Sewer, water decision to come says Reeve Adsett

problems, first introduced in 1966, became a contentious Issue in 1972. They were once again rehashed at Monday's special meeting of the Rockwood Board of Trustees and members of the Eramosa township council. The trustees called the meeting so the two bodies could sit together and constructively consider the best way of dealing with the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit's latest findings based on the recently conducted village survey.

Besides council and trustee board members, 30 village residents were present. They had understood it was to be an open meeting for the public and were anxious to learn what was to be done about reported problems. With long-time village residents were several new faces. Three men said Monday's session was their first council meeting. During an open discussion when taxpayers had an opportunity to air their views on why water and sewers should or should not be installed in the village, it was like a review of similar meetings held back in 1972. Many of the same old arguments were raised all

over again. "Our intention was to have a joint meeting with township council to decide what the trustees feel about what should be done about water and sewers in the village,' were opening remarks of the chairman, Allan Osborne. He said the meeting was not to have been a public one but that, as so many residents were present, the trustees would proceed with the same format decided on earlier.

Proposal

Osborne listed recommendations the trustees had drawn up: 1, that all findings of the latest inspection by the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit be made available to council and trustees; 2, that each owner and occupant on the survey be made aware of their problems good or bad; 3, that all faulty water or septic systems be corrected on an individual basis by their owners: 4, that owners of faulty systems be approached by Health Unit representatives or trustees, with help and advice offered; 5, that a time limit be set for faulty systems being brought up to required standards; 6, if a system is not corrected within the time limit then an order will be issued by the Health Unit to have It corrected; 7, that Ministry of Housing loans or grants be made available through township council, to assist people in updating their systems; 8, that a by-law be passed by the township if it is not already existing, to conform with Ministry of Housing standards. Mr. Osborne explained to council that the Ministry offers an Ontario Home Renewal program to help in updating existing facilities. He said the Ontario government requires Responsibilities law concerning the standard

of housing. The chairman broke down each point of the proposal. He was informed by Reeve Adsett that findings will be available to every individual as discovered by the Health Unit with each property owner getting a copy of the notice. The Reeve said that definite polluters will be notified individually and substandard systems sought out.

Including people with nothing wrong?" asked chairman Osborne. The trustees felt it was only good public relations that everyone should get a notice; that all 270 households should be advised of wells and septic conditions.

Dealing with the No. 4 request that faulty water or septic systems should be 'corrected on an individual basis by their owners, Mr. Osborne said that for the last the amount of \$376 per housesix years the matter has been one of dollars. He said a vices including frontage number of new septic charges. He said it was hard systems would not cost the \$4 to admit that when costs were and water system. The trustees felt that, from an bit. "However, I voted for the economic standpoint, in- thing knowing that it is the

Rockwood's pollution dividuals can repair their problem systems with the Home Renewal Plan.

included in the proposal was the suggestion that a committee should be appointed which would act as a liaison between the trustee board and people having problem facilities. "This committee's job will be to assess systems they find faulty, as well as give assistance and set time limits on an individual basis, depending on the amount of the problem, and people's ability to fix it," said Mr. Osborne.

Mr. Osborne said the committee would establish a time limit which will have been the Health Unit's time to get it done. "A time limit in which to fix it up," he explained and said that if the limit is not adhered to then it will be up to the Health Unit to follow through. "This is rather than asking the Health Unit to come in. The committee will offer assistance and advice. If it doesn't work then enforcement by the Health Unit will be required."

The trustees do not envision every home owner requiring assistance. It is only provided for those with an income of less than \$12,500 maximum. "Do you feel we need additional money for people above that bracket?" questioned the chairman. It land."Okay, the fellow gets a was felt there was no point in lot off that bit, that's gone trying to solve that problem until it was known who needed assistance. Trustees felt that once polluters have been determined and to what extent, then decisions could

Reeve Bill Adsett answered the trustees' proposal. "I think we should come through and comment on that," he said. He covered all requests, saying findings will be available to council and to trustees and all property owners will be made aware. The Reeve said he believed that Dr. Dale of the Health Unit had made a very favorable report and that it is his responsibility to see that water is helped and sewers available in the village. "It's his job I think," said the reeve. "I think he is prepared to see to it."

if faulty systems are not corrected within a time limit an order will be issued by the Health Unit to have it corrected. "It is not within our jurisdiction either as trustees, council or inspector to enforce. The responsibility is the Health Unit's to order,' he said. Reeve Adsett said the Health Unit will be setting stringent time limits. "Two or three owners of holding tanks have been approached already," he said.

"I'm not crazy about the point, but I must explain that the Reeve of this municipality is placed in an extremely awkward position. I knew that, sometime further or later a reeve was going to have to face this issue. It's here now," he said, explaining that the decision will have to be made within a few days.

