

Our readers write

Taxpayer discusses Rockmosa centre

Box 1  
Rockwood, Ontario  
May 22, 1975

Recently two public meetings were held in Eramosa township in regard to the presentation of a report of the Rockmosa sports centre steering committee. Each report was followed by an exchange of ideas and suggestions of both ratepayers and interested citizens.

The construction cost of the facility and operations cost, in addition to method of financing received copious consideration and comment. Beyond question, careful analysis of financing must be examined by all ratepayers of our township.

In addition to the question of financing are the important questions of need or luxury, immediacy, and order of priorities that have to be weighed in direct proportion as we analyze the total proposition, hence arrive at any constructive and valid decision.

Regarding the notion that a "Sports Centre" might be in the realm of luxury, non-essential, or low priority, it might be well to recognize that many, many municipalities in Ontario of our size and smaller have had these facilities for a goodly number of years. The concept is not entirely new. These municipalities did not consider a sports complex anything but essential, and strove, when construction costs were somewhat less inflated, to furnish their citizens with such necessary facilities that their residents have enjoyed. Needless to say, the construction cost will become more inflated as the years go by, unless current trends subside or reverse.

In attempting to assess the need for such a complex, one can visualize a potential of somewhat in excess of fifteen hundred children and young people who could utilize the ice rink for free skating, skating school, hockey, hockey school, figure skating and so on. While members of the adult population may wish to participate in figure skating, free skating and hockey, other citizens may very well wish to set up curling activities which could very likely be carried out on the same ice surface.

As far as the Community Centre portion is concerned a multiplicity of age groups could be served since the large upper floor could serve as an area for dancing, bingo, card parties, banquets etc. At the present time it is questionable as to whether there is a facility in this municipality large enough to support veritable profit-making activities.

From time-to-time, we hear comments which condemn our young people of this era. Surely some young people have gone astray, but in what era was that not the case? Young people of this time period are much more capable of assuming meaningful responsibility and indeed do in the main; and, of carrying out a leadership role, than ever before as far as I can ascertain, from a direct relationship with young people for approximately twenty years.

What they do need are meaningful opportunities to apply their leadership skills in the various facets that a Sports Centre would provide e.g. coaching hockey teams, assisting with figure skating, skating school, hockey etc.

On the other hand there are young people who require constructive activity to "burn up" some of the excess energy and frustration. As we all know, "Boredom be-

gets trouble." If we could prevent one youngster from involving himself, herself with serious trouble, the price of the facility, in human terms, would be worthy of serious consideration.

It is probably doubtful that many envisioning residents seriously doubt the real need for the proposed facility.

At the present time, many residents of this municipality obtain the services provided by an arena from adjacent municipalities. Many more do not have the opportunity, mainly due to the lack of regular transportation. Regardless, it would appear that in due course, adjacent municipalities may consider one or both of the following:

- 1) To assess the actual per capita cost for facility use or
- 2) Refuse registration from non-residents due to unavailable space in their facilities.

In either case a hardship would be imposed.

The question of profit and loss seemed to be bantered about. It would be commendable if a Sports Centre could generate self-sufficient funds to cover both operating costs and capital costs. However, even as a business venture that would be somewhat naively optimistic. To place the operation strictly on a business basis rather than a service basis would necessitate the setting of registration fees, ice time charges so high that the facility would be out of financial reach of so many activities.

Not unlike hospitals, schools, firefighting services, and roads that are designed to serve, recreational facilities are essential services for a municipality. By their very nature and function, it is almost impossible for services to be able to absorb their own capital costs. If they can, it is probable that they are somewhat removed from the realm of services. The same axiom applies to the proposed "Sports Centre" when we consider the relationship of financing and, particularly, capital costs; where it would take public funding to support the recurring capital costs of the facility, until the capital costs are amortized. A Sports Centre will be of little use, and indeed not a service, if it does not serve the people it was designed to serve, namely the residents of our municipality.

Let there be no reluctance to question the cost factor in material terms, but let us be equally prepared to count the cost in human terms while we analyze the need and the order of priorities; recognizing that we may not always be able to use the facilities of neighboring municipalities at such reasonable rates that many currently enjoy.

Hopefully, each resident of our municipality will give the matter of a Sports Centre careful consideration and respond to his, her local municipal legislator according to his, her personal view. The undersigned, as was expressed by many at the public meetings and in private conversations, is prepared to work hard, and pay at least his share to help bring a "Sports Centre" to Eramosa township. Let us analyze the proposal from the standpoint of our capacity to finance as well as our veritable need.

G. E. McRae  
Ratepayer and Resident,  
Eramosa Township.



AWARDS WERE THE highlights of last Friday night's bowling banquet and dance for the Rockwood bowlers. Runner-up trophy was presented to team of John Carney, Diana Carney, Danny and Lorraine Renaud, and Nancy Ferguson. The Carney team was also the play-off champs and received a second trophy. Not present is Bob Lillef.



T. D. McCUTCHEON of Everton received a special award at the Rockwood Bowling banquet last Friday night. At 87 he is the oldest participating bowler on the local team with regular attendance. He is congratulated by president Tony Stokman.

Activity days

Approval has been given by the W.C.B.E. for ten elementary professional activity days for the term 1975-76.

