

## Rockwood roundup

by Kerry Chalmers  
Please feel free to call me at 856-8990 with news items for the Rockwood page. All contributions are welcome. If unable to reach me by phone you can write me P.O. Box 134, Rockwood. My home is under construction at the present time so let the phone ring many times and if unable to reach me the first time, do try again.

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The public is invited to come and hear the Eramosa Youth Choir in concert sponsored by the Guelph United Churches. The choir will sing under the leadership of Roberta Hoy on Sunday night, March 7 at Dublin St. United Church at 7:30 p.m.

A reminder—Eramosa Softball Registration takes place on Sunday March 7 at the Municipal office on Hwy. 24 from 11:30-2:30. Players must bring their birth certificate and the fee is \$3 per player, boys and girls from ages 8 through 19. Anyone wishing further information can call Dot Polo at 856-4307.

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Having any problems because of water and sewer construction? If so John Slater, superintendent for Arm-bro Const., and Roy Schermerhorn of Woodstock Engineering would be glad to hear from you. You can call John Slater at 856-9581, and Roy Schermerhorn at 856-9592.

## Community library corner

by Georgina Kelsb  
Eramosa Community Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday 4-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Saturdays 9-12 noon. We are having a steady membership growth and increasing use of the library by adults and young people.

Recently purchased books that may be of interest include: Agatha Christie's last book, *Curtain*; *The Craft of the Clockmaker*, by E. J. Tyler, *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot and

Michael Arnold's 1975 novel *Agony*; the *Fall of Night*, for cookery buffs we have *Mme. Benoit's Microwave Cook Book*, *The Honey and Yogurt Cookbook* by Rene Cross, and *The Electric Slow Cooker Cookbook* by Barbara Bean. Planning your next summer's vacation may help you through the remainder of the winter. Travel guides for Canada and Ontario and descriptive books of many countries are available.



IS THIS THE price of development? Letter writer Julie Brace illustrates in her picture the trees with "mangled limbs" that are the result of construction on her street.

## Letter to the editor

# We can no longer look back

The consistent drilling is like the lull of a spinning wheel in her basement, says an old-time resident of the village. I went out last evening to feed my dog and as I stroked her head, I touched her ears - she cried.

I often looked down our street lined with graceful old maples and decided it positively had to be the prettiest street in the village. Last week I stood on the mound of raised asphalt and rock in front of my home and viewed limbs mangled and broken away from these trees, particularly one in front of the new Post Office, this tree having formed a part of the landscaping of the structure.

On another occasion a trucker sat in his pick-up truck all night watching over two properties set up with detonators. The crane had broken down so rubber mats could not be laid over the danger areas. Twenty feet from my front door - I slept well!

The Eramosa River, now filled with rubble and sludge runs meekly on over the dam like a small rivulet.

It's sad—very sad—this whole affair. Prosperity, you will be welcome, for there will be nothing left of our peaceful little village in two years. I suppose what prompted me to write this article was the nostalgia aroused when I came across a copy of the *Toronto Telegram* dated May 1, 1954, the following write up from which I have quoted:

"On the Map", Academy of Great in 1860's. Quiet Dignity.

From Tely By Peter Dunlop  
Telegram Staff Reporter  
"Rockwood, May 1 - This quiet village, with its towering spruce and curious rock formations and pleasant little shops where conversation takes priority over commerce, has an atmosphere of early Canadiana coupled with scenery straight from the pages of a Muskoka travel brochure."

"Few, if any, communities have had such fame. Prosperity was thrust upon it, only to be snatched away. Yet it maintains dignity in the eyes of its neighbors."

"Fame came to Rockwood in the heydays of the 1860s through one of Upper Canada's most famous seats of learning—Rockwood Academy—which attracted scholars from all parts of the country."

"Prosperity arrived in 1867. The Harris family were early settlers of Eramosa, for which Rockwood is the township seat. They erected a woolen mill beside a dam on the Speed River."

"The mill quickly became known throughout the country as a quality producer of yarn, blankets, and socks. It employed many Rockwood residents. The Academy produced such famous graduates as James J. Hill, who became president of the Canadian Northern Railway, Hon. Sir Adam Beck, and A. S. Hardy, who became Premier of Ontario."

