

# LACAC proposes several historical sites

## Former Eden Mills hotel of historic, architectural value

by Barb Wynneck  
Eden Mills Hotel has been recommended to be designated of historic and architectural importance to the community by the local Advisory Committee for Architectural Conservancy.

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

With travel being slow, an inn or hotel was

customarily erected near a mill, as in this case. Originally there were 12 rooms, the kitchen being in the basement, with a dumbwaiter used to send food up to main or street level to the dining room. Liquors and wines were sold in the bar room, also found on the main floor. Part of the original bar remains to the present time.

A trap door on the verandah floor opened to a chute down which the barrels were lowered to the wine cellar.

In later years part of the building became a butcher store and presently has been suitably renovated into a private home.

L.A.C.A.C. recommends designation to include preservation of the front facade and remaining bar from the bar room.

The building is located on the east half of Lot 1, Concession 2, Eden Mills. L.A.C.A.C. compiled the above information about the privately owned property.



Another era's traveller's resting place, The Eden Mills Hotel, is one of the privately owned buildings recommended for designation by Eramosa L.A.C.A.C. Passengers disembarked from Lake Ontario vessels, then journeyed by carriage up the Guelph Line, en route to Guelph, stopping at the local hotel.

## Oustic church

by Barb Wynneck  
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Oustic, has been recommended to be designated as architecturally and historically significant to Eramosa township by the Local Advisory Committee for Architectural Conservancy.

Built in 1883 of Romanesque design and tended by the Jesuit Fathers, the limestone for the structure was donated and quarried from the farm of James O'Brien, on Lot 22, Concession 2.

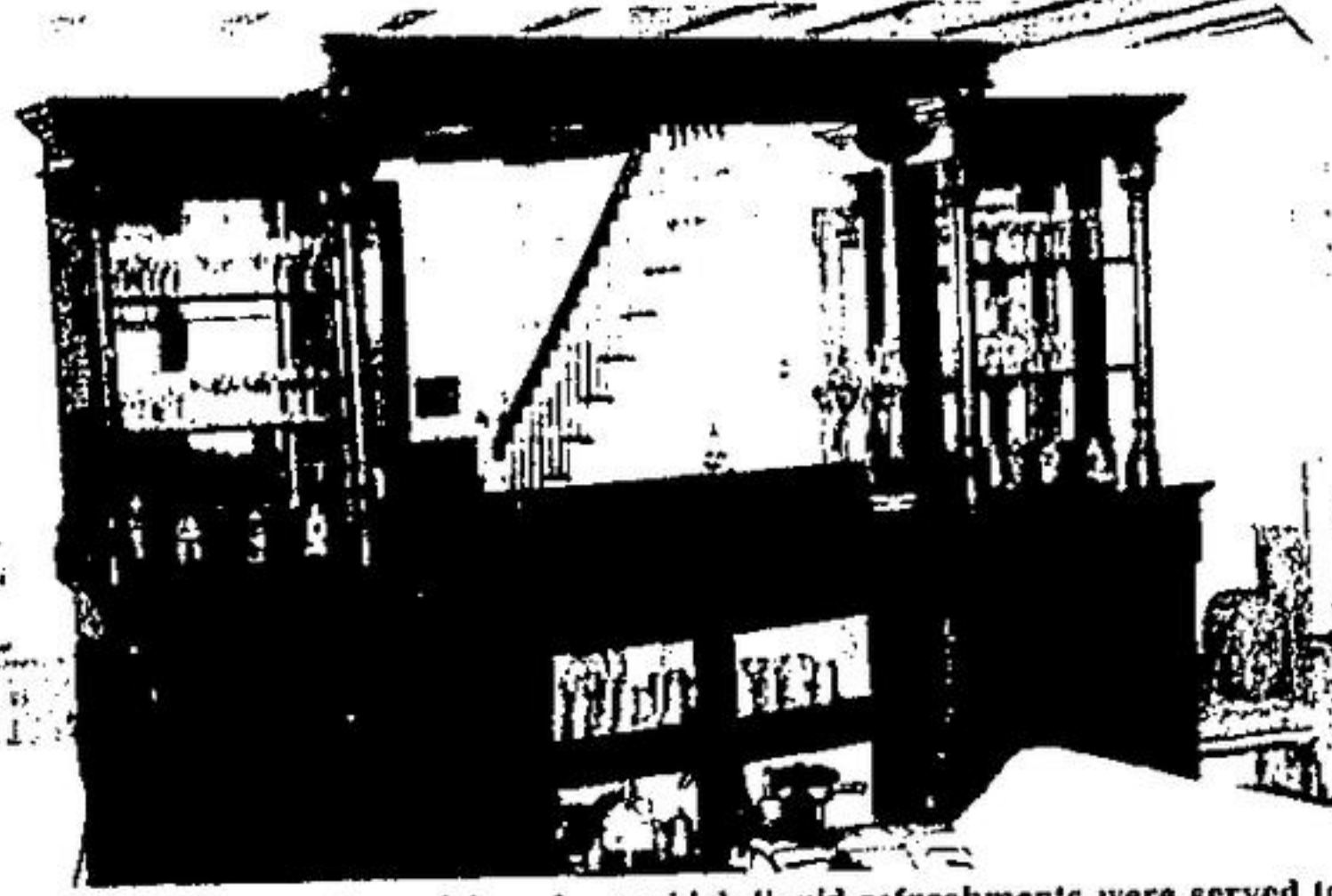
This magnificent church has experienced many changes. The most devastating must have

