

Free Press

rockwood and district

Rockwood Digest



New veterinary surgeons at the Brookville Animal Clinic Drs. Leverne Harris and David Grant check out Barney the Oshawa cat who had a sex change operation.

Two recent graduates from the Ontario Veterinary College, one of them a well-known Rockwood resident, have assumed the veterinary practice of Dr. Cliff Young of Brookville and are now operating the Brookville Animal Clinic with Dr. Young's assistance.

Dr. Leverne Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harris of Harris Street, Rockwood, and Dr. David Grant originally from Wales, now of Nassagaweya, graduated as qualified veterinary surgeons in 1979.

After taking over the Brookville Animal Clinic which Dr. Young operated from his home, the vets decided to move the operation to the empty municipal building across the road in Brookville.

With three vets on call, the clinic is growing by leaps and bounds. Sandy Tanner is employed as receptionist; David's wife Ann, a registered animal health technician, assists; Leverne's wife Heather is secretary-treasurer; the Harris youngsters, Kevin and Kelly, hop in and out "helping". It's a friendly family place.

The mixed practice consists of a greater proportion of large animals to small animals as the farming status of the community dictates. However, both Dr. Grant and Dr. Harris are hoping to increase the number of small patients.

With 24 hours radio and telephone communication, many of the dogs and cats can be doctored "on the road" or at their own homes. This is handy for people who have dogs inclined to decorate car seats with the contents of their stomachs.

The clinic now sports complete X-ray equipment, complete anaesthetics equipment, a tilt table for small animals, a complete laboratory, bacteriology incubator, full hematology lab and kenneling facilities.

In the short time the doctors have been in practice, the two new vets have had a wide variety of strange experiences including attending the birth of a two-headed six-legged calf.

One of the regular patients is a young Irish Wolfhound they performed shoulder surgery on when he was a mere 150 pound pup. The dog now weighs 225 pounds and requires enough anaesthetic for a pony. In his young life this dog has been stolen, escaped, returned to his owners, ran off for 10 days just after having the shoulder surgery and has had extensive surgery to straighten his front leg.

"Very interesting", says Dr. Harris.

A rewarding case concerned a black Labrador dog who had been shot and needed a .22 calibre bullet removed from the proximity of his heart. A visiting electrician "breathed" for the dog while Dr. Harris spread the chest by hand and Dr. Grant plucked the bullet from its nest right alongside the heart wall on top of the aorta. The dog recovered and was running around the next day.

A job performed fairly frequently on male animals, particularly cats, is a sort of sex change operation necessitated by urethral blockage.

Many animals are prone to urinary calcification whereby minerals not metabolized form stones that block the urethra. Males, with a smaller opening, suffer greatly from this affliction.

Prior to the development of new surgery techniques, the urethra was surgically cleaned as often as necessary and the bladder was often opened for scraping. In most cases the cleaning had to be done frequently and animals were often euthanized when veterinary bills became excessive.

Now that the sex-change has been perfected, Dr. Harris says he will clean an animal's urethra once and the second time it's needed he will recommend major surgery.

