

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.

Favors alternative system

The Editor:

Rockwoodians have been sitting on a volcano; it crupts 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 pin-pointing 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 proposed 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 eff-luent be spilled below its borders; this would place the dumping area in front of the riverside residents.

Only an OMB meeting satisfied the out-cries 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 hideaway 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 septio 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 life-style", 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

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 viriagers exploded in disbelief and dismay at the sudden change of expectations. Businessmen and speculators hurriedly congratulated themselves at the prospect of

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 else-where), 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.



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.



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.

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Christmas

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MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

666 WOOLWICH ST. GUELPH

MAIN ST. ROCKWOOD

Will winterize building foundation told council Dec. 15. Roads superintendent Bob Reeve Bill Adsett told freeze, cause cracks in the

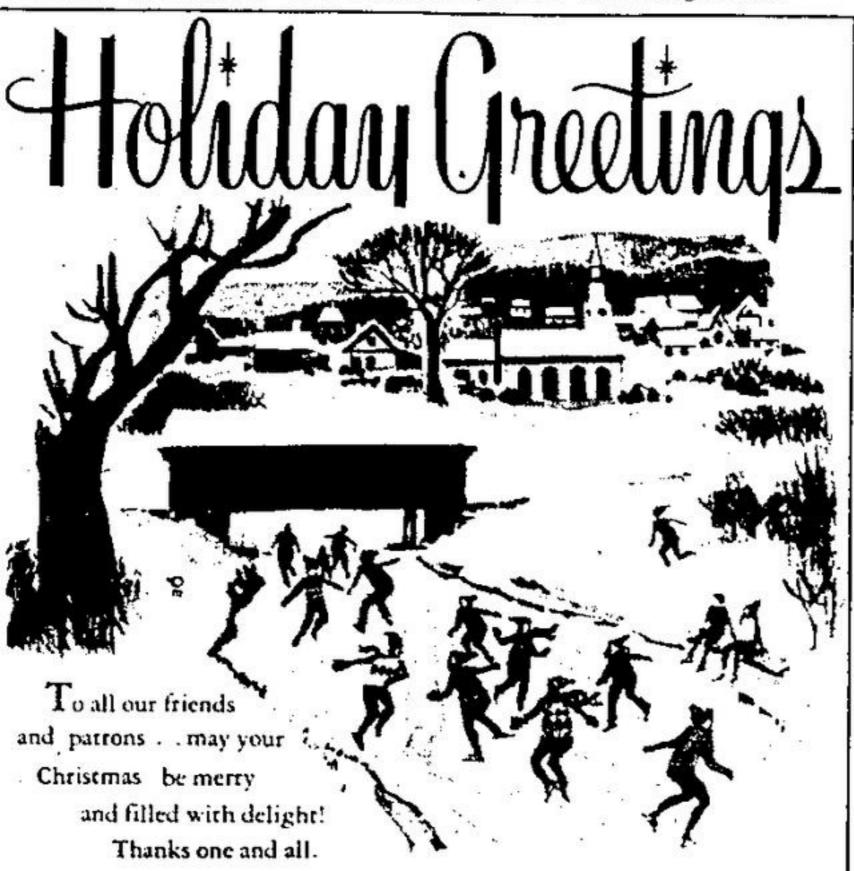
Hamilton told Eramosa council steps to winterize the foundation of the Rockmosa Park building would be taken. Weather permitting, it

will be done," Mr. Hamilton

council - "we were lucky the bricks.

first year."

Deputy-reeve Clark moved Deputy-reeve Betty Lou a motion to have the sewer Clark had expressed fears and water connections into that water might seep into the the building covered.



ACTON DELICATESSEN and CAFE

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 Hilts and Peter and David Johnson of Rockwood Village were set aside until council gets legal advice and a report from the building inspector.

Mr. Hilts 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 be-cause 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

appear before council for consideration. Council instructed the building inspector to contact

the Wellington County Health Unit concerning Mr. Hilts' 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 bulld a 12-by-24 square foot garage and accompanying plenic shelter on a 20-acre lot north of High-

way 24 on the 4th line. water and sewer services are garden part-time on the land. operational. Individuals can Mr. Chan, who may buy a 10-

Mr. Chan, from Kitchener, told council he and four other families intend to market-

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 to regard mistletoe as a

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

down by council because the floor space is 138 square feet Mr. Baker said he had an offer on the land on the con-

cabin on the 6th line, con-

cession 5, lot 19, was turned

dition he gets a building permit. Wellington County Health Unit had already lasting peace.

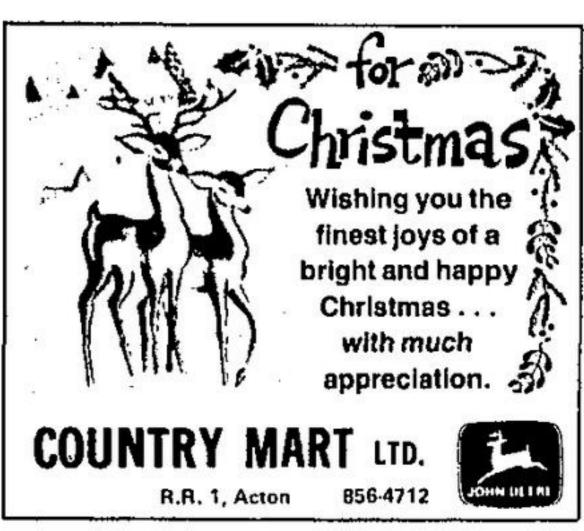
Deputy-reeve Betty Lou Clark said the planning board had been strong on keeping the minimum allowable square footage for buildings at 2,000. "I think council should be consistent," she said. Mr. Baker's cabin would have 1,864 square feet.

given the go-ahead.

MISTLETOE MAGIC Ancient followers of the Druld religion were the first sacred plant. They supposed it to have panacean virtures 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 distri-

The Saxons also valued this plant; they were the first to call it mistletoe. To them, mistletoe symbolized ever-





REAL ESTATE

JACK HOLMES



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.

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Rockwood 856-9512



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**