

Eramosa township councillors

# Three seek re-election, two undecided

Eramosa township council faces an election in December. Most members have made their decision whether to run again, a few have not.

The Free Press polled the council members and discovered, not surprisingly, the Rockwood sewer and water project is considered by all to be one of the major issues of the past two year term.



Reeve Bill Adsett will seek re-election

The veteran Eramosa township council, Reeve Bill Adsett has decided he will run for the same position in the upcoming municipal election.

Mr. Adsett's political career began in 1968 when he became interested in what was happening locally. At that time he began to think that if he was going to have things to say he should "put up or shut up".

He ran for a seat on council which he held until 1974, when elected reeve.

Because all affairs were handled as committee of the whole he did not sit on any specific committees. He was involved in recreation and the now defunct Mid Western Tourist council.

As reeve, he automatically sat on the Wellington county council. It was here that he was placed on the finance committee, administration committee, and planning and development committee. He is also on the Guelph General Hospital Board, and the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board.

As reeve of Eramosa township, he is an ex-officio member of all committees formed by that council.

As for the past two years, Mr. Adsett said that it was the time for many major items to come to a head. As examples he mentioned the sewer and water project in Rockwood, the zoning by-law, and municipal drains and the community recreation complex. He explained that none of these ideas is completely resolved.

The reeve said he would like to see some of the major issues resolved so the council can get back to some of the regular business and hopefully have some improvements in the regular services.

Mr. Adsett is the owner of WHA Publications, and publisher of "The Community News" in Drayton, Ont. and the "Wellington Advertiser".

He hopes to see new names on the ballot in December and looks forward to the coming election.

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**Betty Lou Clark**  
As Deputy Reeve of the township, Betty Lou Clark has been busy on the county council and on several committees. However, all this has not deterred her, and she plans to run in the December election.

Mrs. Clark is finishing her fourth year in politics. She sat on council for two years before deciding to run as Deputy Reeve.

Her present position automatically places her on the Wellington County council.

As deputy reeve, she sits on the recreation committee, the local advisory committee for architectural conservancy, and the finance committee.

Mrs. Clark is the chairman of the Pioneer Cemetery committee, and chairman of Social Services committee for Guelph and Wellington county. She is also a member of the agriculture and community services committee. She is a board member on the VON, the Eramosa library board and is a member of the

constituency advisory group for Local Initiative Programs. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Children's Aid.

Five years ago, when sewers and water in Rockwood were only proposals, the ratepayers in that area approached Mrs. Clark, who belonged to the ratepayers association, and suggested a pipeline to Guelph, if the project was passed. It was Mrs. Clark as deputy reeve, who mentioned it to council five years later, with the proposal eventually being accepted.

"I feel I have made a sincere attempt at listening to what the taxpayers are saying," Mrs. Clark said. She continued to say that she does her best to listen to what the people are saying. She explained that as a taxpayer, she felt frustration when dealing with councillors and does not want people to experience that.

Mrs. Clark stated that her main concern is the continuing loss of agricultural land in the township, something which she has opposed for the past few years.

If she is re-elected, Mrs. Clark will not be sitting on county council again, as the deputy reeves have been eliminated from that seat. She said she was the only deputy reeve to vote for the elimination as she felt the reeve should have the voting power.

Mrs. Clark is a real estate agent with United Trust in Guelph. She is very active in community services and is an alternative for the Synnott in diocese for the Anglican church.

Mrs. Clark began her busy career after her three children had grown. "I started at home and was a mother first and foremost. I had the energy within me (after the children had grown) and used it constructively."

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Councillor Alan Burnett is still undecided

Alan Burnett Although his past two years on Eramosa township council have been very enjoyable, Councillor Alan Burnett has not yet made up his mind whether to run for another two year term.

Mr. Burnett said he feels everyone should take their turn sitting on council, or at least make the attempt to get there. He explained that this is the only way the average taxpayer can appreciate the problems in politics. He cited



Deputy Reeve Betty Lou Clark will run again



Councillor John Hewitt loses hat in ring

the graveling of roads as an example of the red tape involved.

Mr. Burnett said that a person would come to him asking for a stretch of road to be gravelled. Simple enough request, he says, however, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications must be notified and permission granted from them, after it has gone to the local roads department and the township council. All this takes time, and sometimes it is turned down in the final stages.

