



THE PROUD FATHER of the region's new baby is Chairman Ric Morrow. The region offices located on Highway 25, a half mile north of the Queen Elizabeth Way, is estimated to cost regional taxpayers \$2,500,000. The region expects to take occupancy by Oct. 1.

Croatian Centre open to public

The \$5 million cultural and athletic centre planned on Winston Churchill Boulevard, by the Croatian community of the Toronto area, will be open to the public. Michael J. Bukovac, spokesman for the Croatian Franciscan Custody, told Halton Hills Planning Board last week.

Included in the facilities on the 160 acres, owned by the Croatian Franciscan Fathers, will be a centre for performing arts, library, swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball court and soccer fields.

He explained the facilities would be non-sectarian and non-denominational.

Mr. Bukovac said in the northern section there would be a cemetery primarily for Croatian-Canadians, and a summer day camp for children supervised by the Franciscan fathers.

The spokesman said all the trees will remain, and much of the land will be left in

agricultural use. He said some of the land would be used for garden plots.

Councillor Pat Patterson said he watched the Franciscan fathers, from the time they took over the former Claude McLaughlin farm on Five Sideroad and the Town Line, and said they had really cleaned up the place. "This will add a lot to the old Esqueving Township."

Owners of the land, trustees M. Samardzic, S. Lasic and A. Bebek, want the land to be rezoned OSI Special and institutional, from its present rural to permit the complex.

The complex will be built in three phases as money is raised by the Croatian community. Work is expected to start in the spring, with the first phase being completed early next year.

A Franciscan priest, the Rev. Leon Galic, is living in a house on the property at present, and acting as operations manager for the project.

Woman minister is coming to Rockwood

Rev. Carrie Doehring will be Rockwood's first lady minister when she takes up her duties at the Presbyterian Church this summer. Ms. Doehring, a St. Lambert, Quebec native, will be graduating from the Presbyterian College, McGill University, Montreal, this spring. She was appointed to the post by the Board of World Missions. Her husband, Mark Jones, will be studying computer science at a university in this area.

The congregation is eagerly anticipating Mr. and Mrs. Jones' arrival and hopes that

they will reside in the village manse.

The church has been without its own minister since October 1977, when Rev. Sinclair resigned. Rev. George Lewis of Milton has been conducting the Sunday services. Last week, Rev. Rennie of Acton held the Easter Services.

Eramosa Baha'is celebrate Naw Ruz

The Baha'i community of Eramosa Township celebrated Naw Ruz on March 21. Family and friends, about 50 people, gathered in the dining room of the Rockwood Hotel for a lovely dinner, then shared an evening's entertainment: Nancy Darling of Puslinch spoke about Naw Ruz; Vee Jay Dvarka and Ariel Barkley of Rockwood provided musical entertainment.

Naw Ruz is the Baha'i New Year. It comes with the first day of spring, after the period of a 19-day, daylight fast by adult members of the Faith. At this time of the year, Baha'is throughout the world are coming together to celebrate Naw Ruz in an occasion of love and worship.

Discussions on the Baha'i Faith are held Tuesdays, 8.30 p.m. at 214 Main St. N. in Rockwood. All interested are most welcome.



CHECKING THE sap buckets on the maple trees in front of their house on Guelph St., Rockwood, are Heather and Ian Reid. Their mom, Marla, reports that from 20 trees, three families have already boiled down one gallon of maple syrup. The dads have concocted a new drink, the maple-rum toddy, apparently delicious!

Witnesses are given headquarters go-ahead

The installation of a private sewage system on the proposed 64 acre site of the national Jehovah's Witnesses headquarters on Highway 7 by the Wildwood Road near Georgetown, will clear the way for the large complex to go ahead, if all other requirements are met.

At Halton Hills planning board, Tuesday night, Glen Howe, counsel for the International Bible Students Association of Canada, better known as Jehovah's Witnesses, said he understood sewage allocation was a problem and said the group is willing to install their own sewage system.

Planning board approved the application for rezoning from agricultural to institutional in principle, subject to there being adequate water

and a private sewage system on the property.

