

Fears drowning in deep hole

An innocent appearing puddle located on high ground on the junction of Main south and Frederick Streets in the village has, reportedly been converted into a veritable death trap and, although both the township and village councils have been alerted, there appears to be some difficulty as to how to get rid of it.

"This is just a neighbor's squabble," said Duncan McPhedran at the November meeting of Eramosa council when Rockwood resident Audrey Bilton first questioned the members as to what they were going to do about it. But Mrs. Bilton explained that the hole has now become more than just a grudge problem and described the hole as one approximating the depth of eight feet, now filled with water.

Fears drowning Mrs. Bilton appeared at last week's trustee board meeting repeating her plea saying that she had seen a number of small children playing in the vicinity and that she was afraid that, if they had fallen in they'd easily have been drowned.

The trustees felt that encroaching on the property to have a trench release the

water in the hole could present problems but Mrs. Bilton asked "Well, what are you going to do, wait until some one has been drowned?"

The trustees said that they had written to the Department of Labour and to the Ministry of Environment regarding the matter. At the Tuesday meeting a letter from the Ministry suggested that they had conferred with the Department of Labour and decided the matter was one of local concern to be handled by the Rockwood trustees under legal advice.

Situation of the hole on the hill is that, if the water is released it could move down into neighboring cellars unless properly channelled. At the present time it sits, shallow on the sides with a cavity in one area reportedly deep enough to cover the shoulders of a bull dozer excavator.

The Rockwood Board is attempting to determine who the present owners of the property are to inform them of the hazard.

Comin's and Goin's

Relatedly reported but not too late to applaud the committee which set up the Rockwood Centennial School Open House held away back last November 12 with over 250 people attending.

"Mostly parents and acaids of fathers" was the word from the delighted conveners who were pleased with the performance of the teachers at the school who had made special effort to set up classrooms so that visitors could get some impression of the curricula.

Principal Grant McRae had opened the meeting, introducing his teaching staff and welcoming those present after which a map was shown indicating the rooms for the various activities.

"Terrific effort" said the enthusiastic visitors and, afterwards, a lunch prepared by 16 Eden Mills ladies was served for everyone as they gathered to enjoy refreshments and chat.

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Come out, everyone, to the Rockwood Public School next Thursday and participate in a panel discussion entitled "Interested in French where questions will be answered by

experts including Elizabeth Waywell, trustee of Wellington County Board of Education, Donald Cox, an ex trustee and a member of the committee set up to investigate French instruction, and Ann Lato, a teacher of French in the elementary schools in Guelph. Thursday, December 6 at 8 p.m. is the scheduled time with the music room the place. Ann Chesworth will be acting chairman who gives an open welcome to everyone to attend, on behalf of the Rockwood and district Home and School Association.

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Another reminder for everyone to come out and enjoy the theatrical efforts of the Guelph Centennial School's interpretation of The Thwarting of Baron Bullgrog with its cast of barons, and princesses, goblins, and dragons, for parents and children who like fairy tales with Santa Claus already scheduled for date of Saturday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the Rockwood Centennial School auditorium. Come on out, everyone, and have yourself a Christmas time!

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Children hiking through the Rockwood park last week were easily recognized as a group from Hamilton who had come especially to cave investigate. Old jeans, sweaters, and shoes, the happy faces of the kids reflected their delight at what they had seen. "Gee, do you live here?" they asked a Rockwood resident walking through the park and the mud

