

Council and trustees meet to act on report

Roy Hillis, chief inspector of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit, admitted to Eramosa township council Monday night that one of the greatest causes of pollution in the village of Rockwood is due to negligence of non-resident landlords. "Many tenants are living in buildings beyond their control," he said. The point was made when Dr. B. T. Dale and the inspector met with council to present findings of the recent survey conducted on septic and water systems in the village of Rockwood. Members of the Rockwood board of trustees were also present to ask questions.

In his report Dr. Dale said the survey which was recently completed had included each premises in the village and, wherever possible, the owner was interviewed. He gave a rundown on problem areas.

Most problems
According to the study most problems are on Main St. south of the C.N.R. tracks, and on Harris St. Many of the lots along these streets do not have the required five-foot depth of soil over bedrock, so fecal matter is going directly into the bedrock.

Two holding tanks in the village are not being pumped as required and, during the course of the survey it was found two households were discovered to be installing new septic tanks and/or septic beds without certification of approval from the Health Unit office.

Dr. Dale said that of 270 homes visited, drinking water in 29 percent of total was unsatisfactory. Seven septic systems were obviously polluting with 30 too close to bedrock or water table, six too close to watercourse and 18 were inadequate systems (undersized and poorly constructed).

Councillor Masson asked: "Of the septic tanks obviously polluting and 18 poorly con-

structed, what are we doing about them?"

Dr. Dale: "When you have such gross contamination the solution is to do something on a municipal level."

Councillor Masson felt the best solution is to get people responsible to clean up their own septic systems and the water will clean itself up.

"You must remember, Mr. Masson, that Rockwood is on the rocks. We have had examples of pollution some miles away through crevices in rocks," Dr. Dale said that a temporary solution is not enough. He blamed part of the problem on undersized lots where proper septic beds had not been installed.

Deputy-reeve Clark asked how many small lots in the village are inadequate. The M.O.H. said that most with inadequate systems don't have enough room, and yet many have a family living there with an apartment in the building as well.

"How was this allowed?" questioned the deputy-reeve. "We don't control building in the village," said Mr. Hillis.

Complaints
Mrs. Clark said she'd received several complaints about how the survey was conducted. She gave an instance where the man making the tests put his finger up in the tap then promptly filled the test bottle before allowing the two-minute time period of water running, as recommended on the label of the test bottle.

She said that, in another case, three samples were taken from three different homes where all water was coming from the same well. "Only one test showed pollution when it was returned," she said. Another incident cited was when a lady received a report of a seriously contaminated well but, when taking the water herself and having it analysed, there is no problem. Mr. Hillis said he

couldn't understand that. Dr. Dale told council people are apprehensive about the particular type of surveys conducted. He said that, in comparison to the number of wells showing problems in 1972, there had been an increase from about 40 to 78. "It's getting worse. All we can do is make recommendations and offer directives." He pointed out that, if council decides to take a different route he will do his utmost to assist people with polluted wells.

Building inspection
The M.O.H. seems to feel there are inadequacies in the efficiency of building inspection. He referred to two apartments built for which two permits were requested for septic system installations. "There are now four apartments there," he said.

Dr. Dale indicated there should be a closer rein on building in the area with the Health Unit advised before each permit is issued.

Trustee Pat Smith challenged Dr. Dale. He said he had read many articles he had written and each supported community water and sewage systems. "Why?" he asked.

"Because it's the safest method," said the M.O.H. He reiterated several times that, in the final analysis, it will be necessary to install a municipal system. "If you want to see your village grow and develop, such a system is a must," he pointed out.

Trustee Smith said he could not see the feasibility of installing a \$4 million system to fit the needs of only a small area of the population. He felt that there should be a more economic way that would fit the pocket book of the community and yet solve the problem as adequately as the one proposed.

Two alternatives
Chairman of the trustee board, Allan Osborne said that apparently there are two alternatives, municipal services or finding some other method. He felt there was no way a community the size of Rockwood could finance such a service. He wondered if it wouldn't be more feasible to put in temporary septic systems and every so many years, pull them out and replace them. "We're talking about 40 or 50 septic systems." He said the cost wouldn't come near the \$4 million system being considered.

Dr. Dale told the council that, if people's wells are polluting their own water it's up to them but if it involves polluting neighbors' wells then the Health Unit can take them



CHILDREN WERE DELIGHTED to watch the antics and hear the singing of Jim Gordon and David Archibald as they played folk music on the guitar and banjo at Saturday's garden party on the St. John's greens. They combined talents for a performance of Canadian, Irish, American and French Canadian songs.

to court and fines will be imposed depending on the judge's decision. "If the people's systems are polluting neighbors' wells, we'll try to educate them," said Dr. Dale.