The farmer by trade said two years ago, when first elected, he had expected to really change things. "However," Mr. Burnett said, "I was really surprised at how little power the township council has." He explained that the government has federal, provincial, county, and then township levels.

Townships are low man on the totem pole, he explained. Mr. Burnett admits that he would be a lot more benefit to the township in the next two years than the first two. He explained that there is so much to learn in the first term and in the second term, a councillor might better understand what is going on. During his term, Mr. Burnett has been on the medical centre committee, roads committee, recreation committee and also was on the team which looked into

the Rockwood septic systems problems.

Mr. Burnett spoke appreciatively of his fellow councillors, but also said he does not feel the same councillors should be in office year after year. He hopes to see many new names on the December ballot.

The councillor says he will know within a few weeks if he is running. In the meantime, he said, he is going to make sure his decision will be right for the township and for himself.

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**John Hewitt**  
Councillor John Hewitt is after his second term on Eramosa township council.

Mr. Hewitt feels because he is retired, he has no conflicts of interest and anything he says is for the good of the township.

The councillor began in politics after he retired as a construction manager in London. He moved to Fergus, where he was asked to be building inspector. After two years, he was forced to resign when his wife took sick. After a while, the township asked him to sit on the Fergus high school board which he did for three years. He was also on the Fergus hospital board.

After his stint there, he ran for council, but was defeated by Bill Adsett by 24 votes. He ran again a few years later, and was defeated by Betty Lou Clark by ten votes, he explains.

From 1970 until 1972, Mr. Hewitt sat on the Eramosa planning board, and resigned to run for council.

In the 1974 election, Mr. Hewitt was elected. In the past two years, he has been on the Horlop Mill restoration committee, and was partially responsible for the acquiring of a LIP grant for the project. He was also chairman of the investigative committee into the Rockwood sewer and water issue. He admits proudly that it was this report which made council decide to accept the proposal.

Mr. Hewitt feels because he is retired, he has more time to devote to his job as councillor. He pointed out he has only missed two meetings in his two years on council. "If you are going to do a job, you might as well do it right," he states.

Mr. Hewitt hopes for a lot of new faces in the coming election race. He cannot understand why more people do not run for office. "People belly ache, but they do not want to run."

The councillor is not going to make any promises to people if they say they will vote for him. He believes the council's job is to do what comes up, not to make promises they cannot keep.

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Councillor Dave Masson is still undecided

**David Masson**  
Councillor David Masson has not yet decided whether he will be seeking re-election.

Mr. Masson explained to the Free Press that he has just accepted a job with Lear-Siegler in Kitchener as production control manager after 17 years at Ford Motor Company in Oakville. He does not start his job until this Monday and therefore does not know what commitments he will have to make with the new firm.

The Eden Mills resident began his political career almost six years ago as a trustee with that village. After four years, he decided to take one more step up the ladder and run for township council.

Once he was elected as councillor, Mr. Masson was assigned to sit on the finance and personnel committee, on which he was appointed chairman, and the recreation committee. He was also on the steering committee for the Rockwood Sports Complex.

Mr. Masson explained that he enjoyed his time on council and "I like to think we accomplished something." He said there is a lot of personal satisfaction. "Council as a whole worked very hard to keep municipal taxes down." Mr. Masson went on to say that he thought the quality of services in the Eramosa area was very good.

His greatest reward in his political career was that of lobbying to get the Nassagaweya portion of Eden Mills into Eramosa township, and the re-routing of the fourth line. "When you start something like this and see it through, it is very rewarding."

Mr. Masson explained that even though he lost his debate on the Rockwood sewer and

water issue, (he voted against it), he did not try to stall it, but pushed for a pipeline for the sewage to go Guelph to help save the Eramosa River.

The councillor admitted that he learned a lot sitting on council, but he also felt the council learned a lot from him. He explained that because of his involvement with industry, he was able to offer various viewpoints on matters. "It is a two way street." He explained he received a lot of personal satisfaction from the two year experience, but at the same time feels he contributed equal amounts.

"You get out of it what you put into it," he concluded.

