

# Seek to veto Rockwood P.O.

It was a chagrined project supervisor who braved the blizzard weather of last Thursday morning to confront two councils and a number of irate citizens at the quarters of the new municipal post office under construction on Inkerman

and Guelph Streets in Rockwood. The tone of the meeting was thwarted somewhat when Mr. Greenless of the Department of Public Works in London, complained to those in attendance that he had little control over variations in the post office

building plans and referred the Reeve, Warren Parkinson, to the office of the Regional Director of Public Works, Mr. Roberts in Toronto, or to the Minister, Mr. Lang.

Only supervises  
"My job is only one of

supervising," said Mr. Greenless who had expected a quiet consultation with the township reeve and was surprised to see the avid concern expressed by members of the township present as well as trustees Don Hills, Bert Smith, and Stan Harris, and other well respected local citizens.

The proposed Rockwood Post Office building under fire had been given great publicity in local papers during the past two years and was reportedly, to be a municipal building in which the residents could take pride. Wellington-Dufferin M. P. Alf Hales had particularly referred to the post office when attending the Open House of the Rockwood-Eramosa Township Fire Hall last June. He gave residents the mental satisfaction of knowing that the building would well match the excellence of the new fire hall.

### Moves as mystery

However, when excavations began in December, no plans had been presented to the local or township council. No building permit had been requested and the entire operation moved in as a mystery except for the sign which read "A New Post Office Building", and everyone wondered.

Within weeks something had taken shape and to date the red channel-plywood building stands, arousing comments of disdain from villagers some of whom threaten to burn it down. At a cost of \$43,000 it is one of five basic plans which the federal government uses for post office buildings with minor variations according to the needs of the community.

### Some notification?

"Should we not have had some notification or choice of what this building would look like?" said Trustee Chairman Don Hills who said that his board had expected to view the plans before the construction began. "No one in London has any hand in the policy of building," said Mr. Greenless who agreed that building bylaws in every community have to be adhered to and was surprised that neither Township or Village Council had not been consulted. He further commented that the plans had not been ready until sometime last August and this raised questions from those present as to why, if the plans were basic, they had not been ready all along.

### Could be glamorized

At a previous meeting with a member of the Public Works Department Trustee Chairman Hills had been told that the building would resemble that of the Erin Post Office and the Rockwood Board had been in accord, however, according to Greenless, the one under construction in Rockwood is more comparable to one built fairly recently in Tavistock, Ontario. He said that the particular plans used for the local post office had caused disgruntlements when used in other areas and that the narrow outer edge which is to be seen on the outside of the building was a safeguard in case residents complained too bitterly and, if funds could be made available, the plainness of the building could be glamorized by outside bricking.

"Better we bulldoze it down and start over again" said one Township Council member and Deputy Reeve Duncan McPhedran questioned Mr. Greenless as to whether they'd dare to put up such a building for Parliament Hill.

Larger Volume  
"We have a much larger volume of mail than in the Erin

Post Office," said the Deputy Reeve comparing the mental picture of the two buildings. "It would be fine stuck up in northern Ontario serving areas of 50 square miles but in a rural urban district, it's ridiculous!"

"The taxpayers just don't count" said Lloyd Dyer whose home directly faces the new post office on Guelph Street and whose concern, along with other Guelph Street residences is the devaluation of property.

### Like a barn

"Great as somebody's barn on the back fifty" said clerk Lloyd Hindley after viewing the almost windowless building and his comments tamed the views of those present at the meeting.

Discussion was then held between the Council boards and Mr. Greenless and it was decided that, after meeting with the Township Council, Reeve Warren Parkinson would draft a letter to be sent to the Minister of Public Works requesting more windows and outside bricking with such innovations following the recommendations of an authorized architect. "They've just put this in without considering the people in the community at all," said Reeve Parkinson who felt that the whole project was a shocking one.

### Good for starter

The meeting with the project supervisor had not been a great accomplishing factor as, he himself claimed, his authority does not extend to the variations required by last Thursday's assemblage. As Bob Leslie put it, however, "We've at least put a nick in their minds about how we feel about it and that's good for a starter."

