



WITH A CHUG, chug, chug, the beginners swimming class make like a train as beach supervisor and swimming instructress

Heather Haworth introduce youngsters to the feel of water, at last Monday's opening day for classes at Rockwood. —(Photo by Lorraine).



SITTING ON THE BEACH watching fellow swimmers take a turn in the water, younger class members await their turn with teacher Heather. Jim Muir, conservation park superintendent, is very happy with this year's swimming program and feels that his life

guard and supervising staff are doing a terrific job. Children from every area in Eramosa are enjoying the lessons and the parents are happy to take advantage of the park facilities. —(Photo by Lorraine).

Tenders, dogs on twp. agenda

At the last meeting of the Eramosa Township Council the following motions were passed:

THAT George Martin, dog controller, have a dog which had been killing pigs, etc. destroyed.

THAT the Building Inspector Jos. Benham is hereby authorized to permit Gordon Bilton to build within five feet six inches approximately of the surveyed lot line. When Mr. Bilton started building he was twelve feet from the lot line under Strange's Survey.

THAT the Eramosa Council approve the proposed 44 kv. wood pole subtransmission line, Station Street, Jct. X Rockwood DS, Niagara region, subject to the Ontario Hydro preserving the present environment as much as possible and in lieu of the fact that you agree the present station is obsolete would you not reconsider its relocation.

THAT the Council instruct the clerk to invite tenders for supplying furnaces oil to the fire department, township offices and township garage, gallonage approximately 7500 gallons from Brydes Fuel Company, Cable Fuels Limited, United Co-Operatives and Texaco Canada Limited. Tenders to be received in the township office on September 7 at 5 p.m.

Accounts were passed and the meeting was adjourned by Reeve Warren Parkinson until date of Tuesday, September 7th at 7.30 p.m. or at the call of the Reeve.

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Students issue Rockwood planning study

This is the third in a series of articles taken from a planning study of Rockwood prepared by three students from the School of Landscape Architecture, University of Toronto.

There is a conflict of cars in the core area between parked cars stopping for shopping, and through traffic that approaches over the brow of the valley hill from the south. This is exaggerated in the winter when snowbanks decrease the street width, and in the peak summer months when traffic volume increases. It is regrettable that the rows of trees were chopped to make way for the four lane highway, because the village has lost the beauty of the street trees, such as can still be seen north of the railway tracks. This has been the Department of Highways standard procedure for years now, but public outcry in many centres, like Terra Cotta, is making the Department search for better ways to increase traffic efficiency without sterilizing the town as the four lane road passes through. It has left Rockwood without those great trees, and a wide swath of paving that adds little to its appearance. One of the alternative solutions that the Department is considering is to by-pass a town, if its economy doesn't rely on that traffic. This could be the ideal solution for Rockwood. Within the next ten years, High-

way No. 7 will be widened to four lanes, as a result of projected traffic increase. We recommend that the village consider asking the Department of Highways to by-pass the village, yet keeping easy access to the village.

Rockwood is predominantly a rural village, and high-volume traffic will cause congestion and a slow-down at the 90 degree corner in the village centre.

The historical character of Rockwood is very strong, yet the only attention it seems to receive is from private citizens who have, on their own initiative and expense done much to restore and refurbish some outstanding buildings, in particular, the Rockwood Academy, the stone house next to the Presbyterian Church, and the Strange-Price farm by the river. The still-operating mill is living link with history. There is much more that could be done, not just with buildings, but also with the land. The river valley, for example, is a very strong element cutting through the town and it has historical connections, not just with the mills, but also because it is so heavily treed. It reminds one of the vast forest that once covered Ontario, and the rock formations are living reminders of the glacial age and beyond. There are visually unsympathetic structures in the valley, and land uses that detract so much from what the valley is and means. The valley divides the village into two

separate parts, and then the railway lines divide the northern part into two parts again, so that the village is made up of three physically divided communities, with the main core in the middle part.

Generally, the buildings and property in the village are in good condition and well-looked after, but there are some that are in a bad state of neglect and these can tend to undermine any sense of community pride that exists. The confidence an owner has in the future of his property, and the area it is in, greatly affects the effort he makes to maintain it. Neglect is often noticeable in places where there is a public attitude that the area is in decline, or where people feel threatened by expropriation, re-zoning or other changes that they do not relish. By contrast, where explicit public statements of policy are made by local authorities, a pronounced effect is usually seen in individual efforts.

