



ARROW INDICATES what is left of original cottage. The McMullans intended to use the materials from this cottage for the exterior of their new recreational home.



BRIAN McMULLAN stands in front of what is left of the original cottage on his lot, and points to the newly-built section which awaits the siding from the original building.

Rockwood Roundup

by Kerry Chalmers
Rockwood has a C.B. club! The club established a couple of weeks ago is called the Rockwood G.R.S. (general radio service) and Rick Richard is the president. The club meets this Sunday at the old S.S. No. 8 School on Harris Street about one mile and one half out of the village. All interested parties are invited to attend between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Law, R. R. 1, Guelph were pleasantly surprised recently when friends and relatives gathered to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary at the Rod and Gun Club in Eden Mills. Their children arranged the surprise for them. On Saturday evening Jan. 15 their eldest daughter took them out for dinner and then suggested they drop by the club where there was supposedly a company dance taking place. They walked in

to find many friends and relatives from out of town!

Rockwood and district residents are asked to remember the Blood Donor Clinic that will be held next Monday, Jan. 31 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Acton, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Babysitting service will be available and if in need of transportation contact the legion and ask for Red Cross personnel.

Attention parents and students—Wednesday night (tonight) Jan. 26 Rockwood Centennial Public School will be offering an information night on the grade nine program in the music room at 8 p.m. Representatives from both Centennial College Heights and C.V.I. Secondary School will give a formal presentation followed by a question and answer period.

George Day on library group

by Kerry Chalmers
George Day has been appointed to represent the Wellington County Board of Education on the Eramosa Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Day will ensure that the terms of the agreement between the Wellington Board of Education and the Eramosa Library Board are followed as well as provide input into the Eramosa Library wherever possible so that the interests of the public served are met.

The new library board members for 1977 have not as yet been appointed. The present Chairman is Barry Dryden and the other members are Burton Hill, Rita McPhedran and Ken MacKay. The Advisory Committee and the Library Board basically decide policy on the operation of the Eramosa Community Library.

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G.R.C.A. vs McMullan family

Deadline: remove house by May 15

By Kerry Chalmers
"I have very little faith in the Grand River Conservation Authority after what I have seen," Brian McMullan told the Free Press in an interview Tuesday. "I feel like I have been led down the garden path and they have closed the door," he added. Brian and Sandy McMullan have been ordered by provincial court Judge H. R. Howitt to remove their home on the Eramosa River by May 15. The judge has ruled it has been built illegally.

Eden Mills, with a cottage on it in September, 1975. They asked Eramosa township if it would be possible to renovate this cottage as a permanent home and were assured there would be no problem. The deal closed.

Permit issued
In October he applied for a building permit for a garage and the permit was issued with no difficulty. He built the garage and in the spring returned to get a permit to start renovating his home. He was then told he would have to clear this with the Well-

ington-Dufferin Health Unit. He was given approval at this level and the township felt he could go ahead with the excavating and footings. However, when the township building inspector arrived on the scene he said he felt they had better check with the Grand River Conservation Authority. When he did apply to the G.R.C.A. in April he was refused approval.

They explained that his land was within the flood plain and was considered a "hazard area". Mr. McMullan made application once again to the G.R.C.A., this time asking if it would be possible to take the cottage apart, remodel it and fit it on the new foundation that was on slightly higher ground. His other requests were that he be allowed to add an upper-floor room and an eight-foot side addition on the front to make it fit the foundation. The G.R.C.A. said, "Yes." This would be possible, only if the McMullans signed a safe-harbour agreement, absolving the Authority from any responsibility in case of damage by flood, and that the cottage only be used for recreational purposes, not as a full-time residence.

Planned to sell
Mr. McMullan stresses that he made it clear that his family would have to live there, while this reconstruction was taking place. He hoped to reconstruct the cottage and sell, retrieve his investment and buy elsewhere where he would be able to build a permanent residence.

He submitted a plan to the G.R.C.A. outlining his intentions at this time, and he was given the go-ahead.

Mr. McMullan began his reconstruction and all went well until August when the G.R.C.A. appeared and demanded that he stop work, saying that he had not done what the Authority had

thought he was going to do, and that he had exceeded the intent of the permit. The McMullans found this unbelievable since all the work performed to date had been outlined on their proposal. The Authority insisted that there had been a misunderstanding and the structure would have to be removed.

The lawyer representing the McMullans attempted to find a solution agreeable to all parties but the G.R.C.A. felt it was a matter for the courts to decide.

"Investigate"
Judge H. R. Howitt said in provincial court on Friday, Jan. 21 after hearing all evidence that "it pays to investigate" before building, and that a ruling in favor of the family would be an "open invitation" to others to break the Conservation Authority's Act which restricts construction below a river's flood line.

The G.R.C.A.'s contention is that a very substantial dwelling has been constructed and as Eric Lemp, director of resource planning for the G.R.C.A., said in court, "It certainly doesn't look like a cottage sitting on a foundation to me." They also contend that it is a permanent residence.

This ruling stating that the house must be removed by May 15 means the loss of the McMullans' life savings of \$10,000 to \$20,000, even if it were possible for Mr. McMullan to sell any building materials he might salvage.

Rockmosa 100 huge success

By Kerry Chalmers
Rockmosa 100 was a huge success last Sunday when 87 participants gathered at Swantons Farm Equipment to race for the Rockmosa Park Project. A total of \$4543 was pledged, a sum considerably up from last year's rally. Rockwood's local C.B. club president Rick Rickard was on hand with 12 to 15 volunteers from Rockwood and district to relay messages, direct traffic and help with disabled machines.

Prizes were partly donated and partly purchased and \$102 was cleared on the draw held at the rally.

President Walter Swanson had the most dollars sponsored at \$235. Sandy Kingsbury was the first girl under 16 with the most dollars at \$283. Ken Ostrander had the least number of penalty points in the run at 28 points and Robert Logan was the oldest driver with the most miles. Patty Winters was the second girl under 16 with the most dollars at \$137.50. Brent Lush had the least number of penalty points for a family, Steve Lush also had least number of penalty points for family, Donald Winters was the second boy under 16 with the most dollars at \$151.50, and Robert Bonner was the first boy under 16 with the most dollars at \$162.50.

Sunshine Club

It was a bitterly cold day for the first meeting of the Sunshine Club on January 13, but despite the cold 36 members came out for a happy afternoon.

Mrs. Vera Black, the president, welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to the new members. After singing O Canada and The More We Get Together and Smile, the program got under way with a singsong.

Birthday greetings were sung to Mrs. Ethel Craig and A. K. Thomas.

The secretary's report was read by Mrs. Ann Smith and then followed the treasurer's report by Mrs. Jessie Dunk. A business discussion followed.

Reading games
Mrs. Irene Davidson, the program convener, called on Mrs. Annie Lambert who gave a most interesting reading.

Mrs. Elsie Leitch and Mrs. Alva Milne were the prize winners for the euchre and Mr. Naismith and Wm. Hayden were the highest for crokinole.

Everyone at lunch-time again wished A. K. Thomas a very happy birthday as on January 14 he was 93 years young.

Don't forget the meeting January 27 in the Rockwood town hall at 2 p.m.

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