



FIRST PRESIDENT of the Rockwood and Area Ratepayers' Association is Richard Strong, who lives on Main St. in the village. Resident of Rockwood for three years Mr. Strong is chairman of the faculty of landscape architecture at the University of Toronto.

Score lack of information

Dick Strong elected to head Rockwood ratepayers

Rockwood and area residents packed Rockwood town hall last Wednesday to form the Rockwood and Area Residents and Ratepayers' Association and elect an executive.

They picked Richard Strong to head the nine man executive assisted by vice-president Arthur Harris, secretary-treasurer John Clark and directors Bob Leslie, Don Hiltz, Vincent Price, Ray Ellis, Dr. Anthony Kingscote and David Rowe.

Aims of the new organization are:

(a) To consider all subjects tending to promote the welfare of the community, preserve and improve its present characteristics.

(b) To devise, consider, recommend and promote such legislative, municipal and other measures as may be deemed wise and expedient in the interest of the community.

(c) To assist in the enforcement and carrying out of all ordinances and laws for the comfort, safety, health and prosperity of the community.

(d) To plan, recommend and promote the adoption of such measures as will tend to beautify and improve the community and add to its attractiveness.

(e) Generally to promote the good government of the Village and Township and particularly as it affects the community.

But the over-riding theme of

Wednesday's organization meeting, after a consultation was hammered out under the pro-tem chairmanship of Toronto solicitor George Millar, was the waterworks and sewage system proposed for Rockwood.

Not satisfied

There was no doubt that the majority of those in attendance were not satisfied with the information on the proposals in the advertisements issued under the name of the township of Eramosa.

"Too costly," said some. Others felt there was a serious lack of communication between the elected representatives and the ratepayers.

"We haven't got enough information to make an intelligent decision on this," they said.

Organizers of the ratepayers' group (which accepts residents from the area bounded by 24 Highway on the north and township lines of Erin, Nazasagawoya and Guelph on the east, south and west respectively) claimed they were unable to see any plans of the proposed projects as was advertised in the Free Press.

They grilled M.P.P. John Root who came to the meeting to explain the Ontario Water Resources Commission's plans for the area. They pointed out the plans and estimates were not in

the township offices as advertised.

Have you objections to the scheme? newly elected president Dick Strong asked the crowd, which stuck to business despite the oppressive heat. Reassured by several affirmatives, he urged them to write the clerk of the township at once to register their protest.

Note paper, pens and envelopes were suddenly supplied by the well organized group for all who asked. Some objections were on their way before the three hour meeting was over.

Next meeting of the group will be held in the town hall tonight (Wednesday).

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SECOND SECTION

Grill John Root at meeting

Wellington-Dufferin M.P.P. John Root, an unflappable politician, who also is vice-chairman of the O.W.R.C., strode into his own riding Wednesday night to swap information with ratepayers about the proposed new waterworks and sewerage system.

He fielded some penetrating questions about the two projects proposed by the Ontario Water Resources Commission but Mr. Root also had his turn at bat in front of the jam-packed town hall where ratepayers had just finished founding a ratepayers' association.

Mr. Root reviewed the history of the two projects back to 1966 when samples of 140 wells in Rockwood showed 46 to be either doubtful or unsatisfactory. The survey also showed some sewage seepage going into the water at that time.

He traced the ensuing action after the county health unit was asked to assist in the survey up to a public hearing held in January, 1969.

Due processes

The proposed projects have gone through all the due processes and the village trustees decided to go ahead with it. The by-law to allow construction has had two readings. Before the third and final reading it is sent to the Ontario Municipal Board which decides on the basis of the objections received whether another public hearing will be held to hear objections.

Mr. Root said Rockwood was a high cost area for the installation of underground projects because of rocks. Estimated cost for both projects would be \$1,391,740.

Total assistance from both the federal and provincial governments would be approximately \$757,852 and the balance would be liquidated over 40 years.

