

CBS sees light in bid for better phone service

An Erin-Hillsburgh citizens' group pushing for improved telephone service is getting fewer busy signals from company owners, subscribers learned Monday night at Brisbane School.

About 80 subscribers to the Community Telephone Company heard representatives of the Committee for Better Services (CBS) report on a meeting with the committee, company and the Ontario Telephone Service Commission, the provincial governing body, which took place last week.

CBS members told the meeting they managed to convince Community Telephone to make some

commitments to the improving service.

"It's a start, a plus for the committee," CBS research director Robin Searle said concerning changes in billing methods used by Community Telephone.

The Hillsburgh-Erin exchange is grouped with 21 run by the private telephone company. CBS popped into existence in December after frustrated telephone subscribers decided to oppose Community Telephone's application to the provincial commission for a nine per cent rate increase.

CBS's main complaint is that the Hillsburgh-Erin area is surrounded by communities—like

Acton and Georgetown—which pay more for telephone service but receive better service. CBS chairman Jeanette Cox indicated most Hillsburgh-Erin subscribers are willing to pay, within reason, for the service enjoyed by others.

CBS information officer Ian Barrett said that unless telephone bills are less than \$10, they are too high.

"I hope they (Community Telephone) come back with realistic rates. We're asking to get what people have in Acton. I know there'll be an additional charge," Mrs. Cox said.

Acton, Georgetown, Orangeville and Guelph,

areas where many Hillsburgh-Erin calls go to, are serviced by Bell Canada. Some of the people in Bell territory are neighbors, school chums, friends of those people over the border in Community Telephone country. To telephone from one to the other means a long distance charge.

Much of the discussion between the company, committee and commission, said Barrett, focused on extended area service—that is a lowering of the long distance charge barrier.

There is a commitment from Community Telephone to table the cost of such service plus

all the information used to calculate it to the provincial commission. By mid-May CBS will be permitted to examine the study, according to Barrett.

There is also a commitment from the company to allow a vote by subscribers on the direction of expanded service—once the cost is known. Then subscribers will be able to know how much the extra service will cost.

Other steps taken by CBS include a commitment by the company to lengthen the grace period before late payment of bill charges are levied. Starting about June the period will be 44 days in-

stead of 14. Also the bills are to show the duration of long distance calls.

Community Telephone is also, according to CBS, changing equipment so that pay phones can be used to contact the operator free. The switch is to take place in 60 days, according to CBS treasurer Bob Trimble.

CBS officials also asked the audience to think of ways of improving the telephone book for next year. This year's edition is printed. Next year's directory will join Hillsburgh and Erin in one section instead of splitting them.

Community Telephone appears to have anticipated some of the CBS



Jeanette Cox

requests such as for a clear listing for weekend repairs. However, according to Mr. Trimble, the number in the book is assigned to a new doctor. "It's a repair service of sort," he commented.

CBS also asked the company, and there was

some sympathy, for the publishing of a card to carry emergency numbers. "We need an indication from the people that they would use the card," Trimble said. If the card is published CBS indicated it would include a new weekend repair number.

In a bid to spur the group CBS public relations officer Bernie Mann suggested subscribers buy the company for better service. For example, sometimes there is a hum on the line. He suggested users asked the phone operator to dial for them so that they get a clear line, then call the company and complain about the hum.

"You've got to keep calling them. We're inclined to say it's the Community," he said. He urged them to call the Zenith 22560 number for repairs and also to write newspapers.

Another CBS member suggested subscribers write MPP Jim Snow under whose communications and transportation post the telephone service operates.

The subscribers learned from Barrett that Community Telephone Company president Lester Beyden Jr., New York, New York, informed the committee that if satisfaction was not coming from local represent-

atives, he should be called collect. Beyden's number is 607-335-0200.

Erin Township council Monday joined Garafraxa and Erin Village council in supporting CBS, subscribers learned from township councillor Jo Schneider.

Mrs. Schneider read a letter passed by council which states "area residents are distressed and feel an increase (in rates) is not justified." Erin Township council "supports the thrust" of complaints and also believes a "rate increase should be conditional on improvement of service." Some other local representatives also attended the meeting.

Ospringle

Groundhog got Old Sol in eyes

Mr. Groundhog would surely get the sun in his eyes last Friday, and the air was nippy enough. I bet he scurried right back to his warm little den, but I doubt the furry animal even woke up, let alone dig his way out through two or three feet of snow. What creature in his right senses would uncurl himself out of a snug warm bed and thrust his nose out in mid-winter temperature to see if his shadow was out there. So snore on peacefully for six weeks more, spring will come in due time.

