

Free Press **Rockwood**



SUNDAY WAS OPEN HOUSE when many visitors from the Rockwood, Guelph, and Acton districts visited at the home of A.K. Thomas of Guelph Street, Rockwood, to fete him on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Active, alert, and well aware of his many blessings, the grand elderly gentleman keeps up his own garden, with vegetables and specialized flowers, as well as upholding his reputation of being the most reliable choir member of the Rockwood United Church congregation. Seen here at the afternoon tea party given by his daughter Margaret and her husband Fred Day and their children, is Mr. Thomas, surrounded by ladies who visited for the celebration giving him a birthday hug: Mrs. Ralph Tate, Mrs. Hilton Elliott and Miss Dorothy Simmons, of Acton. Flowers, cards, and gifts, and the celebrant, who can recall many of Rockwood's earlier days, is a popular member of the community as well as a leading light in the local village and district Sunshine Club for senior citizens.

Comin's and Goin's

No New Year babies were reported from Rockwood at the Guelph General Hospital this year but one local boy has managed the headlines. Eleven-year-old Steven Hepburn was rushed to Guelph on Jan. 1 with an infected appendix for a 5:15 p.m. operation. Sorry about that, Steven, a great way to start off the new year but your village friends send their best and look forward to your homecoming very soon.

Visitors in the village over the holidays included Frances Furst of Richmond Hill visiting her sister Addie Wylie of Station Street. Welcome to town, Frances, and the hospitality of the village to you too.

It's village greetings to Brad Thomas and his new bride who came from the west to visit his family over the holidays.

Friends of Grace and George Day were happy to see Janet and Danny visiting parents over the festive season and, also at the Days' for Christmas celebrations was Roy Day from Toronto.

More holiday greetings and, on Christmas Eve, Don and Janet phoned home to the Don Sinclair family with another important call coming in from Osaka.

Japan, from Rob and Cathie. Village friends send their season's best to the traveling extensions of one of its favorite families.

It's happy visiting to Mrs. Cheryl Wright of Eden Mills who left before Christmas to spend a three week visit in England with her mother and sister and family in Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Burlington was the holiday area for Mr. and Mrs. William McLean as they enjoyed Christmas with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. David McDonald.

Lorna McLean of London is spending her holidays at her home in Eden Mills with her mother and sister, Mrs. Betty McLean and Lori. Hi Lorna, welcome home from the Eden Mills.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Wright was bouncing over the holidays when visitors Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lawson and son, Peter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mills of Weston, and James Frank of Mississauga, congregated to wish the Wrights a happy season.

Hey ho! Guess who stopped off to visit parents Mr. and Mrs. James Kirby of Eden Mills. It was their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Campbell and their son from Burlington. Great family gathering was fun for

all.

Mrs. Wilma Gilbertson's home also saw Christmas visitors when Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gilbertson, Keith and Daryl from Guelph visited with Wilma and her daughter Shirley for holiday festivities.

Ahoy all soccer enthusiasts. The word's out that everybody interested in playing, coaching, or assisting in any way will be welcomed at a meeting to be held at the Four Corners Soccer Club headquarters on Highway 24 Jan 6 at 2:30 p.m. From 15 years and up the club is looking for potential players for two teams with A team players heading for the Ontario Inter-city competitions and B team players, reaching for the Southern Ontario second division. "Just come to the meeting," say the organizers, and hope to see a large turnout at their first meeting of the 1974 season.

Another happy note for Rockwood's new year is that Dennis Brace is back in action after his recent time off at a Toronto hospital. Four months of no driving is the verdict for the popular village resident and then he'll be like new again so, from his many Rockwood friends it's welcome home Denny and we're sure that '74 will see you back in shape to your old self.

Time is closing in and already university kids and distant visitors are wending their ways back to destinations. With them goes Rockwood wishes for the best and great fortune for all anticipated accomplishments for the New Year with a hope to see visits being renewed again soon.

Village trustees end business for year

Rockwood village trustees completed the following business at their last meeting held at the town hall: Building permits: after discussion of recent township letter it was agreed that no undue delay would occur in processing building permit applications in Rockwood village. Furniture in town hall: the secretary was authorized to order a quantity of ten new stacking tables; Committee of Adjustment: the secretary tabled copies of applications re Vincent Price and Frank Ostrander;

Town hall floor: Trustee Bateman stated that re-finishing should be scheduled when hall is not in use;

Inaugural Inaugural meeting: set for January 8, 1974.

