

# Caves at Rockwood interest many visitors

by Ward Chesworth  
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The commonest type of rock that occurs in Southern Ontario is limestone. In this part of Ontario it was formed some four hundred million years ago beneath a shallow tropical sea.

The principal mineral found in our local limestones is called calcite and its chemical name is calcium carbonate. The scale that forms in the bottom of a kettle when hard water is boiled in it is made of the same substance. An important property of this substance is that it dissolves in acid. In fact one of the ways of removing the scale in your kettle is to add vinegar to it. The acid vinegar attacks the calcium carbonate and bubbles of carbon dioxide gas are given off.

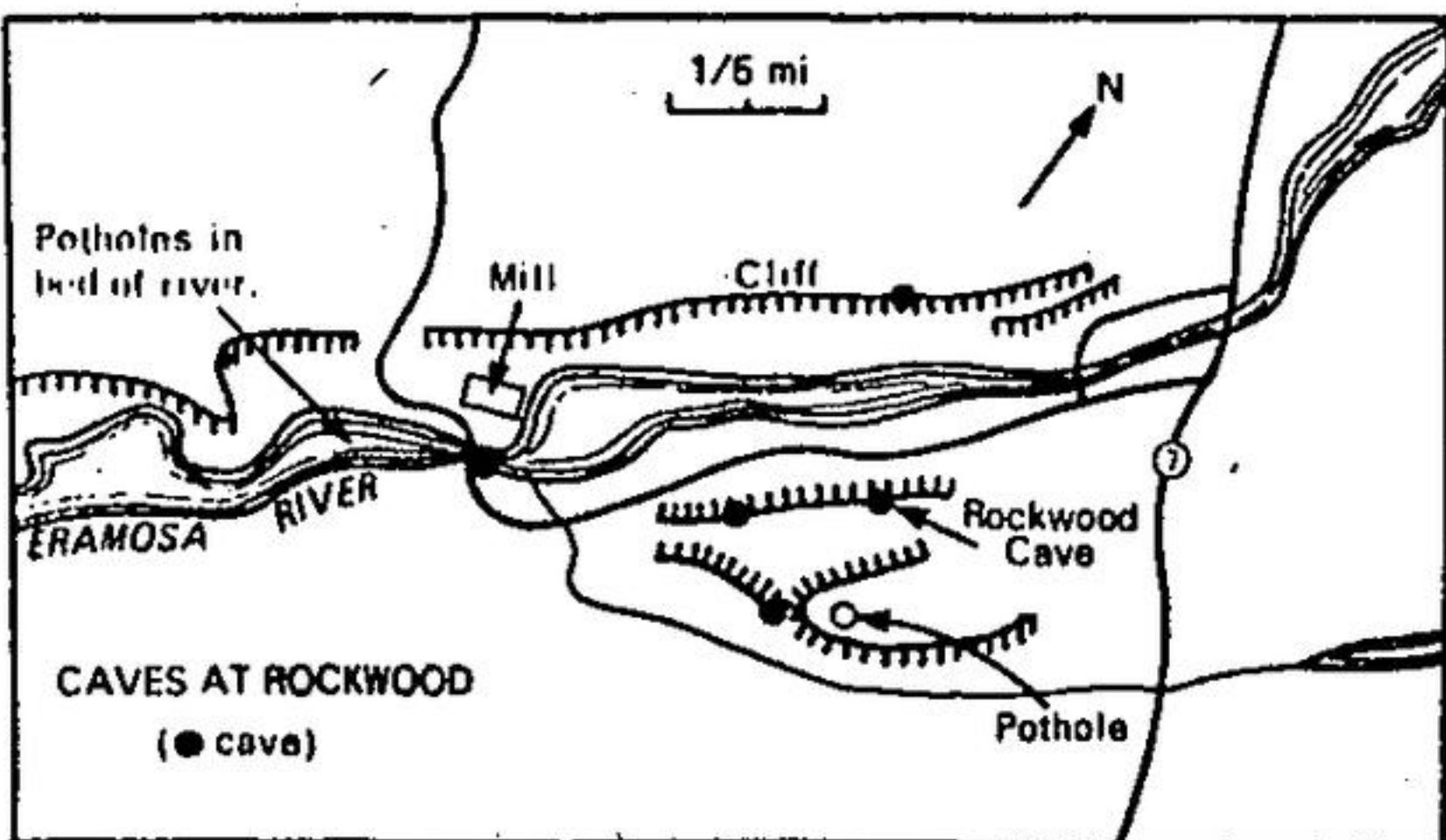
A very common acid that occurs in nature is rainwater. As rain falls through the sky it picks up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and this makes the water slightly acid. If the rain now falls on limestone it will dissolve a little of the rock until the acid is neutralized.