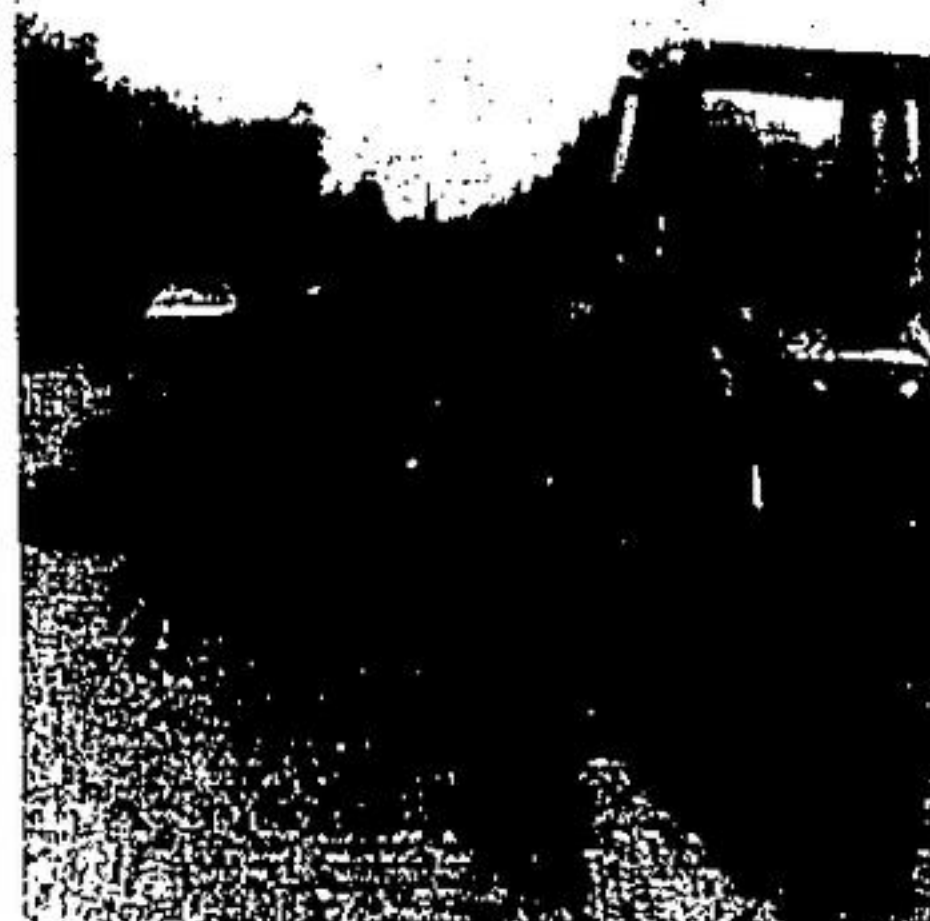
The male cats genitals are amputated a larger opening is made in the urethra to allow passage of calcium stones painlessly. Because male and female cats have similar conformation this is possible. The cat also has a bladder sphincter valve at the upper urethra opening close to the bladder so amputation doesn't affect its ability to control flow.

Other male animals such as dogs and cattle (steers) have a large urethra opening made through the scrotum but sphincter control is usually destroyed.

When the good doctors have time off, they indulge their hobbies. For David Grant, it's fishing. He fishes so avidly, the receptionist has call numbers for his favourite haunts.

Leverne Harris loves motorcycles and welding. The mechanical bent comes to him naturally as his parents own Harris Farm Machinery in Rockwood. He turns his hobbies to good account by making the steel cages required for the practice.

Rockwood area is well-supplied with good veterinary service, it seems.



Fifth Line of Eramosa above Highway 24 is under reconstruction and will be up to another four weeks.

Residents of Bruce Dale, Stratton's Corners are putting up with extensive construction as Eramosa Township widens and reconstructs the Fifth Line north of Highway 24 for a mile and a half.

Bell Telephone have also lowered their cables while the road has been dug up.

Road Superintendent Bob Hamilton said the work, which has been underway for two weeks should be completed by late August or early September. He says the sandy base is causing no complications for building crews. The road will remain in gravel for the remainder of this year and will be paved in 1981.

Rockwood Volunteers Firefighters were called out Thursday last to put out a car fire on County Road 22 at the north west end of Eramosa Township near Guelph.

The abandoned car ablaze in a ditch was believed stolen but Provincial Police in Guelph hadn't a report on it at press time.

With summer drawing to a close and youngsters back to school soon, the conservation park will shortly belong to residents again.

It's marvellous to think that so many people have access to such beautiful areas as our conservation park but it's heartbreaking to see the damage done by a few who don't appreciate.

Last week I counted three overturned picnic tables, two boots, parts of cars, garbage, pop and beer bottles and assorted unmentionables tossed in one small pond by the potholes.

There's not a major walkway or road in that park that isn't hazardous by broken glass. The cave road is carpeted with beer glass and has been all summer, despite restrictions on alcoholic beverages in the park.

Park attendants must get so disheartened by the mess.

However, September is almost upon us and the conservation area will belong to nature lovers for eight months.

