

# Free Press

# Rockwood and district

## Insulators cause power blackout

by Barb Wynneck  
A flash of light and a resounding crack in the frigid night air, dramatically marked the beginning of a three hour power black-out in Rockwood last Thursday.  
According to Ontario Hydro authority Ed May, a defective insulator at the riverside distribution station caused the problem. Fortunately, a villager saw the flash and notified Ontario Hydro. The repairmen were then able to isolate the problem source immediately, Mr. May said.  
Upon close inspection of the station, 30 more cracked insulators were found, which could mean future trouble to the system, Mr. May noted. All 30 will be replaced by a new type of insulator later this week. There will be no service interruption at this time.  
Mr. May explained that usually insulators are expected to last for ever; however, those installed at the Rockwood station have deteriorated over the last eight years.  
Official records note that the power was off from 10:45 p.m. Jan. 11 until 1:35 a.m. Jan. 12.

### Ospringle

## Most children breaking law

by Doris Fines  
It was bound to happen. Of course it had to happen. It wouldn't be winter without it. It's just that it is never the right time for it to happen. But it is a wonder it didn't happen before this. I am talking about the snow storm, swirling snow into my driveway as though I didn't want to go anywhere. But there is always a bright side if you search hard enough. One little glimmer is the fact that the days are getting longer so I can have more time to shovel.

Constable Kidd showed a film on Snow Vehicle Safety to the grades 4 to 7 pupils at Ospringle school. He stressed where the law comes into the picture, and pointed out that most elementary children who drive snowmobiles are breaking the law. They can get a license at 12 years, but cannot cross the road until they are 14 years old.

Primary grades saw a film on water safety entitled "Sam the Safety Duck," which they enjoyed very much.

Ospringle Ladies Aid had their election of officers at the January meeting on Wednesday night, but they remained unchanged: president, Mrs. Ralph Sinclair; vice president, Mrs. Barry Clarke; secretary, Mrs.

George Lang; treasurer, Mrs. Henry Pankratz; card convener, Mrs. Vernon Stewart; and organist, Mrs. Gordon Atken.

Mrs. Lang was hostess for the meeting, and the devotional was taken by Mrs. Ward Bruce. The theme was The New Year, What will it bring? Along this line several articles were read on changes in our lives and the life around us, and the promise that God will be with us if changes come.

The study book, having been studied to the last chapter, Mrs. Stewart read two articles, Let's think it over and The truth about Mr. Brown. Mrs. Sinclair spoke briefly on self inventory and a look at our lives.

Mrs. Noble Dean closed the meeting with prayer, and lunch was served by the hostesses.

