

Lions community centre is making headway



SLABS WEIGHING one ton apiece were delivered and placed as the first-floor foundation of the Lions Club community centre last Monday. It took a 150-foot crane to pick up the immense tailor-made slabs and set them in their proper place. Each piece was notched for vertical posts and reinforced with steel rods cored out for purposes of sound-proofing.

The Lions Club complex, conceived approximately two years ago by the Rockwood and District Lions Club, is gradually becoming a reality. Walls are mounting higher which will finally encompass the exciting community building.

Purchase of the acreage, grading and excavating for the building has been work of the past two summers accomplished by the ambitious group. Since the fall of '74 the club has managed to have footings poured and cement-block foundation for basement walls completed.

Last Monday, pre-cast slabs for the first floor were laid. Each slab weighed one ton with dimensions of 14' by four feet. It required six trucks to deliver the approximate quantity of 100 tailor-made pieces and it took the best part of one day for a 150-foot crane to place them.

Weather co-operated. Lion members working on the project, were pleased the

weather held out just long enough to have the particular phase of the job completed. Lion Lou Hills started back-filling during early afternoon in an area of the building where slabs had already been laid. He worked through until 6 p.m., shortly after the last load of slabs had been delivered. He completed the back-filling on Tuesday about noon hour. Lion Lloyd Dyer followed and levelled the land. He said, "If the weather hadn't stayed right with us, we could not have hoped to get the job done when we did." By Tuesday, frost and snow arrived which would have made the Monday task almost impossible.

According to Mr. Dyer, the next immediate step is to pour two inches of concrete over the first-floor. "From there on it will be a matter of continuing on with the walls," he explained. Mr. Dyer said cement blocks will be on the inner-side of the building with brick-facing on outside of east, south and north walls. The west side of the structure

will be left with cement block as it is the wall to which the arena will be eventually attached.

More projects

There will be two floors above the basement, the first containing several rooms. The top floor will be open-space holding the community hall dance floor. The Lions Club spokesman feels that, if weather permits, the walls of the complex might be started very shortly.

At the present time, donations and fund-raising drives have kept project bookkeeping in the black but Lions Club members say they hope to see more community projects started by interested groups to raise more money in a co-operative effort to get the complex completed as soon as possible.

The Lions Club anticipates meeting with Eramosa township council early in the year to discuss funding for the centre and the wharfs and wheres of recreational needs in the municipality.



WORKERS JACK BENJAMIN, Darrell Keezub and John Charbonneau of Toronto place styrofoam plugs in the ends of the cored rods of the floor slabs on Monday at the Lions Club community centre. Next step will be to pour two inches of concrete over the floor and, if weather permits, the Lions will proceed with side walls.

14th New Year's party attended by seven originals

Seven of the original 120 celebrants who spent new year's eve of 1960 together were on hand at the 14th annual celebration held at the Rockwood town hall on the night of Dec. 31, 1974.

Duncan and Rita McPhedran, Jack Peart, Don and Winnie Hills and Betty and Ray Death were those on hand for the premier party. Of this year's event they say it was just as exciting and as much fun as the first. Lloyd and Helen Waddell, along with Mr. and Mrs. Hills and Mr. and Mrs. Death, were the first organizers of the regular dances. Since the Waddells moved to Guelph it has been

the abilities of the remaining two couples which make the annual happening a village New Year's eve highlight.

Next year's dance Stan McKinnon and his tapes from Guelph was the music provided. It ran non-stop from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. of the first day of 1975. "Great music, great fun," was how those attending put it. During the evening the organizing committee announced their intention of dropping the annual parties. Ray Death explained that, as the Lions Club complex would be available next year, most villagers would be interested

in a dance being held at the new centre. Humblings from those attending however, made the group reconsider. It was decided that New Year's eve celebrations for '75 will be held as usual, at the Rockwood town hall.

Door prizes were presented as part of the program. Winners number one were Helen and Murney Weirmeir of Harris St.; second prize was taken by Al and Dorothy Humes of Everlon corners. Ken and Carol Petty of Rockwood captured third prize. During festivities a buffet of delicious foods was served with turkey, ham, selections of salads, hot rolls and coffee, all part of the fare. Paul Jones and other dances had mixed-up the patrons considerably and, by food time, everyone enjoyed New Year's eve conviviality.

Every year, popularity of the local celebration and minimal size of the town hall necessitates that tickets be kept down to a 60 couple sale. "It always ends up like a great village party," say the

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Experience Program '75 for everyone

The Grand River Conservation Authority plans to enter the fourth year of its winter experience program. Experience Program '75 is aimed at providing winter recreation. It will be combined with informative tours of local areas which the whole family can enjoy.

The first event of the year will be held on Jan. 11 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Rockwood conservation area. Entitled A Hike Into the Past, groups will assemble at the beach house from where they will hike to the many scenic and interesting locations in the park. Student guides will

be in charge of the tours. They promise to be of help in pointing out the attractions that Rockwood area provides.

Historic Hikers will pass through the ruins of the historic Harris Woolen Mill, constructed in 1884 and operated until 1925. Based on the re-

search of Kerry Barber and Susan Gilmore, the founding and operations of this once magnificent stone mill will be explained in full.