The federal government supplied assistance of \$144,063 from CMHC at 8 1/2 per cent and \$48,000 of this would be forgiven if the project was completed in the time set aside for this type of financing. The province financed

the balance through the O.W.R.C. at a rate of nine per cent.

More assistance

In addition, a provincial capital grant program to assist municipalities like Rockwood would pay 50 per cent of the cost of the sewerage system, amounting to \$445,401. Assistance for waterworks amounted to an estimated \$264,451, based on 48 per cent of the cost.

The \$48,000 federal forgiveness would come off the \$757,852.

Questioned whether the two projects could not be done in stages, the O.W.R.C. chairman pointed out that village trustees felt it would be unwise to tear up the village streets twice so they proposed doing the job all at once.

He also pointed out that once waterworks were installed there was more water used. He said rates were set up so pensioners could afford services and the rate was adjusted every five years.

Most towns went for water first but Grand Valley, because of a pollution problem, opted for sewers.

Tertiary plant

The proposed plant—a tertiary (three stage)—would be one of the most modern in the province. Treatment of sewage would be superior to the Guelph system. There would be no solids or raw sewage dumped into the river.

Why spend \$200,000 to bypass the Conservation Area and dump effluent into Eden Mills? Mr. Root said that would be a good question for the hearing if the O.M.B. decides one is necessary.

Asked by Lloyd Chandler if the plant would remove nitrates from the sewage, Mr. Root admitted there was no method known at the present time which would remove them.

Well, it's time engineers came up with something different than the Romans did 2000 years ago complained one ratepayer. "Why do they have to dump into the river? It is not your river, not my river—but OUR river," he told the audience to loud applause.

The vice-chairman also told the crowd that services in front of a

vacant lot increased the lot's value so there was a frontage charge for installation.

One lady said this new proposal had caught her family with two wells and a new septic tank. Why, she asked, should she pay for someone else to benefit?

The O.W.R.C. is working on research to improve the feeding of algae by nitrates said Mr. Root, but so far there has been no solution.

Earlier ratepayers heard the solicitor, George Millar, summarize some of the questions they would like answered, including how many wells are polluted? Is it a minor or

epidemic problem? Have all the alternatives been considered? Why were they rejected?

Inflation factor

He agreed that the longer the project was delayed the greater the cost factor because of inflation but he scored what he called the lack of information available for ratepayers.

There seemed to be general agreement among the large number present that the ratepayers' association would be a good vehicle to guard the peoples' interests in the waterworks and sewage system projects but there were some dissenting voices.

"I'm afraid they will try to compete with the village trustees," said ratepayer "Sandy" Hudson. He felt the trustees were elected to do the job and if people were unhappy with them they could change the slate at the next election.

Next meeting of the ratepayers' group is tonight and it is quite likely they'll be demanding further answers on the controversial issue.

September is Fair month

Elmira	Sept. 4, 5, 7
Orangeville	Sept. 7
Galt	Sept. 11-12
Waterdown	Sept. 11-12
Caledon	Sept. 12
Drayton	Sept. 14
Mount Forest	Sept. 15
Arthur	Sept. 16-17
ACTON	Sept. 18-19
Brampton	Sept. 18-19
Aberfoyle	Sept. 19
Fergus	Sept. 19
MILTON	Sept. 25-26
Grand Valley	Sept. 26
GEORGETOWN	Oct. 3
ERIN	Oct. 9, 10, 12

COMIN'S AND GOIN'S

Mr. and Mrs. A. Beck from Cleveland, Ohio, and Miss Daisy Islip from Toronto, visited for a few days with Mrs. Jim Oakes and Mrs. Kathleen Rhodes of Rockwood.

Lou Hiltz and daughter Marie also Mr. and Mrs. Don Hiltz and daughter Doona and Miss May Urquhart of Guelph, attended the funeral of their cousin Mrs. Leonara Affleck Friday in Windsor Ontario.

