



The Rockwood Academy, founded in 1850 is one of the Eramosa buildings proposed to be designated by LACAC. This rear view of the property shows the complex of unique stone structures.

Proposed historical sites revealed by LACAC group

Researching historical and architectural facts to ensure that certain important properties be recognized in Eramosa Township has kept the Local Advisory Committee for Architectural Conservancy (LACAC) occupied since its inception three years ago. The Committee (also known as the Heritage Committee) has now compiled the facts, and chairperson Betty Lou Clark presented Eramosa Council with a brief recommending that the following buildings be designated as properties of architectural and/or historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act 1974 S.O. Chapt 122.

These are the first properties in Eramosa Township to be recommended for designation. Speedside United Church—the extremely unique eight-sided limestone church with gothic windows was completed in 1855. It is located at Lot 16, Concession 2, Eramosa Township. Mrs. Clark commented that this building was the first choice of the provincial ministry for designation.

LACAC recommends designation and preservation of the building's exterior, including walls, windows, door openings and roof line.

Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church—built in 1883 of the Romanesque design with local limestone. St. Peter's is considered to be one of the finest small churches in the Hamilton Diocese.

LACAC recommends designation and preservation of the building's exterior, including walls, windows, door openings and existing roof line and belfry. The church is located on the part west half Lot 26, Concession 5, at Oustic, Eramosa Township.

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church—located at the corner of Guelph and Main Streets, Rockwood, was built of stone, donated by Henry Strange from his own quarries, and dedicated in 1884.

LACAC recommends that the church be designated of historic and architectural importance to the community, including walls, windows, door openings, roof line, tower and belfry.

Pine Hill Grove—Barn and home of Henry and Elisabeth Strange, now the home of the Dunbar family, located at 238 Main St. S., Rockwood.

The grand home was built in two stages from 1840 - 1860 and displays exceptional stone masonry, as well as woodwork of superior workmanship.

The barn is a unique example of Canadian stone barn building with unusual proportions and stone details.

Col. Strange owned 1200 acres where the village of Rockwood is now situated. He founded the village by surveying the 1200 acres, dividing it into lots and selling them. He laid out the streets and named many of them. He built several area grist and saw mills. He engineered the survey of the Grand Trunk Railway from Toronto to Sarnia and surveyed the first railway in Michigan.

Rockwood Academy: founded in 1850 by William Wetherald, a combination of Georgian and Victorian architecture.

The Academy was originally a complex of log buildings, built in several stages. Gradually these were replaced by unique stone structures.

This great school was regarded as a place of learning with high standards, and it is from

here that many young Canadians went forth to build Canada in its formative years.

The building is presently under restoration begun by the Ontario Heritage Foundation on Dec. 4, 1978. It is protected from destruction or architectural deformation by them forever. This has been accomplished by an agreement signed in 1978 between the Foundation and owner, Yosef G. Drenters.

Rockwood Cemetery and within it the Quaker Burial Ground which is the nucleus of the present-day cemetery.

The Quaker Burial Ground is a square plot, situated on the north west side of the cemetery, near the old Academy barn. Here are buried the earliest Eramosa pioneers namely: members of the Smith family, who took up 200 acres in Eramosa in 1817. The cemetery and the Rockwood Academy are on this land; the Harris and the Wetherald family members also are buried here.

To the east side of the present day Rockwood Cemetery is a stone, marking the original site of one of Rockwood's earliest houses of worship "The Friends Meeting House" (Quakers). LACAC recommends the preservation of these sites.

Eden Mills Hotel—One of the many limestone buildings in Eden Mills, considered to be a fine example of Scottish masonry, dated approximately 1867.

LACAC recommends designation to include

preservation of the front facade and the remaining bar on the bar room.

The building is located on the east half, Lot 1, Concession 2, police village of Eden Mills.

Chairperson Clark explained to council that LACAC's proposed designation sites were recommendations only. A by-law must be passed to complete the designations after the properties have been advertised and any objections heard.

If there is opposition to the designation, a hearing is held by the provincial Conservation Review Board. This board then makes a decision on the issue, under the Heritage Act.

