

1903 by-law shows village boundaries

When the Eramosa planning board asked secretary George Day to establish the correct boundaries of the village of Rockwood recently, he investigated and produced the following by-law written in 1903 and numbered By-Law no. 812. The heading read, A By-Law to set apart the Unincorporated Village of Rockwood as a Police Village. Using the regular phraseology of by-laws it continues:

Whereas, a petition has been presented to the council of the corporation of the county of Wellington, praying that the unincorporated village of Rockwood, situated in the township of Eramosa in the said county, may be set apart as a police village.

And, whereas, the said petition describes the area to be included in such village as hereinafter mentioned, and such petition is signed by a majority of ratepayers resident therein.

Council enacts Therefore, the council of the corporation of the county of Wellington enacts as follows: 1. The unincorporated village of Rockwood in the township of Eramosa in the county of Wellington is hereby set apart as a police village and the area to be included in such village shall be the lands comprised in the east halves of lots number

three, four, five and six in the Fourth Concession and the west halves of lots three, four, five and six in the Fifth concession of the said township of Eramosa, the area being the outside boundaries of the said half-lots.

2. Tuesday, the ninth day of June, 1903, and the town hall in the said village shall be the time and place, and Hugh Black is hereby named as returning officer for conducting the first election of police trustees for the said police village. Date of the first meeting of the police trustees after such election, shall be the 15th day of June, 1903.

3. This by-law shall take effect upon, from and after the 30th day of May, 1903. The by-law was passed on the 29th day of May, 1903 and signed by James Beattie, clerk and Robert Holton, warden.

Population was 500

Referring to his father's book, Here and There in Eramosa, Mr. Day noted that, at the time of the passing of the by-law population in Rockwood had reached the 500 mark. The first trustees were all elected by acclamation and were James W. Knowles, William Harris and James N. Stinson.

Frank Day in Here and There in Eramosa says, "In 1950, while the trustees are a corporation, the village is not an incorporated village. It is somewhat confusing to find Rockwood a police village with the trustees a corporation and Eden Mills a police village, not having reached the 500 mark, the trustees not a corporation."

Talent money for C.W.L.

The May meeting of the C.W.L. was held in the library of Centennial school in Rockwood on May 14 with 16 members present. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Joy Halliburton, the vice-president conducted the meeting.

Correspondence was read. It included a thank-you note from the president of the Rockwood-Everton Bible Society and a letter regarding Birth Right speaking engagements.

During business, talent money was agreed upon. Reporting-back time has been set for the September

meeting.

Flower donations

Future hostesses and lunch conveners were appointed as well as drivers for the Eden House nursing home. Flowers were discussed. It was decided that small boxes will be placed at the back of the church where, it is hoped, donations will be deposited.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. Winner of the lucky draw was Mary Holman. A Stanley brush demonstration was program of the evening with Mrs. Wakeford the demonstrator. A lunch was served by the hostess.

Interest generated at meet on Rockmosa project

"I often think we take the easy way out and don't stand up to our responsibilities. For years people in this township have been going on, all using other people's facilities. With a little foresight our forefathers put up churches, schoolhouses, roads and worked hard to make this a worthwhile community but those of us here tonight don't want to do a damn thing about those coming behind us." So said Lloyd Dyer, after a stormy session at the Eramosa public school last Thursday.

The Rockwood resident was speaking at the second of two public meetings held by the steering committee of the Rockmosa community-centre-arena project. Deputy-reeve Betty Lou Clark was chairman. Serving with her were Lions members Walter Swanson and Hans Woellmer; council member David Masson; resident at large Murray Smelzer and, as ex-officio member, reeve Bill Adsett.

First meeting

The steering committee is proposing debenturing the project in the amount of \$500,000 on a ten, 15 or 20 year basis. Harry Bonner elaborated that the complex will more than carry itself in the yearly operations. He mentioned to those present that he and other Lions members had visited 47 arenas in Ontario and was positive that the complex would be no further cost, after completion, to the township.

Outlining the cost per taxpayer, Murray Smelzer pointed out that Eramosa township has a population of 3,936 with an assessment of \$4,556,842 and 1,402 properties as determined by a report of the regional assessment office in Guelph, December, 1974.

The speaker broke down cost of the \$500,000 debenture as it pertains to individual residents. He explained that, over 20 years, property evaluated at \$1,000 on the assessment roll would pay an annual sum of \$12.82 per year.

Reeve Bill Adsett pointed out that the idea of the project was not a new one. Several years ago the idea had been proposed of a centre where there was an ice centre for kids to skate and a place where senior citizens can

meet. Above all, a place where young people can gather respectably and also a place for a dance without going overboard. "The idea came first and the Lions were the vehicle," said the reeve.

Lions went ahead

He told those present that it could have been any club which started the project but it was the Lions who wanted to go ahead. He said that before it was started the Lions approached council and presented their program. "Subsequent councils did not discontinue them from starting in," he said. "Lions have now found the site, they have put in footings, foundations, and now next thing is a package which 30-odd Lions cannot put into completion."

