

Letters stir up ferment in Rockwood

by Lorraine

There was a note of urgency in a letter dated March 30, 1971, sent out to all Rockwood villagers and signed by eight respected

members of the community. It was, perhaps, a letter which also echoed the fears of many residents regarding the tremendous costs of a proposal which, to many, is not a

necessary one because they have not, as yet been faced, with the necessity of finding another water supply other than the ones in their own back yard.

The letter pointed out the complexities which could well be the result of the installation of the Ontario Water Resources sewer and water system with warnings of over-development, tremendous "hidden costs" of the necessity of plumbing hook-ups from the main line, through each lawn to homes, plus the damage to a unique village heretofore untouched by building influx and modern housing, which would not match the general open-air aesthetics of the village.

Easy to understand It is interesting to note that one of the general attitudes of the recipients of this letter is acclaim and a feeling of security that for once, "it's all been put down on paper in uncomplicated terms which everyone can understand."

There is another one which says "The Village trustees should have done the same thing along time ago and we could have understood what it was all about."

Mr. O'Brien, the Rockwood Hydro manager, reminds us that such a paper was presented to the villagers a year ago, when trustees called a meeting to show the costs of the proposed system and that same white paper is the one which is the basis for the Eramosa township notice of the proposed rates.

Actual cost breakdowns multiplied by 12 months shows that the total costs shown on the circulated letter to be correct. It does not show, however, that excepting for the standard monthly service charges of \$14 per month, the water and sewer connection costs of \$27.47 can be paid off immediately at a total expenditure of \$319, instead of the 40 year term which will amount to \$1,098.80.

The remaining amount then, according to the white paper, would be the sum of the frontage tax for both water and sewer lines which show \$26.40 for water and \$26.40 for sewers, totalling \$52.80 as the only amount to be applied to the annual tax bill.

According to Mr. O'Brien there is speculation that even that cost could be wiped off immediately if the customer or resident so desired.

Sign petition Based on the concern of the circulated information, residents are already signing a petition to indicate their disfavor at the price of the proposed system.

Bob Leslie, a past member of the trustee board, in office at the time when considerations for a system was originally initiated feels strongly that Rockwood cannot possibly meet such costs and, although there is a definite need for action, there should be a less expensive alternative.

"Just because we price a Cadillac" says Mr. Leslie, "does not mean that we're going to buy one". He feels that the trustees

could have shopped around more insisted that the OWRC come up with another proposal.

Many other citizens also feel, to take on such an item would bankrupt the village in no time and, as one lady put it, "We'll all be in the poor house."

The ferment continues. The Hon. D'Arcy McKeough stated recently that, for slow growing green belt areas it wouldn't be feasible to consider extensive sewage and water systems but as the OWRC has already committed itself to the Rockwood proposal it is expected that it will live up to its commitments depending on the decision of the O.M.B.

Approach OWRC One resident who strongly hopes that the matter will be put into effect, said that she hopes Rockwood citizens remember that the Ontario Water Resource Commission was approached.

Reported costs of other sewage and water plants shows a tremendous disparity between those installed 20 and even 10 years ago, but specialists who have investigated other more recently proposed systems such as the one for Drayton, find that they compare favourably with that being considered for Rockwood.

May contest The notice published in the newspaper of March 31st, clearly states that any ratepayer may by sending a written letter stating his objection, contest the agreement between the Township of Eramosa and the Ontario Water Resource Commission. The Ontario Municipal Board will have to give Rockwood its utmost consideration and it is only logical that such an experienced Board of judicial individuals will, in viewing the matter with an experienced but unjaudiced eye, be able to better assess the matter in a constructive perspective; weighing thoroughly potential pollution against bankruptcy and any other feasible alternatives.

In any event, the die has been cast and until the O.M.B. sets its date (which could be sometime in late summer or early fall), the matter of the proposed sewer and water system in Rockwood could be considered a closed issue!

Ask intercession new post office

Eramosa township council will send a letter to Wellington M.P. Al Hales asking that he intercede on the township's behalf regarding construction of a new post office in Rockwood to serve village and township residents.

