



ROCKWOOD'S 140-YEAR-OLD grist mill is buildings in the village erected when Upper up for sale. The mill was one of the first Canada was still a wilderness.

Historic Rockwood landmark for sale

Eramosa turns down request that Authority buy old mill

One of the last grist mills in the province which relies solely on water power is for sale.

Historic Hortop's Mill, a stone monument to pioneer industry, which squats on limestone rock alongside Highway 7 in Rockwood, still taps the abutting Eramosa River for its power, before the stream crashes over a pretty waterfall and then into placid reaches of the Rockwood Conservation area.

Owner and operator Jim Milne, a gregarious resident of the village, says he is asking \$85,000 for the mill and property, which includes a dam and the mill pond which extends under the highway Main St. bridge and provides a popular swimming spot in summer months.

Jim says real estate people have been after him to list the mill for some time and he expects to have a firm offer by February 8. Many are interested in the property.

Some residents of the village and area are afraid the mill might get into the wrong hands and the picturesque structure where grain has been ground for almost 140 years, will lose its unique flavor. They feel the mill is an example of early Canadiana which should be restored for posterity.

One of them asked Eramosa township council to request the Grand River Conservation Authority to consider purchasing the mill so it could be preserved as an historical building. However, at a meeting Monday afternoon council turned the motion down. Mill owner Jim Milne, a councillor, took part in the discussion but refrained from voting. The resolution was lost in a 2-2 deadlock.

Councillors Bill Adsett and Betty Lou Clark supported the resolution with reservations, but Reeve Warren Parkinson and Deputy Reeve Duncan McPhedran said they could not support it, both for different reasons.

The reeve said he didn't feel the Grand River Conservation

authority was the right body to restore the mill, which Councillor Milne declares needs many repairs.

"You only have to go up river a few miles to see what happens to mills the Authority buys," the reeve told council, referring to the other historic Hortop mill at Everton which the Authority purchased. "It could sit for years without anything being done."

The reeve said he heard the Everton property had been purchased only for the land and it was the Authority's intention to tear the mill down but meanwhile it just sits in a dilapidated state. He said he was not impressed with any previous Authority projects.

Deputy Reeve Duncan McPhedran came out in favor of private enterprise doing something with the mill that would benefit the people in the village. "It is one of the few industries left in Rockwood," he noted, agreeing with earlier suggestions from councillors that something along the lines of the Aberfoyle Steak House would preserve the mill and add a new dimension to the village.

The deputy reeve felt council could also control use of the mill with by-laws. The area is zoned commercial.

Mrs. Clark expressed some reservations about the Authority's role at Everton mill and wondered if they would restore the Milne mill if it was purchased, but felt some controlling body should be in charge.

Councillor Adsett agreed. He thought both the Everton and Rockwood buildings were worthy of restoration and would be attractions for the district.

Reservations were also expressed about changing the mill's use into one where drinking might be permitted when it sits beside a church and whether the Authority would charge for swimming in the mill pond, as they do in the conservation area.

Councillor Milne said he had



ERAMOSIA COUNCIL is not impressed with the manner in which the century old Everton grist mill is being maintained by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

been approached before the election to put the mill and property up for sale but he had made no commitments. He listed new custom-made windows as among repairs which any buyer who restored the mill would have to make. The original windows have been in the building for nearly 140 years.

Individuals have contacted the Grand River Conservation Authority with the request the Authority should purchase the

property but the general manager felt some demand is needed from the people of the village and area before they could have any basis for action.

Mr. Coutts told the Free Press the Everton property had been bought with the intention of tearing the mill there down, that there was no intention to preserve the frame building, situated in another picturesque location.

The mills were among the first buildings erected in both early Everton and Rockwood.

Ugandan refugee describes plight for Stone church U.C.W.

The U.C.W. of Stone United Church met in the church on Wednesday, January 24 and, due to the absence of president Mrs. Pinder, vice president Mrs. Peart opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mrs. Peart read the scriptures from Matthew, chapter 6, after which she presented a reading entitled "One day at a time."

Mrs. Box read the

correspondence and items for the sale.

Several items of discussion included: the Presbyterian meeting to be held in Trinity United Church, Guelph; On Feb. 19; the world day of prayer service to be held in Barrie Hill Church on Friday, March 2; the dinner for Everton Disciples Church on June 2 for which the U.C.W. will be catering.

