

The siren wails - and 28 specially trained men respond

by Barb Wynneck
When the Rockwood-Eramosa fire siren is sounded at 7 p.m. every other Monday night, 28 volunteer men are off to the station to practice their firefighting skills, under the direction of Chief Carl Meadows and Deputy Chief Frank Allsop. After roll call and a business discussion, the group divides into three platoons, led by three captains, to study either maps, or pumps and trucks or the self-contained breathing apparatus. The men elect their three captains yearly, who set up a course of study for the firefighters.

Thirteen men received their certificates in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac care, Jim Funk, Bob Jestin, Gary Lawton, Carl Meadows, Floyd Meadows, Al Maclean, Bob Millson, Charles Milne, Daryl Nichol, Chuck Petty, Stew Rockola and Tom Rockola. These Rockwood firefighters were the first in the area to complete the government-sponsored course.

The training manual covering books on Forcible Entry, ladders, hoses, salvage, hose streams, apparatus, ventilation, rescue, first aid and fire inspections, are available at the station. The men are expected to study this on their own time.



TOM ROCKOLA assists firefighter Bob Jestin, who is adjusting the weight of his air pack at Monday night fire practice in Rockwood.

The Wellington County Mutual Aid Association has monthly meetings, and available volunteers attend to learn about new techniques and equipment.

The department has five trucks, two tankers, two pumpers and one emergency van. The oldest truck is an International, purchased by the village of Rockwood in 1943. It is beautiful, still operating in mint condition.

One hundred and ten square miles are covered by the department, all of Eramosa township, plus part of the Town of Milton. The 25th Crossroad, from the

Puslinch Town Line to the 5th Line of Milton, are the Milton boundary lines.

When the fire number is called, five emergency phones in the village ring. The first volunteer to the fire hall sets off the siren and answers the call, documenting the particulars on a blackboard name, line or lot number, type of fire. Maps are checked, and within 2 1/2 minutes after a fire call is placed, a minimum of two men are headed out on the trucks. Another man stays behind on the radio.

Fire Chief Meadows goes directly to the scene, assesses the situation and radios to the trucks, what type of hoses will be needed and where to set up the equipment.

The first truck goes to the fire. The second drives to the nearest water source where a man and a pump are dropped off. The pump is set up and a water supply will be available when the first empty pumper arrives. The trucks return to the station, hoses washed and hung to dry. A new hose is placed on each truck.

All equipment is checked and trucks refueled. Air packs are disinfected and tanks replaced for the next

emergency. This may require a trip to Guelph where the compressor is located. The Chief then documents the fire for the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office. At the next meeting, the fire will be analyzed on the blackboard.

Chief Meadows reports that last year there were 58 calls. Six of the fires were of arson origin. There were seven criminal convictions on three of the arson fires. The fire rate is climbing 40 per cent annually.

Deputy Chief Allsop reminds us that any home without a smoke detector is gambling with life. Detectors are available at the hardware store for about \$30.

At this time of year, many homes are burning wood. Chief Meadows asks that you please be careful with the kind of wood you use in your fireplace.

The Chief is investigating setting up a snowmobile unit with a trailing stretcher, so that a farm or bush accident can be more quickly serviced.

Fire inspections and prevention courses to schools and community groups keep the Chief and the Deputy Chief busy. It may be thought that the firefighters are socializing every other Monday night—they are, as they train to provide and maintain a service to our community.

Whew! 3,500 meals served many events attended

The Rockwood and District Lions and Lionettes have tallied their last six months' activities and now, they know why they have been so busy! Not only have the Lions directed their monthly dances and separate bars, but the Lionettes have served 3,500 banquet meals. The Bikkathon, Mohawk Raceway Night, The Skating Programme, Christmas Bazaar, Las Vegas Night, Mr. Pumpkin Dress-Up Day, Turkey Draw, Canvass for the Blind and Christmas cake sales, have all involved members' time.

There was a Farmer's Market Booth at Willow West Mall and entertainment at Eden House for the December birthday party, to keep the Lionettes moving at a hectic pace. Christmas

hampers were delivered. Meals on Wheels diners received a gift and Santa came to the junior grades, thanks to the Lions and Lionettes. Members of the community who needed assistance at Christmas, received help from the clubs.