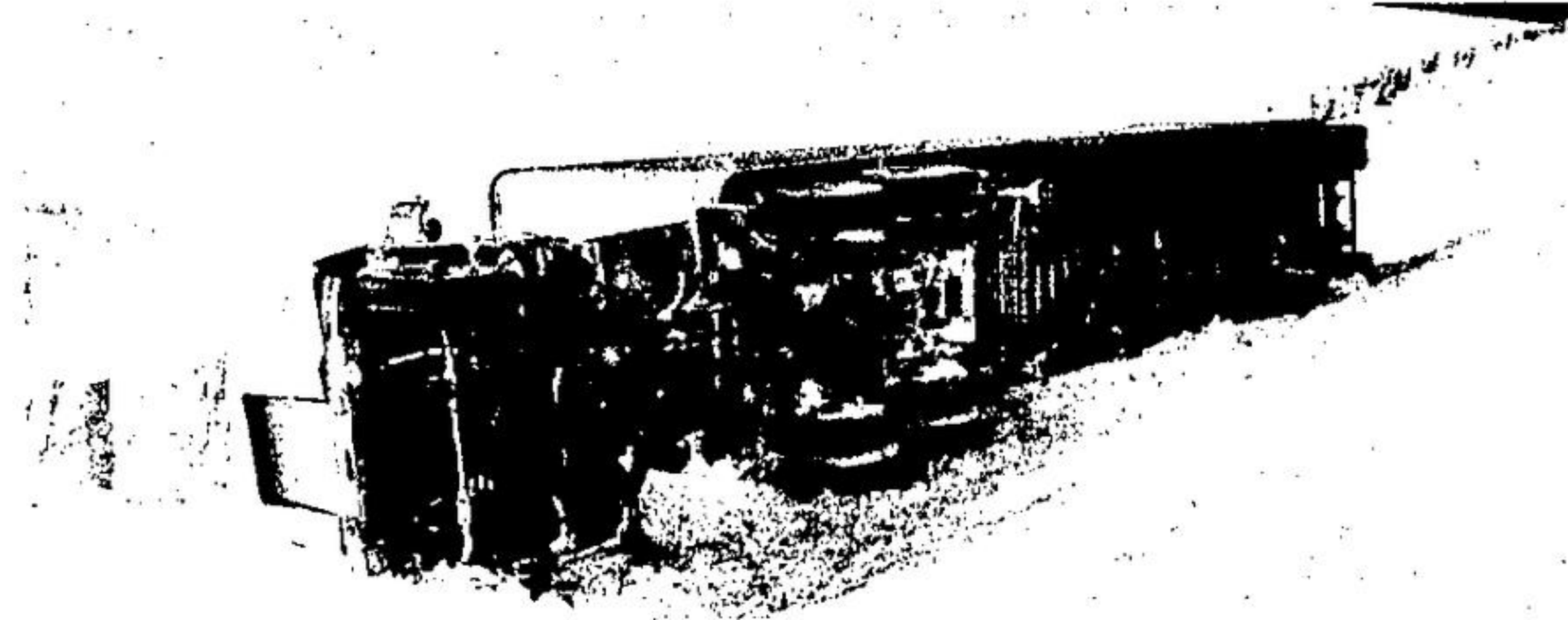
### Chimney fire

The Sunday afternoon chimney fire at Pratt's, Lot 32, Fifth Line, Eramosa Township, was quickly contained by the Rockwood Fire Department, according to Deputy Chief Tom Rockola.



Slip, sliding away

It was a slip sliding day on Wellington Road 26 as two transport drivers discovered around noon Monday. The trailer of one transport slipped off the icy road about two miles north of Highway 24. The braking on the steel loaded truck froze, sending the vehicle into the ditch. Murray Jackson, of Fergus, happened along with his tractor trailer and 49,000 pounds of steel wire. Jackson stopped to help the first driver. However, the emergency brake on Jackson's vehicle also froze and the vehicle rolled forward down the hill and off an embankment. No one was hurt, according to Guelph OPP.



### Rockwood

Time to get those engines tuned up for the seventh Annual Rockwood "100" Snowmobile Rally. The Lions have set the date for the event, Sunday, Feb. 4.

### Eden Mills

## May make users pay for hall damage

by Mrs. W. MacDougall  
The Presbyterian Sunday Schoolers were treated to lunch at Mother's Pizza in Guelph on Sunday by their teachers, Linda Blacklock and Cathy Lasby.

Mrs. John Turner is nursing some nasty bruises after being struck down by a truck. It is most fortunate that she wasn't hurt more seriously. Best wishes, Irene.

Mrs. Mansell Lowrie is visiting her mother in Toronto, and her sister, Bea, who is in hospital after receiving injuries when hit by a car.

The January meeting of the Community Club was held on Monday evening with a really good attendance. Copies of the new constitution are available to any interested members. The caretaking list for the year was scheduled by Jean Rinehart and Betty Snow.

The new youth group will be allowed to use the hall on Monday nights but they must do their own cleaning up. They will hold regular meetings, games nights and athletic evenings.

It was reported damage had been done to the interior of the hall by a rental party and

changes are to be made so that renters will be responsible for payment of any damages done.

The Brownies enjoyed a fun evening at their last meeting. They went to the home of Beryl Blaakman for a drink of warm cider and a miniature Santa Claus gave each girl a pair of very small skates and a bookmark that had been left under a miniature Christmas tree. Then on to the home of Jean Turowski where they munched on snacks, chips, and pop, and played games before going to the home of Eva McLaren where they had dessert and a game of charades and then back to the hall.

Miss Cathy Lasby and brothers Bill and Bob are attending a cattle show in Denver, Colorado.

