



THE NORTH OUTDID the south again this year at the Texas State Fair in Dallas, when this bird, owned by Fred Kentner Jr. of Acton was judged grand champion bird of the leghorn show over 1,200 others. A consistent winner at poultry shows throughout Canada and the U.S., Fred also walked off with the award for grand champion bird at the Eastern leghorn show in York, Pennsylvania. Close to 1,600 birds were entered in the

York show. Fred and John Kerschmanns took a total of 29 birds to the U.S. for the two shows. Most of them were prize winners at both shows. They combined the shows with a two week vacation. Although Fred has been to the York show several times, this was the first time he has visited the Texas State Fair. —(Staff Photo)

Suggest plebiscite on extension of franchise

At the next regular meeting November 9, Acton council will be asked to vote on a motion made by Councillor Peter Marks which asks, "Are you in favor of extending the right to vote at municipal elections for members of council to all persons of the full age of 21 years, who are British subjects and who have resided in the municipality for at least one year, in accordance with the Municipal Franchise Extension Act?"

Marks' motion was defeated at recent administration committee meeting. Councillors Marks and Coats voted in favor of it, but Reeve Oakes and Mayor Doby opposed it.

Last night (Tuesday) Marks said he hoped the question could eventually be put to the people in the form of plebiscite.

He pointed out a survey taken by the deputy-reeve indicated approximately 15 per cent of Acton residents are not eligible to vote in municipal elections, because they do not own real estate or meet rent paying requirements.

Have right
"Most of us were elected within a 10 per cent majority, these people could influence the outcome of an election and I feel they have a right to," Marks said. He pointed out 50 per cent of the town's business is now being done with provincial grants and that even those who are neither landowners or tenants are contributing to this in one form or another.

Free Press briefs

MANY school groups are touring the county museum again this fall.

SAVE up your small change for the UNICEF boxes Saturday.

MOST of the elections signs were taken down promptly.

THE calendar doesn't say so, but it seems Hallowe'en is going to be on Saturday night.

SENIOR citizens are moving into their new apartments now. Frig and stoves are supplied. They are finding their new accommodation pleasant.

HEARD of a pair of newlyweds who hope to get a few days of good eating out of trick or treating Saturday!

DO the UNICEF pennies really help? Indeed they do. Here are some examples: 1c will provide vaccine to protect a child against smallpox; 5c will provide 12 assorted crayons for a day-care centre; 25c will provide a baby chick for an Applied Nutrition Program; \$1 will provide 50 cakes of soap; \$5 will provide enough fish to stock three village fish ponds.

In addition, he said, whether a person makes financial contributions or not should not be considered all-important.

"There are many who contribute to the community in other ways, such as working for service clubs," he said.

Need time
Councillor Earl Masales, chairman for committee of the whole session, recognized the importance of Marks' motion, but felt council would need time to study the matter, before voting on it.

Councillor Orval Chapman said he would oppose an immediate vote on the question on the basis most members didn't know enough about it.

Marks maintained he had stated his feelings on it at a meeting a month ago and said he felt council had now had a month to think about it.

"If this motion was something vital to us like annexation or what's going to be done about that land up near the cemetery, I could see voting on it tonight," Deputy-reeve Pat McKenzie said.

"Now we're going to discuss something here people may not want anyway," he added.

"Everything we discuss here people may or may not want," Marks replied.

Suggests discussion
Councillor Jack Greer felt councillors should first take the time to discuss the matter with constituents and get their feelings on the question.

"Maybe they can give us some ideas," he said.

Councillor Bill Coats, who supported the Marks motion at administration committee, said he couldn't see the urgency to make a decision tonight, but also couldn't see putting it off for an indefinite period of time.

Council finally decided to table the motion and have it brought up for a vote at the next meeting.

Obviously irked by the amount of time spent discussing the questions and the brevity of the minutes of the administration committee meeting, Councillor Greer had a parting shot for administration committee members.

O.M.B. hears proposal for sewers, water

ROCKWOOD—First day of the Ontario Municipal Board hearing over the application by Rockwood police village trustees for water and sewer services passed Tuesday without any eventful happenings.

The Board, heard four witnesses in the four-and-a-half hour session at the village town hall testify for the village trustees and were in turn cross-examined by counsel for the Rockwood and area Resident and Ratepayers Association. Almost 150 people crowded into the hall for the morning hearing but by afternoon the crowd was cut by over half.

The hearing under the chairman B. E. Smith and his assistant H. E. Roberts, resumed this morning (Wednesday) and will likely finish up in the afternoon.

Application for the sewer and water installations were made to the Ontario Water Resources Commission by the Township of Eramosa on behalf of the village trustees and the well worn history of the proposals were trotted out again for the hearing.

Review history
Township clerk Lloyd Hindley was the first witness, reviewing the events that led up to the application in the proper sequence at the behest of township counsel R. B. Humberford. Alleged pollution in the village wells started trustees thinking of correcting the situation.