George Lang has re-

turned home after spending a week in Guelph General Hospital. Mrs. Jack Wheeler of Erin stayed with her daughter, Mrs. Lang, until George came home.

John Aitken of the Canadian Forces Base in Cold Lake, Alberta, flew his plane down to Toronto on business, and visited a couple of days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Aitken.

It isn't everyone that has two birthdays in one year. Well, I thought I did. After the last snow storm Frank Leslie came over with his tractor and plowed out my driveway,

and a few minutes later Margaret Howes came to the door with a hot casserole dish to put in the oven for our supper. So with the aid of my good neighbors, not only was I able to drive to work, but also to have a steaming supper prepared when I got home. Birthday or no, it was appreciated all the same. Good neighbors are worth their weight in gold.

Members of Knox Presbyterian Church have begun a bible study group. The first meeting last Tuesday was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Bruce.

On Sunday the sermon was on Responsible Liberation. Rev. Noble Dean said that in marriage each partner has something to offer, and Mrs. Dean delivered the sermon. In these days of women's lib, she said responsibility goes with liberation, and she gave her own opinion and ideas that she felt about it. She spoke of their own situation, saying when they have a difference of opinion they think of this plaque which reads "Christ is the Head of This House". So, in reality, neither is superior. They each have their own responsibilities.

Rockwood Srs. find sponsor

The Rockwood Senior Fastball team will tout new uniforms as they open their 1979 season. Dexter Construction of Rockwood has taken over sponsorship and will supply the team with new

uniforms, warm-up jackets and bags.

"A sponsorship of this size is very difficult to find," said coach Jack Griffenham, "and very much appreciated by all."

Eden Mills

New trustees, appointed

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian church was held on Monday evening with an attendance of 18 members. Rev. Carrie Doehring was chairlady and Ralph MacDonald, the secretary. Everything remains much the same as last year. Mr. N. Bernecker offered to let his name stand as a new manager. The secretary for the Second Century Advance for Christ is Mrs. Wm. MacDonald. New trustees for the church are Mrs. Ted Barden and Mr. Wm. MacDonald.

Mrs. G.W. Lasby thanked all those responsible for running the church and all the different organizations. The meeting concluded with a social hour.

The Youth Group of the Presbyterian Church spent a happy weekend retreat at Crieff Hills under the loving watchful eye of Rev. C. Doehring and her husband.

The grade seven students of Ospringle school enjoyed a ballet presentation at Ross Hall in Guelph. It was performed by the Estresis Ballet Company. The dancers were very talented and played their parts superbly.

Parent-teacher interviews are being held Feb. 7 and 8 at the school.

Twelve girls have joined the Ospringle 4-H Homemaking Club, with Needlepoint as the theme. The first meeting was held at the home of the assistant leader Mrs. Glen Jackson. Mrs. Donna Sandy is leader. The club name chosen is Knotty Needlers. The executive was elected, president is Jennie Flinders, and vice president is Margie Johnston. Secretary treasurer is Debbie Clark, and press reporter is Karen McKinnon. It sounds like it's going to be an enjoyable club, and everyone will have a good background in needlework at its close.

The annual congregation meeting of the Rockwood United Church was held after the morning service on Sunday January 28. The ladies of the church served lunch prior to the business meeting. Rev. H.G. Rees was chairman and Sandy McPhedran was secretary. The session report showed a total of 191 resident members, an increase of ten over last year.

Members of the session are - Keith Black, Helen Bayne, Audrey McGillivray, Frank Ostrander, John Buchanan, Dr. David Cunningham, Wilbur Patterson, Alex McPhedran, Lloyd Dyer, Harvey Bayne, Gordon Ostrander, and Dr. Ben Wingrove.

Alvin Root was elected as an honorary elder after many years of devoted service along with Albert Malby.

Members of committee of stewards are - Ray Ingleson, Gladys Hanna,

Free Press

8 The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1979



Trophy winners at the Rockmosa 100 Snowmobile Rally were from l. to r. front row Grace Thomson, Susan Hawkins, Stephen Lush, Brent Lush, Kevin

District

Snowmobilers rally in sub-zero weather

Sub zero temperatures and swirling, blowing snow did not stop 69 determined entrants from competing the Rockmosa "100" Snowmobile Rally Sunday.

The machines zoomed past the scenery on two trails this year, one north of Highway 24, and the new southern route via Crewson's Corners and Eden Mills.

