

# Meeting urges no new gravel pits

The potential plight of a town threatened by invasion of commercial gravel pits was exposed via film on Monday night when a committee called Concerned Citizens of Erin and Erin Township invited residents to hear a presentation at Erin Masonic Lodge.

Before a crowd of some 125 village and township residents, chairman of the concerned group, David Wright opened with the reasons of the formation of the Association stressing

their concern as to what should be regarded as a threat to the entire community.

Salesmanship He suggested a recent presentation by the Telephone City Gravel Company was a masterpiece of salesmanship which was basically an invitation not to decide if gravel pits were acceptable in the district but rather, how they would operate.

Mr. Wright could see the company's operation as a

potential menace to the village and township. He foresaw residents being faced with visual and audio pollution together with constant gravel truck traffic providing potential accidents, inconvenience to residents paying the costs of road upkeep.

The chairman presented a film based on the experience of Clark Muirhead who had been exposed recently to a gravel pit close to his home. Mr. Muirhead, using the analogy of a cancer, said, "It

doesn't really concern anyone until it's too late and, just when you think it's been stopped, it starts up all over again."

The chairman said Mr. Muirhead, in discussing his particular predicament explained the noise of the grinders starting at 6:30 every morning was mind shattering and, when there were periods of quiet in between it was necessary to adjust to the silence and just when that point had been arrived at, the noise would

pervade again. "If you don't want them in, fight now before it's too late," was the message of the film.

The chairman explained Mr. Muirhead could not possibly explain to anyone the drastic effects of the potential ravage and said that highway traffic noise alone would be multiplied by ten percent. The chairman introduced guest speaker, Rick Symmes an industrial engineer and director of the Sierra Club of Ontario. Mr. Symmes presented his case point by

point minimizing the supposed need of Ontario for gravel.

"Ontario's need of gravel is the favourite point by operators," he said, "but their implying that it is patriotic of a community to welcome them is nonsense." "Not more gravel will be sold," he said, "but slow down the rehabilitation of already existing ones."

completing those already existing in the interest of aggregate users and for Ontario.

Mr. Symmes explained the pits will not bring industry to Erin but councillors should check with Usbridge and Esqueping where highly paid management jobs went to Toronto or Europe with small tax benefits outweighed by road surfacing costs for 200 trucks per day carrying expected loads of 28 tons of gravel.



DAVE WRIGHT

learn about its effects on wells and drainage and finalized by saying that "in my estimation Erin township needs this hole in the ground like a hole in the head."

Chairman David Wright said that there are 1,000 acres of gravel land the community can be concerned about and at the present time it is zoned agriculture. The first step of the gravel company is to apply for rezoning.

"If council turns down the proposal this meeting is unnecessary" he said.

"We tried to contact the directors to Telephone City to get more information on the project" said chairman Wright. "However, we weren't able to trace anyone down as they were all British and Americans."

In speaking to the representatives attending, including residents from Caledon, Erin, and Hillsburg, Mr. Wright said that he un-

derstood the concern of Caledon people as the pits would be in Erin township but easily close enough to Caledon to naturally involve them.

During a follow-up question period concern by those present raised questions of road costs, necessity, and rail transportation as opposed to road usage. Chairman David Wright urged those present to contact Reeves Muddell and Lang stating their attitudes.

At conclusion a motion was passed proposing that David Wright, as chairman of the Concerned Citizens Association of Erin and Erin Township, write to both the councils of Erin village and the township stating the association, under no condition wants a gravel pit opened in this area and further requested that the information be transmitted on behalf of the citizens.

## Duff disagrees Campbellville man

Not all those present at Monday night's meeting at the Masonic Lodge in Erin were in accord with the views of the newly-formed Association of Concerned Citizens when they said that a gravel pit in the area would be a disaster.

J. C. Duff, operator of the Limehouse Sand and Gravel Company in Limehouse, said in his 10 years of operation he had had only one complaint about noise. Replying to a question at the meeting as to why someone from Limehouse would be attending the Erin meeting Mr. Duff said that he was a resident of Erin Township living in Ballinfad, adding facetiously, "Who would want to live beside a gravel pit."

Mr. Duff said afterward that, in his opinion, with the new government regulations on rehabilitation of pits they were no longer thrown into disregard. On his own site, deer are often seen and ducks are on the pond.

"Erin contains the best sand and gravel in the country," said Duff and reiterated a statement he had made to the meeting that within a matter of five years

Halton County will be out of sand and gravel.