"Designation" is described under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 as: a municipality may enter into a covenant with a property owner to protect certain architectural or historic features of the property.

This means that the property owner cannot alter the building's features which have been specifically designated. If the owner wishes to make property changes, he may sit down with the municipality to justify what he plans to do. The by law must be repeated if property alterations are to be carried through.

Loans or grants may be obtained for restorations with a municipal agreement.

Chairperson Clark commented that the committee's purpose was to preserve, not to obstruct. In some communities only buildings exteriors have been designated, so that

owners will be free to alter the interiors for their own convenience, she said.

Deputy Reeve David Masson questioned if the interior of Speedside United Church had been changed from the original, and if it too should be designated. LACAC will investigate this point and report back to council.

Deputy Reeve Masson commended LACAC for their ground work and suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to the members.

Chairperson Clark pointed out that Mary Rogers and Anna Chandler had researched the Eden Mills Hotel; Berton Hill researched St. John the Evangelist Church; Yosef Drenters gathered the information for Pine Hill Grove, the Academy, Rockwood Cemetery and the Quaker Burial Ground; Florence Hindley supplied the history for Speedside United Church and Mrs. Clark researched St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church.

The Dunbar Brothers, owners of the Pine Hill Grove property, were invited to hear the presentation. They will meet with council and LACAC representatives for a special in camera consultation.

Chairperson Clark mentioned that the Dunbar house and barn and the Eden Mills Hotel were the first privately owned buildings that the committee has recommended for designation. Research is being compiled on other privately owned township properties, she said.

Rockwood and District

Residents appointed to local committees

by Barb Wynneck
Eramosa Council has appointed township residents to serve the 1979 term on the various committees of council.

Library Board: Councillor Alan Burnett, Barry Dryden, Rachel Hockey, Rita McPhedran, Ken MacKay.

Rockwood Community Centre Board: Councillor John McLeod, Councillor Murray Cox, Gary Ritchie, Walter Swanson, Donna Ford and Harry Bonner. Retiring from the volunteer board positions are Leona Kingsbury and Herb Saunders.

Recreation Committee: Councillor John McLeod, Deputy Reeve David Masson, Lloyd Dyer, Alex Lush, Loraine Root, Chris Haworth, Sandy Hudson, Bill Adair, Barb Wynneck.

Medical Centre Board: Deputy Reeve David Masson, Councillor Murray Cox and Rockwood Board of Trustees chairman Rick Lewis. Local Architectural Advisory Committee (LACAC): Councillor Alan Burnett, ex officio member Eramosa Build-

ing Inspector, John Salmon, Betty Lou Clark, Berton Hill, Yosef Drenters, Jim Goring, Don Hills, Barry Dryden, Anna Chandler, Mary Rogers, Hans Woelmer, Agnes Dunbar. Eramosa Planning Board: Elwood Snow, Eden Mills Board of Trustees' representative was reappointed along with Murray Swanson who replaces retiring board member Max Storey. Reeve Bill Adsett

is the ex-officio member. Mr. Snow's and Mr. Swanson's three years term will expire Jan 1, 1982.

Guelph and Suburban Planning Board: John Benham was re-appointed for another two year term. Deputy Reeve David Masson is the other representative.

Committee of Adjustment: Donald Matthews was re-appointed for another three year term.

Rock-a-Longers meet January 2

January 2, a very cold and windy night, saw the first meeting of 1979 of the Rock-a-long Women's Institute. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. Ramsay and there were ten members and one visitor present. The president, Mrs. G. Mitchell gave a reading "Resolutions" and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mrs. B. Leroy and Mrs. J. Glendenning volunteered to take the course on "Spotlight on bread."

Come back and lead the rest of the members and friends. This should be an interesting course.

The euchres will start on Jan. 18, weather permitting.

Due to the absence of Mrs. E. Tosh, the program convener, the roll call was extended slightly. Originally it was "Name a place you have visited" but now the members had to tell a little about the place. There were some very interesting facts told.