Wallace Lasby accompanied Mr. Gardhouse to Des Moines, Iowa, to deliver a load of cattle last week and they report that the weather was as cold as it is here.

The gas station corner was a beehive of activity on Friday morning when Habco Television Production Ltd. moved in with a mobile film unit from Toronto to shoot the last segment of a commercial. The background

scenery was the home of Norm Thomas and his side lawn. The first part of the film was taken on snowmobiles on the Broadhurst Farms, Campbellville. These folks raise Siberian husky dogs and there was a lovable little puppy being held by the girl in the picture. The commercial is for Carling-O'Keefe Black Horse Ale and will only be aired in Newfoundland.

Thanks to the youth group for their help at the Christmas tree burning. It was so nice to stand around the fire and get warmed up after skating, tobogganing, skiing and ski-doo riding. The hot chocolate and donuts were a nice treat on such a cold night.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jennings spent a few days visiting Mr. and Mrs. Roy Goode in Oshawa.

Recently Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jennings and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gibson, Acton, had dinner at Honest Ed's and later attended the O'Keefe Centre to see the play "The Sound of Music" in Toronto.

## Former businessman has 95 years of memories

by Barb Wynneck  
"When I think back over my years, there's not a thing that I'd change," says A. K. Thomas of Guelph St., Rockwood, and considering that Mr. Thomas celebrated his 95th birthday Jan. 14, that is quite a statement!

A. K., one of the village's oldest residents, was a Rockwood businessman for many years. In 1909 he opened a furniture and upholstery shop at the corner of Main and Guelph Streets. As his clientele expanded, larger premises were required. He constructed the building across the road, at Main and Gowan Streets and in 1919 he moved into the new shop. His family resided in the next door cottage.

With the advent of the automobile, villagers preferred to journey to Guelph to purchase furniture, so the enterprising A. K. took over a local dairy business.

In the early years, driving a horse and cutter, he picked up the milk in a "carrier" from the Harris farm. He then delivered "pint measures" into his customers own containers. Monday through Saturday, Gradually his son Lloyd took over the enlarging dairy and A.K. went into the egg business.

A.K.'s chicken coops were located on the rough land behind Gowan Ave., as well as on the property west of the present day ball park.

He delivered eggs in Rockwood and also in Toronto, where he established a large regular route. His car packed with dozens of eggs, he left the village early in the morning and returned late at night.

Toronto's Simpsons' cafeteria was another customer. The eggs were shipped by rail, 30 dozen to the crate, from the then thriving Rockwood Station.

About 20 years ago A.K. retired. Born in Cambay, Ont., where his father worked in the

feed and oatmeal mill which produced some of the first porridge rolled oats in Ontario, he still remembers the family moving to Oshawa.

Here he was employed by the McLaughlin Carriage works (now General Motors) and this is where he learned the upholstery trade skills. A strike, one of the first in Canada, halted work at McLaughlin's and A.K. chose to seek work elsewhere.

A.K. has led an active retirement life. His

hobbies over the years include the growing and showing of Creelman lilies and the cultivation of African Violets. This year his Christmas cactus produced an abundance of beautiful blooms—43 according to his count!

A member of the Methodist and United Churches, he enjoyed singing, especially in male quartets. When 90, he sang a solo at an ecumenical church service at Rockwood Centennial School.

A familiar figure at the

baseball diamond, A.K. is a fan of every Rockwood team. Watching Leaf hockey games and attending Sunshine Club's activities fill in his winter hours.

A.K. has been able to keep up his Guelph St. residence alone, since his wife Ida (Stout), passed away in 1965 with the assistance of kind neighbors and family. He has two children Margaret, (Mrs. Fred Day, Ancaster), Thomas of Guelph, and five grandchildren.



One of Rockwood's oldest residents, the spry A.K. Thomas celebrated his 95th birthday, Jan. 14, with family and friends. Here he is shown with his flourishing Christmas cactus.

## Historical society marks 50 years

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wellington County Historical Research Society took place Nov. 19.

The President, Mrs. B. D. MacNamara, called on Warden John Lennox and Mayor Elect Darroch of Fergus to bring greetings to the Society.