Deputy-reeve Duncan McPhehdran introduced the resolution at the regular meeting of the township council Monday



DESPITE THE crisp, frosty air, nature is already showing signs of a not too distant spring with only patches of white snow on the muddy ground to remind us of a long winter, past. Jim Muir, park superintendent, and assistants Harry Collins, and Jim Gellatly, clear out the dead wood in preparation for summertime beauty and campfire needs in the Rockwood Conservation Park. —(Photos by Lorraine)

Ladies' night for brigade

Ladies' Night at the town hall last Saturday was a glamorous affair for some 22 firemen's wives when the Eramosa Fire Brigade feted them and several guests and their wives to the annual "evening on the town".

Corsages decorated every damsel as past and present members of the Brigade, the village trustees, the township council members and all of their wives, sat down to a marvellous banquet supper prepared by the ladies of the Rockwood Presbyterian Church.

Lemon aid

Cold turkey with all the trimmings plus scads of delicious home-made pies satisfied the appetites of the hungry

banquetees and one of the lady guests, anxious to have her husband sample the lemon pie, dumped the entire plate directly into his lap.

The head-tabled deputy-reeve handled the situation with ease however, and, during the short after-dinner speeches, Duncan McPhehdran was able to add his usual dry wit to the auspicious occasion, but reserved his right to comment on his wife's lemon aid.

Ten gentlemen and their ladies sat as the guests of honor at the head table including fire chief Meadows and his attractive wife Susie; deputy-chief David Bacon and Gail; Don Hilts, the chairman of the village trustee board and his wife, Winnie; reeve Warren Parkinson and Jean; and Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McPhehdran.

Reunion time It was a great night and one which lasted from 6:30 in the evening until 1:00 a.m. It was a re-union for the return of many of the past brigade members, and a re-acquaintance for last year's village and township council. Everyone was in good-humored fettle and this year's Ladies' Nite was a social highlight of the 1971 Rockwood scene.

Tour hall

During a brief interlude while the tables were being cleared for dancing preparations, several members escorted their ladies to the new Eramosa Fire Hall to see where friend husbands had been spending many, many hours during the past winter months getting their spanking new fire lodgings ready for the early spring Open House.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. the Town Hall began to get into full

swing as "The Clansmen" of the Paradise Gardens fame started to get into the tempo of an evening out for the Rockwood ladies. Pant suits, formal wear, and minis and maxis rustled about the floor as the firemen, elegant in their Brigade evening attire of blazers and gray wool trousers, invited their ladies to dance. There were special dances and door prizes, a raffle which was won by Fran Wilson, a potted plant by Mrs. W. Day as the coveted door prize and Flora and Albert Malby won a spot dance as the music rang out celebrating the anniversaries of such guests as Jim and Jean Milne, Tom and Jessie Gellatly, and Lloyd and Helen Waddell who had arrived in from Guelph as a past member of the trustee board and the Eramosa Fire Brigade.

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Happenings at Rockwood School

Last Thursday Ospringle Public School came here. The boys defeated Ospringle 15-3. The Ospringle girls beat us with a ten point difference in the score. There will be a tournament on April 16. Both volley ball and

basket ball teams will play Eramosa and Ospringle. On Tuesday grade 5's went to Ospringle school to see an art show under the supervision of Mrs. Lafontaine, Mrs. Muisson and Miss Warwick.

Comin's and Goin's

Hey Kids! Big, little, young, older and positively ancient, come along and enjoy the happiest Easter Monday ever when the teachers and children of the Christian Education program have planned an Easter Egg Roll for Monday, April 12. Guelph Street will be the scene of the action after a 10:30 a.m. special church service at St. John's.

Everyone will have an opportunity to test their egg rolling skill down the Guelph Street Hill with an extra contest for mothers Practice now on your own little mountain but get cracking with your eggs and see how great you are. Fun and games, egg hunts, clowns, and coloured balloons are on the Monday agenda and the more children and grown-ups, the more fun for everyone.

You do not have to be a member of the Sunday School to attend, all we want is Y-O-U, your box lunch, and dessert and coffee will be provided. Happy Easter, folks and remember, the key word is "egg" hard boiled style and decorated.

The weather was grizzly and cold but Ray and Babs Ellis visited Bab's sister and her husband Mary Lou and Bruce Henderson in Midland over the weekend. The season was not for swimming, but everyone enjoyed a fun family visit.

Hold it! Have you marked the date of Thursday, April 8 on your calendar? The Rockwood Home and School Association is having its published Home-Designed Fashion Show in the Centennial School auditorium at 8 p.m. with door prizes and refreshments. "This year's fashions" will be modelled by home-grown Eramosaites and, hopefully, thousands will attend.