Refrigeration, insulation and plumbing facilities were all discussed to the floor with members of the steering committee or the project organizing committee of the Lions, answering.

Len Hockey, hydro manager and clerk of the village, asked, "Why couldn't the Lions go ahead with their own project on their own steam?"

"Initially we had hoped that something like this tonight would have come about sooner," said Hans Woellmer. "Instead time just passed by and we went ahead, thinking that by adding a little incentive we could get it moving faster." He said the Lions could have finished it by themselves but it would take ten or 15 years.

"You'll be lucky if you get away with it costing \$1 million, before you're through," said John Turner of Eden Mills. He questioned the cost and said, "If you're talking \$500,000 now as cost of building the arena and community centre and maintaining it for one year, you'll be lucky if you get away with it."

Rodney Bell of Eden Mills said he was confused. "I would like to hear the reeve relate costs of the average householder—how much would our taxes go up percentage-wise?"

Reeve Adsett pointed out that on an assessment of \$1,000 over a ten year period the householder would pay \$17.80. If the house were assessed at three times that much the cost will be three times the \$17.80 per year for ten years. Based on the entire



A GALAXY of colour at Rockmosa Park, Rockwood, Sunday evening. Sponsored by the Lions Club, the display got underway at 9.30 and lasted an hour.

population of the township over a ten year period it will cost \$81,373 per year, over 15 years, \$65,737 and over 20, \$58,730 per year.

Mr. Bell asked if the figures could be related as to how costs will affect the township?

Councillor David Masson said the amount was based on total revenue of \$528,000 for tax collection of which 20 percent stays in township. "Seventy-two percent comes from township; 22 percent comes from police village of Rockwood and 5 percent comes from Eden Mills," said Mr. Masson.

Lots of questions

Ray Law of the Colonial Hotel said there were lots of questions asked. "Nobody seems to know what is what. Should be published what expenses are going to be," he said.

"Everything is going up proportionately. Obviously we must arrive at economics as they prevail at the time," said Hans Woellmer. He pointed out that all figures printed are current rates as April 9, 1975.

"That price quoted is to hold good for 60 days," said chairman Clark.

Earl Osborne, a resident outside the village said, "It would appear to me that in most places people's endeavor in life is to own a home or a farm. It would appear to me that an endeavor of this magnitude should be taken over a longer period than ten years." He said he doubted if very many houses are purchased over ten years.

During the meeting Harry Bonner made several references to the arena complex at St. Georges. "Why are you always talking about St. Georges," said one questioning resident?

Mr. Bonner pointed out that St. Georges was the one which related most to the area of the one proposed. "It was the one recommended by Bill Hewson, director of Community Programs Branch," he said. He said that of the 47 arenas covered 90 percent operated in black. He explained that St. Georges is a village about the size of Rockwood near Brantford which is the same size as Guelph. He said the complex will also be about the same size.

Questions

Questionnaires had been put out. Of the 95 people present at the meeting, 70 returned theirs. Of the 70 returned 20 were definitely negative; nine others asked for a plebiscite only; 28 checked off as

being in favor of the entire project to be added to taxes; three others wanted the project; five wanted a plebiscite; five others wanted the centre only without a plebiscite.

One man made comments on his sheet: "Time was really too short to get all figures settled. With 4,000 people in township, 100 in meeting and about the same next meeting, this amount certainly does not represent majority!"

"No, no, no. Rockwood needs water sewers so they couldn't afford this project," wrote another resident.

"I am in favor of the entire project being completed now. The social costs to the community will amount to a far greater sum than our immediate tax costs if we do not take steps to improve the community such as recreation activities for both young and aged. We cannot afford to let this opportunity fall. We must have this sport and cultural complex," wrote another.

In other questions, the water and sewer installation was referred to. "Water and sewage is more needed in Rockwood than a community centre," said one resident.

At one point Lions Club member and arena supporter, Harry Bonner was booed. Ben Hosking questioned how far kids in Eramosa have to go to get their recreation now. "Depends on where you live," said Mr. Bonner. He said that children who want to play minor hockey have to go to neighboring communities where taxpayers haven't been too tight to pay for the facilities to use. Heckling from the audience drew a prompted apology from the spokesman.

One resident said he felt the Lions had had a big vision. "They got a hole in the ground then found it was too much for them. So they turn to the taxpayers to bail them out," Barney Wilson of R.R. 1, Guelph said he had great respect for the Lions Club in general, but was having difficulty accepting this project.

Those attending the Thursday meeting seemed to be about fifty-fifty. Many wanted the complex with debenture costs on taxes, others

were dead set against it.

Earl Osborne, a well-known farmer in the community said he was very much in favor of the project. He said he has worked hard to get where he is, since he was 13 years old, that it takes him a lot of work to pay his taxes and his debts wanting to volunteer assistance would be welcome to do so. He said, that to have such a complex in the community he wouldn't mind working just that much harder to raise the little more money required on his tax bill. "I'm willing to do this so that kids in Eramosa can invite those from other areas to come in and use their rink instead of begging and asking if they can use theirs."

