



CAREFULLY BALANCING on an exaggerated height are several little nursery school attendees primly posing as they tramp across the innovated bridge. The five day week morning programs held at the Rockwood town hall provide instruction for the children under the capable hands of Ann Vos of Eden Mills.

Eramosa residents express concern at tree removal

The concerted fears of residents living on the second line in Eramosa, county road 29, were expressed last Monday in a letter sent to the Wellington county engineer, Alan Holmes, by George Day, secretary of Eramosa planning board.

Property owners on the road had received a letter from the office of the county engineer's office indicating the intention of the Guelph suburban roads commission "to purchase a strip of land approximately 17 feet in width from your property to suburban road 29."

"This purchase of property for road widening" read the letter "is necessary so that the commission will have sufficient right-of-way to construct a road in the future which will be beneficial to both you and the commission."

Yellow markers The letter said that the commission would be appraising sales of property in the recipient's area, "to arrive at land market value, a method used in the past by the commission which has proved satisfactory." It further indicated that a representative would be calling to discuss land acquisition settlement within the next six months.

Earlier, residents had reported seeing surveyors in the district and were concerned when they saw yellow markers placed uniformly along the roadway just beyond lines of maple trees extending along both sides of the roadway.

The immediate thought of many of those living on the second line was that the trees were doomed for removal. They reportedly envisioned a razing of landscape similar to that of No. 6 highway below Guelph on the way to Hamilton when numbers of beautiful trees were chopped down and land confiscated close to houses, to widen the highway leaving the roadway bereft of all former charm to its present resemblance of desert tract.

4th Line diversion Recognizing that road widening meant expectation of heavier traffic, questions have flared as to what hap-

pened to the proposed heavy traffic to be accommodated by the expensive fourth line diversion set up two years ago by the GRCA in affiliation with the Eramosa township council?

Residents also wondered about the "six months" stipulation in the letter and if it meant that proceedings were to begin then, why not long term tree planting replacement plans?

Reportedly the Eramosa planning board had contacted the commission earlier to query the reason for the surveyors and had learned that nothing was going to transpire. Residents were questioning the validity of the response.

Alan Holmes, chief engineer for the county of Wellington, told the Acton Free Press that he would like to alleviate the concerns of the people. "It is not our intent to remove all of the trees as per accusation," he said, referring to the letter from the secretary of the planning board. "A number of people seem to feel there is an indication of trees being cut down. The necessity of the 17 ft. is to place drainage ditches behind the trees. The yellow markers only indicate property lines, the proposed right of way."

Not tree cutters Mr. Holmes regards himself as an environmentalist who enjoys the

same affinity for trees as those concerned. "I am the first one to go along with saving every tree" he said and explained the policy of the commission is to cut down a tree only in a cut section when ditches must be adjacent directly to the road bed. "To be honest, I haven't even thought it out in detail," he said, adding that, to date, the design of the planned roadway is not complete.

The county engineer said the six month time allotment was for contact of local people involved but that actual building was a county decision which could stretch on for a number of years. "Cutting down trees?" said the amazed Mr. Holmes. "No one said a thing about that," and he wondered how the suggestion had materialized.

Mr. Holmes said the commission had a tree replacement policy which could easily be put into operation if required. He said the need for the road improvement plan was the result of a road traffic study which indicated that, with present traffic on No. 29 county road, updated levels must be adhered to with the roadway presently showing deficiency in level of service.

He said that to raise the grade level of service does not necessarily mean anticipation of heavier traffic but admitted that improved road conditions could attract traffic. "We know that people will go out of their way to get to a smooth road," said Mr. Holmes who describes many of the county roads as traffic collectors for commuters to Guelph.

Regarding the fourth line diversion to which many residents had hoped to see the traffic diverted, the engineer explained that the uphill terrain of the roadway did not lend itself to truck traffic. "It adapts itself well to heavy traffic of sightseers and conservation visitors," he said, but it could not be expected to take the heavier weight of truck travel.

Asked if his position could ensure the saving of the trees on the second line of Eramosa, Mr. Holmes reiterated that the question of tree cutting had not been considered but that, as an ecologist anxious to preserve, he would be most anxious to save as many as possible. He indicated that his department applies the policy of tree replacement where required.

Organizers of the Hillsburgh Potato Fest are searching for a "cause". Last year a \$50,000 medical centre was designed and built in Hillsburgh. There's a doctor there now and dentist expected in the spring. Suggested projects include a swimming pool, arena and youth centre.

St. John's faces another change

What was considered to be finally, firm foundation for the congregation of St. John's Anglican church in Rockwood, was shaken again Monday night, when at the annual vestry meeting, Archdeacon Clarence Mitchell revealed that St. John's pattern of new ministry every few months would be repeated.

For a number of years St. John's had been attached to a series of congregations including St. Alban's of Acton, All Saints in Erin, St. James of Guelph and presently she is affiliated with St. George's of Guelph.

Her ministry has been conducted by a variety of rectors with a varied degree of experience. Finally, last fall she found herself in the hands of the St. George parish in Guelph with the understanding that the Rev. Ritchie McMurray would be the minister in charge with the diocese anxious to keep her doors open wide for potential members who will eventually move into the village of Rockwood.

Affiliation Several appointments and re-appointments set up a vestry committee with both wardens accepting their

flock, arriving in joint affiliation with the Guelph reformatory approximately sometime in May.

Mr. Mitchell presented his announcement at the beginning of the meeting at which the reading of last January, 1973's vestry meeting sounded like ancient history but a repeat of what was the inevitable future for '74.