The amount of rock dissolved will be too small to notice over a short time but in the span of thousands and even millions of years a great deal of rock can be removed. Natural breaks or fissures in the limestone will be widened and in percolating through the rock the natural waters will dissolve more and more calcium carbonate. In this way caverns may eventually form underground.

Southern Ontario has many caves formed like this, on or close to the Niagara Escarpment in a belt of country stretching from the Bruce Peninsula to the Niagara River. Some of the most interesting and best developed are at Rockwood in the valley of the Eramosa River.

ridges encrusting the cave walls). Caves of a similar type, though usually much larger provided a home for prehistoric human beings in Europe. In France and Spain for example they are decorated with impressive paintings of animals that date from around 20,000 years ago. In Ontario, only animal remains (Chiefly porcupine) are found in the caves.

Rockwood is located 16 miles west of Georgetown on Highway 7, actually only about five miles from the borders of Halton Hills. For anybody who wants to know more about caves in the Niagara Escarpment there is an article by Jon Weber called "Ontario Underground" in the 1962 volume of the Canadian Geographer that can be obtained at the public library.



## Free Press Rockwood and District

### Children enjoy classes on Bible in summer

Rockwood and Everton children had a treat "even better than swimming lessons" this week. A summer missionary came to town!

Summer mission work is carried on each summer in all the cities, towns, and villages of the continent; the work has been present in Ontario only since 1955 but first originated in the U.S.A., when a minister noticed how many children did not attend Sunday school.

The Child Evangelism Fellowship conducts many such clubs both summer and winter. In the summer alone well over 33,000 children are enrolled. The teenaged teachers are fully qualified and given rigorous training, they teach the basic beliefs of all the recognised churches. The founder of the movement, Mr. Overholzer felt it

had to be an interdenominational outreach. Children are encouraged to attend their family church or Sunday school.

Miss Tracy Huff of Wawa, northern Ontario, is the local teacher; she has classes in Eden Mills, Everton, Acton "Lakeview", and Rockwood. She will move to Goderich next week. Any church may have such a vacation Bible school by contacting CEF in Toronto. Local hostesses agree to allow the teacher the use of their lawn for the week.

After the club is over, children remember "the happy feelings", and are also given a portion of the Bible to keep, thereby encouraging them to study further. Correspondence courses are available for the serious pupils. Letters from these students prove that it is an enjoyable

### Name change is expensive process

The name on the new structure in Rockmosa Park will be changed.

The building is currently labelled Rockmosa Sports Centre. Eramosa township council however opposes this name and has asked the community hall board to come up with suggested names for the building.

Councillor Dave Masson, a member of the committee, said there were a few suggestions, but all but one was expensive. The cheapest was the least liked.

Mr. Masson said it was suggested Sports Centre be taken down from the building, and Community Centre be erected. The wording Sports

Centre would then be placed at the entrance to the park.

Another suggestion was to put the words Community Centre below the present wording, and the third was to merely take down Sports and erect the word Civic. This last idea did not meet with too much enthusiasm.

The councillor told the other members that the name change was going to cost \$436, and the siding would all have to be replaced, to put up the new words. He suggested that the man who put the words up originally should come and look into the situation and give possible suggestions and prices for the erection of the new wording.

