

Pass Rockwood water, sewer by-laws

Eramosa township council passed the controversial by-laws which could give Rockwood a \$1 1/2 million water and sewage system at a special meeting Monday night attended by village trustees and a roomful of spectators who turned smoldering resentments into words.

A debate raged over two hours in the smoky chambers and ended up in a vote over the by-laws which the township council deferred until they met with village trustees Monday. Councillor Dick Strong was the lone objector to the resolutions to pass the by-laws requested by the village trustees, which sets the stage for an Ontario Municipal Board hearing if there are objections.

Members of the Rockwood and Area Ratepayers' Association, Eden Mills village trustees and other township residents attended the meeting which resembled a general debate at times under the chairmanship of Reeve Warren Parkinson.

Act on request

The reeve explained why the township council did not act on the request of the village trustees at the first meeting when the by-laws were brought up. He said errors in the newspaper ads for the project and alterations to some sections of the advertisements made it necessary to repeat the process again before there could be an O.M.B. hearing on the project. Councillor Strong, however, asserted signing the by-laws was tantamount to approving the \$1 1/2 million projects.

First to speak was Rockwood village trustee Don Hills who reviewed the history of the proposal briefly from the time in 1966 when the first survey was taken and wells found polluted. He said the village trustees asked the township council to pass the by-laws so there could be an O.M.B. hearing.

Reeve Parkinson said he and the deputy-reeve accompanied the Rockwood trustees to a meeting with the O.W.R.C. in Toronto the previous Tuesday. He felt council's decision on the by-laws should stem from the information on maps and plans for the water and sewage projects supplied by the Ontario Water Resources Commission.

Best plant

People are concerned that the sewers will pollute the river but the O.W.R.C. says Rockwood will get the best plant available. "The way it is now, the Eramosa River is being polluted by seepage along the banks."

Rockwood treasurer C. F. O'Brien reviewed the history of the projects again in more lengthy fashion, noting the building by-law was found in the township offices after being lost for 10 years. He said he spent almost the entire summer trying to get a by-law passed to make three building lots out of two and they found they had to get permission from the county board of health.

They suggested the village get water in and then they could use one lot instead of two for building. The O.W.R.C. was called in and it was their experience that sewers usually follow water, so quotes on the projects were made. Village trustees still thought they could only afford water. Mr. O'Brien referred to the previous week's trip to the O.W.R.C. where they were told they have all the information on the subject "right here."

Want hearing

All the trustees are asking, Mr. O'Brien said, is for the township council to pass the by-laws so the O.M.B. can have a hearing. Changes in the by-laws, said Mr. O'Brien, were made so 10 or 12 new houses could be serviced at no extra charge to the village, which will be absorbed in capital costs. Cost to individuals would be the same today as the last time.

First to challenge the statements made by the reeve and trustees was Rockwood resident Dave Rowe who felt the by-law should not be passed. Taking this stand, he said, would force the O.W.R.C. to give out more information.

No pollution?

He challenged statements that the sewage plant would not pollute the river, the effect on village growth and administration charges. "The village will have to pay back over \$100,000 a year," he asserted, charging he couldn't see how they could pay back this amount on top of taxes, especially pensioners and low income people. He also reminded the meeting there were ecological differences to consider.

"I don't blame council or the trustees for this—it is the O.W.R.C. hoodwinking us," Mr. Rowe said in effect.

But the reeve insisted council had all the information possible. They would waste time showing laymen plans of sewage plants. People want to know what it is going to cost them. Council sought professional advice from the O.W.R.C. and they gave it, insisting the river would be better.

"You've been badly misled," said Professor Chisholm of the University of Guelph, called as a surprise speaker. He said the proposal to by-pass the Rockwood Conservation area shows some concern that the system

to problems. "I'd hate to think we are driving out the elderly and fixed income people," Mr. Strong went on.

Strong also failed to accept circumventing of the conservation area, a project which would cost the village a great deal of money. He also felt friends of the OWRC have a unique ability to change the tune whatever way they were playing on the piano that day.

He said it was an outright lie that more information was not available because he knew of further studies. "We can't let Toronto determine the pattern of growth," he insisted.

Hidden costs

Professor Chisholm said ratepayers would also be faced with hidden costs of replumbing to fit the new system which could go as high as \$1400 or \$1500 a dwelling.

