

Citizen's committee to "explore" changes for exterior

A special committee of three citizens has been named to come up with facts and figures on how to redecorate the exterior of the Rockwood senior citizen apartment building.

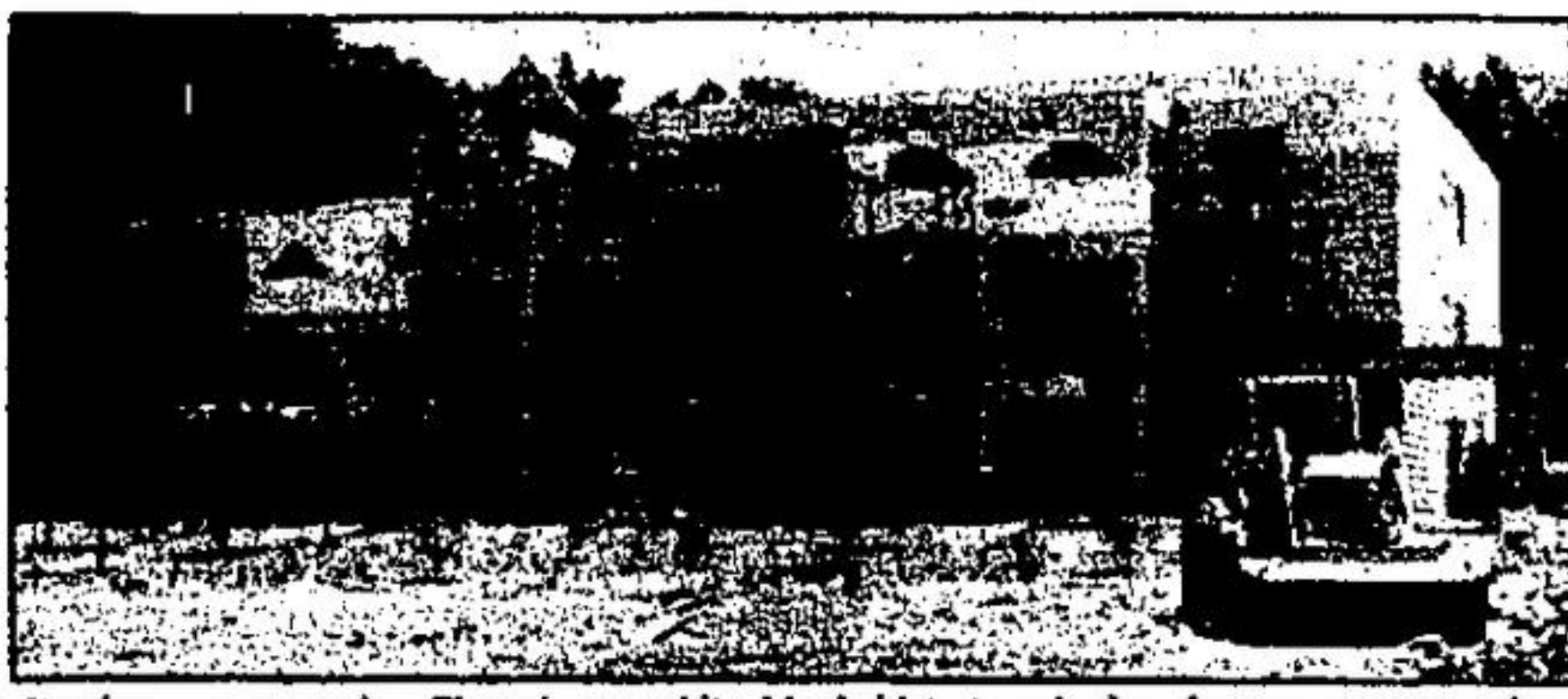
Ever since multi-colored aluminum siding started being put on the huge apartment in May a large proportion of Rockwood's population has been up in arms in protest.

The Eramosa Non-profit Housing Corporation held a special meeting last week to discuss the dilemma of the outrageous exterior and wound up naming Michele Dawe, Mara Reid and Tim Pedder to a special committee of the board.

Mrs. Dawe said all three citizens have accepted the task.

Following is the contents of the letter sent to the three residents, who have been vocal opponents of the designed size and color scheme of the building, by president of the housing board, Barry Dryden:

"As a follow up to the public meeting of July 14 this Board of Directors propose to appoint you as a member of a special committee of this board. The special committee will be charged with exploring alternative changes that might be possible



It gets worse every day. There is now white, black, blue, two shades of green, a cream color, rust red, beige and brown siding on the Rockwood senior citizens' apartment building.

to the facade of the senior citizens apartments.

"To assist you in your research, we attach here to the address of the manufacturer of the aluminum siding and suggest that you find out exactly what methods are required and what materials may be used to repaint the siding to a different color. Also

attached is the name of a design architect whom Schiedel Construction Inc. have used to provide exterior design for some of their projects. You might wish to get in touch with that architect, or with some other person specializing in building exteriors.