Future activities will include a continuation of sponsoring a child to nursery school and transportation of two students to Guelph Rotary School. Zehr's and Dominion tapes are being collected towards the purchase of kitchen equipment and Hockey Memoir Books are being sold.

No doubt club members will need just as much energy to complete projects planned for the next six months!



FIRE CHIEF Carl Meadows and Captain Rick Lewis lead a discussion about the changing Eramosa Township maps at Rockwood fire practice on Monday night.

Free Press District Pages

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Erin twp. councillors look to the future

The 1978 inaugural meeting of Erin Township Council was held on January 5. The invocation was given by Rev. Cook of the Hillsburgh Disciples Church of Christ.

Reeve Donald Matheson reviewed the accomplishments of the past year, and commented on the up-coming problems of the future, which were mainly road maintenance, gravel, subdivision, and the Everton dam.

Deputy reeve Bert Wheeler was concerned about the

gravel situation, saying "We shouldn't let all the gravel go out of the township. We should be looking to ourselves."

Councillor John Reid said "We should take a small look at the past and a big look to the future," and hoped they could handle the problems well and make the right decisions for the good of the township.

Councillor Jo Schneider was concerned about the garbage situation, saying, "We

should be looking into it, now is the time to do things up properly." She said she was disappointed in the hydro outcome and the whole utility question, but has enjoyed her first year in council.

Councillor George Root thinks he can contribute more in the coming year in face of the background council has taught him in his first year. He says there should be a restraint on spending, and they should take a close look at that when setting a budget.

Clerk Clive Beardwood was particularly struck by the difference in attitude of the people in this township than in others he has worked in. They are all of mixed backgrounds and "There were very, very few unreasonable people that I spoke to - I could count them all on one hand," he says. "They are willing to talk things out." He remarked he was very happy with his job and the people he is working for.

There will be a Grand River Conservation hearing for

Gerry Ward on lot 18, con. 4. He has the footings and block wall of his house in but according to the Ontario Building Code the lot is not suitable for building.

Allan K. Brown has a problem about dogs running at large. His letter was referred to Halton Dog Control for comment and report.

For the first time in months there were no bills for loss of livestock by dogs.

The road report was given by Ed. Barden on a satisfactory note. All was within the 1977 budget except the \$10,000, which will be absorbed into the 1978 program. Gravel availability is currently being looked into.

On motions, Lloyd Lang was appointed to the Committee of Adjustment for a three year term, Henry Wheeler was appointed to represent the Township of Erin on the Credit Valley Conservation Board for one year term, and John Reid and Bert Wheeler were the representatives to the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board.

The Erin Township Public Library Board for the coming year will be Donald Matheson, Ken McKinnon, Isabel De Nance, Ruth Maddock and Julie Switzer.

A by-law was passed granting the reeve and treasurer the authority to borrow funds from the Royal Bank of Canada, Hillsburgh the sum not to exceed \$750,000.

Another by-law was read a second and third time to amend the zoning by-law, to allow the farm implement dealer to build on 9.5 acres, on lot 13, concession 3, the corner of highways 24 and 25 at Ospringe. The accumulation of used farm machinery that is no longer usable will remain on the premises no longer than nine months, and be located a minimum of 160 feet from any property line. This by-law was passed subject to revision of wording by the lawyers' approval.

Owing to the illness of Glen Creba it was suggested that Elmer McKinnon come in to the office on an hourly basis, to relieve Clive Beardwood to go out on by-law enforcement and building inspector's work.

Council adjourned to meet February 1, at 10 a.m.

Passengers land aircraft after pilot suffers heart attack

"I'm thankful to be home," says Paul Smith of Campbellville after his harrowing near-brush with death last week. "I think now, if things had gone otherwise, I wouldn't be here."

In a real life drama in the

skies of southern Ontario last Wednesday morning Mr. Smith, 39, and Donald Pratt, 49, of Burlington safely landed a four-seater plane after its pilot collapsed at the controls. The pilot, Peter Kerwin of Caledonia, was pronounced

dead on arrival at Etobicoke General Hospital, apparently of a heart attack.