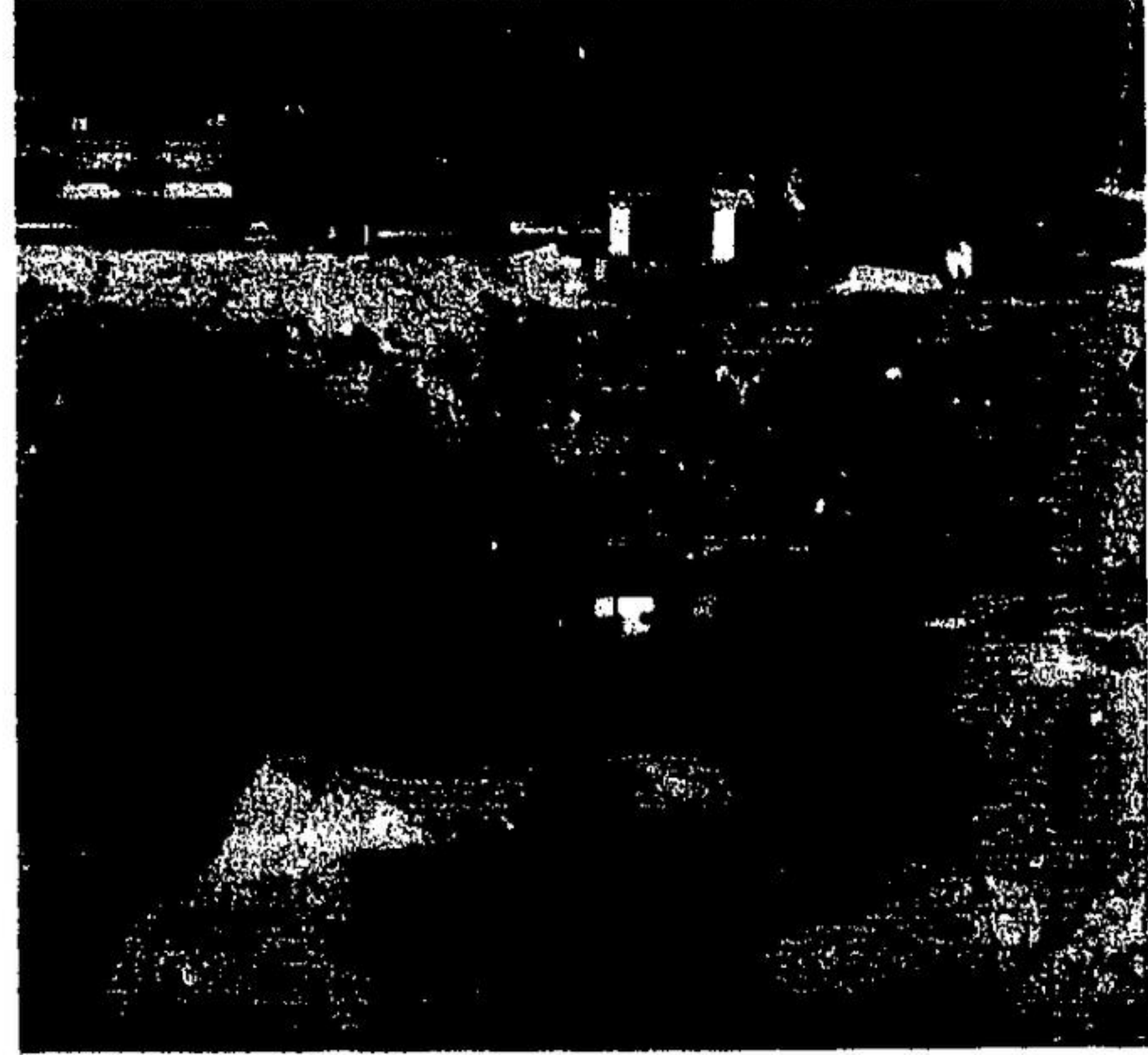
Notes from Centennial school

Woodworking, electricity, machine auto mechanics, drafting, and our grade 8 visit to Centennial CVI in Guelph

covered school kids looked as if they couldn't imagine anything more wonderful than crawling through village caves for the real of their days. "What enthusiasm" laughed the villager, but couldn't help but sympathize with mothers at home.

This week the boys' soccer team has finally forced a winner and, with a score of 1 to zero team "II" made the championship.

For all parents, it's Parent Teacher interviews and the date for everyone to remember are December 11, 12, and 13.



A VERITABLE DEATH trap is how a deep excavation on the property on the corner of Main and Frederick St. in Rockwood has been described. Area residents are concerned that, as it now stands filled with water, a small child could easily fall in and be drowned. The hole is being considered by both village and township councils for immediate action.

Sees confrontation on pits and quarries

A plea for urgency in township planning considerations was proposed to Eramosa township council last Monday night when a member of the Eramosa planning board appeared at the December meeting "to discuss two subjects, both dealing with pits and quarries."

Dick Strong was anxious that the council be aware of the potential confrontations which they will soon be faced with and said that he hoped council recognized that gravel pits could be an asset but must also be seen as a necessary evil.

He pointed out that the operation of gravel pits in the township should be thoroughly considered from the standpoint of proper allocation and cost weighing carefully revenue intake from the industry against heavy road upkeep. He said he hoped that council would examine the matter thoroughly seeing both the need and the detriment.

Farm Gravel Pit "The second point I would like to discuss" said the professional planner, "regards a gravel pit which Bob Hamilton is proposing on a concession farm directly behind my farm."

Reportedly a letter had been received by the township planning board from solicitor Hungerford indicating that Mr. Hamilton could get a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources to use a presently operating small pit on his farm as the pit could conceivably fall into a "non-conforming use" category. With such a permit there would be allowance of more extensive use of the Hamilton gravel pit.