Rockwood bows to Merlin but edges Norval 1-0

Merlin whitewashed Rockwood Seniors 7-0 in Merlin Sunday night, in the first game of their OASA Intermediate "C" playoff series.

Silent bats and shoddy defensive work accounted for Rockwood's poor showing.

In spite of the loss, coach Dick Dupuis is confident his squad can even the series, when it returns to Rockwood this Saturday night at 8.30.

Sunday hex

"We've only won one game on a Sunday in nine years, but we'll have to improve our defensive play," coach Dupuis commented.

Chick Milne and Bill Ward collected the only two Rockwood hits in the game.

Merlin is located about 20 miles west of Chatham.

Edge Norval

Harry Barber and Jim That-

cher's hits were the sole Rockwood safeties in a 1-0 win over Norval, that tied up the Tri-county league final series at one game each, Thursday night.

John Salmon fired a neat one-hitter to gain the win for Rockwood.

Third game of the series was played last night (Tuesday) in Glen Williams and the fourth is slated for Rockwood Friday

Alex McPhedran first

Results of the oat competition sponsored by the Acton Agricultural Society were released by judge S. R. Cockburn, Guelph, this past week.

Listed in the order of standing and the variety of oats entered in the competition are the following:

First, Alex McPhedran, R.R. 4, Rockwood, Harmon, with an estimated yield of over 100 bushels to the acre.

Duncan McPhedran, R.R. 4, Rockwood, Harmon; Calvin

Atken, R.R. 3, Acton, Rodney; Norman Harris, R.R. 4, Rockwood, Rodney; Smith Griffin, R.R. 2, Acton, Stormont; Ken Murray, R.R. 1, Acton, Rodney; G. W. Lasby & Sons, R.R. 1, Rockwood, Rodney; Frank Kelsey.

NEWS of the district

Sell senior citizen apartments

ERIN—Ontario housing Corporation has purchased 17 small senior citizen developments including one in Erin from Twin-Pines Apartments Limited of Weston.

An off-shoot of the Ontario co-operative movement, Twin-Pines entered the limited dividend housing field in a social service capacity, building the senior citizen housing on a non-profit basis with local groups and the municipalities in which they are located.

Rising costs made it difficult to maintain rents at a level tenants could afford to pay and the decision was made to sell to the O.H.C.

The 11-unit developments, which provide for a total of 187 bachelor and one-bedroom units in the 17 municipalities were sold for \$115,000. O.H.C. also assumed \$1,073,133 in mortgages which are outstanding.

Guelph not geared for aged

GUELPH—According to an article in a Guelph newspaper, Guelph is a poor city in which to grow old. Reasons? Because there is not a lot to do when you're retired and over 65. And unless you find your own recreation there are few others who will help.

There are two senior citizen clubs in the city but their main concern is weekly card sessions, musical entertainment with a few bingo thrown in. St. Joseph's Home for the Aged and The Elliott offer various activities for residents but private nursing homes have little to offer in the way of recreation.

But for those who live in their own homes or in rooms, senior citizen units or apartments, there is little to do and all kinds of time to do it in.

For the most part, the article comments, growing old in Guelph does not offer the opportunity most people believe will come their way when they retire and grow old.

Chain links sewage plant and pollution

Two days after the widely proclaimed "Women's Liberation Day", Mrs. Kathy Gordon chained herself to the Eramosa township hall. It was a symbolic protest against the alleged polluting of the Eramosa River by the proposed Rockwood water pollution control plant.

"I'll do almost anything to prevent the dumping of sewage into the river," said the attractive mother of two.

Residents of Rockwood either applauded Mrs. Gordon's stand or looked askance at what they call another stunt by a handful of residents living along the river who oppose dumping treated effluent into the stream.