The trustees also discussed advanced consideration for festive decorations for 1974 and it was decided to explore the possibility of obtaining suitable decorations and to budget accordingly during the coming year.

Investigate incorporation

Indicating that he endorses the Rockwood village trustees exploratory attempts to ascertain the feasibility of incorporation for Rockwood John Root, M.P. for Wellington-Dufferin forwarded information on procedures for incorporation. As well as contacting Mr. Root the trustees have also sought legal advice from the Beatty legal firm in Brampton who have expressed optimism at the possibility of the village being allowed to incorporate.

As it stands, the matter is presently only under investigation. No legal application has been made. In a letter to the township council

the Rockwood board requested approval and backing for the application and further requested a written statement of the position of the Eramosa township council.

The Rockwood trustee board feels its position is difficult. "It is frustrating said trustee Gary Bateman. "Our board has such limited powers. We can't pass or enforce by-laws, we can't borrow money, and we cannot even set our own road budget. The only village affairs we can control are general maintenance ones such as garbage and cemetery upkeep and Rockwood hydro."

Rent property to Law

Reading a letter from Ray Law requesting the rental of village land at the rear of his property on north Main Street in Rockwood, the board of trustees discussed the matter at their recent meeting.

The secretary was instructed to write a letter to Mr. Law stating that the board would be willing to rent the designated property on a five year agreement with the option to renew.

Rental for the property was set at \$1 per annum with conditions to be included in the legal rental agreement that the area will be maintained in park-like condition with Mr. Law responsible for any legal charges involved.

The request was made to the trustee board by Mr. Law, after receiving the refusal of the Eramosa township council to sell the land.

Recent authorization of the Wellington-Dufferin Health Unit confirmed the right of usage of the present septic system on the new Main St. building until the anticipated installation of the water and sewerage system in the village.

Decline in offenses

A recent report from the Guelph data element of the O.P.P. shows a decline in drinking and driving offences over the Christmas holidays as no such charges were made during the periods of December 22 to 28.

The Wellington County area with seven collisions resulting in injury to nine people but no fatalities.

In the immediate district of Eramosa an Erin township man was charged with impaired driving as a result of a collision on Concession 7, Eramosa Township on Dec. 29.



THE FIRST SNOWSHOVELLER on Rockwood streets in 1974 was nine-year-old Chris Evans of Guelph, cleaning off the snow at his grandparents' home, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kehlet, of Harris Street. Chris spent the New Year weekend in the village and was delighted with the fresh snowfall.

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Victim of theft

What has been classified as petty thievery took the edge off Christmas for one more member of the Rockwood Drijber family. Rob Drijber, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Drijber of Mary Street, was robbed at the airport of Bogota, in Colombia, on Christmas day. Two South Americans with knives attacked the Rockwood lad taking all his money, documents, and a watch which had been given to him as a Christmas gift from his father prior to starting on his trip to South America.

An American acquaintance and Rob later apprehended the thieves but the local police had refused to assist.

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WHO SHOVELS THE SNOW on the Eramosa? And Tuesday's early morning enthusiast was the son-in-law of Vincent and Ruth Price, Charles Wall of Toronto who, with his family, new year eved in the village. Seen assisting their dad for their winter skating spree were the three Wall children, Timmy, five, Robin, ten, and little Jacquie, seven.

Carols reclaim Christmas spirit

Poor weather could not deter the 29 Rockwood and District Sunshine Club members who attended last Thursday's meeting.

Rev. Ralph Williams, president, was in the chair as everyone sang O Canada followed by a rousing sing-song of Christmas carols reclaiming the Christmas spirit of those attending.

Reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report completed the business of the day after which Mrs. D. McNabb gave an amusing reading entitled Last Minute Shopping. Mrs. Max Milne recited The Last Days before Christmas and Mr. Cliff McDougall gave enjoyable readings entitled The Lonesome Cowboy and The

Song of The Lazy Farmer.

The remainder of the program included the usual games of euchre and crokinole and, taking euchre prizes were Mrs. W. Gilbertson and William McLean with W. Hayden and Mrs. S. Trousdale the champions taking the crokinole prizes.

With the hope that all members will attend the January 10 meeting at the town hall the meeting was closed after light refreshments were served.

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