OLD SCHOOL SILENT  
"Today, the rambling old stone building, which has been standing a century this year, echoes no more to the laughter of schoolboys. Mr. and Mrs. William S. Gordon, who bought the 40-room structure for \$2,300 back in 1900, claim it operated as a school for the last time in 1883. They occupy only portions of the building. Many of the rooms have pieces of original blackboards still on the walls."

"And in the picturesque valley, only the decaying ruins of the prosperous woolen mills remain. One story has it the mill was purchased by a man whose only intentions were to shut it down. Citizens then hoped it might be run successfully. But it has been shut now for almost three decades."

"We're more interested in what's going to happen here in the next few years," says village trustee Charlie Heffernan. "Some one could make a million if they set up a summer resort. We're close enough to Toronto and a lot of other cities, yet far enough to escape them."

"Charles is one of three who govern unincorporated (Pop. 750) Rockwood. Others are Clifford Meadows, 1954 chairman, and Frank Schneider, proprietor of Schneider's Reliable Sweets, one of the village's most budding industries."

CANDY BUSINESS  
"Frank, who set up his candy business here in 1945, after operating in Guelph, believes the village will never amount to a barrel of jelly-beans industrially."

"It's solid rock underneath," he says. "You just can't dig foundations in this kind. Most of the houses here haven't any basements."

"Many villagers, however, couldn't care less whether industries find it convenient to come here. One, the Rockwood Lime Co. is going stronger than ever after 50 years, and is rated high in the building trade."

"Village baker, Herb Saunders, (best donuts in Rockwood) claims top prize in the Rockwood Fish and Game Club for '53 with his catch of a 6 lb. 14 oz. brown trout almost in the heart of the business section. It's mounted, displayed on the wall of the shop and all who pass can see one reason why Rockwood prefers to remain semi-rural."

In earlier days the village was known as Brotherstown and later Strange's Mills after "Squire" Henry Strange who erected a number of the area's first mills.

"A new house, by far the most original in the community, is slowly taking shape through the pain-

staking efforts of Lynn and Ken Guild, grads of the Ontario College of Art, now making their home in Rockwood. Three years, so far, in the building, their modern stone bungalow, overlooking almost the whole town, will be used also as a studio. The couple intends to go deeply into ceramics."

"Loren Guild, Ken's father, is president of the Rockwood Community Club formed in 1945. The organization sends out a monthly newspaper to over 700 homes in the township."

"Soldiers away from home during the war depended on the 'Rockwood Bulletin,' a mimeographed newsletter, and when the war ended it was suggested the club take over its operation."

"Sponsoring Boy Scouts, the annual jamboree, cleaning up the swimming pool, were other activities undertaken by the club. Several years ago a Glee Club and band were started."

"Every youngster in Rockwood can skate and swim, almost before school age, due to the location of the village and the Speed which winds through in a series of dams and roaring waterfalls."

"Although heavy traffic on Highway 7, which serves as the village's main thoroughfare, threatens to bring the bustle of city life, residents prefer to ignore it and continue in their own quiet way. They love Rockwood and wouldn't change it for the world."

But now Who back then would ever have believed people would

allow our village to fall into the state it is in today? To all who struggled so hard to see the passing of a law permitting the installation of water and sewers, I congratulate you. You have achieved your goal.

And to those who fought so hard against it, I know you are feeling the same loss of individuality of being a part of a unique little village just as I am. We can no longer look back.

Julie Brace.

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**HWY. 25 JUST NORTH OF 401**

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• 826-5371

## Eden Mills Guides and Brownies

by Diana Wallace  
We held our Monday meeting at the Stone Road Mall in front of all the shoppers and every brownie could not wait to start. There were no shy ones just a perfect group of 30 brownies ready to do their best. (Last week at rehearsal we had our doubts that anyone would remember anything.)

We started with our opening songs and six songs then followed with some action songs—like "The Muffin Man" and "The Captain Had a Spying Glass", etc.

Fly up  
We did this for 9, of an hour and then had our fly-up ceremony of the following nine girls to Guides—Lianne Allsop, Shelly Godding, Carol Harpham, Elizabeth Moore, Wendy Funk, Janet Barnes, Vicki Curtis, Pamela Billings, and Rina Blaakman.