"We would hope that by September 15 you could report back to us with as much infor-

mation as you have been able to assemble. We need to know who might be able to prepare an adequate proposal and other designs to change the facades of the building and what amounts of design fees would be charged for, say, three alternative proposals. We would need to have some preliminary cost estimates of the proposed changes.

"If you decide to accept this responsibility, please let our Secretary know as soon as possible.

"P.S. As with the directors you are entitled to charge the board for car mileage (22 cents per kilometer) and reasonable telephone or other expenses. If you wish building plans, a set can also be supplied."

The colored siding controversy was the subject of a CBC radio news program last week, featuring Mrs. Dawe and architect Joe Somfay.

Somfay said it was regrettable the community feels the way it does because his firm went to a lot of trouble to design the building's shape and color so it would "reflect traditional" Southern Ontario and Rockwood architecture. All of the colors on the seniors' apartment building are resi-

dential colors now used in Rockwood, though not all on the same building, he said.

He said he didn't consult about the design or color scheme with local residents because as a professional he didn't have to and his responsibility was to his clients, the housing board.

Reading from housing board minutes, Mrs. Dawe said the architect reportedly "discounted local reaction" as being of "no concern." She and other citizens were concerned, she said, noting the colors used on the building may be on Rockwood buildings now, but all on the same building.

Somfay countered it will be a great building, suggesting not everyone cared for the Eiffel Tower when it was first building either.

The architect plans to do nothing about the exterior of the building because he can't, decisions on changes must be made by his client, the housing board. He noted he has worked and taught architecture for 14 years and feels he knew what he was doing when he designed the building. Further, Somfay suggested his clients also knew what they were doing when they approved the color scheme and design.

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Ajax Engineers is leaving Acton

A long-time Acton industry, Ajax Engineers Ltd., will close its doors here and move to Bramalea by mid-September.

Harvey Doan, vice-president and general manager of Marley Canadian Ltd. (owners of Ajax Engineers), confirmed the company's plans to close its Acton plant and move in with another subsidiary firm in Bramalea in an interview Monday.

Ajax Engineers was incorporated in 1935 and acquired by Marley in 1943. However, before 1935 the firm operated here under the name of Acton Structures and others and Doan believes the firm and plant in Acton dates back to the 1920s.

Ajax was the manufacturing arm and Marley the sales branch until the two firms were combined under the name Marley this past April.

The local operation, including equipment, will be moved into the modern Wylain Canada Ltd. plant on East Dr. in Bramalea. Wylain which was acquired by the parent Marley company in the United States 3 1/2 years ago, has operated in Bramalea for several years.

By reorganizing, Wylain has 20,000 square feet of excess space in a modern plant which will be turned over to Marley or Ajax. Doan said the move to Bramalea will mean more efficient use of space and allocation of machinery.

Marley would have had to spend a lot of money on upkeep and modernization of its Acton factory. In fact, a lot had already been spent in recent years, Doan noted.

They hope to sell the Acton plant.

Not only will Ajax and Wylain share the same plant, but there should be other "interaction" too, although they aren't really in the same business. While Ajax makes "evaporative cooling towers" for power and petrochemical industries as well as small firms, Wylain makes pool equipment and inventories and sells cast iron boilers, among other things.

There's about 65,000 square feet of space in the Bramalea plant.

The Ajax move to Bramalea is "partly underway" now, Doan said, and the last piece of equipment should be out of Acton and operating in Bramalea by September 15.

Ajax is down to a "minimum" staff of eight office and plant employees, though it has employed as many as 17, Doan explained. He added some laid-off workers might be called back in the future to the Bramalea plant if they wish to go. The remaining eight employees are planning to move to their jobs at the new factory.

Besides the cost of maintaining an old building and modernization space restrictions was another factor in the move by Ajax out of Acton.

While the move has been discussed since March it wasn't until recently that final approval was given by the parent firm south of the border. A cost study showed this was the wisest course of action for Ajax or Marley to take.



A long time Acton industry, Ajax Engineers will be closing their doors here by mid-September.

Cheryl Greenly to Brazil

The confirmation papers are still on the way, but Cheryl Greenly of R.R. 1 Acton readily confirms that her destination for a Rotary Club exchange will be Brazil.

Cheryl expects to be located in Lins, a community north of Sao Paulo. The 18-year-old Acton High School student is scheduled to leave sometime in mid-to-late August. She has been waiting for weeks to hear of her official host country, but has anticipated Brazil for a while.

Cheryl admits her first three choices were France, Italy and Holland, but doesn't regret this assignment. "I don't really care where I go," she says. "I think it's great, and I'm really excited."

She already has an idea of what life in Amazon country will be like. "The summers get up to 120 degrees and the winters don't go below 70. Also, the festivals down there are fantastic—have them for any special occasion."