Commendations were given by Rev. Mitchell to the two wardens George Ingle and Sandy Hudson for their excellent stewardship during a period of great congregational stress. Further words of praise were extended to other members of the congregation who had participated diligently in keeping church programs alive. Betty Eason was praised as treasurer, Catharine Meredith for her dedication as organist, Nancy Beattie as the leader of the Junior Auxiliary, Flossie McMinn as the parish hall convener, Ernie Slipp as lay reader and Len Hockey as church secretary.

positions of the last few years as people's and rector's wardens, Betty Eason re-appointed as treasurer, Len Hockey as secretary, and Ernie Slipp as lay reader. Gladys Slipp was voted in as lay delegate to the Synod and Betty Lou Clark as alternate delegate; Flossie McMinn, Ivy Ritchie, John Clark and Lorraine Root were nominated to the vestry board and appointed by the ministry to the same board were Monty Root, Betty Jones, Ernie Slipp and Lou Withers.

Along with a St. Valentine's draw to raise church funds, the annual St. John's flea market will be held in the spring in conjunction with a beef barbecue.

Date of the next parish advisory board meeting was set for Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. and St. John's affiliation with Rev. McMurray will continue for communion, special services and visitations until definite word has been reached regarding replacement.



ROCKWOOD'S youngest puppeteer is Vanessa Maria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Weideman of 222 MacKenzie Street. The two animated hand puppets carry on an imaginative parley with voice inflections produced through the closed lips of the extremely bright and fascinating four year old. "Say hello to your friends," says the woolen hand-crocheted Christmas puppet and Vanessa's Raggedy Andy bends in accord and squeaks "Hello, everyone."

Eden Mills Brownie News

By Diana Wallace
2nd Eden Mills Brownie Pack

The silence at Skunk Hollow was broken last Wednesday when a bunch of brownies and Brown Owl descended upon it. Lianne's pet dog decided to go along too for the jolly trip, and thought he'd show off by catching and eating a "bunny" en route. This amused some of the girls, but also disgusted a few more genteel members of the pack.

Our first meeting of the New Year was very busy as we made new "sixers" and "seonders" who were so excited with their new roles. The ones chosen were Kelpies, Dolores Martini, Michelle Wallace; Imps, Della Chesworth, Michelle Heard; Little People, Anne Schwartzburg, Kathy Van-Bijl; and Gillie Dhu, Darlene Chadder, Virginia Ritchie.

Paw wow We started the evening with a paw wow as we had so much to discuss.

Plans were made for our Canada Pageant which we plan to have for the parents in February. A large 15 foot map of Canada was painted showing all the different provinces in a range of colors. (I believe we got most of the paint on the map). Badges were given out which included two toy-maker badges for Lisa Webb and Lianne Allsop, and one collectors badge for Virginia Ritchie.

Everyone including the leaders seemed ready and bursting for a new year ahead. We now have a cup to present to the "sixers" who remember to bring their 10 cents dues every week. This has been given to us by Mrs. Petrie, our District Commissioner, and we call it what else—The Petrie Cup. Lots of luck, and we hope it works! We have two new tweenies, Shelley Godding and Susan Engelage.

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Comin's and Goin's

Brown and beautiful, and two Rockwood visitors to the sands of Pompano Beach in Florida show the results of their two weeks southern stay where swimming, fishing, nite clubbing, and relaxing were the order of the days for Dirk and June Jansen of Main Street. The popular couple won the trip when June was the champion of the show "Eye Bet" last year and, for a similar appearance in December, won a new electric dishwasher. June will be seen this Friday at noon on channel 9 as she appeared on the taped show and many a local set will quaver as she successfully wins via TV the championship prize which is presently operating in her own kitchen. Congrats June, we'll be watching!!!

Friends of Phyllis Ingle are happy to know that she is recuperating from her hospitalization period and that she is expected to be getting into the activities in the community very soon.

Hey, how about that. The never weary, never ill Flossie McMinn has been very much so for the last few weeks. Take it easy, Flossie, and get better soon and your friends have their fingers crossed that your progress will be rapid.

Tuesday was a big day for some 30 odd grade sixers from Rockwood Centennial when, manned with elegant new snowshoe equipment they were bussed to Eden Mills where they were able to participate in an outdoor snowshoe hiking experience through the countryside. Ohh, these lucky school children, wouldn't they knee their own good fortune and we could all be young again.

Hello there, and Rockwood sports new neighbors who have taken up abode in the

former Crabtree domain on Main St. So it's "hi" to Mr. and Mrs. Pyrie and we hope you enjoy sharing your living with us here in the village and attend some of our get-together events.

Next Saturday's the day when several little cub types will be visiting the planetarium. So have fun, kids, learn what you can and we'll hear on your return what your day was all about.

It's a hey ho word from down under that Leslie and Don Ferguson are settling in ole Brisbane, Australia. Right now Leslie's up to her chin organizing what she calls an "old girls" re-union" of sorts and is rounding up her former school chums. A hi and "we miss you" to a former Rockwood family who left their mark and managed to create many friendships during their short stay in the village. Bye now and write soon!

Hooray and Hoorah, Mr. and Dr. Hosdil are back in operation after their rest and relaxation trip in the balmy south. Hope you had a terrific vacation you two and glad to see you back in business. Dr. June.

Great sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. Robert Wright of Eden Mills. A friend to everyone he will always hold a special spot in his own village plus those where he was often to be seen. Rockwood and Eden Mills villagers are sorry he is gone.

INCREASE There has been a 140 percent increase in the number of patients going to hospital emergency departments in Ontario during the past six years. Each year the increase runs from 10 to 20 percent.

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