Mr. Osborne said, "I feel in the very near future we're going to be squeezed out. As a resident I'm willing to take on this project." He felt the 50 percent rebate he'd be getting back as a farmer was an extra incentive.

Betty Eastwood of Rockwood asked, "Did I understand the decision will be made this year? I would like to know."

Mrs. Eastwood said, "From the tone of this meeting there is an overwhelming doubt from the majority of the people present. I hope this is listened to."

Views exchanged

After meeting coffee was provided. Residents mingled and discussed views on the complex. Many of those who had been loudly vocal felt it should not be imposed on taxes. "I would rather it come from public donation," said one lady who had suggested earlier that a lottery in the township should be held to build up funds for the centre. Other residents wondered if it could be afforded with water and sewer installations on the horizon.

"I would be glad to donate, but I'll leave the township if it's imposed on me without a plebiscite," said one man who requested he wouldn't be named.

Betty Marshall of Eden Mills said she approved of the complex but that it shouldn't be on the taxes. She favors a plebiscite.

Reeve Bill Adsett reiterated his statement of the Wednesday meeting. He reminded those present that the idea

Religious education for district children

Rockwood and district children will have more than one opportunity to continue their religious education this summer. At a meeting held two weeks ago, a steering committee discussed possibilities of holding Bible Vacation classes. It was decided the United church hall will be headquarters for the five-day school with the possible date set for sometime in August.

Ellen Thomson of Christie St. will be director of the bible school program. She will be assisted by Siska Drijber of Mary St. who, with her specialized training in Child Evangelism, will have knowledge of the Evangelism materials to be used. The two

ladies intend to hold another meeting later in May. They hope interested members of the community will attend and possibly decide to assist if needed.

Earlier in the summer, from dates of Monday, July 21 to 25 inclusive community Evangelism programs will be held. Under the C.E.T. Mrs. Drijber will direct, assisted by two teenage young people who have taken training in Toronto. According to the teacher, village children are fortunate in having teachers working in Rockwood. Ages will range from five to 12 years. The lady in charge of locating summer missionaries in the Guelph area, Mrs.

Drijber says that usually small communities are not supplied with teachers. She explains that, under the Evangelism program, the whole spirit of the classes will be lively and exciting for about one to two hours a day. "Mostly they will be held outdoors in backyards, parks and garden areas," she points out. "If it rains they will be held in garages or rec rooms depending on willingness of residents to host the groups."

Will be casual

The teacher hopes the classes will be casual as possible. She outlines the program as one using Hannelgraph boards, singing lively songs and playing bible games. She points out that leaders are trained specially in the art of story-telling which proves intriguing to young listeners.

Although both the Child Evangelism and the Vacation Bible School will be free of charge, collections received from either program will be used for work in missions.

"Damned nonsense"

Halton Regional Treasurer Don Farmer set himself up as a target for angry councillors Wednesday morning when he urged the region's administration committee to make a decision on how to assess sewage charges in the region.

Farmer recommended that the chargeback system be dropped in favor of an equalized assessment system. The latter would see all ratepayers in the region paying into the regional pot for sewers and projects in the region would be paid from it.

Under the current system each sewer project is charged back to the municipality in which it takes place. He indicated "Bill 173 made it logical for the region to

switch to the equalized assessment method of charging.

The committee endorsed a resolution by Councillor Carl

WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-PEEL
LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

Nominating Convention

TUESDAY, JUNE 3rd

ERIN and DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
(Daniel St. - Erin)

- ★ REGISTRATION: - 7:00 p.m.
 - ★ MEETING: - 8:00 p.m.
 - ★ SPEAKER: - Jim Breithaupt M.P.P.
(House Leader)
- New Voting Membership Must Be Purchased By May 31st - 8:00 P.M.
Contact Virginia Kennedy
(519) 833-9991 or 833-9175

GUARDIAN DRUGS GREAT BUYS EFFECTIVE UNTIL MAY 31st

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TWIN-PACK 54¢	\$2.44	12's 79¢

	JOHNSON'S BABY POWDER Allergy safe for even the most sensitive skin 14 oz. Size \$1.07	
	BABY OIL ...and it's excellent for adult's skin care, too! 8.8 oz. Size \$1.27	

 ARRID ANTI-PERSPIRANT 40% MORE 12.6 oz. for the price of 9 oz. \$1.69	 GRAVOL TABLETS For the Prevention of Travel Sickness 25's \$2.19
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"Ungarbage Ontario"

"Time is running out—Ungarbage Ontario" is the message on pamphlets being distributed throughout Halton Region by the Garbage Coalition, representing 59 groups across Ontario.

Elementary school children in Georgetown, Acton and Milton are to bring them home during the week of May 20 to 23.

The pamphlet points out the solution to the garbage problems facing Halton is to reject, reuse and recycle.

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