Reeve Bill Adsett was tired of the entire matter. "It is a sad commentary and we should not have to waste time on such a stupid affair," he said.

### \$65,000 Wintario grant

The Wintario grant to go towards the building of the Rockmosa Community Centre has been increased, due to the increased cost of the building.

The grant was originally to be \$50,000 for the \$200,000 building. However, the estimate was low and the building cost \$260,000 by the time it was completed. In view of this, the grant was increased to \$65,000 it was announced in a letter to Eramosa township council from Lesley Wilson, of the Wintario corporation.

Rockwood Cave (see map) is the one that is usually visited. It has a 10 feet high opening at the bottom of a 50 foot cliff of limestone and its entrance passages penetrate the rock for about 170 feet. It opens into two chambers, an initial room 6 to 7 feet high and a second room 4 feet high, connected to the first by a passageway only 1 1/2 feet high.

Water drips continuously from the roof and for the most part the floor is covered with wet, brown mud. The water contains calcium dissolved from the limestone and as it drips it deposits the calcium (again in the form of carbonate) to form stalactites hanging from the roof. These are generally no longer than two to three inches though in the past larger ones must have existed, because stalactites up to 10 inches long have been found in the mud at various parts of the cave.

Other forms of calcium carbonate that have been deposited in the cave include helictites (worm-like stalactites), cave "coral" (which looks a little like a bunch of grapes) and flowstone (found as "bacon rind")

### Bell rates to increase

Basic monthly rates will go up in the Rockwood exchange on July 22, Bill Salmon, local Bell Canada manager, announces.

Mr. Salmon said phone growth in the Rockwood local calling area has pushed the phone-number total above the highest total allowed for present rates.

Basic rates are tied directly to local calling area phone-number totals. A local calling area includes all exchanges the customer can reach via a local call.

Private line residence service will cost 40 cents more a month and two-party services will increase by 20 cents.

This increase, known as upgrouping, is authorized by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Bell's federal regulatory agency.

It is not connected with the recent general increase for all phone rates, also authorized by the CRTC, which went into effect June 13.

Twice a year the company must file with the CRTC a list of exchanges whose call phone-number totals have exceeded the upper limits of their rate groups.

Because phone totals can drop as well as increase, totals have to exceed the upper limits allowed by at least five per cent.

### DOG CONTROL OFFICER

The VILLAGE of ROCKWOOD requires a part time DOG CONTROL OFFICER - Resident preferred. Write or phone Secretary, Box 67, Rockwood or 856-9562.

### Propane tanks cause concern

The location of the Superior Propane tank at the Rockmosa community centre worries Eramosa Deputy Reeve Henry Holman Jr.

At Monday evening's council meeting, Mr. Holman brought up the subject of the tanks and said he feared vandalism. He pointed out the pipes into the building can easily be "nipped", stopping the flow of gas into the building. He said this would be especially bad if there was a function taking place and the fridges and stoves stopped working.

Reeve Bill Adsett said he feared someone backing their car into the tank and causing an explosion.

Councillor Dave Masson told council he would take the matter to the community centre committee.

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### Foreign invasion? The Acton Free Press

Did some foreign country invade Eramosa township Thursday evening? Deputy Reeve Henry Holman Jr. wondered.

fully understood the army's need for practice, he said he thought the exercises could have been done at an earlier hour, when no one would be disturbed.

Mr. Holman told the township councillors at their regular meeting Monday evening that he saw soldiers in full uniform and carrying guns marching near his home near Oustic. Between 9 and 10 p.m. that same evening, he heard what sounded like machine guns, very loud and disturbing. He told council he would not have known what the noise was if he had not seen the soldiers marching up his road.

Councillor Alan Burnett said he saw several military trucks drive past his home the same day, but did not hear any gun fire. A neighbor, however, did complain about hearing the gun fire.

Mr. Holman said it had to be some sort of military exercises, perhaps at a neighboring farm. Although he

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