

# Building permits on top agenda

Eramosa township council granted a building permit, denied another and deferred two others during its final meeting of the year Dec. 15. Applications for building permits by Louis Hills and Peter and David Johnson of Rockwood Village were set aside until council gets legal advice and a report from the building inspector. Mr. Hills told council he had received an indication from a township employee that he'd get a building permit for lot 38 on Queen Street. Days later, however, he was denied a permit because council had passed a building bylaw in the interim. Council was asked by the village trustees to put a hold on building permits and lot severances which do not conform to current bylaws, until water and sewer services are operational. Individuals can appear before council for consideration. Council instructed the building inspector to contact the Wellington County Health Unit concerning Mr. Hills' application and then report. Legal advice is being sought by council concerning the permit application from the Johnson brothers. They approached the building inspector on the same day they got health unit approval for their project, they said to council. Market garden The green light was given to Alex Chan to build a 12-by-24 square foot garage and accompanying picnic shelter on a 20-acre lot north of Highway 24 on the 4th line. Mr. Chan, from Kitchener, told council he and four other families intend to market-garden part-time on the land. Mr. Chan, who may buy a 10-

acre lot across the road, told council he had no intention of building a house there for some time. "I want ultimately to have it as a place to retire," he said. Mr. Chan is to provide the building inspector with a letter stating he will build a single family house on the lot within three years. An application by Robert Baker of Guelph to build a log cabin on the 6th line, concession 5, lot 19, was turned down by council because the floor space is 130 square feet too small. Mr. Baker said he had an offer on the land on the condition he gets a building permit. Wellington County Health Unit had already

given the go-ahead. Deputy-reeve Betty Lou Clark said the planning board had been strong on keeping the minimum allowable square footage for buildings at 2,000. "I think council should be consistent," she said. Mr. Baker's cabin would have 1,804 square feet.

**MISTLETOE MAGIC**  
Ancient followers of the Druid religion were the first to regard mistletoe as a sacred plant. They supposed it to have panacea virtues in warding off everything from witches to disease. Each year, about the time Christmas is celebrated today, there was a ceremonial rite in which Druid priests, using a golden sickle, cut the mistletoe leaves from the "sacred oak" and distributed. The Saxons also valued this plant; they were the first to call it mistletoe. To them, mistletoe symbolized everlasting peace.



A GAME OF pegboard fascinates Chad Mance and his brother Sean, a visitor, at last week's group A Christmas party. Jeff Renaud is in background.

ANNE VOS, TEACHER at the Rockwood Co-operative Nursery School, sits among her students giving out presents. The group, consisting of mostly four-year-olds made presents for their parents and each brought a gift that was exchanged. Group B, consisting mostly of three-year-olds, had their party on Thursday. Parents and friends were invited.



TIME TO go home after an enjoyable morning with her friends at the Town Hall. Kirsten Alderson bundles up as the Nursery School Christmas Party draws to an end.



KIRSTEN ALDERSON watches intently as Cassie Mogelin carefully opens her Christmas present.



WOW! LOOK at that Christmas tree ... two future nursery school candidates watch with interest as moms Heidi, left, and Anne-Marie, right, enjoy festivities.

## Favors alternative system

The Editor:  
Rockwoodians have been sitting on a volcano; it erupts sporadically. Our volcano is named Water and Sewers; whenever it explodes the people are showered with information and rumors; but when it is silent folk assume the outburst is over, and that peace will reign. Claims and counter claims have hidden the past knowledge with layer upon layer of reports, statistics and surveys. Who remembers what has happened since the first shattering announcement? Wide coverage was given to the scheme by the Ratepayers Association—maps pinpointing the polluted wells revealed the spotty distribution and caused the villagers to realize only a few households were affected—other maps indicated the planners had missed some homes from the proposed scheme entirely; all this resulted in large attendance at frequent meetings. It was soon noted that the majority of the residents were opposed, especially the Senior Citizens on fixed incomes. Tempers exploded even beyond the village boundaries as home-owners downstream of the reported settling ponds feared their river properties would become defiled whenever a major storm or spring runoff overflowed the ponds. This fear was generated when it was discovered that the local GRCA park demanded that the effluent be spilled below its borders; this would place the dumping area in front of the riverside residents. Only an OMB meeting satisfied the outcries for attention. The high cost of the system resulted in a compromise solution; the project was to be restudied and the final cost could not exceed \$1.3 million. All was calm once again in our sleepy village; more people who liked our lifestyle moved in, unaware that a cloud hung over us; newlyweds built homes hoping the cloud would never break. This was a quiet hide-away from the city's struggles, and we approved. Responsible citizens updated their systems, grumbled at costs but were willing to sacrifice their individual ease for the community's good; cracked well-casings and old-fashioned metal septic tanks were replaced, water was checked; all seemed well once again. However, some householders wanted assistance for these repairs and the rumble became an eruption again, with renewed vigor. From this point on, the issue once more was debated pro and con, with feelings running high as each fought for his own way of life; some were distraught at the possibility of the village becoming a second Georgetown with rapid development, while others demanded just that change and disliked the slow pace here. Surveys and petitions, meetings and rumors followed in a surge, covering the township as well as the village. News reports flashed the strife to the province, and the issue of "right of choice of a lifestyle," opposed to "Progress" and imposition of change by superior administrations, erupted like thunder. After much ado, calm once again settled as a further compromise was suggested; this time home-owners would be asked to clean up their own systems, surveys would determine trouble spots and keep tabs on the cleanliness, by-laws would compel regular sanitary checkups and the whole would be organized and controlled for the safety of all the villagers' health. Consideration was also to be given to those who could not afford the repairs or main-