Mr. Howe described the area as a park like development since there are only two buildings on the 64 acre piece of land. He said they would like to have town water, and emphasized this is not a tax exempt institution, but would be subject to all taxes. He said there would be no use of schools, nor road services needed, since the roads would be internal.

He said he understood the Region was concerned about using prime agricultural land, but stated soil tests have shown this land to be class three, six and seven. "So there is no prime agricultural land at all."

Councillor George Maitby said he wondered if Georgetown had enough water to

Information on environment

The Halton Environmental Information Project (H.E.I.P.) will provide individuals, citizens' groups, and government agencies with an organized package of existing information to help them evaluate the environmental impact of planning and development proposals.

The project will develop an environmental information directory which will indicate what information is presently available. The directory will contain an index to data, publications, and resource people in the Halton Region.

Effective public participation will be developed through the formation of an advisory committee of potential users. Advantages of co-operating with government agencies and the public in organizing data which will be mutually beneficial will be demonstrated through this committee, the HEIP maintains.

The project is being sponsored by Planning Systems Research of Waterdown, and is headed by Peter Langdon, the project manager. It is supported by a one year Canada Works grant and began this November.

Public awareness of environmental considerations in urban and regional planning has given rise to a growing demand for more environmental information. The protection of natural features and resources is the most obvious benefit of sound environmental planning. Less well understood but at least as important, is man's role in the ecological system; that of living in harmony with, rather than in spite of his natural environment, the HEIP says.

The need for environmental information is especially acute in the Halton Region, the HEIP maintains. Situated in the midst of a rapidly urbanizing area between Toronto and Hamilton, it is subject to heavy development pressures.

Numerous studies have collected large quantities of data concerning the Region, but they have not been organized in flexible formats suited to the needs of citizens' groups and public agencies.

Erin Twp. tax burden

Erin Township taxpayers will carry the highest proportioned assessment—12.25 per cent—in Wellington County, according to county budget figures.

Generally there will be a six per cent increase in the county's 1978 budget.

The levy is shared by 21 municipalities on an equal-assessment base.

The general levy is \$1,000 more than last year to \$1,212,000.

The greatest increase is in the road levy which climbs to \$1 million from \$880,000 last year.

Baha'is celebrate

Baha'is of Halton Hills celebrated Naw-ruz with an invitation from the Burlington Baha'is to a pot luck dessert party at Shell House in Burlington, Monday, March 20.

There were Baha'is from Oakville, Puslinch, Milton and Halton Hills. They were entertained with music and singing.

Baha'is from Guelph, Puslinch and Eramosa celebrated Naw-ruz at the Rockwood Hotel with dinner and dancing.

Book marks church past

Former M.P.P. John Root is helping the Hillsburgh Baptist Church mark its 125th anniversary with the publication of his book about the church's history. Mr. Root wrote the 56-page book in six months. The church published illustrated volume under the title One Hundred and Twenty-five years of Christian Witness: Hillsburgh Baptist Church 1853-1978.

The book is divided into sections of 25 years. It also contains some 60 photographs.

Festival

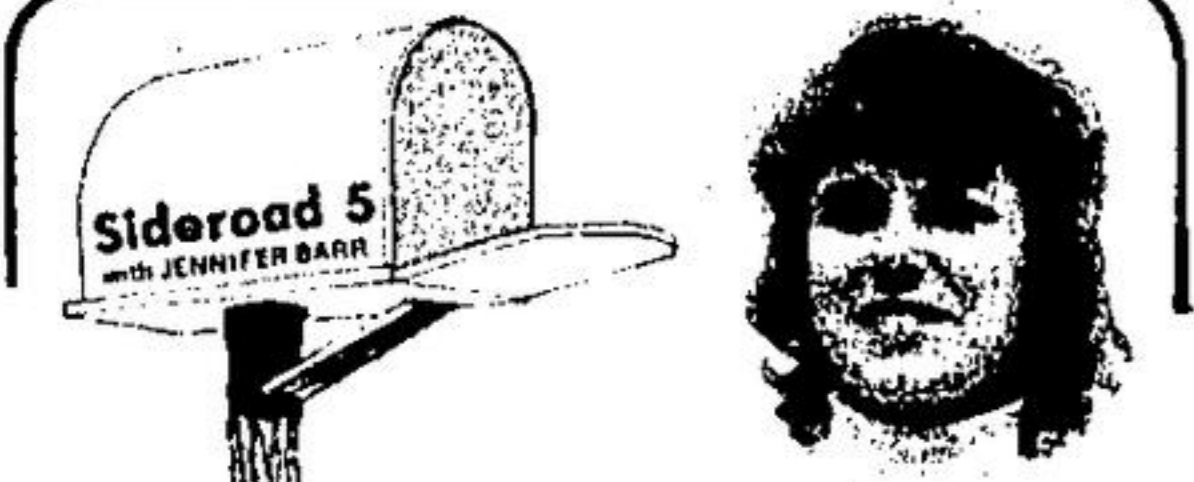
The Elmira maple syrup festival will be held this Saturday, April 1, for the 15th year. A large part of the proceeds go to the Association for the Mentally Retarded, as well as other charitable organizations.

