

Free Press

Rockwood and District

High school—to Guelph or Fergus?

by Kerry Chalmers
Are you a grade seven student who hopes to go to a high school in Guelph like your brother or sister did? Unfortunately as of the fall of 1976 this option will not be open to you if you live north of lot 13, north of Hwy. 24 in the area up to and including lot 22, exclusive of the Erin-Eramosa town line.

Sound confusing? Well for the past few months a group of at least 60 parents have been meeting with local principals, trustees, various other school board authorities and committees in an effort to decipher the change in boundaries that was suddenly imposed upon them.

Rumour
"It began in January when the children repeated a rumour that they would have to go to high school in Fergus," Ken MacKay, a concerned parent, told the Free Press in a recent telephone interview.

When parents began asking questions they discovered that there was in fact a proposal to switch grade nines to Fergus next year.

"We were concerned with

the way the board was trying to implement the change," he explained.
"Many people have lived here all their lives and feel they have already been shipped from pillar to post as a result of educational changes."

Problems
Most parents do not object to Centre Wellington District High School itself but travel to and from Guelph to work, shop and for recreation are not Fergus-oriented. They foresee problems if a student wishes to join in extra-curricular activities or is held up because of social reasons. A real concern appears to be the possibility that many families will have another student in Guelph and another in Fergus.

Public meetings were held following the discovery of boundary changes and 65 parents signed a petition expressing their concern over the move to Fergus.

When 50 or 60 parents attended the board of education meeting on January 24, Ken MacKay and Dr. Peter Southwell acted as spokesmen. The issue was discussed at great

length and the board referred the problem to the property, finance and transportation committee who are looking at boundaries and boundary changes in Wellington County.

At the committee meeting the group was told that the change had been made due to overcrowding in the Guelph schools and that they were concerned with the rapid growth on the south side of the city. Spokesman Ken MacKay was given a chance to comment at which time he pointed out that G.C.V.I. had not been sending out option sheets to the school. This statement was supported by principal Grant McRae.

The committee said they could understand the problem and admitted there had been a lack of communication in the proposal. They tabled a decision for two weeks until a subsequent committee meeting.

Another meeting
In the meantime the group held another public meeting inviting Mr. Morrison, superintendent of the board of education, trustees George Day, David Oldacre and Mr. Bolger and principal Grant McRae.

At this meeting problems were discussed including the lack of communications between the board and parents, concerns over overcrowding and why no official results or decisions on overcrowding in the city can be obtained.

It was learned that the board is also limited by a ministry ruling that states that all spare capacity in the county must be used before any new school can be built, thus the necessity for changing the boundaries.

Real ruling
At the meeting on Monday night, Rockwood Centennial principal Grant McRae read a board ruling concerning the boundary change. The board is saying that students going into grade nine in the school year 1976-77 have a guaranteed option for one year but as of the fall of 1978 there will be no option.

Grant McRae commented on the ruling, whenever you change boundary lines there is anxiety, especially at a secondary school level where extra-curricular activities are involved to a greater extent.

Mr. McRae feels extra-curricular activities can be as important to a student as his or her courses.
"I believe there is an extra 'late bus' out of Fergus to accommodate students involved in after school activities," suggested Mr. McRae, "after Tuesday we will have a better idea as to the facilities available."

Mr. McRae joined a group of parents and students who toured Centre Wellington District High School Tuesday night to see what is available. There still seems to be a question as to the future of the students in the area and this group of parents feel the changes have just begun!

Alcoholism at a public school level is a priority issue for the newly-formed Eramosa and Rockwood Home and School Association. The new executive will meet in the near future to get started on this concern. They plan to set up a forum and call in experts in hope that they can try and deal with some of the obvious problems. Teenage drinking leading to alcoholism is one of Canada's social problems at the present time and the home and school hopes to do some preventative work.

There was a good turnout recently when nine people were elected for the board of directors: Evelyn McKay, Betty Jones, Dr. Jane Hosdill, Linda Duncan, Ann Benham, Helen Iutz, Dianna Wallace, Mark Haywood and Dot Chadder. Chris Bertelsen is president and John Hake,

principal of Eramosa Public School and Marian Tubman, a senior teacher at Rockwood Centennial School will also sit on the board. A person will be appointed to represent them at the regional council of Home and School Associations as well.

The newly-formed group are consistent with the aims of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations in both constitution and by-laws. The bylaws deal with everything from the setting up of meetings, electing officers and spending of monies, to the national ideals such as the following bylaw illustrates, quite: "to foster high ideals of citizenship and patriotism and to promote through educational means, international good will and peace."

On bussing
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parents announcing a joint meeting of the Eramosa and Rockwood Home and School Association and the group of concerned parents regarding the bussing of students to Fergus. Consequently at nine o'clock Chairman Chris Bertelsen turned the meeting over to this business. A report of this issue is written elsewhere on this page.

