

Free Press

Rockwood and District

New Catholic school planned for Rockwood

Plans for a Roman Catholic School, Church and possibly a house on eight acres north of the village were discussed at last week's village trustee meeting.

Father Olinsky attended the meeting and outlined the plans of the Diocese. Harry Bonner who is selling this holding to the Diocese was also present to explain the progress to date on the consideration of this property.

Because this land is adjacent to the village, the Committee of Adjustment felt the village should have a decision on the matter. The parcel is presently zoned agricultural and an adjustment will have to be made.

The separate school agent has checked on the possibility of water and sewer hook-up with Woodstock and this could be done.

Father Olinsky felt that even though the land would be purchased now, this will be a long-term project for the Diocese. They have studied the area carefully and considered the number of students being bused to Guelph now and what the future may hold.

With the growth expected for this area the building of a separate school here seems logical. The trustees had no objection to the plan as outlined.

— K. Chalmers

Clean-up day May 15

A clean-up day has been planned for the village May 15. There will be one pick-up on Saturday so everyone is asked to have all articles ready at the usual garbage collection time. All large pieces from stoves to tree branches will be picked up, so better start that spring cleaning now so you can take advantage.

Rockwood roundup

New officers for the Lion's Club 1976-77 effective in June are: past-president Darryl Nichol, president Walter Swanston, first vice-president Vince Dunne, second vice-president Don Martin, third vice-president Bob Noble, secretary Jim Funk, treasurer Gordon Ostrander, tail twister Gordon Harding, one-year directors Ed Kingsbury and Grant McRae, two-year directors Roy Harding and Glen Gray and bulletin editor Harry Bonner.

out and enjoy this evening commencing at dark.

The Rockwood and District Lion's Club, with the assistance of their local ministers, is holding a Sunday evening gathering May 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Rockwood Centennial Public School. The guest speaker will be Mr. Alf Hales, former MP. There will be special music and a babysitting service supplied. All donations will be shared by the deaf and blind children.

There will be a Benefit Folk Concert held at War Memorial Hall University of Guelph, May 11 at 8 p.m. to support Kortright Waterfowl Park. All the performers will be supplying their time at the concert and all proceeds will go to support the waterfowl park.

The performers include the Rockwood Sunshine Boys, a group of senior citizens from the Sunshine club, including Vic Smith and his fiddle, Henry Leishman and harmonica, Bert Deveson on the gut-bucket, and Russ Craig and his fiddle, James Gordon, also from Rockwood, David Archibald, Judy Greenhill, James Hardy and Janice, a Guelph Folk Group. Tickets will be available at the door.

A Youth Service was held at Rockwood United Church last Sunday. The Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs took part. A representative from each group led the procession with their flag. There was good representation and the congregation enjoyed the presentation very much. The Rev. Rees had a special message for the young people.

Rockwood Bowling

Junior Farmers 10839, Country Men 10793, Pin Pals 10553, Guelphites 10360, Unpredictables 10325, Four Corners 10286, Keys Feeds 10267, Raggedy Pants 10262, Optimists 10205, Carneys 10204, Mustangs 10041, Sorlions 9789, Men over 500, Peter Boys 586, Ian Loof 649, Glen Gray 643, Ted Justin 622, Eugene Ferguson 615, Bob Little 630, Ken Lush 611, Jim Cerulik 614, Sam Wilson 612, Bill Elliot 607.

Halton 4-H News

FIELD CROP CLUB
By Evelyn Snow
The first meeting of the Halton 4-H Field Crop Club was held April 26 at the Agricultural Hall, Milton Fair Grounds with nine members present.