The water by-law was read and passed with only Councillor Strong opposed. The reeve said he didn't vote but would have voted with the majority if it was necessary. Councillor Adsett opined he agreed with statements expressed by his colleague Dick Strong but thought all possible

One opinion

That's one professional's opinion. We got another opposite one, declared the reeve.

Mr. Chisholm, questioned by the reeve, said if he had a well in Rockwood he would certainly try and do something about it but was not convinced water and sewers was the right alternative.

"The one alternative," injected Mr. O'Brien, "is to go back to privies whether he says it or not."

Professor Chisholm denied the allegation. He said the alternative might be chlorine injectors on individual wells much the same as holiday resorts use, reconstruction of wells, detecting the actual source of pollution by detailed analysis. He felt the problem might be solved in a unique manner.

How many wells were polluted in the village?

Twenty-four per cent were definitely bad, asserted village trustee Bert Smith, "and 18 per cent showed traces."

Only way

As far as Deputy Reeve Dunc McPhedran was concerned the only way to get a hearing from the OWRC and the OMB was to pass the by-law. Objections could be filed and the O.M.B. was duty bound to hold a hearing.

"We were assured Rockwood was getting the best price for water and sewers in the province," Mr. McPhedran said, comparing the figures with similar projects in Grand Valley and Drayton. Major cost of the projects is installation, rates would not change regardless of problems contractors ran into.

He said rates could not be lowered for pensioners,

otherwise the village would be inundated with people because of cheaper rates but cited statistics from the OWRC which showed that in five years there would be 50 per cent less pensions and in 10 years this would be cut to virtually nothing.

Anticipated growth for the village, he said, was 1700 by 1988 since it isn't in a growth area and the plant would take up to 2,000 people. There is no way the OWRC would consider building a plant for 1,000 people. Each householder has the choice of having both services or neither. If they don't want either they must still pay the cost of water and sewers going across their lot, he said, which is understandable.

"As far as I am concerned the OWRC has been fair and the figures are correct," he told the meeting.

"I spoke to the reeve of Drayton," another ratepayer replied and he said his council refused to even look at the proposals the OWRC had for them.

Top. picked up tab?

Discussion raged over the proposals much of it a rehash of subjects generated at earlier meetings with some ratepayers present fearing the township would have to pick up the tab if Rockwood was unable to afford the projects. Reeve Parkinson said the function of an OMB hearing was to decide whether the village could afford it or not.

"I'm not going to say it is too expensive for Rockwood," he said. "How do I know?"

Eden Mills resident Lloyd Chandler said if the project went through downstream, residents like himself would be stuck with a muddy river and the bill. He felt the township should look into the matter more thoroughly before coming to a decision.

Further discussion revealed that names of the people who had wells tested and found polluted were available in the village offices, a fact which set many people groaning, testifying they had never been able to find out where polluted wells were.

Councilor Strong was the last to speak before council voted on the water by-law. He said he regretted the hostility generated by what he felt was merely the action of ratepayers trying to get information on a subject vitally important to them. He felt information from the OWRC was superficial and biased and open to question.

Costs confusing

Costs were confusing, he declared, and he was not convinced there were no alternatives to the system which was the standard OWRC reaction

answers to questions had been received from the OWRC.

Reaction wasn't long in coming after the vote was taken. Betty Lou Clark said she hoped the reeve would be ready to clean up her front yard, which fronts on the river. The reeve replied he had a hard start since property he owned already suffered from a polluted stream and he suggested a mutual pact which would give Mrs. Clark a head start.

George Day said in his opinion council and trustees were giving moral support to the project and asked if they would also make representation at the O.M.B. hearing to say costs were prohibitive.

"Are they prohibitive?" the reeve answered.

Mr. Day said he didn't think the trustees and council felt the responsibility for their actions but the reeve replied that the township council does not interfere with village trustees who were elected by Rockwood people.

Stand up

At this juncture trustee Don Hills asked everyone from Rockwood in the room to stand up in an effort to show the press much of

the opposition came from outside the village.