Reflecting on the event a few days later Mr. Smith said he's been reliving the experience. "I do think about it a lot," he commented. "As the days go by, I seem to get more terrified."

Mr. Smith is presently working with Actonion Doug Freed preparing plans for the rebuilding of the old Free Press building on Mill St.

Since then he's been talking

to a lot of people about flying. "Everything we did was not necessarily right, but it turned out right."

On that fateful day the men left Hamilton's Mount Hope Airport in a Cessna 182 bound for Elliot Lake, where Mr. Smith, an architect and consulting engineer, and Mr. Pratt, a contractor, were going to inspect an arena. There was some of the usual joking before they boarded the plane but no thought that it



STEW ROCKOLA, facing camera, and Danny Bolton, practise the use of air tanks at the Rockwood Fire Dept. The next step is to put on the firefighting uniform with the tanks, for a total added weight of 65 pounds!

Wayside pit for Highway 7 top

Eramosa township council moved to accommodate a request from the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Communication (MTC) by granting a permit for the opening of a wayside pit for highway construction.

Council granted the opening of the pit to Art Swanson on the east half of Lot 9 on Concession 3. Reeve Bill Adsett stated the ministry's argument. The MTC states the contract for the work on Highway 7 between Acton and Guelph can be completed by opening this pit rather than several

others.

Deputy reeve Henry Holman asked if residents in the area knew of the MTC's request. Reeve Adsett said he did not know, but that likely there has been some gossip.

Council granted the permit subject to the 4th Line being maintained and rehabilitated. Reeve Adsett said the MTC stated the pit would be rehabilitated to the benefit of the owner.

Mr. Holman asked if there would be an asphalt plant on the site, and the reeve said it was likely taking the meaning from the MTC's letter.

\$5 million Everton site

Long-term land acquisition plans of the Grand River Conservation Authority for the proposed Everton source area were approved in principle January 6 by Natural Resources Minister Frank S. Miller.

The land acquisition program includes some 1,200 acres of wet lands, recharge areas and forest land in the Everton area of Erin Township. These lands contribute to the stable flow of the Eramosa River which recharges the Arkell Springs, main water source for the City of Guelph.

Open land will be retained for agricultural use pending completion of a master plan for the area when it is planned to plant tree and shrub species which will attract wildlife into the area. Forested areas will be held for forestry purposes, provision of wildlife habitat and controlled timber harvesting.

Area properties have been gradually acquired as they became available. The Authority presently owns 1,090 acres and plans to proceed with purchases of the remaining 2,420 acres during the next 10 to 15 years.

Total long-term estimated cost of the land acquisition is \$5 million.



The snowplow just shot down the road at thirty miles an hour spraying a wake of snow fifteen feet into the pasture. We sure seem to be having our share of the stuff this year. Can anything be as white, as pure, as cleansing and as downright troublesome, as a sky load of snow? On top of all the rain we had this fall, I kind of get to wondering if God thinks we need an extra washing. Maybe we do, at that.

Delight at eleven

The greatest joy of my eleven year old life was moving to Canada and discovering snow. England had the occasional snowfall, and I remember padding across streets in my Wellington boots and knee socks (little girls didn't even wear slacks in the snow) and marvelling that the curbs had disappeared. But real snow was a rarity.

Oh, the joy of jumping up to your waist in snow crossing a ditch. The excitement of watching the drifts gather in the driveway knowing you'd probably have to ski to school the next day and therefore have a legitimate excuse for being late. Even in the fifties in Montreal, a little thing like living three miles from school and having the school buses stop running didn't give you a holiday.

I used to write blotted letters to my poor underprivileged friends back in the old country telling forgivable lies about the depth of snow in the back yard. It sure made the winter fun.

Tunnels to the dairy

And it still does.

Yes, it causes trouble, unaccountably pulling well-behaved cars into the ditch and making any outside job five times as disagreeable. But it's still exciting.

Our years in the Ottawa valley produced memories of the biggest snowdrifts I ever hope to see. One year the drift between house and barn must have been ten feet high. You had to climb way up from the back door until you were on a level with the edge of the barn roof. And then carefully slide down to the milk house roof, positioning your boots and buckets so they fitted into the tunnel cleared around the door. Honest! You don't believe me? Ask Mack.