Recreational facilities seem to be abundant in one sense, yet lacking in others. The conservation area is used mostly by people from out-of-town, and is generally crowded, hence the village residents seem reluctant to use it, or to consider it theirs, but teenagers use it frequently, for swimming, and meeting other teenagers from other places. The valley provides a huge and varied playground for the children, and adults as well, but what seems

to be missing is a park for the village, and a "hang-out" for the teenagers with time on their hands. The Rover House does well, but there is a mixture of teenagers, and too many of them for that one facility.

There is a mixture of people living in the village; those whose families have lived there for generations, those who have moved there for the rural way of life, and those who have retired to Rockwood. These different people have their own social and family circles, but even so there is a healthy mixture of people which can make for a healthy community, if they get together. It is interesting to note, that most young people leave at a certain age, but often several years of being away and having varied experiences, they tend to move back to settle down.

We feel, that even with the many problems we have and have not mentioned, the village has so much potential as a place to live in peace, with a beautiful natural environment. As landscape architects, we readily visualize what the village could be like if this potential were considered by more of the residents of the village.

(Continued Next Week)

Eramosa twp. approves new recreation area

Eramosa council gave approval for Keith and Bob Hamilton to set up a privately owned recreation and camping area on their property adjacent to the Rockwood Conservation area at their August meeting. At the same time they made an amending bylaw to allow the site in an agricultural area was subject to an agreement between the municipality and the owners.

Councillor Dick Strong voted against the resolution. Both owners were present at the Tuesday meeting and were represented by their solicitor, William Hamilton. They produced a drawing to illustrate the development they proposed, noting the entire project would be below the bluffs that line the Eramosa River and although two farms were involved they would lose no actual agricultural production since the land was useless for anything but recreation.

They proposed to build a small office which would also include a small store and showers and expected there would be approximately 200 campsites spread over the 100 or 125 acres. They felt traffic problems would be nil since the exit would be on the Fourth Line. The water source would be springs on the property where three wells could be dug.

Discussion over the

development included Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence who are summer residents in property adjacent to the Hamilton property down the river. They were concerned the recreation area would attract snowmobilers in the winter. They had nine break-ins at their home last winter, some of them attributed to owners of the machines. They wondered if some method could be used to prohibit snowmobilers from using the river as a road.

Reeve Warren Parkinson thought snowmobilers who registered on the Hamilton property over trails already broken would be more apt to be responsible people than itinerant drivers who ride over people's property without permission. The deputy-reeve Dunc McPhedran noted terrain on the Hamilton property would discourage snowmobilers from venturing further afield.

Signs were also suggested as a means of curbing wandering snowmobile drivers.

Councillor Dick Strong said he opposed immediate enforcement of the application to amend the by-law until such time as the Hamilton property had a proper plan showing the full scope of their development and he felt planning board felt the same way about it. But the deputy-reeve said the planning board was concerned that any future development must go through

proper channels and submit plans and specifications before any decisions were made.

After further discussion council agreed they should amend the by-law but subject to a provision that an agreement between the municipality and the owners could be worked out. This was to ensure the township could control development and to discourage unwelcome features.



THE FOURTH LINE diversion in Eramosa township is well on its way to fall completion. The bridge semi-structure replaces the old mill building land mark across from Harris lake and the officials of the Phillips Planning

and Engineering Limited have requested that cars and people will not park in the fenced-in section while the bridge is under construction. —(Photo by Lorraine).

Engineer explains "high" road fees

Engineer Don Tefft told Eramosa council road engineering costs are often dictated by government directives over which engineers have no control. He appeared at council to explain the \$27,000 fee his firm is charging for the Fourth Line diversion road around the Rockwood Conservation area. Council questioned the costs at their July meeting and asked for further explanation. Mr. Tefft pointed out that unlike some other jobs a road required continual layout as well as continuous quality and quantity control. The job required three men plus himself over the period of construction and that part of the job had been redesigned two and a half times.

Can't do for less "We can't do it for less. You would not get a proper road," he told council at their August meeting. He noted that the Department checks their work and there was a standard government agreement covering all road work of this type.

"It seems like an awful high fee," said Reeve Warren Parkinson. We thought we had a pretty good tender on the job but the engineering fees turned them off.

Council accepted Mr. Tefft's explanation with reservations.

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We regret the need for this action but it has become impossible to satisfactorily service the multitude of calls received at the beginning of the first cold spell of the heating season.

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