Witnesses following included Harry N. Jones of Woodstock Engineering Consultants, designers of the proposed Rockwood sewage and water system; Mr. Wilson of the Ontario Water Resources Commission Al Cooper of the O.W.R.C. and Robert Hopkins, assistant district engineer of the O.W.R.C., last witness before adjournment at 4:45 p.m.

Main points revealed by the various witnesses included: Mr. Jones testified that he felt the sewer and water proposals were the best that could be devised and was confident the sewage treatment plant would do what it was supposed to do. With the help of a large wall map he outlined the proposed system with its lift station and by-pass around the Conservation Area.

He said excavation costs for the project would be higher in Rockwood because of the rock and recommended both water and sewers be installed instead of one or the other to save money. "It would be easier and less costly to install both systems at once," he testified, pointing out water only would not clear up septic tank problems and much water is needed for a sewage system.

Detect gas leak
Tuesday night a leak was detected in natural gas lines at the corner of Church and Frederick Sts. and a company repair crew was called out. The repairs were made by about 8:30 p.m. The pipe had apparently separated as a result of trenching for the storm sewers there.

The road surface on Bower Ave. is being repaired following sewer installation.

More foundations for homes are in on Churchill Road.

No lagoons
Mr. Jones dismissed the lagoon method of sewage treatment as too costly for Rockwood and

unsuitable for the terrain. Figures for the system had been updated from the time of the original proposals he testified. They were based on 80 per cent of the population hooking up to the system.

Questioned by counsel for the ratepayers Gordon Miller, Mr. Jones admitted it was reasonable to say the plans for the sewage by-pass around the Rockwood Conservation Area were drawn to avoid possible pollution of the area. However, he said, it was the opinion of his firm that a running stream below the Conservation area would assimilate the treated effluent better than the slow moving water above the Conservation park.

These points were buttressed by Mr. Hopkins of the O.W.R.C. later in the hearing who said the stream has a "much better assimilative capacity" below the conservation park since it was moving continually. The upstream pond was slow and sluggish and could stagnate since there was little oxygen transfer. He also said the bypass would ensure that any plant upsets would not affect the conservation area if the pipe by-passed. He had figures on stream flow which Mr. Miller asked for based on a 1970 survey.

Mr. Hopkins said he was not aware of studies conducted to treat sewage from areas of fissured rock but would still recommend the proposed plan because they were sure it would cure Rockwood's ills.

Duplication?
Ratepayers' counsel Miller pressed Mr. Jones to say that he was instructed under the terms of reference to by-pass the conservation park and that a force main would be unnecessary if the treatment plant was located in the river valley instead of the proposed site adjacent to the CN tracks. Miller estimated the extra cost involved \$35-49,000 for the lift station and 4,000 feet of oversized pipe.

"Is the whole business predicated on Rockwood's growth?" Jones was asked. He answered yes.

During his turn as a witness Mr. Wilson of the O.W.R.C. noted there had been 16 meetings with municipal officials concerning the projects since October 1966. He outlined costs, noting both projects were payable over 40 years and a 62 per cent subsidy available on sewers, 48 per cent on water.

Annual charge for an average householder in Rockwood, he pointed out would be \$248.51 for both sewers and water. However, if a householder paid connecting charges in a lump sum over a one year period the annual rate would drop to \$168.24. Interest on the capital borrowed for the projects would be 9 per cent.

Mr. Wilson admitted costs for backing up the system could be expensive because of the rock, even as high as \$20 foot but pointed out circumstances would differ for each household.

More costly
Under questioning he said it was his opinion that it would be more costly to drill wells or install septic tanks than to hook up to a sewage or water system, however.

Al Cooper of the O.W.R.C. testified that elimination of all new septic tanks wouldn't clear up village wells because

contaminated ground water would still seep in. He reviewed surveys that detected polluted wells in the village, noting the Wellington County Health Unit informed home owners of the conditions. Despite this, he said the situation got worse.

Cooper said his department detected no stream contamination and there was very little if any pollution entering the Eramosa River at Rockwood.

He told the hearing there was no way people could be forced to clean up wells.

(Much of the information at the hearing was a rehash of information already mentioned these columns. The hearing continued Wednesday but it is not likely the O.M.B. will give a decision on the case for at least two months.)

UNICEF walkathon collection plan

A walkathon for UNICEF will start the Hallowe'en celebrations here on Saturday. The walkers from grades four to eight, are signing up sponsors this week for the 20 mile trek from Orton back home.

From the schools comes the word... Hallowe'en will be observed Saturday night.

Youngsters many of them in the grades under four, are signing up for the familiar UNICEF boxes. They'll be collecting door-to-door that evening and turning the boxes back in to school on Monday.

At the Robert Little School, a hot dog day on Tuesday was arranged with the profits designated for the United Nations Children's Fund.

Supervision
Y's Men will be supervising the Walkathon and manning food booths. Walkers are to meet at the M. Z. Bennett school at 8 a.m. for transportation to the walk's point on the Fergus-Orangeville road north of Hillsburg.

There are booths arranged with food and drink every five miles.

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