

Village waits - O.M.B. ponders fate

ROCKWOOD PAGE

Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the application of village trustees to install water and sewers in Rockwood wound up Thursday, following five sessions, which began last October.

Association and trustees of the village of Eden Mills, then left for Toronto, saying only that the board will reserve decision on the matter.

Following the first two sessions last fall, the board wrote a decision asking for more information regarding the additional cost involved in by-passing the conservation park and reasons for the selection of the outfall pipe location.

It ruled that determination of the application would hinge on whether or not it was reasonable to undertake the expense involved in order to derive the benefits to be received from the works. It asked for further figures on the additional expense required to by-pass the conservation area.

The board also asked for data on flow measurements of the Eramosa River, claiming there was evidence to be refuted by the OWRC that the flow does not represent a considerable volume of water flowing over a rocky river.

It suggested the head pond of the river dam might be a more suitable body of water to receive and assimilate effluent, were it not for the desire to accommodate the recreational facilities of conservation lands.

At Thursday's session, quantity surveyor James Raw, was called to testify by George Miller, counsel for the Ratepayers Association.

Basing his cost estimate on drawings supplied by Woodstock Engineering and the OWRC, Rae said the project could cost \$1,366,000, not including the sewage treatment plant, pumping station, buildings, stand pipe, well development and paving of roads later.



THE PACERS who won the Frank Carney and Son trophy in the Rockwood bowling league are Mike Martin, Doug Cross, Anne McCormack, Bob Van Wyck, Doug Hilton and Mike Kelly. Pacers topped the league. (Photo by Don Hills).

Keith Hamilton, who plans to establish a campground and recreational area on part of 200 acres of land he and his cousin own near the river, testified Eramosa Council has passed a zoning by-law to permit the campground and that the conservation authority has given it verbal approval.

Questioned by Robert Murray, counsel for Eden Mills village trustees, Hamilton testified he has seen undissolved waste in water near Kortright Park.

"Human waste?" Murray asked. "I sure wouldn't put my big toe in it," Hamilton replied.

Rae estimated the cost of installing manholes at \$70 per running foot. He said his individual experience in dealing with railroads in the past led him to put a cost figure of \$40,000 on the railway underpass. He suggested detailed drawings would have to be submitted to railroad officials.

The \$40,000 figure differed greatly with that of the engineering firm, which allowed only \$1,000 for railway work.

Included in Mr. Rae's total estimate of \$1,366,000 was \$120,000 for restoration of roads following installation of the lines. Rae said he didn't know if road restoration was included in a

cross-examined by Gerry Matthews, counsel for Rockwood village trustees, Rae said he read the \$799,000 figure in an Acton Free Press ad.

Jerry Regan, estimator and general supervisor for Dempsey Construction Guelph, submitted an estimate of \$1,170,455.41 for the work. The figure included restoration of roads. Mr. Regan said his firm has done storm sewer work in Rockwood before.

His rock excavating cost figure was \$300,000, based on \$15 per cubic yard for 20,000 cubic yards of rock.

Once again, the board ruled as inadmissible any evidence regarding costs which would be given by M. C. Schuller of Rockwood. Mr. Schuller was allowed to state figures on measurement quantities only.

Professor Peter Chisholm of the University of Guelph suggested flow times of less than seven days' duration should be considered in any study of the effects of effluent on aquatic life in the river. He said an eight hour time period would be more beneficial.

Chisholm said he has not been able to find out what type of treatment plant is proposed, although Mr. Matthews argued the type of plant has been discussed at previous sessions, attended by the professor. Although he said he didn't know how much sewage would be generated by the village, he warned it would arrive at the

treatment plant at peak times, such as noon hour and supper time.

The professor said he could not differentiate between the ability of standing water and a flowing stream to assimilate effluent.

Although he said spillage would only occur if the flow rate exceeded the capacity of the plant, Professor Chisholm expressed the opinion a shock load would result, if the conservation area hooked into the system.