## Rockwood Page

### Club project

Ten girls met at the home of Mrs. Jean McDuffe on Saturday, Oct. 2, at 8:30 a.m. to start the club project. A World of Food in Canada, sponsored by the Rock-a-long W.I.

The books and sheets were given out, and our club name was discussed. They decided to set up an exhibit at Erin Fair Thursday. Achievement Day is to be held on Dec. 11.

The subject matter for the first meeting was read, and our leaders, Miss Helen Bayne and Mrs. McDuffe demonstrated Blueberry Buckle which everyone seemed to enjoy.

The next meeting will be held on October 16 at Mrs. McDuffe's.

## By-law discussed at public meeting

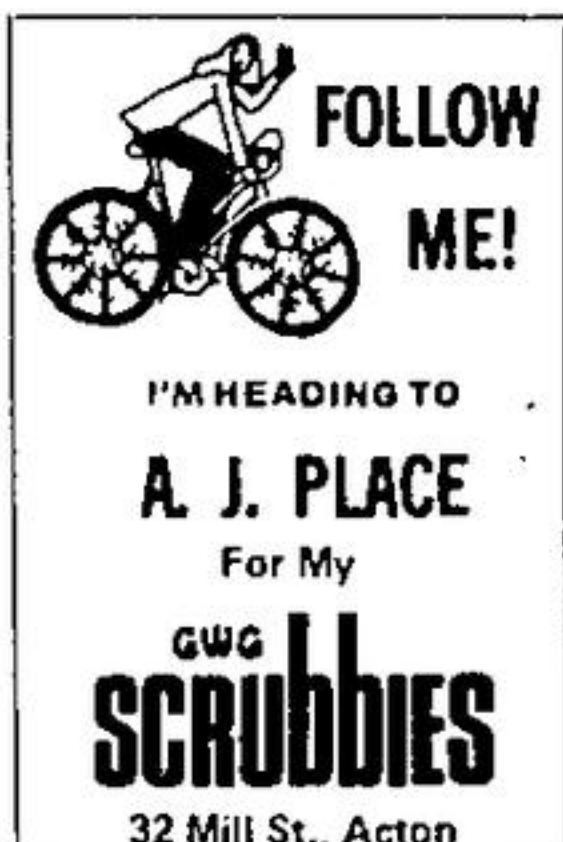
Eramosa township held a public meeting in Rockwood Centennial School September 30 and only 14 members of the community attended.

The events, advertised once in local weekly and daily papers, was for the purpose of presenting the long awaited Restricted Area Zoning by-law which Eramosa Planning Board and Council, with input from Rockwood and Eden Mills, had worked on for some three years.

Guess chairman Jack Campbell of many years municipal planning experience in Fergus introduced Bill Lehman of Dryden, Smith & Lehman, Planning Consultants of Kitchener. Mr. Lehman, who had guided Planning Board and subsequently written the document reflecting the board's opinions read a summary of the by-law and answered questions from the floor. Copies of the summary handed out at the meeting had also been advertised as available to the public in the township clerk's office and he complete by-law was available to be read at the same office.

Those who attended were welcomed by Reeve Bill Adsett at the outset and commended for their interest in community affairs. It was stressed that the by-law pertained to all residents of the municipality and regret was expressed that so few had appeared. This was a recurring theme by other speakers of the evening.

Questions from the floor dealt chiefly with the areas of Hazard Lands, the Agricultural Code of Practice, Pits and Quarries, definition of a serviced lot, and offices in homes. Persons with concern were invited to send name in writing to the township clerk by October 15. Mr. Lehman promised the meeting that these would be duly considered by council and Planning Board. He further explained the procedure to follow. A final summary would be created and copies mailed to all ratepayers. If ratepayers then have objections they should forward them in writing to the township clerk. These letters will subsequently be forwarded to the Ontario Municipal Board and a hearing could be held on decision of the Board. Once approved by the Board the document becomes law replacing the existing by-law. Eramosa Council had called the meeting in order to afford citizens an opportunity for their input. The Planning Consultant, Mr. Lehman stated to the reeve who was expressing concern privately about the limited response, "you have already gone the second mile. You have held a public meeting which is not mandatory. The people still have the opportunity to object." The procedure for same has been outlined in this article.



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