

Rockmosa Sports Centre

Steering committee presents brief, public meeting set



FROM THE HIGHEST point in the Rockwood conservation park, the Eramosa River and Harris Lake look tremendous to Sunday hikers enjoying the spring view.

After a one-month preparation period the steering committee, appointed by the Eramosa township council on March 31, tabled its comprehensive study on the Rockmosa Sports Centre.

The five-man committee, composed of two Lions club members, Walter Swanston and Hans Woellmer; two township councillors, committee chairman Betty Lou Clark and David Masson; one unaligned district resident, Murray Smeltzer and Bill Adsett ex officio, made the presentation of the formal brief at Monday's regular meeting of the township council. As well as councillors, several other delegations were at the meeting.

Introduces brief
In introducing the brief receive Bill Adsett remarked that it was probably one of the most, if not the most, complete studies ever conducted in the township. He invited Hans Woellmer to present the study.

Mr. Woellmer outlined first the table of contents. He explained the various sections of the brief including objectives, review of need for recreational indoor facilities, scope for expansion, engineering design and specifications, building and

implementation plan, estimated building and maintenance costs, projected benefits and exhibits in support of foregoing.

An introduction was given as to what organizations were instrumental in the purchase of the project. They are the Eramosa township recreation committee and the Rockwood and District Lions Club. All past accomplishments of the Lions Club were reviewed and the need for recreation indoor facilities stated.

The speaker referred to several facilities presently available in the township which over a period of years have deteriorated and proven themselves inadequate.

He mentioned the two township schools, Eramosa and Centennial public. He pointed out that the gymnasium in Centennial is in constant use and bookings have become increasingly difficult. The kitchens have inadequate space for banquets and receptions. Obtaining permission for school use was also considered by the speaker. He said the contract required was limiting in men allowed. He added that it makes the person in charge legally liable for activities of the group.

The Lion spokesman touched on the inadequacies of the Rockwood town hall with its lack of adequate parking and washrooms; and the two church halls in the village which also lack required washrooms.

Going outside township

"We have approximately 4,000 residents in Eramosa township," said the spokesman, "who are forced to use facilities outside the township boundaries for their particular interests." He mentioned Acton, Hillsburgh, Milton, Guelph, Ferris, Erin, Belwood and Georgetown as places where local people were going. Hockey, swimming, baseball, arts and crafts, tennis, lacrosse, archery and other activities were listed by Mr. Woellmer. "Particularly hockey appears to become a point of contention," said the spokesman. He pointed out that a recent survey of pupils attending Eramosa public school showed 100 children presently participating in some of the activities listed above. He said that 214 boys from Eramosa township were presently playing organized hockey while 257 others have expressed an interest for the coming season.

"A Rockwood hockey team, presently part of the Acton Industrial Hockey League, has expressed great interest in the proposed sports centre in order to obtain more convenient ice practice times to improve game schedules and to reduce travel times," said Mr. Woellmer. He pointed out that the games are presently held at all hours.

Plans include

Touching on scope for expansion, Mr. Woellmer listed some of the facilities which, when the centre is completed, will be available. Full facilities, tennis courts, a soccer playing field, running track, bowling green were also mentioned. For better facilities he listed a nursery school program, banquet and reception, business meetings of organizations such as scouting, guiding, arts and crafts and cultural activities. He said senior citizen quarters will be available. "Change rooms will also be in," he said. "Your own ice facilities and a curling rink are also in the plans for the centre."

"When these are completed," said Mr. Woellmer, "they will attract year-round hockey schools and leagues, pleasure and figure skating,

tennis tournaments, curling tournaments and lawn bowling competitions." He said roller skating is also conceivable.

"In effect," said the spokesman, "this complex is planned to serve people from all walks of life and diversified interests, irrespective of age, color or creed."

Drawings shown

Architectural drawings and engineering designs were shown and examined by council. Building and maintenance costs were discussed. Speaking about the location of the arena and recreation centre, Mr. Woellmer said that, although total cost would be about \$42,000, approximately \$2,000 of this has already been invested by the Lions Club. He said an additional \$30,000 would be recovered through provincial grants upon completion of the project.

"This would bring the total capital investment cost down to \$38,000," said the spokesman. Annual maintenance costs are estimated to be approximately \$72,000 whereas projected revenues are estimated in the neighborhood of \$60,000. Mr. Woellmer feels that if these figures can be obtained, excess revenues of approximately \$18,000 could be applied toward repayment of principal and interest for any outstanding debentures relevant to the initial capital investment cost.