"I'd be reluctant to be part of a design where there is any doubt about environmental facts. I'd seek an alternative," the professor stated.

Build at Guelph In more specific terms he suggested a regional waste management plant be built at Guelph and that Rockwood sewage be treated there. He said strip development along Highway 7 between the village and Guelph could also be serviced by such a system. He predicted the cost of treating sewage at Guelph would be much lower and that the risk to the river would be averted.

Recalled to testify by Mr. Matthews, OWRC engineer Norman Pearce quoted figures to show that phosphorus content of Ontario waters has decreased since government restrictions were placed on the phosphate content of detergents. He said he expects the government to continue its campaign in this direction.

There has been no rebuttal evidence with respect to their cost estimates," he said. He recalled the \$799,000 figure he claimed was presented by a trustee.

With all factors taken into consideration, Miller predicted the actual cost of the project could soar as high as \$1,931,000.

Miller said the Ratepayers' Association had decided to oppose the application not only at this time but to oppose it period. Murray said he adopted all Miller's objections regarding proposed costs and told the board the Eden Mills village trustees are unalterably opposed to the water and sewers installation.

Integral part "The river forms an integral part of the social life of the community in Eden Mills," he said. "We're in a position where we'll inherit Rockwood's problem. Rockwood's going to put their problem in the river and send it down to us," he charged.

In a final rebuttal, Matthews questioned the relevance of the \$799,000 figure Mr. Rae obtained from a newspaper clipping. Miller maintained the figure was given in evidence at a previous session.

Matthews also claimed there had been no expert testimony on the cost of the by-pass.

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GEORGE DAY, retiring Rockwood postmaster, received an award Friday afternoon when Ira Jones, the area manager from London, Ontario, accompanied by Ed Coutts, Guelph postmaster, presented him with a plaque signed by Prime Minister Trudeau commending him for his 39 years faithful service and extending the Government's best wishes on the occasion of his retirement. The Post Office will be officially transferred over to Marg Cox this Friday, May 26 at 1 p.m., when she will take up her duties as the village postmaster. No definite date has been stipulated for the move into the new building on Guelph Street but a tentative consideration has been set for late June.



New postmaster Marg Cox

Scouts, leaders join district canoe trek

Eight Rockwood scouts and their two leaders left the village last Saturday morning at 8 a.m. to participate in the canoe outing organized by the Wellington County Scouting Organization in which 60 boys from the Wellington district participated.

Alan Swanston, Mark Hamilton, Tim Kingsbury, Ronnie McRae, Ray Law, and three young brothers, Vincent, Steve and Chris Johnson, all manned with outdoor gear and four canoes, were the boys on the trek under the leadership of leaders Dave Hartman and Ed Kingsbury, and Scout leader Hartman had great praise for the lads, who until recently, had had little or no previous experience in canoe training.

Canoe trek It was 40 miles by canoe through calm and rapid waters

for the youthful outdoorsmen who ranged in ages from 10 to 13. They left Walkerton at 10 a.m. to arrive at Southampton via the Saugeen River by Monday noon at 12:30, tired, happy, and filled with exuberance and new knowledge about open air living.

Eels and turtles were some of the nature relics brought back from their weekend jaunt and one lucky mother is the proud owner of a mammoth carp which was given to her son by a young Indian boy they had met up with at a reservation.

The experience was tremendous for the local lads and the special training they had been given at the Guelph headquarters prior to their trip, had stood them in good stead and their leaders were pleased at how quickly they had developed their outdoor skills.

Board hires new teachers

Susan Allen has been hired by the county board of education to teach at the Robert Little school. Mrs. Giselle Meunch will be a new teacher at Brookville, Mrs. Janet Asch at Sunshine school, Miss Marion Reinhart at Snider's public school, Miss Joan Mitchell at Pineview public school and John Crick at Kilbride public school.

The board had many applications for its teaching vacancies.

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