According to the Ballinfad man, rail transport for gravel is out of the question. "Rarely is a pit situated near rail facilities and the extra cost to load and unload would not be feasible." Comparing the 600 foot hydro corridor proposed by Ontario Hydro, another required commodity which nobody wants, Mr. Duff said: "The difference between Hydro and gravel pits is the good Lord put it where it is!"

Company officials said that when the pit first moves into operation trucks will be sent east along Highway 24 to Caledon Village and then south on Highway 10 to the Metro Toronto market.

David Wright, chairman for Concerned Citizens said, that in talking to Crawford Reid, executive vice-president of the Telephone City Gravel Company, he could not get an explicit answer as to actual route because he played down western routings. "I feel" he said "that, as haulage increases the other alternatives for the Hamilton market appears to be Highway 24 through Erin and then south to Highways 25 or 6."

## Medal of Bravery for heroic rescue

Edward Sokolowski of Campbellville wasn't thinking of any reward when he waded into the icy waters of a north Toronto creek to rescue a drowning boy, a year ago January.

But a reward is coming his way. On Friday, Nov. 30 Sokolowski and his wife will be in Ottawa to receive the Medal of Bravery from Governor General Roland A. Michener, during an investiture and luncheon at Government House.

Ray in water It was a wintry Sunday in January of 1972 when Sokolowski, a Toronto Transit Commission bus driver, took the heroic action that saved a 10-year-old boy's life and resulted in the Medal of Bravery. Driving his bus on Finch Ave. in the city, Sokolowski was flagged down by a small boy who told the driver and started passengers that his

friend was in the water, down a nearby embankment.

Sokolowski and an unidentified male passenger rushed to the scene and "just barged in." All they could see was the back of the boy's jacket as he lay, face-down at the surface of the 12 foot deep pond. Both men waded and swam to where the boy floated, pulled him out and gave artificial respiration.

It turned out the boy and some friends had been sleighing and playing with two dogs. One dog fell through the ice and Michael DeGroot, 10, went to help the dog but the thin ice gave way and he plunged into the water. Meanwhile the dog escaped.

"Too old" The temperature at the time was 32 degrees. Modestly Sokolowski shrugged off his heroic rescue by saying "I'm too old to be doing this sort of thing."

Age 49 at the time, the Brookville resident is a former baseball catcher with New York Giants' farm teams in Ottawa, Jersey City and Minneapolis. He has driven a bus for TTC since 1964. Sokolowski earlier received a St. John Ambulance award for his action on that chilly Sunday in January of 1972. The Medal of Bravery is one just recently approved by the Queen so he will be one of the first Canadians to wear one.

## Neighbor asks zone conform

Council approved Tuesday a planning board recommendation to rezone a lot on Main St. N. from industrial to residential. Lawyer Mr. McHaar and owner Mr. Toft had appeared at a committee meeting of council as well as planning board. They sought to amend the official plan and zoning by-law from M1 to R2 of part of lot 157, plan 227, Main St. N. The lot is 50 by 150 feet, across from the entrance to the industrial park.

Neighbor Clarence Rognavaldson appeared and asked if council would consider an amendment to include all the properties in that area and got no objections from councillors. Houses are presently non-conforming in an industrial zone. Deputy-reeve Marks said the administration committee would be happy to look into it. He recommended Mr. Rognavaldson start soon, at planning board; others agreed he'd better get started and get it "on the books" at least before January. Mr. Marks reminded him of the \$400 fee and Mr. Rognavaldson said he'd go back and talk to his neighbors.

A proposed budget for the Halton County Health Unit operation for 1974 shows an increase over the actual expenses in 1973 of \$151,495. The budget was discussed briefly at a Community Services Committee meeting Thursday.

This fiscal year the board budgeted \$935,980 but only spent \$891,473. The surplus \$30,000 is accounted for in unfilled staff positions. The increases projected this year include seven per cent raises for staff members and nine new staff people. Psychiatric service The new positions include a supervisor or senior nurse for Milton and Halton Hills; one senior nurse for the Burlington office; one supervisory nurse for the Oakville office; one public health nurse to take part in a community psychiatric service at Joseph Brant Hospital. Two registered nurses, a public health inspector, one

office co-ordinator and a clerical person for the Burlington office are also being requested. Several committee members expressed surprise at the number of staff people being requested. Only preliminary consideration was given to the budget. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Grey days There's plenty of rain, fog, coughs and sniffles these days. The merchants would like some snow instead of drizzle, to set off their Christmas decorations.

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