

Costs for an average home on a lot with 66 foot frontage have been figured out at \$98.80 for water and \$149.47 for hooking up to the sewage system annually. The water charge is based on a 44 cent per 1,000 gallons of water at \$26.40, \$12.40 for connections and a \$60.00 service charge for a total of \$98.80 annually.

Sewage charges would be based on an estimated service rate of \$1.13 per 1,000 gallons of sewage accepted from the municipality which is worked out at \$26.40 for a 66 ft. lot for water, \$15.07 connection charge and a 180 per cent surcharge on a \$60 water bill which makes \$108.00 for a total of \$149.47 annually.

However a person not connected to the water system would pay slightly more — \$150.71 for use of sewage facilities. Details of the proposal are spelled out in the classified section of The Free Press.



BEAT THE SUMMER heat? This flotilla of geese have had the answer all summer on a district farm. They churn a wake in a farm pond, and at the same time ignore the photographer.—(Staff Photo)

Esquering farmer blasts township holding by-law

Esquering reeve George Currie, Monday night, asked Fourth Line resident Ralph Denny to hold off his objections to the township's agricultural holding by-law, until the official plan is completed and public meetings are held concerning it.

Mr. Denny claimed the holding by-law, which prevents the use of land for any other purpose than the one existing, is poor policy and that freezing land as agricultural now, will devalue it so badly it will be unable to be sold.

Must have plan
However, clerk-treasurer Delmar French read a paragraph from the Planning Act, which warned that if municipalities do

not have an official plan by December 31, 1973, committees of adjustment will have no further power to grant minor variances.

Deputy-reeve Tom Hill said he felt it was better for the township to hire its own planning consultant than "to let the government come in with a complete stranger." The firm of M. M. Dillon is presently preparing an official plan.

Explain reasons
Councillor Russell Miller explained the holding by-law was introduced, in order to give the planning consultant time to work on the official plan.

Councillor Ken Marshall pointed out council was forced to do something, on account of the

many requests they received for piecemeal development, in the township.

"This by-law can't last for more than one year. We have to

Texas entry

One entry for the Acton Hi-Flyers' model airplane competition on Sunday, September 6, has been received from Amarillo, Texas.

Model airplane competitions will highlight the Sunday part of the sportsmen's show at Acton park, being sponsored this year by Acton Chamber of Commerce, The Lions, Rotarians, Y's Men and the Hi-Flyers.

There will also be a display on the lake by model boat enthusiasts who show radio-controlled craft, a canoe race, gun show in the arena, skeet shooting and many other attractions.

have an official plan in force within a year," councillor Marshall added.

Deputy-reeve Hill said council hoped the official plan would be ready by February or March 1971.

Critical of weeds
Mr. Denny was also critical of the number of weeds growing in the township.

"The weeds are disgraceful, then you want to freeze it for agriculture. It soon won't be fit for agriculture," he said.

Reeve Currie reminded Mr. Denny of the restrictions, which have been placed on the spraying of weeds.

"How are you going to keep it for agriculture?" Mr. Denny then asked.

"Well we're going to have John Roberts come out with a scythe," the reeve replied jokingly.

Deputy-reeve Hill thought the weeds should be looked after. "If the government puts a ban on spray, we'll have to go to a mower," he said.

Reeve hints no freeze

Although he would not reveal further details of meetings council has had with the planning consultant, reeve Currie hinted the proposed zoning by-law would not freeze the township completely.

Mr. Denny remained unconvinced, however.

"You want to freeze us to the farms, until we're carried away in a pine box", he concluded.

Mr. French reported he and the deputy-reeve had held a meeting to explain the holding by-law with about 50 ratepayers in the Ballinacree area.

He added he has received 12 letters supporting the by-law and 40 objecting to it, so far.

Combine forces in fight for Halton only region

Nassagaweya has not agreed to regional government for Halton but is not opposed to seeking clarification on the position of Burlington, Reeve A. MacArthur told county councillors Tuesday.

She was commenting on a letter sent by the Warden to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It had been signed by the heads of all municipalities and Deputy Reeve G. Agnew had signed the letter in her absence.

Not ready yet
Mrs. MacArthur maintained Nassagaweya was not prepared to accept regional government until the boundaries had been definitely clarified. The township was, however, in favor of retaining Burlington in the Halton unit. She noted the letter had mentioned the regional government on several occasions.