tenance. This sounded reasonable to all factions, and peace once more settled over all. The turmoil began once again when villagers heard of a petition being circulated purporting to show renewed support for a Water and Sewers project. At a heated meeting with council, another compromise resulted in a committee being given authority to make the decision. When the recommendation was in favor of W & S, the years the confusion and frustration surfaced, as villagers exploded in disbelief and dismay at the sudden change of expectations. Businessmen and speculators hurriedly congratulated themselves at the prospect of growth. Long-suffering residents sighed and lost faith once again in the rights of the individual, as opposed to "progress"; they changed their mind—set to accommodate the new proposals, and bitterly tried to forget their cherished ideal of quiet living. Blasting upset the streets while people were still trying to adjust to the new concept of their hamlet. Then even more ferment was added, when the TV news reported an injunction was asked, to stop the work! At the present time, residents feel completely confused, as costs are quoted from information gathered at a closed meeting, and these are so high that even though they know inflation would increase the cost somewhat, still the full impact had not been realized! Demands for alternate systems surfaced again hopefully from the many pensioners in the village (who were heartlessly told at one meeting to move elsewhere), also young-marrieds looked for other areas to live. These hearts leapt up in hope as Trustee Smith defended their rights. Dejected property holders counted up their yearly maintenance costs for safe water and emptying sewage tanks again, and measured these against the alleged costs of the new system. Mr. Smith's courageous action gave them confidence in politicians. What will happen next? Will the group in favor of continuing the work throw "good money after bad" in the belief that it is "too late to turn back"? Will we have to accept the huge costs forced upon us "to get the problem out of the way," or will we force a new solution? The present system of handling Water and Sewage is undergoing worldwide study. It is not the only way! Why not let Rockwood be the first in Ontario to try one of the alternate methods? Yours truly, Mrs. S. Drijber P.S. I know I speak for many who will not publicly speak out.

## Will winterize building foundation

Roads superintendent Bob Hamilton told Eramosa council steps to winterize the foundation of the Rockmosa Park building would be taken. "Weather permitting, it will be done," Mr. Hamilton

told council Dec. 15. Reeve Bill Adsett told council — "we were lucky the first year." Deputy-reeve Betty Lou Clark had expressed fears that water might seep into the

foundation, and with a quick freeze, cause cracks in the bricks. Deputy-reeve Clark moved a motion to have the sewer and water connections into the building covered.



**Warm Wishes for Christmas**  
Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fill your homes with lots of cheer. May this season be warm and jolly, for our friends and patrons dear.  
**BILL STUCKEY**  
Photography

**Holiday Greetings**

To all our friends and patrons... may your Christmas be merry and filled with delight! Thanks one and all.  
From Everyone at  
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**Harrop of Milton**

For your dining pleasure we serve  
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**CARNEY'S PLUMBING and HEATING**  
ROCKWOOD

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Let's cherish every joy-filled moment of the Christmas Season.  
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF  
**ROOT HOME CENTRE**  
666 WOOLWICH ST. GUELPH  
MAIN ST. ROCKWOOD

**for Christmas**

Wishing you the finest joys of a bright and happy Christmas... with much appreciation.  
**COUNTRY MART LTD.**  
R.R. 1, Acton 856-4712

**Season's Greetings**

May you and your loved ones share the contentment of "home for the holiday." Our thanks and best wishes at Christmas and throughout the New Year.  
Jack Holmes, Kris Larsen and Ernie Marks.  
**JACK HOLMES**  
REAL ESTATE

**Merry Christmas**

Delight fills our hearts, young and old alike, on Christmas morn. May the joy that illuminates your home remain with you all through the holiday.  
**SWANSTON FARM EQUIPMENT**  
Rockwood 856-9512