Alf Hales, who is presently holidaying with his wife in Australia, will not be returning to his official duties in Guelph and Ottawa until mid-January. Before departing he had not been able to procure either copies of the plans or pictures of a post office similar to that proposed for Rockwood.

Reeve Warren Parkinson recognizes the necessity of moving quickly before completion of the building when it will be too late. "Let's not get stuck with that for the next 100 years" was the remark made by Louis Hills and everyone agreed. The letter to the Minister requesting vetoing of the construction was drawn up at Tuesday's inaugural township council meeting. The Council hopes to see early action.

Along with the complete Trustee Board, members of the Township Council present at the Post Office site session were Reeve Warren Parkinson, Deputy Reeve Dunc McPhedran, and Bill Adsett. Village residents included Herb Saunders, Bob Leslie, Louis Hills, H. Hospes, Lloyd Dyer, and George Day. The new municipal post office will, reportedly be open for operation in March of this year when Post Master George Day will move into the building with his present staff Marg Cox, Carolyn Wingate and Babs Ellis.

## Free Press / Rockwood



ERIN POST OFFICE, built approximately five years ago, is a source of public pride. The brick building has numerous windows, an attractive appearance, and projects community stolidity as a public building. Trustee Board Chairman Don Hills had been told by an official of the federal public works department that Rockwood's post office would resemble that of Erin. However, it is understood that, instead, it is similar to one built recently in Tavistock, Ontario.—(Photo by Lorraine)

### Resigns to form new Lions Club

The resignation of Jim Greenis from the Eramosa township recreation committee was accepted with regret at the first regular meeting of the township council Tuesday morning when Councillors learned the Rockwood bank manager was attempting to form a Lions Club in the village.

Mr. Greenis explained the work load in forming a service club would be too much in addition to his duties on the recreation committee. Councillor Bill Adsett said the new club would attempt to raise funds for a community project.

### Guides end First Aid course

The Guides of the First Acton Company have completed their First Aid course successfully. On December 8 Frank Tyrrell of St. John Ambulance, Georgetown, made up Mrs. John Rowe as the victim of an accident for the girls. On Dec. 22 they entertained the Scouts for a Christmas party and dance.

### Skating tests here Tuesday

Figure skating tests were held at the arena Tuesday. This was the first of two dates this year for tests. Previously there has just been one day a season for tests.

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ROCKWOOD'S POST OFFICE in its finishing stages is built of red channel ply-wood. It has a glassed in door area in front, two small windows on one side and two other small ones at the back. At the present time if left as is, it will require considerable indoor lighting installations to allow workable lighting conditions.—(Photo by Lorraine)



MEMBERS OF THE trustee board, township council and local citizens pore over the construction plans of the new post office, examining it for possible changes.—(Photo by Lorraine)

**A Christmas story:**  
**My donkey Anna Belle**

By Jennifer Barr  
During the spring, Annabelle took on the appearance of a well-loved toy poodle as she started, with intense relief, to shed her long woolly winter underwear. She was so-o-itchy!  
At every opportunity a long scratching would take place—it didn't matter on what or on whom. The mobile feed box was a usual choice. Many times, I saw it lumbering along the aisle with a tiny donkey behind, scratching ecstatically.  
One day, she was rubbing her shoulder so avidly, that she fell over. Instead of jumping up, as a horse would have done, she lay there surveying the underside of the feed box. It looked like a good scratching post, so with much grunting and groaning, she wriggled under it, still on her side, and proceeded to have a glorious belly scratch accompanied by such blissful moans I was tempted to join her.  
A big event in Belle's life was being clipped. Have you ever tried to clip a donkey who doesn't want to be clipped?  
That tiny 150 lb. animal bucked, kicked, and threw Mack and I all over the barn. But her coat was so long and matted it had to come off. Besides, once clipping was started it had to be finished or you were left with something that resembled a well worn buffalo robe.  
Finally, with me slung on my chest over Belle's back hanging

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**NOTICE!**  
Registration for the **Creative Arts and Crafts series** will be held at the **Rockwood Centennial School** on **January 11 at 8 p.m.** with program to commence January 18 and will include: Needlecraft, Sewing, Upholstering, Yoga, Drawing and Design.

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