been during the 1973 period when the doors were closed and windows boarded up with the intention of putting it up for sale. During that time interior furnishings were removed and the future of the church building was in doubt.

In September, 1974, the doors of St. Peter's opened once again and today the 79 year old bells chime out. An extensive restoration has taken place since that period of the church's life, including electric heating and original fixtures have been retrieved from places of safe-keeping.



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Oustic, constructed in 1883 of the Romanesque design features a splendid belfry. It is another of the limestone buildings Eramosa LACAC has recommended for designation.



This magnificent mirrored bar, from which liquid refreshments were served to weary travellers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, is recommended for designation by Eramosa L.A.C.A.C. The bar is the only remaining furniture from the Eden Mills Hotel.

## LACAC committee wants United church designated

by Barb Wynneck  
Speedside United Church has been recommended to be designated as architecturally and historically valuable to Eramosa Township by the Local Advisory Committee for Architectural Conservancy.

LACAC compiled the following research about the unusual stone building.

The congregation first set up Second Congregational Church of Eramosa as early as 1843. An early landowner James

Peters was the chief organizer of this new church with 33 members from the Congregational Church of Guelph. Meetings were first held in the schoolhouse until William Armstrong donated the present church site in 1852.

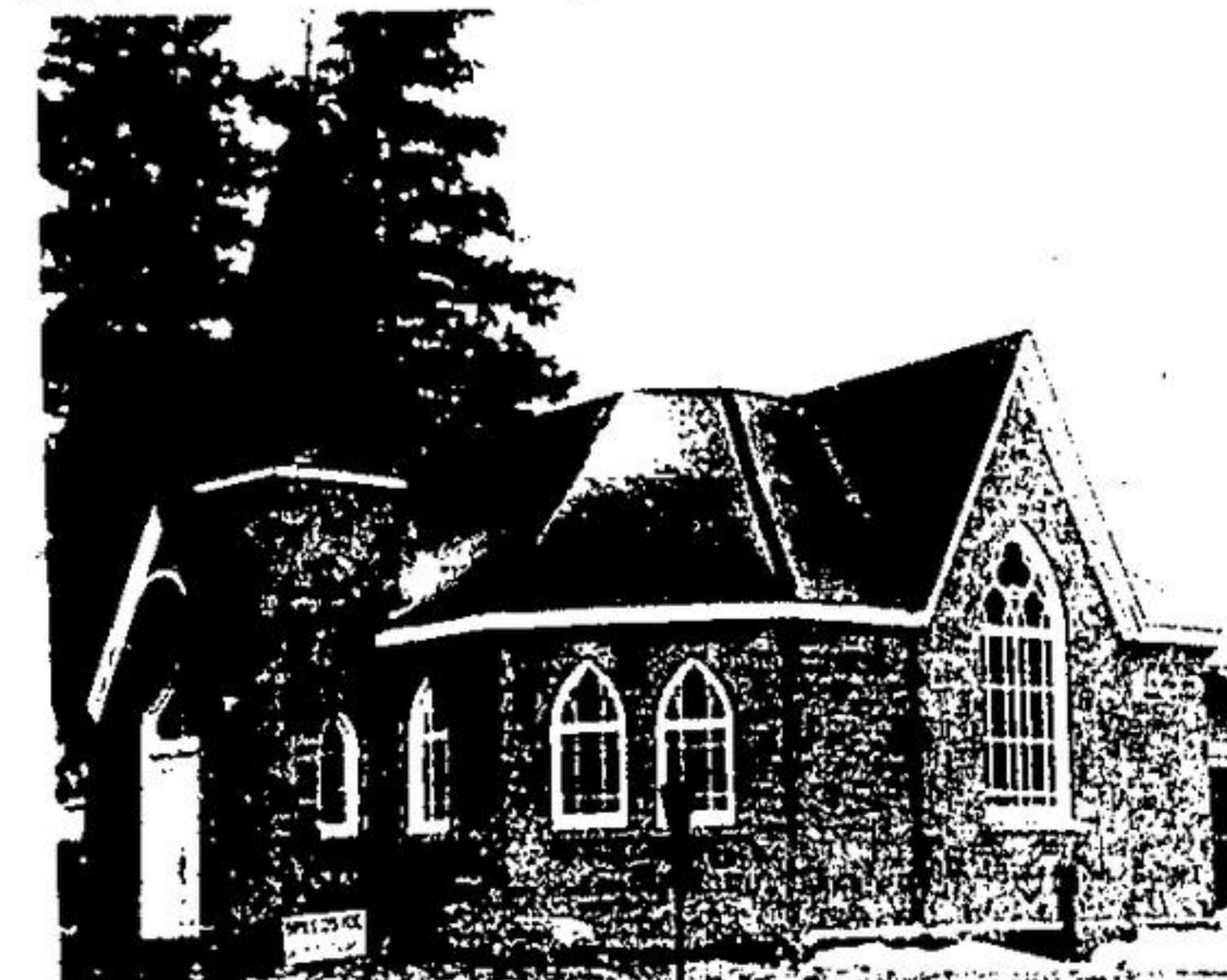
The extremely unique eight-sided limestone church with gothic windows was completed in 1855. Hiram Denny was the first minister in 1845.