Rockwood Roundup

by Bary Wynneck

Betty and Ray Death have travelled to summer climates, outside Rockwood, during the last month. Accompanied by Ray's mother, they spent 15 days visiting Ray's brother and travelling about Arizona. Easter weekend with friends from the car club, they toured Washington, D.C. Ray reports that, "we saw all the sights including the Grand Canyon".

The Junior Farmers are staging a membership drive during the month of April. If you are between 15 and 30 and are interested in the organization of rural youth to promote community involvement, telephone Peggy Burnett at 856-9097.



I have a friend called Helen. Helen is a lovely Scot who describes herself as a demented gypsy. Her sense of humor is delightfully droll and we both have the same knack of saying outrageous things with a straight face—gets us in a lot of trouble.

Why Sears moved

Several times this winter, Helen has accompanied me on shopping trips to Guelph. As a result, there's a lot of stores I can't show my face in any more.

Our chemistry interacts and we trip down Woolwich Street like Laverne and Shirley accusing gentle policemen quietly writing parking tickets.

In Sears just before Christmas, Helen drove a young salesman to drink. She was attempting to select a gift for her father and couldn't decide which pair of pants would go with which shirt. After stripping most of the surrounding racks and altering her choice numerous times she suddenly pounced on a flannel plaid shirt-jacket and declared, "I'll take this!"

I explained to the poor man that she usually wasn't allowed out without her keeper.

As I led her past the perfume counter I commented, "I don't care much for 'Charlie'."

"I'm not too fond of Phil either," growled Helen.

Bag balm, please

However, the piece de resistance came in the Co-op where we dropped to pick up my weekly 'bogga yoats and bagga scratch' for the chickens.

The boys at the Co-op have a grumble trying to cram my little Mustang trunk with sacks of feed and ask why I don't bring the truck.

But dear Cec at the counter is always patient. He doesn't even mind when I refuse to acknowledge the kilograms and things, still requesting grain in 'hundred pound sacks'.

This particular day, I was just completing my transaction when Helen asked brightly if Cec had any 'bag balm.'

Noting my double take, she explained she had read in my Mother Earth Almanac that this cow ointment was very good for rough hands.

Without batting an eyelash, Cec produced a large jar of udder balm, removing the top for Helen's perusal.

"Pooh, it smells horrible—I can't go to bed in that stuff!" she exclaimed. So Cec, commenting it was the lanolin gave it the smell, dragged jar after jar off the shelves for Helen to try.

Completely forgetting me and my cats, the two of them rubbed different cow udder ointments into their hands, discussing the merits of this one and the aroma of that one.

Another incredulous customer, obviously a dairy farmer, leaned closer and closer over Helen's shoulder, finally muttering,

"Udder-fax?" and shaking his head in wonder.

I took Helen firmly by the arm and got her out of there before she explained to the listening gentlemen she was a belly dancer and described all the places she wanted to put the udder balm.

There's a lot of places I can't go in Guelph now.



OUTSIDE THE 35-FOOTER the builders of a huge snow fort at Everton line up for a picture at the entrance. Brad Stevens, left, sits with fellow fort builders Carmine Scorziello, Kevin Petty, Franco Scorziello and Aaron Stevens. The boys spent five days of their Easter holidays constructing an elaborate fort south of the village.