Log fires in snow

The Rockwood farm had page wire fence down each side of the lane, a guaranteed way to get your driveway twice as full of snow from any direction as the neighboring fields. Many's the time we just gave up and parked at the end of its considerable length until the wind eventually stopped blowing and it was safe to get a bulldozer in. Having nowhere to push the snow, the dozer would run the full length of the line piling great snow mountains in front of the driveway. The kids were delighted and convinced that we had hired this dozer to create play hills for their benefit alone. All winter they'd spend hours wearing out the seat of their snowpants whomping down the bumpy chutes squealing with delight as the snow shot up their backs to melt in their underwear.

Snow is glorious, it's exciting, playful, oh, so bright, and just plain fun. And the nicest part of snow is that it goes away every spring.

Rockwood Roundup

by Barbara Wynneck
The Rockwood Horticulture Club will have a special feature at its next meeting January 18. As usual the group will gather in the Town Hall at 8 p.m. Last year Gordon Couling, who is a retired Fine Arts professor from the University of Guelph, attracted a large crowd, when he spoke about the old buildings in Eramosa. Everyone was fascinated. Next Wednesday he will be speaking again and showing slides, the theme being "Gardens Remembered."

This presentation will include slides of the exotic and historical gardens in America and Europe.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be a charge of \$1 to non-members. Memberships to the Horticulture Club will be available for \$2.

Rockwood Centennial students in classes Kindergarten to Grade 5, living in the Harris St. and Carroll St. - Wetherald areas, are now being transported to and from school on existing buses, if they wish. This service will be in effect while Highway 7 is (Continued on Page 11)

Eramosa Council looks to '78 issues

Planning, water and sewers, the zoning by-law and secondary planning were the main topics mentioned by Eramosa Township council members as items they likely face this year.

Council members, starting with Reeve Bill Adsett, looked forward to 1978 during council's inaugural meeting Monday.

"This is the year the tap may be turned on" Reeve Adsett said on the topic of water and sewers. He added council must nail down its procedures about the two services.

The first responsibility under planning is to get the zoning by-law under way, the reeve said.

Sewers, water and planning figured in all the councillors' remarks.

There are people wanting a sub-division in Rockwood, so the zoning by-law and planning are important, deputy reeve Henry Holman Jr. said.

Between administering such items as sewers and setting the pace for development controls, council will be busy, John McLeod said.

Councillor David Masson called for the hiring of a student to help the planner with questions such as determining the source of the township taxes, what do increased services cost with respect to tax dollars generated. Are we swinging from an agricultural to a residential community, he said.

Roads is another item which Reeve Adsett says deserves some rethinking. Although we have got to a point where we can

afford a new grader, perhaps we should be looking at road construction, he said.

Councillor Allan Burnett suggested council some time consider the advantages of renting equipment instead of buying it.

The community centre and recreation were other major items on the reeve's list. He said he thought council should look at the community centre with an eye of diminishing whatever deficit may come from operating it.

"On Rockmosa, "We simply must get the ruddy thing levelled off," Reeve Adsett said.

A ball diamond for Everton and the use of the Hortop Mill were other items the reeve said council will have to do something about.

Under legislation Reeve Adsett said council should look at the problem of moving cars off the roads, especially during snow removal operations.

Looking around the beige painted council room Councillor Masson said he could not take much more of it. He suggested it be redecorated. It is "the most depressing room in the township," he said.

Township clerk Lloyd Hindley ended off the look at the new year with a cautionary note. Budget restraints are one limit council will have to keep in mind, Mr. Hindley said.

There will possibly be fewer grants coming to the township than before, the clerk said. Also the tax arrears seem to be going up and up he said.



ERAMOSIA TOWNSHIP COUNCIL held its inaugural meeting Monday in the township's offices. Here Reeve Bill Adsett sits at centre with deputy reeve Henry Holman Jr. left, and councillor Allan Burnett. Clerk Lloyd Hindley stands at the left with councillors John McLeod and David Masson.