The drive shed was built in 1869 and torn down to make a parking lot during the 1960s.

The adjoining parsonage of frame construction followed in 1873, and bricked 23 years later. It was sold to private owners in 1960.

When church union took place in 1925 the Second Congregational Church became known as the Speedside United Church as it remains today. Familiar names of the members of the congregation include Freure, Hindley, Lister, McGladery, Sloan, Johnson, Blackley.

The church is located on Lot 26, Concession 2, Eramosa Township.



Speedside United Church—an extremely unique eight-sided limestone building, dated 1855, is one of the properties Eramosa L.A.C.A.C. has recommended for designation.

# Free Press

# Rockwood and district

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1979 9

## Rockwood church designated historic

by Barb Wynneck  
St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Rockwood, has been recommended to be designated of historic and architectural importance to our community by the Local Advisory Committee for Architectural Conservancy.

L.A.C.A.C. has compiled the following research about the Rockwood landmark.

The land was given by Henry Strange (one of Rockwood's first settlers) before 1859. The first church was of frame construction but after 30 years was moved across Main St. where it is presently used as a residence and grocery store.

In 1881 the cornerstone

was laid for the present building. Once again Henry Strange generously donated all the stone from his quarries.

It was dedicated in 1884 and consecrated when free of debt in 1885. The tower was added later.

St. John's Church is an arresting focal point for the village, situated as it is on a beautifully elevated knoll at the corner of Guelph and Main Streets.

The restoration committee for St. John's Parish is currently raising money to do some long overdue restoration work on the masonry, roof and ironwork. No structural changes will be taking place.



An arresting focal point in Rockwood, St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, is one of the limestone buildings recommended for designation by Eramosa LACAC. The congregation will celebrate St. John's 100th anniversary in 1984.

## Bowling

Team standings at the end of the eighteenth week of bowling are:

Guelphites, 84 points, Kay's Feeds 79, Erk and Jerks 74, Four Corners 70, Carney's 64, Unpredictables 63, Rovers 63, Happy Gang 60, Good Timers 56, Rockwood Postes 53, Late Corners 49, Countrymen 42.

Ladies over 500 for Tuesday Jan. 16: Nellie Stockman 717, Djana Carney 628, Joy Halliburton 610, Mary Lush 601, Sue Nightingale 600, Vivienne O'Brien 598, Jane Murison 583, Marg McKersie 573, Joanne Davies 571, Nini Coverdale 534, Marjorie O'Kraika 531, Jean Smith 523, Ann Parkinson 515, Ruth Kingsbury 514, Ivy Ritchie 512.