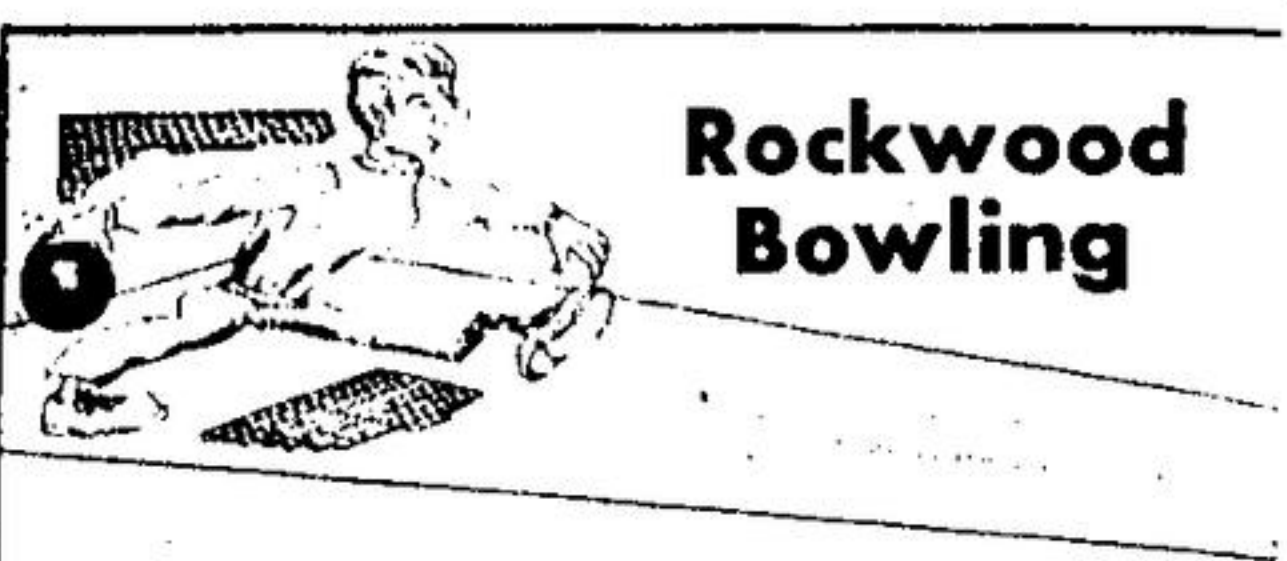
Don Gordon said he thought wells should be cleaned up first before the village took on the obligations of water and sewers. Eden Mills village trustee Norm Marshall said council was underwriting a note by signing the by-laws and must assume financial responsibility if Rockwood couldn't pay.

Township councillor Ken Fair commented he thought there was a poor communication system between all groups and the only way to assess the picture properly was to go through the process in a legal and orderly manner as they were. If the by-laws are no good, they won't go through, he said.

A young man in the crowd asked what the poor families in the village would do if they couldn't pay. He suggested they would have to move.

But Mr. O'Brien suggested they wouldn't move because they wouldn't be able to sell.

The reeve concluded the meeting before the vote on sewers by admitting there was no solution to suit everyone.



Rockwood Bowling

The team standings show an all-out competitive trend with two teams vying for 2nd and 7th place positions after last Tuesday's bowling matches and the standings to date show: 1st Clippers with 107 pts; 2nd Stratton's with 104 pts. tying the Pacers; 3rd Guelphites with 100; 4th Neighbours with 98; 5th Norton's Bluebirds with 92; 6th Carney's with 81; tied for 6th Whitewashers with 81 pts; 7th

Four Corners with 79; 8th Elmer's, Alley Cats with 68; 9th Gooyer Bros. with 59; and in 10th place with 36 points the Osprey Slow Pokes.

The Norton's Bluebirds showed a four point score against the Guelphite team who managed three points for last evening's bowling games. Fred Nightingale played his usual masterful roll as one of the top league bowlers and his score showed a 280, 286, 197 to a 723 triples; Mary Stahlbaum showed a 190, and outstanding 300, a 204 to triple 694 score; Viv Nightingale made a 235 single. The following Guelphites showed Ross Gordon's 210 single, Garry Park's 226 single and Kathy Parks with a 203 single score.

Top pacer

The Pacers took a seven point straight from the Carney's Plumbing and heating team and top scorer for the winning team were Doug Hilton with a 624 triple and Brian Slipp with a 590.