Please call Jennifer Barr, 853-2010 or 856-9096 with Rockwood news.

Council blunts rural housing

A deaf ear was turned by Eramosa Township Council to a proposed subdivision near

McLeod said. "Personally I do not see that as the proper place to develop more residences in Eramosa."

Deputy reeve Dave Mason agreed. A letter stating so is to be mailed to the McDuffe's agent Black, Shoemaker, Robinson and Donaldson in Guelph.

"We've put expensive sewers and water into Rockwood and there are lots in Eden Mills," observed McLeod.

Township Reeve Bill Adsett reminded council there is a proposal somewhere for development of the Petty property in

Eden Mills.

"I think it's a mistake to lead people down the trail," Councillor John

Everton.

HALTON SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD ADVANCE REGISTRATION

Kindergarten to Grade 8 will take place at each school

on

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26th, 1980

between the hours of

9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

Baptismal Certificates are required for all registrants.

Schools will open Wednesday, September 3rd, 1980.

Bus routes are posted at main entrance of all schools.

R.J. O'Brien Chairman

C.G. Byrnes, Director of Education

Bruce Dale bids for slower road traffic

Bruce Dale residents want to slow down the speeders through their community.

All 22 households in the Highway 24 village

signed a petition to Eramosa Council which asks enforcement of the speed

limit where the highway intersects with the county and township

roads. There is a flashing light at the intersection which, according to Bruce Dale resident Chris Matthews, means the speed limit should be reduced to about 25 miles per hour from the highway's 50 miles per hour.

Eramosa council will send the petition and its support to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

The petition reads in part "to have the reduced speed posted at all Bruce Dale signs on Highway 24 and the Rockwood Line Concession Number 5 and to have the police enforce the laws of the blinking light."

Residents are concerned for the safety of their children at the intersection and also because of what the petitioners describe as "the number of serious accidents" in the area.

There is also concern for the number of family pets which have been killed in the area.

August 11 saw one accident, the most recent, at the intersection which sent six people to hospital.

"Even people coming up from Rockwood don't stop. They just look and go through," Matthews told council Monday night.

Two years ago a petition was mounted by residents. They were asking for a reduced speed on the highway. However, that petition failed because the ministry said for such a reduction there had to be houses on both sides of the highway.

In a related decision the township learned that the ministry turned down a request for a left turn lane on Highway 24 at the Bruce Dale intersection.

Eden Mills

ITT cops tourney crown

by Mrs. W. MacDougall It was a beautiful day for the ball tournament and there was a good attendance.

Games got underway on Friday evening with two games being played. Brookville squeezed in a victory with a 4-3 score over Sprucedale and Badenoch beat out Hydra-Air 6-2.

At Saturday's games, winners were Rags for Men over Rockwood 4-1; Forum Sport over Carlisle 9-3; Aberfoyle over Guelph Optical 7-6; ITT over Lowville 6-3; Badenoch over Brookville 5-1; Rags for Men over Forum Sports 2-0; ITT over Aberfoyle 7-6; Rags for Men over Badenoch 10-8.

In the final game ITT were the ball tournament winners with runners-up

friends at a corn roast and birthday party for four of their friends who all celebrated birthdays on August 17. They were Jean Aitken, Jean Rinehart, Ted McNamara and Mel Tolton.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rinehart were Sunday guests of Jean's brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thomson of Unionville.

Province grants \$\$ Eramosa Township received a \$7,500 grant from the provincial ministry of housing to cover the cost of a housing study.

The township has already engaged the Toronto consulting firm of Gibson-Bahynowski to perform the study.

A public meeting is scheduled for August 27 in Rockwood's town hall for senior citizens to learn details of the study. The meeting starts at 8 p.m.

The main purpose of

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- 10 lbs. Side Spare Ribs 18¢
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HALTON RECOVERY HOUSE INC.

NOTICE OF 5th ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, October 6, 1980

8:00 P.M.

In the Clinical Classroom of the Milton District Hospital, Derry Road, Milton, Ontario, for the purpose of election to the Board of Directors and such other business as may come before the Board.