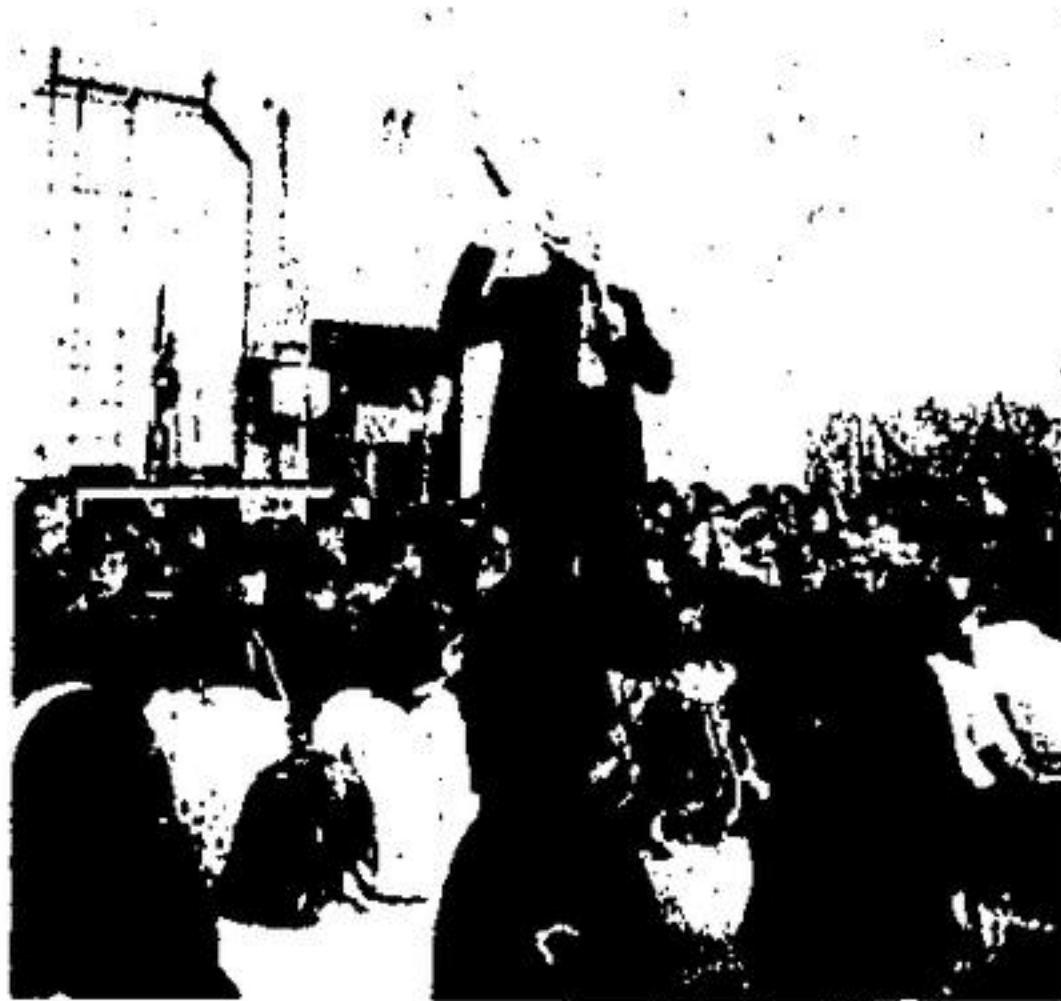
Cecil Patterson opened the meeting with the 4-H pledge. Kai Hansen conducted the election of officers. They are as follows: president John Reid, vice-president Glenn McClure, secretary Eria Snow, and press reporter Evelyn Snow. We discussed events for the year such as a safety essay and special projects.

VILLAGE OF ROCKWOOD
CLEAN-UP DAY 1976
ON
Saturday, May 15th
A TRUCK WILL FOLLOW THE GARBAGE VEHICLE TO COLLECT ITEMS TOO HEAVY FOR NORMAL DISPOSAL.
ITEMS MUST BE PLACED OUTSIDE AT NORMAL COLLECTION POINTS.

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A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE of more than 150 students listen to the tales of W.O. Mitchell as he tells of experiences and childhood memories that suggest characters for his novels. The Canadian writer spent last week speaking to various schools in Wellington County about writing and how one can learn to write. The children have studied Jake and the kid, one of Mr. Mitchell's novels and were thrilled to have their copy signed by the noted author.



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Canadian author triggers minds, imaginations

By Kerry Chalmers

Students and teachers alike were caught up in the magic of Canadian author W. O. Mitchell last Thursday as he addressed a group of more than 150 students at Rockwood Centennial Public School.

Mr. Mitchell was speaking to grade five students of Rockwood, Erin, Brisbane, Ospringe, Hillsburgh and Eramosa schools as part of a week-long series of talks set up by the Wellington Board of Education. His well-known novel Jake and the Kid has been studied by these students.