Cheryl Greenly
"I just hope I'm not leaving 'til the end of August so I can say goodbye to everybody," she explains.
Acton Rotary has hosted three exchange students while sending three local teens abroad.



And the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. Well, it may not have been Jericho, but the walls of Acton Pharmacy sure did come tumbling down on Monday. The building was torn down to make way for a spanking new structure. Crowds gathered downtown to watch the demolition as "Red" Lind-

say of Fred Laing Construction, expertly knocked down the building. One person, obviously from out of town, wondered if a bomb had destroyed the building. All that remains on the corner of Mill and Main Streets right now is a huge pile of rubble, which is currently being hauled away.

Town asks NEC, Milton to act after roads built at Peace Camp

Halton Hills has called on the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) and Milton to take action against the International Peace Camp (IPC) for building roads on the property.

Councillor Pam Sheldon said the old road across the former Twin Lakes property has been excavated and then gravel put down and a new road has also been built with an entrance-exit off the Town Line.

She said these are major "contraventions" and both Milton and the NEC have been informed and are sending staff to look things over. She added fill was also moved around the IPC property.

"They have proceeded again with work without a permit."

NEC staff feels this is a "major" contravention, Sheldon said, adding the NEC would like to be backed by a Halton Hills objection.

Since Milton takes care of the part of the Town Line where the camp is located the IPC should have gotten an access permit from Milton for the second road. Milton would also like support from Halton Hills, she said.

Councillor Dave Whiting, who sits on the NEC, said a permit is needed to move fill and he expected the NEC would take action if fill has been moved.

The Town asked both the NEC and Milton to take appropriate actions, which could include prosecution.

Council also received a report from planner Ian Keith Monday which said the Town can't comment on the IPC plan until much more information is obtained. Halton Hills, along with Milton and various government agencies must comment on the IPC plan before the NEC can make a decision.

Keith's report noted IPC wants to develop a "mixed-use" recreation facility south of Speyside on the old Twin Lakes property. The IPC development will include up to 305 camp sites, picnic areas, hiking trails, sports and water activity areas, a huge building, amphitheatre, swimming and wading pools, snack bar, washrooms, tennis courts, parking areas, playgrounds and a soccer field.

"The scale of this development proposal is substantial and certain aspects of the proposal would not comply with the intent of the Rural designation of the Esqueping Official Plan. An amendment is therefore

required to the Official Plan."

Halton Hills wants to examine comments of all agencies to help council decide if an amendment will be allowed or not.

If council was going to permit an amendment then a public meeting would have to be held and IPC would have to provide detailed information about traffic and access impact; environment impact; agricultural impact; fire protection; compatibility to surrounding land use; methods of servicing; noise-odor impact; and other matters such as resource and archaeological impact."

IPC has been asked to obtain information in all these areas of concern for the Town.

Also IPC has been advised to apply for an Official Plan amendment and then put a sign on the property to advise surrounding landowners and Milton of the development proposal.

Sheldon said she totally agreed an Official Plan amendment is needed and felt council should also look at its new Halton Hills Official Plan and how it would restrict development on the Twin Lakes property. "It is different and shows our intent" not to allow major recreation developments in the rural area.

She felt the list of concerns which IPC must answer was "pertinent" and "complete". Sheldon suggested all types of pollu-

tion which are associated with huge crowds should be considered.

Keith said he hopes IPC responds "fully" to all of the Town's concerns.

Halton Region Conservation Authority is also concerned about the IPC development because the headwaters of the watershed is in the area. Their worries include how much water will be taken out for use by people visiting IPC and how sewage will be handled.

Councillor Ross Knechtel confirmed the conservation authority is concerned about "severe environmental problems" posed by the IPC and will be commenting to the NEC.

Halton Hills will examine both Milton and Halton Region Conservation Authority concerns, Keith said.

Miller warned the Town Line isn't in good shape now and can't handle a lot of traffic so that's a concern. He added access to the property couldn't be from St. Helena's Rd. either.

IPC hasn't been very co-operative and only threatened court action was successful in having a trailer which was on the property moved, Whiting noted.

Keith said it will take another month or two for staff to prepare a full report for council.

Inside today's Free Press

Today's paper contains some in-depth reader comments about the motocross track controversy. See letters on page 4.

The Town is going to review the purchase of six paddleboats. Turn to page 5.

There's still no word on a cause of the big Thomas' Video fire. Turn to page 7.

A 12-year-old visitor was shot last week. More on page 12.



Kingham was the scene of a high speed chase. Details on page 12.

A car hit a house on Young St. Story on page 13.

There was an incident of an indecent exposure in Acton last week. See police beat on page 10.

Acton's trying to keep cool and it's heating up sales at local stores. Turn to page 10.

Rockwood Conservation Area is a summer spot that's attracting huge crowds. Turn to This Week Through the Lens on page 3 for a photo story on Rockwood Conservation Area.

The Legion's going to put up signs at the entrances to town. See page 6.