Men over 600 for Tuesday Jan. 16: Dunc Kingsbury 765, Jim Cerniuk 711, Howard Dunk 677, Gary Parks 639, Tony Stockman 635, Sam Lawler 606, Don McKersie 603.

Results of games bowled Tues. Jan. 16, Erk and Jerks five points, 2 highest bowlers, Joy Halliburton 610, Og Hemming 541, Good Timers, two points, Danny Bolton, 555, Garfield Tarzwell 512, Four Corner five points, Nellie Stockman 717, Tony Stockman 635, Happy Gang two points, Paul Holman 600, Nini Coverdale 534, Kay's Feeds seven points, Dunc Kingsbury 765, Mary Lush 601, Countrymen 0 points, Jean Smith 523, John Van Milligan 489, Rovers four points, Vivienne O'Brien 598, Gordon Ostrander 492, Carney's three points Diana Carney 628, Jeff Parkinson 566, Guelphites five points, Gary Parks 639, Jim Cerniuk 711, Late Corners two points, Bill Garner 569, Don Buttenham 543, Rockwood Postes five points, Sue Nightingale 600, Jane

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## Eden Mills pupils ski to Rockwood

by Barb Wynneck  
Cross country ski to school—what a way to start the day!

Four energetic Eden Mills area students complete the six kilometre course from home to Rockwood Centennial School, twice a day. Making tracks by 7:30 a.m., these enthusiasts are early risers!

Coming home, vice-principal Bob Love, joins the group and the conversation centres around colors—blue, green, purple. No, it's not the landscape hues their discussing—it's the type of wax they've rubbed on the boards to make the going easier! The waxes vary in color and consistency for the different

snow conditions.

The course runs from the school, down the pavillion hill, through the conservation area, across the farm adjacent to the Fourth line, and then the skiers pick up the river. They glide along the frozen waterway just about to Pilgrim's bridge. Then it is up and down Beechnut Hill (the toughest part of the course), across another 110 acre farm, and on home to their own back doors. The course is usually completed in 45 to 50 minutes.

## Sunshiners meet for a good time

A very fine turnout of Rockwood Sunshine Club members attended their first meeting of the New Year.

Happy Birthday Wishes were sung to Mrs. Ethel Craig and Mrs. Alvina McDougall and especially to A.K. Thomas, Rockwood who celebrated his 95th on Sunday. The minutes of the last meeting and new slate of officers were read by the new secretary Mrs. Isabel Nellis and the report by the new treasurer Mrs. Elsie Leitch. A donation of \$36.00 was received from Geo. Day. The Club sincerely thanks Mr. Day for his generous donations.

Henry Leachman program convener called on Mrs. Isabel Nellis for

a reading "It's Our Choice". The Sunshine Club Orchestra favored all with several musical numbers. Victor Smith on the violin, Bert Davidson of Acton on the wash tub, and Henry Leachman on the mouth organ. Mrs. Lena Mann accompanied them on the piano. Henry Leachman invited all to attend a musical evening at the Old Town Hall Rockwood on Jan. 21 at 8 o'clock presented by the Acton Choralliers. The public is welcome and a silver collection will be taken.

Euchre winners were Mrs. Christine Robertson high score and Mrs. Elsie Leitch second. For crokinole Wm. Hayden and Mr. Victor Smith an excellent poem composer for the Acton Free Press.

The students' ski efforts contribute points, not only towards their Rockwood school letter, but also towards the Canadian Ski Association's bronze, silver and gold medallions.

Last winter, former Rockwood Centennial student Brad Billings, earned enough points for all three medallions. But the Can. Ski Assoc. has a rule—only one medallion per season and so he had to be content with only the bronze.

This season Brad, now a high school student, plans to ski to Rockwood, store his equipment, shower and then hop the bus for Guelph. Now here is a guy who is in shape! Sarah Brown, David Levy, David Van Ryan, Bob Love and Brad Billings, the regular group, are all sking towards their silver medallions this year.

Bob Love, a qualified cross country ski instructor just completed a clinic at the school, with six parents and six students.

Choice of equipment, preparation of skis, waxing, uphill and downhill techniques, and "dissecting" tracks, were all part of the program.

Bob will conduct the same clinic for the Eramosa Night school classes in February.

