



Destruction at park sends chains up again

Security Guard supervision this season will be a must on the agenda of Rockwood Conservation Park requirements according to Supervisor Jim Muir who just couldn't believe the destruction he encountered on arrival at his local stomping grounds last Sunday.

"It was unbelievable," said the conservationist who, with his staff, was busy all day Monday retrieving and recounting the heavy losses entailed when a group of destructive individuals apparently found nothing more exhilarating for Saturday night recreation than to toss expensive picnic tables down in succession from the second floor of the park pavilion.

"Twenty-one tables in all were damaged," said Mr. Muir who pointed out that, since the early spring several tables had already had to be repaired but that Saturday's session of vandalism was unreal. Outdoor toilets with new roofing had been pushed over with the roofs kicked in, rail fences recently reset had been

pulled apart.

According to Mr. Muir costs of repairing the houses would amount to something in the neighborhood of \$50 apiece counting time and materials and, of the 21 tables smashed, damaged, and thrown into the river, 11 were demolished beyond repair.

Although the Rockwood Conservation Park will officially not be open until the May 1 weekend the park crew had generously allowed visitors to enter the gates without costs. However the previous weekend's lesser damage session and last Saturday's severe devastation had made the park staff decide to put up the chains and discourage all vehicle entry for last Sunday.

Ruin it for others

All conservation parks, as they increase in popularity, are showing the same strains of public destructiveness and last summer the local park required assistance of security guards for nightly supervision. "It's too bad," said the affable park

keeper. "There are so many great people around but it always takes the minority vandal group to ruin things for the next guy".

To this point the park staff has been busy getting the river grounds in shape, restoring water beds and putting a new dam in the area of valley road which will, eventually, resemble the picturesque scenery of the Valley Road as it was before the Harris mill days.

Loss time

Tree planting, post-winter repairs, and general clean up, the Rockwood crew has been working hard in preparation for the open day weekend. "It'll put us back a great many man hours repairing the damage," said members of the staff who will now be prepared for similar repeat performances. Meantime Constable Woods of the Ontario Provincial Police, Guelph Division, is investigating.

IT'S CALLED GENERAL PUBLIC and the Rockwood Conservation Park was an artistry of havoc and destruction last Sunday after a Saturday night session of unwarranted vandalism and devastation, which will require repair and restoration costs estimated at approximately \$600. Outhouses upturned, garbage pushed over, tables dropped in succession from the 2nd floor of the park pavilion

with others thrown into the river are seen here as they appeared to attendants on Sunday, resulting in the park being closed off from driving visitors. Centre lower picture shows Park employees Laurie Hanson and Robbie Meek wading into the river to retrieve one of the dumped picnic tables.

—Photos by Lorraine

Happenings at Rockwood School

By Judy Finley

On April 26 Rockwood, Eramosa, Brisbane, Ospringe and Erin played in a two tournaments at John F. Ross. For volleyball Rockwood won three games. One against Brisbane, one against Ospringe and one against Eramosa. The champs for the volleyball tournament were Erin.

For basketball the boys won one game. It was against Eramosa. The champs for the basketball were Brisbane.

The volleyball team played against Brisbane, Ospringe, Erin and Eramosa. The basketball team played against Brisbane, Ospringe, Erin and Eramosa.

The overall champs based on the total volleyball and basketball wins were first, Erin 12 points, 2nd Brisbane 11 points, 3rd Ospringe 9 points, 4th Rockwood 8 points, 5th Eramosa 0 points.

Volleyball games

Last Thursday the girls' volleyball team and the teachers played volleyball. The scores were 21-11 for the volleyball team and 18-15 for the teachers.

On Thursday, April 10, the R.C.S. students will be displaying the work they did on the Eramosa Project. There will be more about this next week.

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News and views

By LORRAINE

The day is Monday, May 30, the hour - 9:05 a.m. In approximately one hour a decision will have been reached and, even as I write I am almost certain what its outcome will be.

I am writing this epistle after a telephone discussion with two members of Eramosa township council, one other with a local village trustee, and, after further talks with three Rockwood citizens two of whom were in complete agreement and the other who agreed with council that, although the lots in question would add to Rockwood's only village park, the current costs are too high!

More weight

In speaking with Bill Adsett the councillor who broached the topic last December in a meeting with the Eramosa Recreation Committee, village trustees, Eramosa township council, and Lions Club, he agreed again "That losing the lots to be coordinated with the present Rockwood ball park would be a great loss" but he also was concerned about costs and felt that, if a large representative group would appear before council indicating their interest it could give more weight.