Mrs. Parker gave the treasurer's report and it was moved by Mrs. May and seconded by Mrs. Loree that Mrs. Hartung be appointed as the general treasurer of Stone U.C.W.

After a report from Mrs. Nelles on visiting, Mrs. Millson read a poem entitled "The minister calls" which everyone enjoyed. Mrs. Williams gave an interesting reading "the two seas".

Uganda speaker

The guest speaker for the evening was then introduced by Mrs. Patterson. She was Laitoon Adaha who had arrived from Uganda three weeks previous with her husband and gave an arousing account describing their plight when they were given only two months in which to gather belongings.

Mrs. Adaha said that the government of Uganda had torn up their passports, visa, and all necessary papers and it had required the assistance of the United Nations before they were able to come to Canada as one of 4,000 passengers. Torn by their great losses the speaker said they had been forced to leave homes and all possessions behind but were happy by the genuinely warm welcome they had received in Canada.

After Mrs. Adaha's talk, Miss Helen Craigie sang a solo with guitar accompaniment, "Let there be peace". The meeting closed with lunch served by Mrs. Peart and Mrs. Patterson.

During the meeting Mrs. H. Farr of R.R. 1, Guelph was requested to report the Stone Church U.C.W. news for the Acton Free Press.

P C's oppose dumping

The executive of the Wellington-Dufferin Progressive Conservative Association met in Arthur recently with M.P. John Root and went on record as being completely opposed to the dumping of Metro Toronto garbage in either Wellington or Dufferin Counties.

It was pointed out that no application has yet been made for a hearing or approval of such plan. However, the executive opposed any such project for several reasons, including:

1. These counties are primarily agricultural areas.

2. The area, because of elevation and high water table, is the source of most Southern Ontario streams and rivers emptying into Lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron and Georgian Bay.

3. Being an area of high precipitation there is a definite possibility seepage through buried garbage could transmit dangerous chemicals into fresh water wells and streams.

4. A more acceptable means of disposal must be found.

The P.C. Association also reaffirmed their confidence in Mr. Root

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John Gordon heads Wellington Jr. Farmers

The annual meeting of Wellington County Junior Farmers was one of enthusiasm and all round interest.

The newly elected slate of 1973 officers is: past president, Bruce Miller; president, John Gordon; first vice president, Dave Wooddisse; second vice president, Wayne Gregson;

secretary, Edith McArthur; treasurer, Kathryn McIsaac; press reporter, Barb Whittaker; newsletter editors, Jean Kells and Marlene Gilchrist; farm safety representatives, Arnold Small and Ken McKenzie; Federation of Agriculture rep., Hugh Lindsay; provincial director, Glenn Ruegg and alternate provincial director, Beth Hason.



Victor Smith scanning the Free Press

Vic Smith's witty poems delight Free Press readers

By Lorraine

Readers who look forward to reading the poems of Victor Smith of R.R. 2 Rockwood in the Free Press enjoy his humorous anecdotes usually aimed at topical subjects such as Women's Lib and long hair.

The veteran poet has been writing since his "knee high to grasshopper" days and insists his works are not sophisticated poetry but rather fun doggerel for anyone to understand.

A former farmer born in England with English and Irish ancestry, Victor Smith's humor is a way of life. Combined with his ability to meditate applied in early years while ploughing open fields, Victor's writing has proved to be the delight of many

readers who send letters acclaiming their pleasure from distant areas in which his poems have been published.

Toronto, United States, Embro, Plattsville and Drumbo correspondence arrives regularly requesting copies of certain poems. This year many cards rolled in at Christmastime from readers commending him on his ability to wittily size up humorous situations. Besides newspaper publications this prolific gentleman also keeps magazines supplied with his works and often they are heard over CFRB on the Bill Deegan show.

Besides writing poetry this versatile man is a HAM radio operator. A clever craftsman

who makes fretwork mottoes for wall decorations for friends he's also a master violin maker repairing throughout the district, and enjoys playing himself.

Farmer, machinist, poet, Mr. Smith retired from the employ of Beardmore and Co. in Acton in 1970 wondering how he would ever occupy his time. Now, however, he finds he has barely enough time to accomplish his many activities. Constantly working on something the creative Mr. Smith is presently occupied with another violin to add to his intriguing collection. He enjoys people, his wife and home life and he's always looking for new things to write, keeping a scrapbook of his published poetry which he writes whenever the mood or motivation reaches him.

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