The idea of all this was to show the public what guiding is all about and a fly-up ceremony is a very important part in our brownie's life when she takes the magic road to Guides. Each girl in her way enjoyed doing this for the shoppers and the brownies not in the fly-up held posters of their tests which they themselves had drawn and painted a week previously. The brownies received a "well done" note from their District Commissioner Mrs. Betty Petrie which was well deserved.

Demonstration  
The fly-up was followed by a craft demonstration by the Guides. The public were invited to make crafts along with the guides and went away clutching tiny owls, necklaces made out of turkey neck bones and burlap flowers etc. Twelve plates of goodies were provided by the brownies to help raise money for the World Friendship Fund and Kortright. These were made by themselves

## Free Press Rockwood and District



SMILING with satisfaction after their Guide enrolment last week are members of the 1st Rockwood Guide Company. To be enrolled the girls must pass their tenderfoot test which consists of knowing their law, promise and motto. They also have to know their hand signals and whistle signals. Front row L. to r. Shari Thatcher, Michelle Drexler, Debbie Finley and Dianne Clark. second row L. to r. Sue Hawkins, Susan Johnson, Lori Jamieson, Michelle Patterson and Lisa Petty and back row Spirit Valley District Commissioner Betty Petrie, Lieut. June Jansen, Shelley Spencer and Capt. Georgena Petty.

## Valentine party for Good News Club

"Oh, I love Bible Club!" exclaimed one tiny member after the Valentine day meeting of Rockwood Good News Club.

"Love" was the theme of the entire meeting. Aunt Helen McDonald sang joyful songs of love for Jesus and of God's love toward us. The memory verse spoke of the love He has for us even before

## Rockwood bowling

Standings  
Unpredictables 89, Countrymen 80, Carneys 88, Jr. Farmers 86, Norlons 85, Four Corners 82, Pin Falls 80, Raggedy Pans 78, Optimists 77, Kays Feeds 73, Guelphites 70, Mustangs 67.

Men over 500—Dunc Kingsbury 698, Ted Justin 683, Clarence Hilton 646, Glen Gray 643, Don McKeralie 622.

Women over 500—Nellie Stokman 688, Marg McKeralie 588, Nancy Gordon 573, Viv Nightingale 568, Diana Carney 544, Sylvia Brain 539, Gwen Gordon 530, Lorraine Renaud 520, Grace Britney 518, Nancy Ferguson 512, Flora Bruce 509, Gerda Bakker 502, Ruth Kingsbury 501.

Four Corners 5—Nellie Stokman 237, 202, 229 (688), Don McKeralie 197, 217, 226 (622); Optimists 2—Ted Justin 218, 199, 285 (683), Jerry Birkholz 144, 204, 231 (579); Carneys 5—Bob Lilley 183, 234, 180 (591), Dancy Renaud 182, 155, 227 (584); Kays Feeds 2—Ken Lush 183, 197, 218 (578), Ruth Kingsbury 150, 156, 155 (591); Countrymen 1—John Groeyers 187, 171, 140 (489); Ted Klaver 237, 161, 165 (383); Norlons 3, Nancy Gordon 170, 172, 211 (573); Viv Nightingale 181, 178, 208 (588); Jr. Farmers 3, Glen Gray 247, 206, 190 (643); Larry Fines 243.

we love Him. A beautiful cross made up of bent shapes was the centre of attention for the Bible study period, and love was a word in each portion of the gospel told by Mrs. S. Drijber.

Later a party with games and treats completed the day.

**Hi Neighbour**

157, 224, 144 (525); Pin Falls 2, Kathy Holman 115, 233, 140 (488); Mary Nightingale 144, 174, 107 (485);  
Raggedy Pans 5, Clarence Hilton 223, 212, 211 (616); Sylvia Brain 201, 166, 172 (538); Unpredictables 2, Eugene Ferguson 173, 161, 176 (510); Gerda Bakker 137, 223, 222 (502).

**ERAMOSA SOFTBALL Registration**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

**11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**  
at the  
**MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

• Players Bring Birth Certificates •  
Fee \$3.00 Per Player

★ Boys and Girls from ages 8 thru 19 ★

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