For those interested in geology, portions of the interpretive hike will give insight into the many unusual rock formations to be found at

Rockwood.

Recreational

On the recreational side of the day, organizers say that G.R.C.A. will provide snowshoes for those who want to learn to master the activity at the Rockwood park. They feel tramping past the scenic caves and cliffs of the Eramosa will make the effort worthwhile.

They invite all persons interested in the past of the historic area or those just wanting an exhilarating day with the family on the district forest trails, to join the group this Saturday, Jan. 11. "The day is free with no reservations required," says G.R.C.A. representatives. They promise a bonfire to warm up beside, after the hike. Refreshments will also be provided.

Future events in the experience program are scheduled to be held at Elora, Laurel Creek and Belwood conservation areas. More information will be provided from the Authority's community relations dept. at 519-621-2761.

Comin's and Goin's

A drop in at the Guelph General Hospital over New Year's was to see district poet, Vic Smith looking well and peppy after his recent coronary attack. Your many friends are glad you're recuperating quickly Vic, and we'll be looking forward to your rhyming comments on your hospital admission.

Another patient at Guelph General was Irma Hospes of Weatherald St. Her friends will be anxious to know she's back to her delightful self and feeling well again.

George and Grace Day had a busy time over the holidays. Daughter Janet and son-in-law Danny LaFleur from Ottawa were visiting over Christmas and they had a wonderful time. Christmas day dinner was the big event at the Day household when

brother Ray came up from Toronto, and Grace's mother, Mrs. J. Gordier of Guelph St. shared the exciting day. A big pre-Christmas dinner was held at Fred and Margaret Day's home in Ancaster on Dec. 22. Also in on Day family visiting were Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Black from Brantford. Mr. Black will be remembered by members of the Presbyterian Church in the village as he was a former minister of the church.

Mrs. Janet Denton was the welcomed visitor over the holidays with the John Clarks of Eramosa. Betty Lou's mother is well known in the village as a regular visitor to both the community and St. John's Church and the Clarks' many friends were pleased to see Mrs. Denton visiting during the festive dates.

The medical centre building is going ahead by leaps and bounds. Reports are that it will not be completed and in operation before the first of March or April however.

Despite flu germs galore the Ray Death house was one of activity over the holidays. Special Christmas dinner guests were Betty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Scott, brother-in-law Glen Evans and son David, all of Erin, son Brian from Toronto, son Ben and wife Jan plus their little daughter Amanda of Guelph, daughter Brenda and son-in-law Randy Pettit, son Dennis, all of Guelph, and Linda Garner of Rockwood. More guests on Sunday, Jan. 5 were Jane and Frank Gosling of Kenya, South Africa who spent the afternoon with the Death family.

Eden Mills gas and restaurant proprietor, Norm Thomas tells an interesting story about mysterious birds in the village which, during the winter months stop off and gather in large groups on the fenders of visiting cars. "Fender birds are what we call them," says Norm who explains that the sparrow-like creatures get on top of and underneath car fenders and peck holes clean through. Villagers, according to the knowledgeable resident, have considered putting nets over automobiles to keep the birds away. He thinks it might be the salt from the road collecting which attracts the birds but whatever the cause, it makes a mess of the car fenders in very short order.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Kingsbury of Stratton's Corners for a Christmas family dinner were Mr. and Mrs. M.B. McLeod and Ken of Thornbury, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Atkins and Karen of Clarksburg, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McLeod, Meaford; Mr. and Mrs. John Robinson, Michelle and Emily of Thornbury; Mrs. David Stewart, Ospringe; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Robertson, Acton; Mr. and Mrs. Brian Walker, Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. Robert King, Guelph; Mrs. Wilbur

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St. John's Guild visits Toronto

Four members of the spanking new Server's Guild of St. John's church were given a special treat this week. On Sunday last, the Rev. and Mrs. Ritchie McMurray

Zoning grant

Eramosa township council was informed at the Jan. 6 inaugural meeting that the Ministry of Housing had approved a \$2,500 grant which will be sent to the township to be applied to costs for re-drafting zoning by-law.

Snowmobiles

With the sound of New Year's bells came the booming noise of snowmobiles. Ever since Christmas the machines can be seen dotting the winter landscape on hills and country lanes. Santa's bag must have been really stretched this year.

St. John's Guild visits Toronto

hosted the children to an interesting afternoon and evening in Toronto. Bobby Hudson, Neal McMin, Bruce Carriek and Peter Root were escorted to the Ontario museum where they enjoyed seeing through and dining out, in the new restaurant. Later the group attended the evening service at St. Thomas' Anglican church on Huron St.

It was a beneficial exposure for the local boys who were delightedly impressed at the all-boys' choir.

One of the guild members not present at the outing was Chris Hudson. Five boys comprise the first group of servers organized in the Rockwood church. Others have been incorporated into the service from time-to-time, but it's the first time a Server's Guild has been established.

At Sunday's service the Rev. McMurray announced that plans are being made to incorporate religious plays into the church curriculum. These will be a further extension of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Niagara Diocese of the Anglican church in Canada.