Mr. Strong pointed out that the half-acre pit in question which had been in use prior to '68 could, conceivably, be designated as a non-conforming use but that it had already been included in the 1972 rezoning parcel of 125 acres of the Hamilton farm.

Not compatible "I was on the township council when the property was rezoned to recreation which I allowed for as compatible use of that land together with agriculture," he said. "I agreed with that. But, when it involves a 40, 50 to 60 acre gravel operation plus a stone crusher, I would oppose it as a neighbor."

Councillor Betty Lou Clark questioned how a gravel pit and recreation could be considered compatible and Mr. Strong said that it could not.

Referring to the inspection and evaluation of the Hamilton property expended by the Grand River Conservation Authority when the land was rezoned, Mr. Strong wondered about their reaction to the new proposal. He reiterated, reminding council that the pit is already zoned in the new area as a township by-law for recreation. Strong said, "I would submit it cannot be rezoned as a pit when it has

already been rezoned" and he pointed out that any activity as a pit operation is, in actuality, illegal as it was wiped out in the rezoning by-law.

"Any gravel pit in the township should be zoned commercial," said Strong and strongly proposed that "if we're going to have gravel pits, fine! But let's have control of them."

No guarantee Deputy Reeve Duncan McPhedran said that, to obtain a license to operate a

New policies set by community club

Eden Mills Community Club saw a new slate of officers voted into power at last Saturday's annual meeting held at the Community Hall and, heading up the list as president for '74 is Bob Love.

Along with Bob will be Harold Tomlinson as first vice president, Mike Marshall as second, the position of secretary is retained by Jean Rinchart and, for treasurer is Joan Lowrie.

It was a well organized meeting where a great deal was, reportedly, accomplished with all village groups presenting reports on year round activities and giving accounts of achievements.

Keep working Although the number of members attending the meeting was minimal, approximately 33 were able to establish new policies

gravel pit Mr. Hamilton would have to apply but that an application was no guarantee that license would be granted.

Reeve Parkinson then read a letter sent to the township by the planning board in which they said that they did not recommend that Robert Hamilton should be allowed a gravel pit without the property being rezoned.

Mr. McPhedran asked "If rezoned, could not the present pit remain in the recreation

area and a new pit started in outside of the recreation area?" After discussion the deputy reeve indicated that "if you start messing up a rezoned area it wouldn't amount to the effort of rezoning by-laws.

Trucks hazard "Taxwise, the gravel business is not that valid in a community" pointed out Mr. Strong and Mrs. Clark said King Paving trucks moving full loads down the Guelph line at 60 to 70 m.p.h. in a 30 to 40 mile zone, trying to unload and hurry back again to make time and more money, were a hazard and a detriment on the road plus presenting terrible costs for heavy road travel.

Councillor McPhedran pointed out that the Wellington County has taken on the 4th line in which case it will soon be completely reconstructed making it more adaptable for truck travel.

"I would like to see a planning study show suggesting areas" said Dick Strong and added that he'd also hate to see No. 7 Highway in the Eramosa Township lined with junk as in other districts. Deputy Reeve McPhedran agreed that he'd like to see something on the go before the end of the year. "So that we have something to work with," he said. "If land gets into hands of the county they could zone it for anything."

Proud mother, exhibiting her baby. "He's eating solids already—pencils, keys, newspapers, rubber bands, spiders and ashtrays."

Santa arrives after church

Santa was a teenager last Sunday as Bob Wright Jr. of Eden Mills played the mythical role for the Presbyterian Sunday School for the third consecutive year and all the children loved him.

Presentations and chuckles galore, and secrets were planted in the happy old character's ear as they climbed on his knee with hugs acceptable as the organist and Sunday school teachers moved in close to receive their gifts.

Patluck It was a fun afternoon for the congregation of the Presbyterian church and it was the Christmas pot luck luncheon for the congenial group with casseroles, salads, jellies, pies, cookies, and home-made goodies of all descriptions rolling in to the church hall for the after-church-service treat.

After the luncheon there was singing and carols with Santa arriving to disperse gifts for everyone. The Sunday celebration was the annual one for the Eden Mills Presbyterians and, although

Too much

Proposal for a \$5 million civic auditorium for Guelph on its 150th birthday in 1977 have been shelved. City council decided they couldn't raise the money, but agreed Guelph's cultural needs have been neglected at the expense of sports. They'll search for another project.

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Science Teacher: All right, Bill, name me a poisonous substance.
Bill Simple: Uh... er... Aviation.
Teacher (sternly): Cut the funny stuff and explain yourself young man.
Bill: Well, sir, one drop will kill you.