"If we go along with the proposal of clearing up the situations individually and not municipally, it will be those of us here tonight, the elected officials' responsibility. With 78 unsatisfactory wells, we could well be inflicting what we will be inflicting, on those people with bad wells." The Reeve said that

alternative systems come at \$3,500 which is approximately \$21 and some a month. "Two hundred and forty dollars a year for a system which is not the answer. Not others' jurisdictions which we will be inflicting on these people; it will be ours." Reeve Adsett reminded council and trustees that the \$4 million expected cost when subsidized 75 percent by the provincial government would be \$1 million. He gave, as figures when tenders were last open, hold per year for both sermillion required for the sewer first revealed he thought the \$250 required then was quite a

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field Crop Competition

HAY

	22.5			
Howard Donnell	RR4	Rockwood	92	Points
Alex McNabb	RR4	Rockwood	81	Points
Duncan McPhedran	RR4	Rockwood	90%	Points
Mex Storey	RR4	Rockwood	88	Points
Keith Black	RR4	Rockwood	86	Points
Ken Stubbington	RRS	Acton	84	Points
Ken Murray	RAT	Acton	82%	Points
George Milne	RR2	Acton	82	Points
Frenk Anthony	RRI	Limehouse	81%	Points
Clarence Coles		200 March 200 Ma		
& Son .	RR2	Acton	81	Points
A.H. McPhedran				
& Son	RR4	Rockwood	80%	Points
Lloyd McEnery	RR1	-Limehouse	79%	Points
Russell Morrey		Acton	78	Points

latest report from the M.O.H. proposal, gentlemen!" was the opinion of an expert.

"I must take the opinion of an taken for another million dollar ride. He felt the costs represent more cost to the

The speaker said he was concerned about cost to those people who are going to be told to clean up. He sym-pathised with a fellow who has a single lot with ownership for the past ten years or more but cannot build on it. He said he was sorry for the fellow with three lots with a house on one and two lots available. "Or maybe he's had to use two lots to put his house on and he centred them," he said.

The plight of the farmer with limited severance rights was also presented by the reeve. He felt it was a sad state of affairs for the farmer severed from his entire farm whom he'd like to provide they were already paying There's two more children and there's still the farmer until he retires. "We'd like to see him retire in this local village, but how can he?" The Reeve spoke of estate-type lots that can be approved in any given year. "As far as I'm concerned, if we don't take action on water and sewers, our planning will have backed us into a corner and its a hypocritical corner for our blamed hyprocrisy."

"This is what I mean!" said the Reeve. "We have sald in effect. No, we're not going to have strip development in this county; we will direct people to the hamlets and villages. And what happens when we get them to the villages? Only two lots to build on if we can find such a one, and if they're available. The reeve pointed out that. He said that what is happening is what has happened for the last few years. He feels the farmers pick up and leave the Rockwood municipality and head for Guelph.

Fergus, and other directions. Not missing any area of projection the reeve touched on the important issue that only modified development be allowed in which people can be assimilated into the community. "As far as I'm concerned, with 100 houses a year, there is no way you can assimilate that number into this kind of community. The reeve said he was aware that development follows sewer lines. "However, I think that, if we can't plan our own municipality and do it gradually, then we don't deserve to have an orderly development here, and an assimilated population," he said.

"Let's review," sald the reeve. He felt with spiralling costs the amounts proposed for the system could be up some 25 or 30 percent over the original. "Okay, if it is that \$376 figure, which I hope it isn't as much as, that is \$365 for 365 days. A dollar a day. That's scarcely more than a pack of cigarettes to get good,

Reeve Adsett told those your sewage. He finished with present that in his opinion the a flourish, "That is my

When the reeve sat down he

was applauded loudly. Many expert and this is what they of those present were, themrecommend." He felt that if selves, developers in the there is any more dilly-dally- area. Anne Scharf of ing, the ratepayers will be Supreme Realty was present at the meeting. She had handed the reeve a petition are spiralling and all delays which she had taken to village residents asking if they did or did not want sewers and water. The petition contained 59 names in favor of sewers and water. Mrs. Scharf sald that many of those on the list were senior citizens who knew there was incredible cost involved but felt where there's a health hazard cost shouldn't be considered at ali.

Mrs. John O'Rourke gave her name as living on Harris St. She said she didn't know if the reeve is famillar with Harris St. "But there are an awful lot of senior citizens on that street. Now if I'd known there was a petition I could have gone out and gathered maybe 200 or 300 names against it." said Mrs. O'Rourke.

"The Reeve mentloned a pack of cigarettes a day. It's been a long time since we had with only one lot which can be a pack of cigarettes a day." Mrs. O'Rourke explained that and more than one child for \$365 a year on top of what

would be quite a load. "It interested in finding the most economic way to live in Rockany number of people on my street who can hardly make it now on what they're getting from the old age pension, let alone people who are on fixed incomes like my husband and

The Harris St. spokesman said that costs of installing a new septic system at her home recently wasn't any more than about \$500. She "But \$365 for old people on my street - they're going to find it pretty hard to face."