Approximately 100 students of the combined schools of Guelph Centennial High and John F. Ross Collegiate were transported via bus for a field trip recently to the Sherwood Mall in Toronto to look into advertising and marketing. Practical as well as theoretical, say the teachers, and such trips are teaching the students many things about big business and its organization.

Friends of Frank Kelso are sorry that he is back in the St. Joseph's Intensive Care wing but are happy to know that he is making recovery. His big incentive is removal to an ordinary hospital room where television will allow him to watch the regular Wednesday night hockey games. It's called "bedside hockey", gentlemen, but better it happen at home yet. See you soon, Frank!

Tuesday, April 20 should be set aside for all villagers to accept the open invitation of the St. John's Young People's Organization to hear Rev. Ritchie Murray, the chaplain of the University of Guelph, talk about and discuss, "The health of your religion". A provocative topic by a worthwhile speaker with, hopefully an enthusiastic audience. See you here? St. John's Parish Hall at 8:00 p.m.

The Torrence Guild home was hopping last Saturday afternoon when Joan's brother, David Varcoe was married to Judy Fryer of Acton and the reception was held in the Brady Street residence. Family, friends and relatives from Acton and Guelph enjoyed the festivities and the young couple were presented with many exciting gifts.

There's a first time for everything and, for Mr. and Mrs. Arnold (Red) Maw of Hubbards, Nova Scotia, previously of Rockwood, it's a first granddaughter; for John Maw, a first niece; and, for Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lannon, it's a first baby. Stephanie Lee, born on date of Wednesday, March 31, weighed in at 7 lbs. and her family is absolutely delighted. Congratulations and may Rockwood friends also be the first - to send their best wishes.

The University students at the C.N.R. station played host this past Wednesday evening to the Rockwood Board of trustees and their wives. The Village fathers had their first viewing of the special films the students had compiled during an earlier session in Rockwood and enjoyed it immensely. Pat Griffin, Al Regehr and Rod Kent continue to invite residents to drop in at the station and see how their present project of village planning is proceeding.

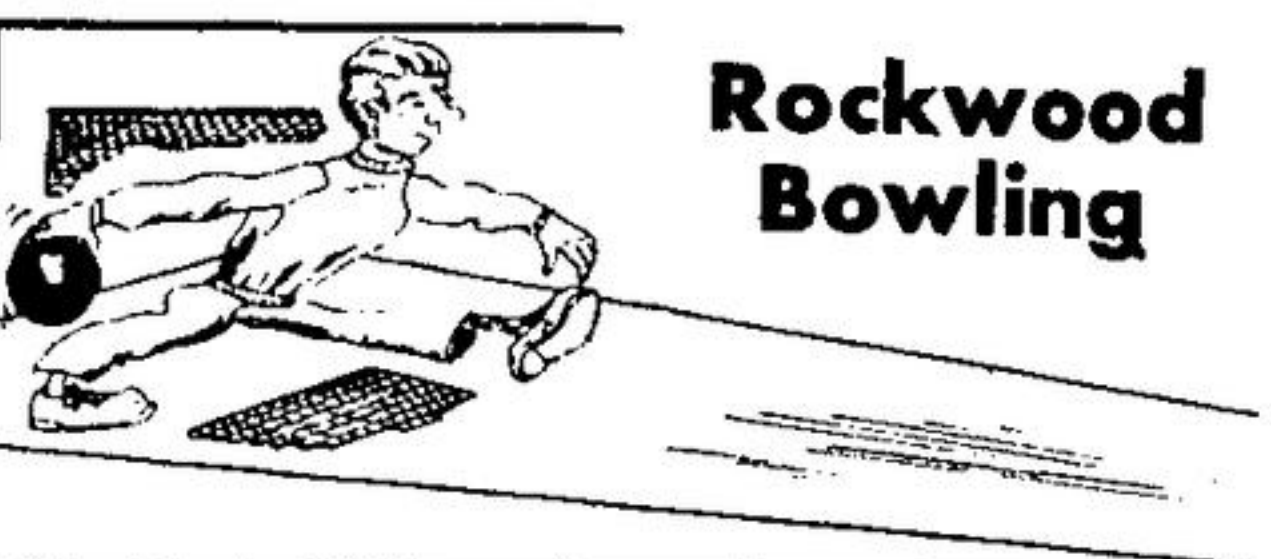
If the teenagers in the village are looking for something special to do Friday, April 16, they should put a check on their calendars and reserve the night for Patti Duke. She will be appearing at the Centennial School auditorium in "Me, Natalie" and, according to brochures, "It's a film which all teenagers from 14 up, and adults will enjoy". The St. John's Young People's are the sponsors.