Mr. Mitchell spoke of his past experiences, friendships and memories of childhood, illustrating how these suggest situations for his characters.

The audience was captivated by the easy and warm manner in which the writer spoke to them, teasing, laughing and where necessary, scolding. At times he asked the group of eager children to settle down and listen when he was talking or to listen to one of their friends as they posed questions during the question and answer period.

He told tales that caused laughter and others that left the gym in utter silence. Eyes shone and every imagination in the room ran wild as Mr. Mitchell spun his tales, pointing out "how things can be changed to make a better story and although everything is the truth, the whole thing is a lie."

Many of the audience were curious as to how one becomes a writer: "instead of watching crummy old shows like Hogan's Heroes get a piece of paper and write whatever floats to the top it

can be happy, sad or even dirty; just write about it," he replied.

The difference between a good writer, however, and one who could go further and become a playwright or novelist is the question "what if?" To show how this is so he told two different stories. When the question "what if?" was added the story completely changed and became a better story.

Volunteers add paint

The village trustees would like to thank Arthur Farlow and his family who recently volunteered their time and energy to paint the ceiling in the Town Hall. He is representative of few people who have come forth to help in this project. The trustees feel it is an oversight that Mr. Farlow was not properly thanked for his generosity sooner.

A fund raising dance is planned sometime in May and details will follow. Local groups have offered their assistance in fund raising as the biggest deterrent to further building at the hall is lack of funds.

Change hours

Most Acton merchants have swung to summer hours and will remain open for shoppers until 9 p.m. on Thursday as well as Friday. The majority closed at 6 p.m. Thursday in the winter.

all the scripts—more than 300 original plays as well as the folk songs. He has written eight novels, five of which have been published.

One student asked if he had written anything he wasn't proud of and he said no he hadn't and felt it was sad when a bad piece is published that someone has done. He said he wrote two books before one was published. He feels it takes at least 10 years of writing before one can expect to publish a first book.

All of Mr. Mitchell's works are available at the Rockwood Public Library and appeal not only to children but to teens and adults as well.

In closing W. O. Mitchell told the students he had enjoyed his afternoon and that they had been really good, "not programmed, but no hairy and wild!" Canadian literature will take on a whole new meaning for these students who had a chance to meet and learn from one of our great authors.

Board budget up grants decline

By George Day, Chairman of Finance Wellington County Board of Education
The Wellington County Board of Education has approved a budget for 1976 in the amount of \$35,050,000, an increase of \$5,374,337.00 over the 1975 actual expenditures. This increase is 18.1 percent.

However, the increase to the local taxpayer is a different story. This has been caused by the decision of the Provincial Government to transfer more financial responsibility for education to the local taxpayer.

Grant rates for ordinary expenditures (salaries, administration, supplies) were reduced from 59.8 percent to 56.9 percent in the elementary panel and from 64.6 percent to 57.1 percent in secondary.

The same goes for extraordinary expenses (transportation, debenture debt, equipment, capital projects, etc.). This shows a reduction in grants from 73.5 percent and 94.7 percent to 73.1 percent in elementary and from 76.7 percent and 95.3 percent to 76.7 percent in secondary.

This means that the board will receive \$1,700,000.00 less in grants for 1976 had the same rate percentages remained constant.

The taxpayer will be forced to pick up the difference. Eramosa mill rate will be increased by 28.3 percent; Guelph Township 33.7 percent; Erin Township 32.9 percent; Erin Village 35.4 percent; Puslinch Township 33.8 percent; Garafraxa Township 33.0 percent; City of Guelph 33.6 percent; and so on up to a high of 66.4 percent for Harrison (due partly to an underlevy last year).

The budget committee, however, reduced the original budget requests from \$36,705,554, to the approved amount of \$35,050,000, a reduction of \$1,655,554.

The board refrained from cutting into existing school programs but at the same time did not expand any programs. Reductions were made in school supplies, media centre, alterations, additional staff provisions, plant operation and maintenance, conventions and conferences, and some further areas.

I can assure the taxpayer that everything was done to alleviate the impact on the local property owner without damaging the quality of education which we are now providing for the students of Wellington County.

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