These days will be as follows: Sept. 26, for class school organization evaluation of diagnostic tests established during individual programs; Oct. 27, county-wide professional development day (K-13)—curriculum planning and workshop; Nov. 28 and Jan. 30, in-service programs; Feb. 23, student program evaluation; June 7, student evaluation; June 28, 29 and 30, preparation for new school year—school-class organization and curriculum planning.

In addition to days mentioned, one day will be allowed in one-quarter days, by families of school for parent interviews in conjunction with transportation arrangements.

The Acton Free Press, Wed., May 28, 1975 B9

Terra Cotta

There is no swimming at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area yet as work is still progressing on the new swimming pool but it is hoped swimming will be available sometime in July. Camping is in full swing and the Conservation Authority suggests reservations are the best way to guarantee a good campsite on a busy weekend.

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Guide and Brownie News

by Ann Chesworth

1st Eden Mills Guides In keeping with the lovely weather, we have been practicing our outdoor cooking with regular campfires and the very popular tin-can stoves.

A nature scavenger hunt with such clues as "a dog's call" (bark) and "an ice-cream container" (cone) were puzzled over, and woodcraft trail signs were learned when seven Brownies from the 1st pack and six Brownies from the 2nd pack joined the Guides one evening.

Girls who intend to work on their gardener badge this summer had their soil tested. They learned about different soils and their growing capabilities from Dr. Ward Chesworth of the Department of Land Resource Science at the University of Guelph.

Enjoyed festival

Congratulations were accorded to Sandi Gilbertson and Kathy Van Rhijn who walked 14 miles along the Guelph trail one hot Sunday, while Captain Anne Chesworth, Sharon Vos, Sylvia Schelke and Della Chesworth enjoyed the orienteering festival at Blue Springs scout preserve. Bill Petrie of Everton

braved the black fly and showed the Guides how to erect their own flag pole, working in a few knots like the timberline hitch, along the way.

Several girls went with Captain Anne, to hear the History of Astronomy and do some star-gazing from the university observatory.

Bob Love and other teachers from Rockwood Centennial school have been helping some of our Guides with such badges as keep fit, naturalist, ecology and public speaking.

Everyone is looking forward to the camping season ahead. Our Guides will participate in camps planned at Corwin, Keewaydin and Owen Sound, attempting to keep up with the 1975 national theme Guiding on the Move.

1st Eden Mills Brownies

A meeting was held with Brownies and their mothers, to discuss the forthcoming pack holiday at Camp Corwin. Many plans were made and Brown Owl Mrs. Anna Jackson was delighted at the enthusiastic response. Best wishes go to Mrs. Ann Vos, Tawny Owl, who is in Guelph General Hospital with a back problem.

Ministry reveals findings some Rockwood wells

Eramosa council was disappointed last Monday night. A letter received from Everett Biggs, deputy minister of environment was read, giving results of a survey conducted by the ministry, on the wells in Rockwood.

Members of township council and the Rockwood trustee board had met with Mr. Biggs in Toronto last October. It had been understood at that time that a testing of all wells in the village would be completed. Mr. Biggs' letter said that 134 wells were sampled. Of those tested, 22 proved to be contaminated. "Four rather seriously."

The deputy-minister pointed out that 1974 construction costs for the sewage and water project were \$3,470,000 but that, allowing for inflation on construction and equipment, 1975 costs would be \$4 million. He said, "We have not carried out surveys on the septic tanks, but we understand that there is no surface sewage ponding and, in general, the septic tanks function satisfactorily."

Not all tested In discussion, council was concerned that only a portion of the wells in the village had been tested. "We asked for a complete survey and that's what we thought we were getting," said reeve Bill Adsett. The reeve felt that, like all other surveys conducted, only a partial one had been done. "They've tested what you might call the hard core danger area, and that's all." Council felt wells of the same

areas of the village as checked earlier were ones tested. Council had written to Mr. Biggs in April, requesting information about the project. In answering, the deputy minister said, "To improve the quality of the water supply from the contaminated wells a treatment unit which is easily installed at the tap may be used. As these units are of sufficient size they would provide enough potable water for domestic use."

Aquarobic approved Mr. Biggs wrote, "If any problem should arise, the Ministry has approved the use of Aquarobic treatment

units which may be installed for each individual dwelling."

The clerk was instructed to send the Rockwood trustees a copy of the letter from the ministry and request their comments. The clerk was also requested to find out from the ministry of environment, the results of their survey on the wells, cost of chlorinators and of the Aquarobic system.

The Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit has said they will be doing a survey of wells in the village very soon. Eramosa council has requested that both wells and septic systems be the object of the survey.

**UNTIL SUNDAY JUNE 1st.**  
Sentenced to 28 years in prison for a crime he never committed. Only two things can get him out - A lot of money and Charles Bronson!



**PLUS 2nd ACTION PACKED HIT**  
THESE ARE THE REVENGERS!  
Children 12 & under Free  
Opens at 8:00 Starts at Dusk

Authorize modified studies

Halt Regional Council approved plans by the Planning Committee to spend \$83,000 on what is basically an in-house transportation study Wednesday.

Council rejected plans to have a consultant conduct a more elaborate study at a meeting two weeks earlier.

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