It was moving day last March 22 for the Gord Cox family when they left their Main Street Apartment to move into their spanking new home on Weatherald Street. It's of fun interest to note that, when citizens refer to new homeowners in that section of the village many of them call it "Louisville". This indicates rapid growth in Rockwood that she should now be requiring "district" names. Would you believe Yoville and where in Rockwood would Cabbage-town be?

Miss G. Stickney, Mrs. F. Hindley, and their eager pupils were given special commendation in this month's copy of the EPS - the news magazine of the Eramosa Public School. The teachers and the students had raised \$47 through various projects and presented that amount to the Ontario Red Cross Association recently. Nice going folks, it was a great endeavour.

Hey now! Mr. and Mrs. James Hennessy of Main Street, (Jim and Bev.) have a new son, Raymond Scott, born at the Guelph General Hospital last March 29, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz., an Easter present for his 5 year old brother, Jimmie. Congratulations to parents, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Given of Rockwood, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hennessy of Eden Mills, and best wishes for Rockwood's latest citizen.

A fascinating display of judo and commentary was presented by two young Eramosa students of the Eramosa Public School when Ian and Gary Stewart brought their trophies to display and discussed to their interested audience, the various aspects of judo. After a lively contest between the two local combatants, an enlightening question and answer period followed. The grade seven class at the Eramosa School sponsored the event.



May 4 will mark the finality of the Rockwood Bowling schedule and, including next Tuesday night, April 6, there will only be five more weeks of activity in the local club with three weeks in which the ambitious members can vie for the high average, high triple flat, high single flat, high triple with handicap, and high single with handicap.

From there on in, it will be play-off bowling for everyone and may be the best man or gal win!

Final standings Last week's games showed the team final standings standing at Strattons in first place with 119 points; three teams tying for 2nd spot as the Pacers, Clippers, and the Neighbour's teams register 113 points; 3rd - Guelphites with 109 pts; 4th - Norton's Bluebirds with 102; 5th - Carney's Ptg. & Hig. 92; 6th - Four Corners with 91; 7th - Whitewashers with 90; 8th - Elmer's Alley Cats with 77; 9th - Gooyer Brothers with 70, and the Ospringle Slow Pokes have only 75 points to make it up to top place from the cellar where they sport only 44 points for "tenth position."

Strattons showed a 1 point lead against the Bluebirds last week as the final score tallied 4 for Strattons with Norton's registering only 3. Sam Nyholt was the strong contender for the Highway team as he rolled up a 674 triple score from his 251, 189 and 234 singles. Dick Dupuis made a great showing with his 216, 178 and 275 set of singles to triple 669. Ivy Ritchie for the Bluebirds was really on the ball as she snatched a 664 triple from her 194, 170 and 300 set of scores. Irene Lavole hit a 222 single, Alice Johnson a 200, and Fred Nightingale showed two singles of 200 and 203.

Over 500 WOMEN OVER 500 Ivy Ritchie 664, Gloria Alton 636, Winnie Hilts 581, Nellie Stokman 555, Irene Lavole 550, Alice Johnson 545, Orma Ferguson 536, Ann McCormack 533, Jo-Ann Gooyers 516, Ellen Garner 513, Gwen McDougall 508. MEN OVER 600 Elmer Allan 698, Harv Justin 667, Sam Nyholt 674, Dick Dupuis 669, Jim Thatcher 626, Sandy McPhehdran 623, Dunc Kingsbury 618, Mike Kelly 608, Art Nightingale 603.

Meeting conduct in bad taste Councillor Fair

As far as Councillor Ken Fair is concerned the special meeting between Eramosa township council, Rockwood village trustees and many ratepayers on March 15 over sewer and water proposals was a lesson in "guerilla tactics."

He felt the conduct of some ratepayers at the meeting was in bad taste and an obvious attempt to discredit those who were running the meeting. He pointed out many of those at the meeting did not address the chair and asked Councillor Dick Strong later if the whole thing had been engineered.

Spontaneous reaction Councillor Strong replied that to his knowledge the ratepayers groups present were a spontaneous reaction to the proposals rather than something

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