The reeve said she took exception to the fact it had been

signed on behalf of the township "because Nassagaweya Council took a strong position on this."

Deputy Reeve G. Agnew maintained he had stressed and it had been understood that the regional government unit should be Halton only.

Didn't support

The Reeve maintained Nassagaweya had not voted in favor of the county resolution seeking a Halton only region.

The letter was the result of joint discussions with the Board of Education and County representatives

Remanded

The Acton man charged as the result of an accident which claimed the life of eight-year-old Laurie Lynn Shawon Main St. N., appeared in court Monday and was remanded until September 28.



YOU MIGHT SAY that sousaphonist Charlie Kingsmill is blowing his own horn but it's all in a good cause. Acton Citizens' Band is working overtime to prepare for the Canadian National Exhibition band competition this

Sunday. They've been giving concerts under Bandmaster Elliott in the shady grounds of the music centre the last two Sundays. Turn inside for more information.—(Staff Photo)

'Good guys' challenge neighbors

There's still a spark of competition between Georgetown and Acton.

Deputy Reeve T. Tyler proved it at county council on Tuesday when he issued a golfing challenge.

"The two good guys from the north (Oakes and Tyler) will challenge Laurel and Hardy from Georgetown," he declared, eyeing Reeve W. Hunter and Deputy Reeve A. Speight from the neighboring municipality.

It was uncertain whether the challenge was accepted, as Reeve Hunter rumbled something about another engagement.

The tale will be told on the fairways of Halton Heights as staff and county councillors take to the greens.

Quarantined dog

A valuable foxhound, attacked by what is believed to have been a rabid fox, is progressing favorably, owner Harry Foley told the Free Press this week.

Mr. Foley intends to keep the dog penned up under observation for the limit of quarantine for rabies, 60 days.

According to Mr. Foley, foxes are accustomed to crossing the

Erin-Esquering Town Line, near the Acton Monitoring Station, where an Acton man Barry Inscoc reported spotting a fox last Tuesday (August 18).

However, Mr. Foley doubts the fox was the same one that attacked his dog. Foxes in an advanced stage of the disease live only about 48 hours, he said.

Postal strike closes Acton office 3 days

Post Office employees were busy catching up on a back-log of mail piled up during the rotating strikes which closed the Acton office down for three days this week.

The local office was closed due to the strike Thursday, Friday and Saturday but employees were back at work Monday morning despite reports the strike would continue until Tuesday.

The strike disrupted the flow of baby bonus cheques which usually are distributed on the 20th of the month.

Some local merchants complained that they lost business through the timing of the strike. They said the cheques would not be picked up until Monday when local stores were closed and many people would go out of town to shop as a result.

Meanwhile the postal unions have called off their rotating strikes for five days starting this Thursday. The interlude will give offices an opportunity to catch up on the backlog of mail which reached gigantic proportions in some post offices.

One union spokesman said the unions were suspending the strike for five days to ensure pension cheques mailed by the government were delivered on time.

Encouraging reports from the mediation talks in Ottawa where a new mediator, Thomas O'Connor of Toronto, is working for a settlement were viewed coolly by the unions. They regard statements of an agreement by

County asks control

The County has asked the province to enact legislation to make the Children's Aid Societies more accountable to the electorate. The action was taken in a report approved by Halton County Council Tuesday.

It was reported the Halton Children's Aid Society had leased quarters in Oakville of 2,300 square feet at \$5 per square foot per year. This was to be a sub office with the head office to continue in Milton.

Reeve R. Harris pointed out there would be 10 staff members

at the end of the month as over-optimistic at this stage.

Some minor issues were settled but talks now are reported to be in the key issues—wages and benefits.

in the Oakville office and six would remain in the Milton office as well as the director.

Questioned on the square footage of the Milton office it was reported as 1,500 square feet.

"It sounds to me like Milton is going to be the sub office when it has only half as many people as the Oakville office", Reeve F. G. Oakes observed.

The County Council had earlier objected when the Children's Aid Society proposed moving its offices to Burlington because of the uncertainty of regional government implications

Pooch problems?

Dog problems?
Strays — or maybe you lost a dog? Acton O.P.P. urge that residents of Acton contact the local dog control officer, George Herrington, if they have dog troubles. His phone number is 877-6235. Police explain very often they are powerless to act on many of the complaints and the dog control officer usually has the answers.