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ROCKWOOD CENTENNIAL girls' basketball team played Aberfoyle, Arthur, Drayton and Harrison winning every game but one this season. Coaches Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Post are pleased and team captain Kathie Scarlett feels the girls deserve credit for many hours of practice. Front row from left to right are: Marilyn Leslie, Lynda Bilton, Susan Bilton, Debbie James and Sue Parkinson. Second row from left to right are Kathie Scarlett, Hester Groenvett, Linda Wietzke, Laura Lea Mast, Sharon Coverdale, Bev Moss and Lori Gillis. John Jackson, coach, is standing behind.

Home and School slate set, goals determined

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Parents, daughters at banquet in town hall

A parent-daughter banquet for brownies and guides was held last Thursday evening at the Town Hall with approximately 125 people attending. One of the highlights of the evening was a presentation to Deputy District Commissioner Mrs. W. G. Stevenson and District Commissioner Mrs. W. K. Petrie who will be terminating their five year term in office. Brownie Valerie Galley and Guide Shelley Spencer presented gifts to the ladies on behalf of the girls.

Marlene McKendry, chairman of the parents committee, spoke to parents about the various fundraising projects that have been held over the year and the plans for future activities. Mrs. McKendry appealed to the mothers for volunteers and mentioned that both she and Julie Thatcher, secretary-treasurer, will be unable to continue next year because of other commitments with the girls. Any parent who is in-

terested in assisting was asked to phone Marlene McKendry.

Mrs. W. G. Stevenson also spoke to the group on the program of guiding. She outlined how much work goes into a successful group and pointed out what a good job the present leaders had done.

Among those at the head table were Mrs. C. E. Petty, Guide Captain; Mrs. D. Jansen, guide lieutenant; Mrs. Thomson, 1st Rock-

wood brown owl; Miss K. Holman, 1st Rockwood tawny owl; Mrs. D. Cunningham, 2nd Rockwood brown owl; Miss E. Johnston, 2nd Rockwood tawny owl; Mrs. J. Thatcher, parent committee treasurer; and Mrs. H. J. McKendry, chairman of the parents committee, as well as district commissioner Mrs. W. K. Petrie and Mrs. W. G. Stevenson, deputy district commissioner. Rockwood Lionettes served a delicious hot beef supper.

More Rockwood news page 12 and 13

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FULLY LICENSED CLOSED SUNDAYS

Rockwood Roundup

By Kerry Chalmers
Tonight—a talk on child development and problems given by Marg Spencer at 8 p.m. in the Guelph Library. A film "Walk in another pair of shoes" will also be shown. This is put on by the ACLD (Association for children with learning disabilities). 10 per cent of all Ontario children have some degree of learning disability. There is no admission charge and coffee will be served. All interested people are invited.

seeds indoors. All interested area residents are welcome.

Soccer registration for kids six to 16 will take place this Saturday March 12 from 10-12 a.m. at Rockwood Centennial Public School and Eramosa Public School. Kids are asked to bring proof of age in order to register with the Acton Minor Soccer League.

Rockwood bowling

Team standings
Carneys 108, Optimists 94, Mustangs 90, Guelphites 90, Kay's Feeds 85, The Happy Gang 84, Dynamites 79, Countrymen 79, Popeye 77, Nortons 76, Four Corners 71.

Men over 600
Harve Reid 762, Glen Gray 665, Peter Bosch 630, Gary Parker 625.

Women over 500
Diana Carney 686, Ruth Kingsbury (spare) 617, Ivy Ritchie 571, Barb McLaren 547, Kathy Holman 547, Sue Nightingale 535.

Results of games
Five Plus One, 4 pts., Kathy Holman 547, Denise Bolton 510; Dynamites, 3 pts., Fred Vandervalk 619, Paul Holman 598, Carneys, 5 pts., Dianna Carney 686, Ruth Kingsbury (spare) 617; The Happy Gang, 2 pts., Glen Gray 665, Joe Teres 601.

Guelphites, 5 pts., Gary Parkes 625, Lloyd Marsden 569; Four Corners, 2 pts., Don McKersie 549, Ann Parkinson 525, Kay's Feeds, 5 pts., John Polo 595, Marion Allan 525; Countrymen, 2 pts., Peter Bosch 630, Eva Bosch 526.

Nortons, 6 pts., Ivy Ritchie 571, Sue Nightingale 535; Optimists, 1 pt., Ted Justin 603, Sam Nyholt 544, Mustangs, 5 pts., Harve Reid 762, Barry Cleland 620; Popeye, 2 pts., John Murrison 588, Mary Huisman (spare) 448.



HOLDING HER trophy is Kathie Scarlett who placed 3rd in the Oral Communications finals held at Rockwood Centennial Public School last week. A grade 8 student, Kathie competed against other grade seven and eight finalists from Wellington County.

Eramosa Softball

REGISTRATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

10.00 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1.00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

at MUNICIPAL OFFICE

FEE: \$ 6 per player 15 per family

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