Questions of children getting car infection in the river, sore eyes and stomach pains were all discussed. Mrs. O'Rourke asked the chairman when was the last time the M.O.H. had reported cases of gastric enteritis, black fever or related cases. No such problems had been

wondered who pays medical expenses when kids get slek. Trustee Pat Smith said he would like to make a small observation on Mrs. O'-Rouke's remarks. "Partleularly in view of what's happened," he said. "I feel there is a stronger group afoot to nut in water and sewers than

wood." He suggested the motives in some instances are quite ulterior. "I don't think we're looking for the best and most economical system in all cases," he sald.

The Trustees are holding to their original proposal. Trustee Pat Smith said he stands behind the recommendations which he supsaid it didn't seem too bad. ported and trustees placed forward.

Time important

"I agree with Pat on the grounds that water and sewers in the village is too expensive and we still stand on our recommendations," said Allan Osborne, chairman of the Trustee Board, Mr. Osborne felt that time is of an essence and that it is important that an alternative be put into effect immediately to Mrs. Scharf said her child correct problems which have had been hospitalized from a serious bowel infection. She grown over the years due to lack of remedy. "If we go back now and ask for resurvey, it will run into a long project. The Ministry of Health is saying, do something now. We haven't time to

resurvey the whole system." Councillor David Masson said that Dr. Dale is a strong advocate of sewers and certainly there are people water. "However, I think he

is willing to go with us if we Varcoe pump out 45 gallon choose to go the other route."

said a few days ago Mr. Mc. stalled. Keough said a \$12 million dollars additional sum was being set aside for sewers and water installation. Lou Hilts felt it should be investigated. One resident, John

O'Rourke sald he'd lived in communities where sewers and water were installed. That was followed by blg hungry developers with polluted minds. He said there were more people with polluted minds than there are polluted wells.

He painted a picture of sewers and water followed closely by developers and then for sale signs of people who cannot afford to live in a community any more. Mr. O'Rourke blamed the Health Unit for the problem in the first place. "I've seen Mr.

systems," said the Harris St. A news report made by resident who feels the whole D'Arey McKeough was complexion of Rockwood will

barrels being used for septic made will, according to Reeve Adsett, be dealt with within a week. Those present at the meeting were told related by Reeve Adsett. He change if the system is in- they'd get information from their village trustees.

The Acton Free Press, Wed., July 16, 1975

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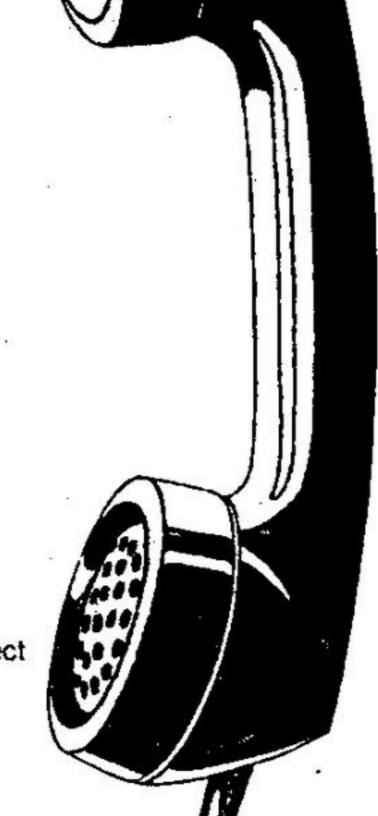


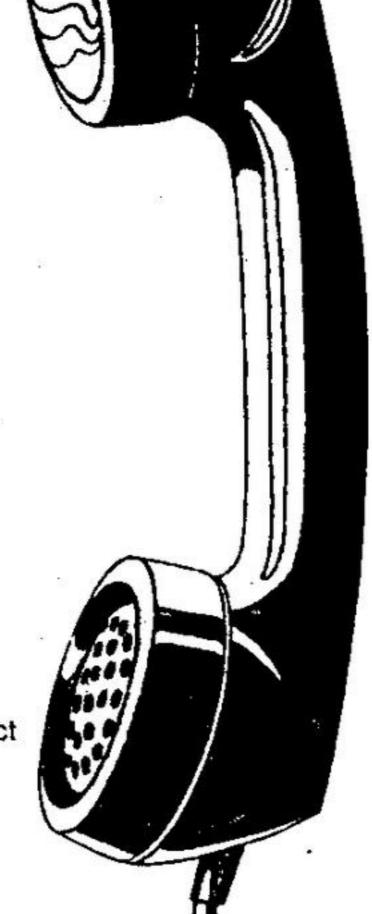
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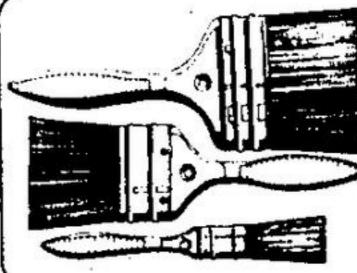
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