Mrs. Ernest Root as the Senior past president related a few of her memories of the days when she was president and then she unveiled a hand printed history of the Society that will be hung in the museum in commemoration of the anniversary. Mrs. Tom Hutchinson then gave a short history of the Society from 1928 to the present time.

Hugh McMillan of the Ontario Archives, guest speaker, told of the things that are of value to historians and of how one small reference in a letter or diary can lead to many other items of interest.

The chairman announced that the society would remember any deceased members of the current board by putting a book in the Reference Library of the Museum and showed the book that is to be in the Library in memory of the late Annie

Anderson. She also said that anyone who wishes to remember friends or relations in this way can contact any member for further details.

The Wellington County Historical Society was organized, October 25, 1928 by interested members of the Centre Wellington District Women's Institutes under their charter. Its objectives were to record and preserve history and to collect and display artifacts.

In 1932 the articles that had been collected were stored and displayed on occasion at the Ontario Agricultural College and subsequently moved to various locations in Guelph. In 1954 the Society was incorporated as the Wellington County Historical Research Society and established the Wellington County Museum in Elora. The Society approached County Council for financial and administrative assistance in 1957. The County assumed this responsibility while the Society provided the volunteer staff. In 1967 the Society recommended the museum be moved to Wellington Place and in 1975 this was done.

The Society continues in its original objectives

to preserve history of Wellington County and to assist the County Museum whenever possible.

The Charter Members 1928: president, Miss Ada Currie, secretary, Mrs. J. W. Campbell, Mrs. Mary Broadfoot, Miss Margaret Pritchard, Mrs. J. W. Cunningham, Mrs. Annie Jamieson, Mrs. Norman Davidson, Mrs. Davod Barbour, Mrs. James Grant, Mrs. Ewart Rowan, nee Olive Millar, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Grant, Mrs. Abbot, Miss Bessie Thomson and Mrs. W. Fasken.

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Village of Rockwood  
SECONDARY PLAN

## 'OPEN HOUSE'

The Township of Eramosa, Township of Eramosa Planning Board and the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board are holding an 'Open House' to present the residents of the township with the Village of Rockwood Draft Secondary Plan.

All residents of the Township are invited to attend and discuss this plan as it will guide the future growth of the village.

**Date: Thursday, January 25, 1979**  
**Time: 8:00 p.m.**  
**Place: Rockwood Town Hall**  
Main Street, Rockwood

### Obituary

## David Russell funeral Friday

Funeral Service was held January 12 for David A. Russell who died January 10 at Guelph General Hospital after a brief illness.

Born on April 12, 1882, in Erin Township, he was the son of Christopher Russell and Isobel Henderson. Mr. Russell attended Woodside public school, Georgetown high school, Chatham business college and Guelph O.A.C.

On March 25, 1908 he married the former Margaret McEnery of Ballinacree church, where he was an elder.

He was predeceased by his parents, his wife and one brother James. He is survived by daughter Edith (Mrs. McEachern) and son Stewart of Acton, granddaughter Merle Dalton and great grandson Brian of Milton.

Rev. Andrew McKenzie officiated at the funeral service at Shoemaker funeral home. Interment was at Fairview cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bruce Leitch, Archie Kerr, Angus McEachern, Ernie McEnery, Jesse McEnery and Andrew Henderson.

**ELKS**  
Monday Night

## BINGO

Door Prizes  
45 Mountainview Rd  
Georgetown  
\$40 Prizes  
Early Bird Games  
7:30 p.m.

5 Prizes at \$20 each  
DOORS OPEN 7 P.M.  
BINGO STARTS 8 P.M.

16 Regular Games  
at \$40 ea.  
3 Special at \$70 ea.

\$600 Jackpot  
57 Numbers  
Guaranteed \$100  
Share The Wealth  
Projects and Deaf  
Detection in  
Small Children

FREE Bus Service  
from Acton & G'town  
Winner:  
Vivian McDonald  
in 60 numbers

## Campbell's Furniture

Annual  
**January Sale**

Howard Campbell the owner, invites all the folks of this area to drop in and cash in on our  
**JANUARY DISCOUNT PRICES**  
465 Main St., Milton 878-7256

Across from Milton Mall  
SHOWROOM HOURS  
Daily 10-9 p.m.  
Sat. 10-5 p.m.