Well, Mr. Adsett tried. Mr. Parkinson, reeve, looked over the property in question last Sunday and, although he could see value in its procurement felt that if housing was put on the lots at least it would look better than the former chicken coops. He did bring up the matter, however, at a Monday meeting of the council and it was discussed further.

Move immediately

At the present time who knows what will happen. It is imperative that a move be made immediately as the present owner, Louis Hills, has had offers for purchase at a higher price than the \$15,000 he is asking. Lots in the village are already doubling in value and there is nowhere else for them to go but up. So the loss, costwise then would be nil whereas the loss if building is allowed, will be incalculable.

Same plea

It's the same old plea—save what we have but poor Rockwood she can't save a thing because long thinking and the vision of her pioneers who planned her beginnings don't matter a

tinker's doggone to anyone.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists said on radio today in a provincial wide plea, that we must stop the mistakes of the past before they happen. Here we are in Rockwood village, with other communities screaming for lost parkland, sitting on gold-mines and, instead of applying hindsight ahead of foresight, we are going to allow the mistakes of other communities to become our own.

Position of trust

A petition you say? A group of representative citizens to influence the township fathers thinking? Ludicrous! These men, and lady, Warren Parkinson, Duncan McPhedran, Bill Adsett, Jimmie Milne, and Betty Lou Clark have been put in a position of trust. Not just to Rockwood but to the whole community of Eramosa. It is by them the task of caretaking the entire township has to be conducted.

Plans of preservation should already be set in motion so that parklands should be pre-placed in specific areas throughout the whole of Eramosa and as it has been indicated the Province is pulling in horns on regional government it is quite feasible to assume that Eramosa could well be left out of the complicated structure of regional planning and keep its own government.

Need it

But... what price a government that can't see long? The plea for Rockwood's Park today is not for the nows or the 20 years from now, but for those of 30 and 40 years hence when Eramosa will be inundated with Toronto and other community peoples when the congregated residents in Rockwood will need the park—not as a square box area of land but as properly proportioned parks with their own trees and grass areas.

Not a park

Experience should tell us that a sports complex is not a park but a glorified school ground which, although great in its particular dimensions is not a park with natural growth and vegetation.

Carnival co-operation is planned by Lionettes

Rockwood and District Lionettes held their first meeting under new presidency last Wednesday evening when Erna Hospes took the chair and welcomed visitor Marlene Tarzwell to the meeting.

Business was the major session and a report on a successful district canvass for the blind revealed that the Lionettes had collected the sum of \$166.

A committee of five members will be headed up by Dorothy Harding to visit the five blind people in the community with changes in the visiting committee to be arranged each month.

Monthly visits

President Hospes told the Lionettes that she had talked with Mrs. Davidson, manageress of the Eden House Nursing Home

but an athletic field which seniors or young families would have difficulty adapting to as a quiet place to play or be.

Right now the local park houses the one important baseball area in the village. At the back of the park which few people recognize is a beautifully scenic area which overlooks what used to be, Rockwood's Valley Road. It's a pretty place now, and conceivable, the ball park lights could be moved someday to the prospective complex region on the Bonner property.

Nothing area

If the houses go in, the park will take on the countenance of a square box, uninteresting and not nearly as exquisite and exciting if incorporated to its entirety. It will gradually become a nothing area and probably eventualize in more housing. Maybe that's great—inwise it should bring in a lucrative income and maybe for some, that's what we want.

Well, if this kind of desecration is what great communities are made of we are lost. Organizations like the Federation of Ontario Naturalists might as well give up, anti-pollution organizations and environmentalists have had the biscuit and, as I see it, those who came to Rockwood because of what they saw and loved here might as well pack up their tents and slowly move away. Because their kind of caring and their type of thinking doesn't belong here any longer.

and plans were organized for regular once a month sing-song visits. Also a donation would be made to the centre for personal needs.

Highlighting the business discussion was the role the Lionettes will play on the Victoria Day community carnival weekend and it was decided that they will look after food supplying for the mammoth bingo planned for the Thursday, May 17 evening and, supplies also for the operation of the beer garden on the Friday, Saturday, and

New plant

Attracting attention at Caroline Nurseries these days is an unusual pale green plant with delightful pale green blossoms. Close examinations shows it has sprouted from a whole cabbage!

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3. We investigate suspected air pollution injury to people or property.
4. We are responsible for noise pollution and are creating enforceable noise control measures.

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1. We deal with all the leftovers of our affluent society—the industrial waste, processed organic wastes, and ordinary garbage.

And regulate its transportation and disposal.

2. We study recycling as an aid to reducing quantities of waste and to avoid depletion of our natural resources.
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ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO

Ontario Ministry of the Environment.
Hon. James A. C. Auld, Minister, Everett Boggs, Deputy Minister.

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