The spokesman pointed out it is fully intended that, in time, the Rockmosa sports complex will be a non-profit and yet self-carrying entity. Supporting evidence of interest was produced with letters from the University of Guelph and the Can-Am hockey group. They stated a sincere

interest in year-round ice surface rental.

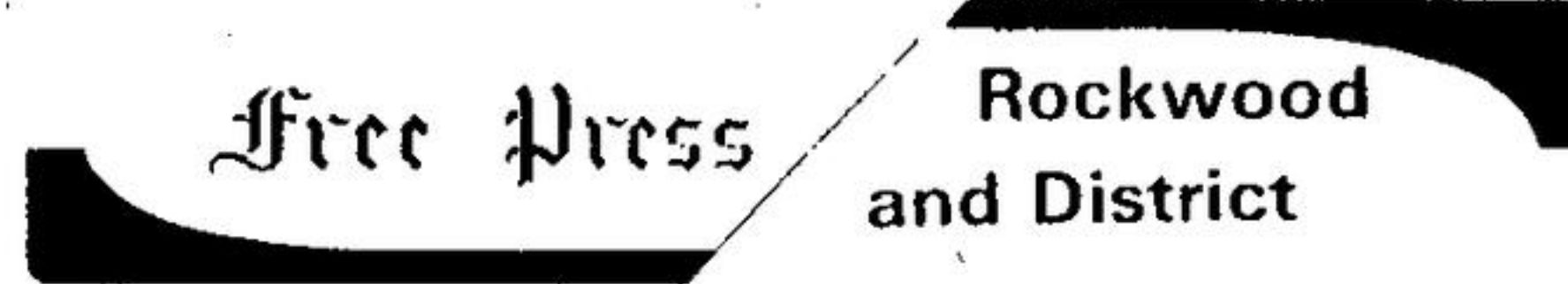
Public hearings

At conclusion of the presentation the council asked for council's questions. Council member John Howell showed concern about lack of cost publicity. He felt that township residents needed more information regarding individual costs for residential and farm tax payers.

Public hearing dates were discussed. Dates were set and a motion passed to hold two public hearings. The first will be held at Rockwood Centennial public school on Wednesday, May 14 at 8 p.m., the other at Eramosa public school on Thursday, May 15 at 8 p.m. The steering committee members and informed Lions club members will be on hand to answer questions.

The hearings have been scheduled preparatory for application of a municipal board hearing. Potential increases to the mill rate and subsequent tax dollars involved for individual residential farms, are currently being assessed by the township office. They will be made available at the time of the public hearing. "In any event," says Mr. Woellmer, "it can be pointed out that 50 per cent of any such tax increases per farm may be recovered in grants through the Ontario Farm Tax Relief."

At the beginning of the presentation, Mr. Woellmer reminded council that the complex is already owned in trust by the township of Eramosa. "It will be managed by a board of directors appointed by the council with representatives from all areas of the township," he said.



Protect those eyes is CNIB secretary's word

The traumatic experience of suddenly losing one's sight was brought to the fore to the Rockwood Lionettes Wednesday evening, April 30 when about 18 members attended to hear firsthand, the story of a man who was injured on the beaches of Normandy in 1944 and awakened to realize he would never see again.

David Ferguson, field secretary for the Kitchener and Guelph areas of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, said that seeing was man's most valuable sense and one which should be well protected by everyone. He explained that he was able to see for 27 years and, for the past 31, had been blind. During that time he had never been able to completely adjust as there were

always difficulties to overcome.

V Day
Mr. Ferguson's story was one of great depth and inner fortitude. He said it was on V Day when he was hurt. He'd first thought he'd picked up sand in his eyes. Examination proved they'd been damaged beyond repair and, almost overnight, he learned he would never see again.

A story of mental adjustment, worrying about the future, or whether he even had one, were only some of the concerns the interesting man told about. After treatment he was returned to Canada where he studied braille. He then went to university and procured his B.A. degree.

The speaker's life as a blind man for the first time, was well related. He said it is important to make allowances for human dignity; helping where required but, for sighted people, to never impose their abilities too heavily on those who aren't.

From shock and complete hopelessness, Mr. Fraser had been able to pull himself up and, over the years, become an important cog in the wheels which keep the C.N.I.B. in operation. He told of having to adapt his physical stamina to his new condition, replacing football and hard-playing contact games, with swimming for daily exercise.

Safe glasses protect
According to Mr. Ferguson, the role of the blind is not considered as hopeless as at one time. He told of skiing, bicycle riding, bowling and even skating with the aid of a qualified guide. "But nothing can take the place of the eyes," he said that in case of any headaches or eye difficulty, eye doctors should be contacted immediately. He recommended safety glasses

to be worn in all instances of painting or decorating where foreign materials could get into the eyes.