Erin twp. council

Official plan needs updating

by Doris Fines
Erin township council found numerous meetings coming up in the near future when they held their first session of the year January 3, in the municipal building, Hillsburgh.

Open houses will be held in all the townships for the purpose of updating the official plan, which is drawn up for a five year period and is now due for study. The official plan concerns Erin Township, Erin village, and the townships of Eramosa, Guelph and Puslinch. The first open house will be for Erin Township on Feb. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m., in the municipal building. People of the township will be able to see what minor changes are being proposed at this meeting and will be given questionnaires to fill out.

The Guelph and Suburban Planning Board will sort them out and draw up a new draft to bring back to a public meeting with the proposed changes.

A meeting prior to this will be held in Guelph in January to enlighten council members on the issue.

A Wellington County Planning Seminar is scheduled for Fri. Feb. 2, in Guelph from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a meeting of the Planning Board and Committee of Adjustment.

A by-law was drawn up authorizing the borrowing of funds from the Royal Bank of Canada in Hillsburgh, not exceeding the sum of \$750,000 for the year 1979, to meet expenditures for the township.

The auditors have re-

quested a clean-up of assessments reduced and reimbursed from the set amount. Taxes amounting to \$4,723.08 will be written off to rectify the amount on the roll, due to barns or garages burned or torn down, land taken over by Hydro, and other causes.

Roger Beamon, for Glendevon, sent word that in view of the action taken by council, and that council would now be looking to Glendevon for payment of work being done, they are willing to have an arbitration on what works should or should not be done. Council wishes to go on record that they know what the position is and were aware of it before they proceeded with the necessary work that had to be completed in the subdivision. Council is also willing to arbitrate, but feel it is up to Glendevon to make the move.

The resignation of Byron Bruce from the committee of adjustment was accepted with regret.

Ed Barden, road superintendent, would like to see the township install culvert access to new private entrances at owners' expense. Policy has been to give new home owners a break in allowing them to install their own, but some are taking advantage of the situation, and in spite of all precautions, some one will sneak in an old culvert with new ends, pile stones on top, covered with gravel, and in a few years it breaks through and the township has the expense of replacing it.

Another suggestion was for the building inspector not to issue a building permit until the

entrance was properly installed.

Everdale Place came under discussion again. They did pay a business tax but it was cancelled when it quit operating as a school. Before a new school can be started they will need a zone change or an official plan change.

John Vibe, living in Toronto, owns a piece of land on Lot 3, Con. 10, with no buildings. He wants to set up a shelter for his tractor. Council's policy is that no accessory building can be erected before the main

Churchill

Visitors in area at New Year's

by J. Turner
Mrs. Eleanor McFadden conducted the first service of worship in 1979 at Churchill Community Church. Her topic was "Decisions" a timely follow-up on her sermon. "Resolutions" and "Commitments" of the previous Sunday.

The January meeting of the CCC Women is to be held at 8 o'clock this Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Eleanor Thompson. Also coming up is the annual congregational meeting Thursday evening Dec. 18. All members are being urged to attend.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Arthur Spears who passed away last Friday after a brief illness. Mr. and Mrs. Spears farmed and raised a family of four in this area, retiring

Rockwood Roundup

by Barb Wynneck
Congratulations to A.K. Thomas, Guelph St. who will celebrate his 95th birthday this weekend.

Time to get the rust off those blades. Skating is great in the ball park rink and along the Eramosa River!

Council shorts

Council and municipal employees' wages were given an approximate 10 per cent increase with special allowances for those who had been assessed extra duties.

Mrs. Shirley Salmon was engaged as caretaker of the Municipal Building. The former caretaker no longer resides in the township. The C.N. shelter at Rockwood, is one of the many buildings along the rail line slated for removal, council was informed by M.P.P. Jack Johnson.

Barrett chairman

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett was elected chairman of the Halton Regional Police Commission Thursday, after being nominated by Commissioner Glen Magnuson.

Mr. Magnuson was in turn elected to the vice chairman's position, having been nominated by Milton Mayor Don Gordon.

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