Rockwood and District Lions Club established the second trail to offer more variety and challenge to the hearty drivers.

Rockmosa Community Centre was the pit stop where contestants fired up with hot chili and steaming coffee, before tackling the second trail. The industrious Lionettes spent their day cooking up dishes for the

evening buffet. The crowd of hungry participants and their families enjoyed the meal before the awards ceremony.

Trophy winners for the blustery event were: Least penalty points: Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Thomson tied for this trophy.

Most dollars pledged: Leona Kingsbury with a total of \$647 to her credit.

Least penalty points per family on one machine: the father and daughter team of Fred and Susan Hawkins was the winner.

Oldest male driver completing the course: Bob Logan retains this trophy again in 1979.

Oldest female driver completing the course: Mrs. John Thomson took home this newly instituted award.

Boys under 16 with

most sponsored dollars: brothers Steven and Brent Lush tied for the trophy.

Second boy under 16 with most sponsored dollars was Kevin Kitchie and the girl under 16 with most sponsored dollars was Susan Hawkins.

"Ride for community improvement," was the theme of this year's rally and \$4798 was pledged for the 1979 event—an increase of \$718 over 1978's total.

Twenty three draw prizes were generously donated by local merchants.

Don Martin and Ted Ford, organizers for this year's successful event were pleased with the enthusiasm and support shown by entrants and workers.

New books for Eramosa library

New arrivals at Eramosa Community Library include:

Adult Fiction books: The lost ones by Norah Lofts, The house next door by Anne Siddons, The wind brings up the rain by Eric Malpass, Paloverde by J. Briskin and Boarding party by James Leasor.

Under Juvenile Fiction: The latest books are: Aldo's doghouse by Lee Savage, The Little black white cat by Josef Palecek, Norman and Flop meet the toy bandit by Tony Ross, There's a hippopotamus under my bed by Mike Thaler, Fantastic Mr. Fox by

Roald Dahl. Non fiction include: Happy families by Richard Gordon, Men of the saddle by Ted Grant, Wings across time by David Collins, Plant hobbies by Jack Kramer, Grow your own Chinese vegetables by Geri Harrington.

Root elected elder

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Sandy McPhedran, John Carney, Gordon Cox, Chester Meek, Bert Smith, Walter Stephens, Chas Hall, Arthur Brown.

Auditors - Walter Stephens, John Buchanan.

Ushers - Sandy McPhedran, Robert Ostrander, Chester Meek, John Buchanan.

Trustees - Alex McPhedran, George Day, Lloyd Dyer, Albert Malby, Harvey Bayne. Reports were received from - Stewards, Rock-

wood-Stone Manse Fund, Sunday School, Canadian Bible Society, Friendship Guild.

Contributions to the work of the church were encouraging. Installation of water and sewer connections from the municipal system was authorized as well as repairs to windows.

Sincere thanks were expressed to Rev. Rees for his untiring service and guidance during the past year.

World Development observed at Churchill

Churchill Community Church is joining the Acton Churches in observance of the Ten Days for World Development. Events have been planned in each church to focus attention on the needs of the hungry in Third World Countries and Sunday February 11 will be recognized as a Day of Witness and Solidarity with the Third World.

At Churchill's regular

morning service Mrs. E. McFadden will explain why our food aid program and world development organizations result only in increased hunger and misery amongst the poor. There is a special program planned for Sunday evening at 8 p.m. at Churchill. Rev. Jim McFadden will speak on what the Christian stand should be, in a world where we seem powerless to combat the social

injustices that cause the poor to go hungry in the midst of plenty. There will be a film presentation "Give Us Daily Bread" followed by a simulation game "Who Are the Lucky Ones." All are urged to attend.

Valentine's Day, February 14 is the date of the next regular C.C.C.W. meeting. The ladies are meeting at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Frank Thompson, Poplar St. (continued on page 9)

Erin joins neighbors to stem blowing snow

Erin Township council endorsed a motion from the townships of Eramosa and Guelph requesting that the Grand River Conservation Authority meet the Ministry of Transportation to rectify a blowing condition on 24 Highway at Guelph Lake. The snow blows a lot on this section of highway since the dam was built, causing white-outs, making a dangerous situation. A meeting will be held on Tuesday February 13 at 1.30 p.m. at the Township of Eramosa Municipal offices on 24 Highway.

The policy on Errors and Omissions Insurance for municipalities was agreed on, in which the annual

premium is \$505, and provides protection for a total of \$1-million for all claims in a year. The insured pays the first \$1,000. This is a new form of coverage not well understood, it is claimed. It insures any member of council, employees, statutory officers, firemen or ambulance attendants while performing his duties as such.