## No winter parking on Rockwood Sts.

Anyone caught parking on any Rockwood streets this winter could be slapped with a fine, or have their vehicle towed away.

That was the decision of the Rockwood village trustees at their meeting Monday evening when they discovered such a provision in the Highway Traffic Act. The group had apparently been drawing up a by-law to stop cars from parking on the streets, thus hindering other motorists or the plowing of snow. The law covers not only the main highway but side streets as well.

Motorists caught parking on the streets, will find a warning notice on their windshield. The second time they will either find a ticket, or no vehicle. Fines can range from \$5 to \$50 according to the Highway Traffic Act, and owners are responsible for all expenses incurred, including towing and storage.

Murison 583, Unpredictables two points, Chris Dales 507, John Dales 529.

## Rockwood Roundup

Night school last week was a success in spite of the poor weather according to organizers. Many classes are offered and there is fun and education for all.

Snowmobile enthusiasts—Rockwood 100 Snowmobile Rally gets underway Sun. Feb. 4. The Lions Club uses funds raised by this event

for community improvement. Get your pledge sheets now!

Murray Swanston, newly appointed to the 1979-1982 term on the Eramosa Planning Board, notified council that he is unable to fill the position. Max Storey, a retired Planning Board member, was reappointed to the vacant seat.

# Secondary plan Rockwood — 1700 by 1990

Few objections to Rockwood's secondary plan were registered at a public meeting in the village town hall last Wednesday evening as planners explained draft amendments to the plan for about 40 people.

Planner Don Given reviewed a draft of the amendment which is to act as a guide to land use in Rockwood for the future. It will then go to Eramosa Planning Board before being passed on to the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board for their approval.

"There's a long process to go through yet before it is approved," the planning consultant told the meeting, noting this was the third in a series of meetings over the plan.

Results of a survey in the village had helped them considerably with their amendment, especially the input they received on the preservation of historic and unique buildings. He said the public had also cautioned against growth and it must occur within existing village boundaries.

The public advised that 1700 people by 1990 using existing services would be adequate. He noted this figure would allow for senior citizen apartments, some industrial development and residential development within the limits of the water and sewer systems.

The plan is flexible and would be reviewed every five years to provide for possible population

development pressures. However, any further development would likely occur north of Queen St.

The consultant spelled out requisites necessary for property owners to get a separation, noting that the plan gave council a guide to judge applications for consent to separate. Included were compatibility with present use, access to shopping, parks, schools, road access, suitable typography, drainage, soil conditions and conformity to the general policy of the plan.

He noted some medium density housing would be permitted in commercial areas if compatible as well as accessory buildings, churches, schools, community centre, light fabricating enterprises.

The consultants also noted entrances to the village would be controlled, an unusual feature intended for the specific use of Rockwood. Commercial use at entrances would be restricted to business such as antiques, crafts, specialty shops which generated low traffic volume.

Industrial land use on each side of the CN tracks was considered adequate and there must be provision for setbacks, buffers, fencing and screening.

All development must respect hazard land policies as outlined by the Grand Valley Conservation Authority.

The planner said the agreement with the City of Guelph limited sewage and water capacity and

allowed for 1700 persons. This would allow 175 units or 485 persons through infilling. It would also allow a site plan of 34 units or 120 persons and two hectares for industrial development, totalling 1630 persons in 539 dwelling units.

Hans Woelmer questioned the validity of the meeting and admitted unpreparedness of chairman Allan Osborne but after much give and take over the show of maps agreed with the presentation.

Bruce Donaldson, representing Dave and Don Dunbar, asked if the planners were considering estate residential development in the village on larger lots. The answer was yes but not before sewage capacity was utilized.

Mr. Donaldson said estate homes would reduce the need for services but Mr. Osborne said planning board felt the village would have to use the capacity of the system to pay for it. If not, residents would pay more for services.

The Dunbar property lends itself to estate development, Mr. Donaldson persisted, asking if it had been considered.

"Yes, it had been discussed, but no decision was made," Mr. Osborne replied.

Mr. Donaldson said he knew trustees would like to see the historic home and barn on the property preserved but his clients would like to develop the remainder to complement the existing historical

(Continued on Page 10)



Taking advantage of country living—sking home from school, Eden Mills area residents (left to right) Brad Billings, Bob Love and Sarah Brown begin the scenic, cross country, six kilometre course.