Four corners lost their team score when defeated by the Neighbours with a 5 to 2 tune and the Neighbours' top scoring valiants were Bill Garner with a 212, 209, 236 to a 657 triple, Harvey Bayne's 285, 155, 196 to a 616 triple; Sandy McPhedran's 180, 295, 192 to a 667 triple and Doug Buttenham showed 183, 228, 243 to a total of 654 triple. The Four Corner's team proudly displayed their top scoring losers as Tony Stokman with a 254, 134, 225 set of singles with a 613 triple score; Nellie Stokman showed a 665 triple; Ann Parkinson a 208 single; Ralph Wright a 208 single and Nett Wright also made a 208 single on the nose.

Stupendous

The second place Strattons won their 5 points against the Whitewashers 2, when Dunc Kingsbury made a stupendous 330, and two 229, 224 singles to triple 783 points; Sam Nyhold ran up a 219 single and Lois Jestin a 570 triple score. Clarence Hilton of the Whitewashers made a 616 triple, and Marina Mulder a 207 single.

Ted Jestin was in top fettle for the Clipper team when he landed a 711 triple score; Harv Jestin made a 625 and Bert Archer showed a 185, 231, 203 to a 619 triple and, for the Osprey Slow Pokes Ross Ferguson ran up a 178, 255, 218 set of singles to triple 651 points and Frora Bruce made a 171 single.

Cats to dogs

Gooyer Bros. beat out the Alley Cats who went to the dogs when Len Smeltzer rolled a 211 single; Beth Smeltzer a 198 single and Jo-Ann Gooyers a 185 single. Doris Jestin for the Cats made a 240 single; Marion Allan a 209, and Gloria Alton a 206 single.

Over 500

Women over 500, Mary Stahlbaum 694, Nellie Stokman 665, Doris Jestin 589, Gloria Alton 579, Lois Jestin 570, Marina Mulder 555, Ann Parkinson 554, Vivian Nightingale 552, Ann McCormack 537, Kathy Parks 536, Irene LaVoie 514, Alice Johnson 513, Beth Smeltzer 509, Ivy Ritchie 501, Jo-Ann Gooyers 501.

Men over 600, Dunc Kingsbury 783, Fred Nightingale 723, Ted Jestin 711, Sandy McPhedran 667, Bill Garner 657, Doug Buttenham 654, Ross Ferguson 651, Harv Jestin 625, Doug Hilton 624, Bert Archer 619, Clarence Hilton 616, Harvey Bayne 616, Tony Stokman 613.

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4-H meetings held to get organized

By H. Cook

The 4-H Organization Meetings for the Halton 4-H Agricultural Clubs are to be held the week of March 21. For those attending, all meetings will be held at 8:00 p.m. The Halton Clubs will all meet in the agricultural office, Milton, and the Acton Clubs will meet in the Acton Community Centre, Acton.

The schedule for the meetings is as follows: all Halton 4-H Calf Clubs — Wednesday, March 24, Halton 4-H Field Crop Club — Tuesday, March 23, Halton 4-H Horse Club — Thursday, March 25, Halton 4-H Conservation Club and Halton 4-H Engineering Club — Friday, March 26, Acton 4-H Calf and Field Crop Clubs — Monday, March 22.

Local Jr. Farmers to attend conference

Halton County will be represented by David McIntyre, Conference of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario.

The Route to Action" is the theme of the 1971 Provincial Conference of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario. Toronto's Inn on the Park will host three hundred and fifty Junior Farmers from across the province for this three-day Conference, March 19 to 21.

Cut trees

To prepare for road widening, crews are cutting down trees on both sides of the second line north of Acton, all the way up to Osprey. Fine old maples and walnuts are among the old trees being toppled.

Happenings at Rockwood School

Last Thursday Eramosa came to Rockwood and beat us 30-21. The boys beat Eramosa 10-7.

On Thursday we play Eramosa over there.

On Friday classes will be dismissed for one week during the Easter holidays. A movie will be shown on the afternoon of Friday, called the "Love Bug". Everyone is entitled to watch it.

GETTING MARRIED?

BOOK YOUR WEDDING EARLY. PHONE 833-2269 William Stuckey PHOTOGRAPHY

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