What was interesting about the Lionettes' guest was that, despite his handicap he was well adjusted. He spoke with ease, discussed a film on blind rehabilitation as he heard it being played, and told his audience that, after his adjustment, he had married and was in process of raising five children of his own.

C.N.I.B. Convass
Mr. Ferguson first became acquainted with Lionette Irina Hospes when the group sponsored the convass for the C.N.I.B. two years ago. This year's convass will be held in October. Lionettes felt that the film and meeting Mr. Ferguson should have been held for all residents as it was both interesting and worthwhile as well as informative and thought-provoking.

As a field secretary, the speaker is taken via car with driver, to many meetings and also to schools where he talks to children about the importance of eye protection. He tells youngsters how easy it is to become blinded when snowballing and how thankful they should feel being able to see. He explained to the Lionettes how impossible it is for him to tell someone who has always been blind what color is and what things look like. "It's impossible to be thankful enough for sight," he said. After the meeting home-made cupcakes and coffee were served and the Lionettes visited with the speaker.

'75 budget ratified by W.C.B.E.

The chairman, Walter Bolger called a special meeting of the Wellington County Board of Education Monday night, to ratify the budget for 1975. This year's budget will total \$29,603,764. An increase of \$4,963,105.

The board spent several

hours endeavoring to cut this budget without affecting the quality of education in the county. In doing this \$591,738 was cut from the area of alterations, maintenance, services and instructional supplies. The Board also cut out of the budget an allow-

ance of \$250,000 for a reserve fund.

Eramosa township For Eramosa township, the requisition for elementary schools will be \$175,435, an increase of 24 per cent. This will mean an increase of 5.489 mills for Eramosa township

residents. In the secondary level the requisition will be \$145,146, an increase of 13.2 per cent, resulting in a mill rate increase of 1.730.

The present budget for the county is below the ceilings set by the province by \$1,866,971 in the elementary panel, and \$533,882 in the secondary panel, making a total of \$2,400,853.

The increase in the budget is covered by a provincial grant of 61.51 per cent leaving the balance to be paid by local taxation. The increase in instructional salaries accounts for \$4,437,027 which account for most of the increase.

Debenture payments

1975 debenture payments for two schools in Eramosa township will be \$20,675 for interest, and \$24,000 principal, making a total of \$44,675. These are debenture payments for Eramosa and Centennial public schools. This will leave an unamortized balance of \$347,000 still owing as of December 31, 1975.



GLEN MARCH is seen just before being taken to the Guelph General hospital for minor treatment after a collision with his bike and a car Saturday morning.

Accident

A young village boy escaped serious injury Saturday morning when he was struck by a car travelling in the opposite direction.

The accident occurred about 10.45 a.m. when Glen March, 9, of Mary St. was proceeding up the hill on Main St. on his bicycle. Cutting over to make a left-hand turn to Guelph St. he went into the path of an oncoming car driven by Lou D. Hiltz. According to witnesses a truck parked too far from the sidewalk cut off vision of both drivers. The bicyclist apparently was thrown into the windshield of the car but received only minor cuts and bruises.

He was taken by Royal City Ambulance to the Guelph General hospital where he was kept overnight for observation.

Euchre ups receipts

A euchre was held Tuesday evening, Apr. 22. Thirty people attended and paid \$1 each which meant \$30 will go towards the St. John's Anglican "paint the church" project as the Rockwood church's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Niagara Diocese.

To get the scheme off the ground, parishioners were given \$5 each with the idea of

going out and doubling the amount

Candy making, craft sales, recipe books and even gourmet dinner parties, have all been considerations by the enthusiastic congregation as worthy ones to try. Others are still scratching heads trying to think of things to do. Meantime, hopes of completing the project before year out, are

rising daily. Estimates show it could cost in the neighborhood of \$1,500 and, so far, receipts have nowhere else to go but up.

Mrs. Ivy Ritchie of Eden Mills, a staunch supporter of the local church, was the euchre organizer who set the pace. She hopes to see her amount reach the \$50 mark before turning her talent money in as completed.

Plant trees raise funds

On Friday, May 2, members of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation held a tree planting ceremony at the Laurel Creek Conservation Area in the northwest of Waterloo. The tree planting officially launched the Foundation's campaign to raise funds for the proposed Nature Centre at Laurel Creek.

Foundation President, Gordon Chaplin of Galt, assisted by George Kenney who is chairman of the Conservation Authority's Information and Education Advisory Board, wielded the shovels to inaugurate the new project.

Local businesses, organizations and individuals will be asked to donate money for this effort.

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