Final decision
The final decision was left to the council and trustees. "I present this report to you people and leave you to make up your own minds," said Dr. Dale. Council felt the report should be handled by the Rockwood village trustees. It was decided that a combined meeting should be held where both township and village councils sit down to make decisions together. A meeting date was set for Monday, July 14 at 8 p.m. at the Rockwood town hall. The building inspector will also be present.

A motion was made by Eramosa council requesting that the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Dale, have the property owners of holding tanks enter into a pumping agreement with a pumper, which is satisfactory to the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit. The motion was passed.

Strike?

Workers at de Havilland Aircraft, many of whom live in Halton Hills, voted 93 per cent in favor of a strike Sunday if negotiators can't come to an agreement.

The 1,600 workers decided not to strike until all bargaining efforts have been exhausted.

The United Auto Workers union members debated for some time Sunday if they should go on strike on Monday or wait until negotiations are no longer getting anywhere. The workers ended up supporting the bargaining team's suggestion that the idea was to get an acceptable agreement and that no deadline for a strike should be set.

Large number attend Saturday garden party

Over 200 people attended the second annual garden party held on the grounds of St. John's Anglican church, Saturday night. Talent from near and far was the main course of the festive event; heaping dishes of strawberries and ice cream were the topping.

Singers, Scottish dancers, guitarists, banjo and accordion players from seniors to youngsters, combined abilities to fill a worthwhile two-hour program of song, music and recitation.

Backbone of the entertainment was provided by members of the Sunshine Club including such well-knowns as Bert Davidson of Acton, Vic Smith and Henry Leachman of Rockwood; president, Mrs. Will Black and Mrs. Max Milne of the village. Club members played together with mouth organs, fiddles and violins. Mr. Davidson contributed his special talents with a rigged-up wash tub and finished up with a moderated version of a clog dance. Mrs. Milne gave two recitations which drew loud applause.

Folk singers enjoyed
Hit of the evening was the twosome of Jim Gordon and David Archibald, two young Rockwood folk singers who delighted the audience with fun songs and sing-alongs. A family group from Guelph, Anna Marie Lake and her brothers, James and Greg entertained in special medleys on an accordion and guitars.

Rob and Blair Sinclair were popular well-knowns who warmed up their audience with folk songs. Two little Acton girls, Tammy and Sandy Hunter skilfully twirled batons to music. Judy Brain was a talented Scottish dancer who pleased the crowd with a sword dance and then teamed up with two other clever dancers, Alison and Caroline Hendy. Keith Black sang Handel's 'Where'er You Walk'. He followed with a duet accom-

panied by his mother, Mrs. W. Black. They sang Lullaby Time. Larry Logan of Rockwood sang several blues numbers.

Like repeats
Of the large crowd attending, several people were campers staying at the conservation park; others were out-of-town guests of village friends. Many said they'd like to see similar concerts held every Friday evening.

The ladies of St. John's were organizers of the event. Mrs. Betty Jones and Mrs. Betty Eason were two main planners; Sandy Hudson, with the co-operation of his family, was in charge of the grounds. The man who made the evening's acoustics possible was Don Gordon who set up all stage facilities. Mrs. Ivy Ritchie was another worker who contributed time and provided the hay-wagon-stage.

Although garden party receipts were not high, organizers were pleased. They felt it had been a successful community activity

Broken window investigated

An investigation by the Guelph O.P.P. proved nothing Saturday morning when they attempted to find cause of breakage of a large front window of the Root Hardware Village Gift Shop, located on Main St., Rockwood.

An upstairs resident of the building, Melvin Kingsbury, said he'd heard no smashing of glass. He said that about 4 a.m. he heard the loud noise of motorcycles taking off very fast and that was all.

In the morning the broken window was discovered with the shattered pane still intact. Nothing had been stolen from inside the store. Greatest loss of the incident was that the broken window was of bevelled glass found only in very old homes. It has been replaced with new glass and actual cause has not been discovered.

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ANN MARIE, James and Greg Lake played medleys at Saturday's strawberry garden party held at St. John's church bowling greens.



JUDY BRAIN did a leap in the Scottish dance Seann Triubhas on the stage at the garden party in Rockwood Saturday night.



PERKY LITTLE baton twirlers at Saturday's garden party were the two Hunter sisters of Acton, Sandy, 8, and Tammy, 10.

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