Have treasure

"We have a treasure here and we'll fight to keep it," Mrs. Gordon said. She maintained it was time the engineers of the Ontario Water Resources Commission investigated feasible alternatives to present treatment plants.

"Why do they always set up their systems to dump into rivers and streams?" she asked.

Mrs. Gordon also took issue with the effectiveness of treatment in a tertiary system which is being touted as the type of plant Rockwood would get. She said effluent would be high in nitrate, which in turn would cause algae to grow which in its turn would make it difficult for fish to survive.

"Our stretch of river is the cleanest in the province," she maintained.

Mrs. Gordon became interested in ecology after editing Dr. Anthony Kingscote's notes and the subject of pollution control is one that receives almost daily airing in the Gordon home. The Gordons live south of 7 Highway on the western outskirts of Rockwood. The Eramosa River runs through their property.

The proposed outlet for the water pollution control plant is only about 1,000 feet upstream from their home. Mrs. Gordon stoutly maintains the river is too shallow to carry the

flow from the sewage plant. She fears their section of the river will become polluted.

Thought of chains

Her concern over the proposed plant reached the stage where she thought of chaining herself to the township hall as a means of bringing attention to the alleged problem. Several neighbors along the river offered encouragement. Friday afternoon the deed was done, to the click of camera and delighted grins on the faces of the press.

Mrs. Gordon has support for her views as well as opposition but the controversy rocking Rockwood has so many faces it would be difficult for an outsider to understand problems without being part of them.

There seems to be genuine concern by a large number of residents over what they consider to be the high cost of installing both water and sewers. There is also much concern about the reasons for running the outlet from the proposed sewage plant to bypass the Conservation Park.

Save Money

"If the effluent out of the plant is so clean," asked one ratepayer, "then why can't we save the money (estimated \$200,000) by letting the pipe dump its contents into the river above the Conservation Park?"

"We have to have more facts about this before we can make an intelligent decision," said ratepayer Ray Ellis, one of nine Rockwood and area residents elected to the new ratepayers' association at the founding meeting last Wednesday.

It is the lack of knowledge that is burning up Eden Mills people like Norm Thomas and Lloyd Chandler. They contend it is a matter of "pork barrel politics" intended to win votes.

"When it hits people's pocketbooks that's when you start to get action," noted Ray Ellis. "Besides we think the people should have a voice in this. It is our money they are spending."

John Clark, another township downstream river resident says the group which spearheaded the ratepayers' association has been working quietly for the last 18 months trying to get information about the proposed plant. He said the group has been continually frustrated by the lack of information available. Sketches and plans for the projects were not available at the township offices as advertised.

Plans in Rockwood

Eramosa township clerk Lloyd Hindley admitted that he had no plans to show interested ratepayers because they were at the Rockwood village offices. "I sent them down there thinking they would be more convenient for those who wanted to see them," he told The Free Press.

However, Mr. Hindley told The Free Press he asked for another set of plans and sketches from the O.W.R.C. and expected them to arrive Tuesday. They can be inspected at the township offices then, he said.

Although there are many other reasons for the reluctance to go ahead with sewers and water, cost seems to be the main objection voiced by residents of Rockwood, especially those who have lived there for years.

Some residents interviewed by The Free Press said they feared those on fixed incomes would have difficulty meeting the extra money it would take to hook up and use the waterworks and water pollution control plant. They felt, however, that there was a need for both systems.

By-pass unnecessary?

They were also concerned about the conservation park by-pass. They felt conservation authorities should bear all or some of the cost of this since taxpayers of the village would not benefit.

"If the water is pure when it is pumped out of the sewage plant," said one, "why couldn't they put it into the river upstream and save the taxpayers some money?"

The controversy continues, making a public hearing before the O.W.R.C. imperative.



CHAINED! but for a good cause, says Kathy Gordon, who protests the proposed dumping of effluent into the Eramosa River. "Save my river," she pleaded as reporters clamored for interviews.—(Staff Photo)