The Wellington County Plowmen's Association issued an invitation to the Ontario Plowmen's Association to host the 1984 Ontario Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show, in Wellington County. A letter of support will be sent from Erin Township, endorsing the invitation.

The Wellington County

Mutual Aid people instigated a meeting yesterday. They wish to raise the tax exemption from \$300, for firemen, to \$2000.

The town of Lincoln council drew up a resolution petitioning the Ontario government to have the Municipal Act amended to allow municipalities to charge interest at the rate of one per cent per month on overdue accounts. The Township of Erin endorsed the motion. Under the provisions of the Municipal Act, municipalities are restricted to a maximum charge of 12 per cent per annum on tax arrears. It is now increasingly difficult for municipalities to collect taxes, and cheaper for the individual to borrow

from the municipality by allowing taxes to fall into arrears, than to borrow from the bank.

Membership was renewed in the Rural Ontario Municipal Association for 1979, for \$100. Any council member wishing to attend the convention is authorized to do so with all expenses paid.

A request from Mrs. Marian Walker, the secretary of the Community Association in Orton, for a grant in order to carry on, was referred to the recreation board. Orton now has an outdoor skating rink.

The clerk conveyed council's regret to Mrs. Isabel DeNance on her resignation from the library board, and thanked

her for her service.

Through the office of the Minister of Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire College is sponsoring courses. One of these is for councillors, clerks and administrators, to be held in Gravenhurst in September.

A discussion was held concerning the post office parking lot, a small triangle of land next to the post office, which is all crown land, owned by Public Works and leased to the post office. The triangle is to be leased to the municipality of Erin Township for a parking lot. The question is, should the municipality upgrade and maintain it and pay a year rent, or pay \$100 a year straight?

Council signed an agreement with the vil-

lage of Erin for fire protection service, provided by Erin Fire Department for certain portions of the township. Livestock remuneration amounted to \$285. Philip Hyde had one ewe killed and two injured, John Abel had three ewes injured, and one dog was shot caught molesting sheep.

Don Robertson spoke to council on speculators evading transfer taxes by bringing up bad titles. Council was instructed to proceed with an encroachment and partial road closing on a portion of land on the corner of York and Main street in Hillsburgh, in order to get a clear title on the lot.

A report by Ed Barden, road superintendent, revealed that the township

has two plow trucks and attachments, three graders, two pick-up trucks, and a 1969 sand truck. They are also renting a stand-by plow. Council agreed a new heavy duty tandem truck with snow plow and wing, should be speculated on for future use. Total road accounts for January were \$23,111.09.

Recent appointments made were: John Reid and George Root to the Guelph and Suburban Planning Board, of which Reid is now chairman; Allan Orr to the Committee of Adjustment for a three year term; John Reid to the Land-fill Site Committee.

Parttime township road employees will be paid \$5.25 per hour. The

reeve's salary to be \$4,500, deputy-reeve—\$3,900 and councillors—\$2,900. For all day meeting out of the township \$40, will be paid, or \$20, for a half day, plus 23 cents per mile for out of township mileage.

Councillor Schneider reported on Ballinafad Recreation Board. The members on the board are: chairman—Dan O'Connor, treasurer—Peter Brown, secretary—B. Shortill, public relations—Sandra Henderson, booking—Viola Shortill, members at large—Doris Fueller and Ivan Bird, Halton Hills representative—Russ Miller, and Erin Township—Jo Schneider. All appointments are for one year except the

chairman and treasurer which are for two years.

Council voted a donation of \$1,000, to the township Recreation Board.

Larry Mason and Dennis Hollands of Proctor and Redfern, appeared before council to introduce themselves and to acquaint council with their planning firm. Their main office is in Toronto with a planner in Kitchener, and they have been in business 66 years, and have had a consulting service for the town of Fergus for 49 years. They give advice to municipalities on subdivision development, engineering, environmental work and landscape design.

John Salmon reported that he issued one build-

ing permit in January. A resident wishes to build a house back of the one he is living in, and eventually tear down the old one. Council's advice was for him to get his solicitor to draw up an agreement with a certain time for removal, then get it approved by the township lawyer.

Regarding the application for rate increase by Community Telephone, Councillor Schneider had drawn up a letter from the council to be brought before the meeting of the CTC, supporting the thrust of the residents, that they feel rate increases should be conditional on approval of service.

Council will meet again on Thursday, March 1,