

Back to discussion over Eden Mills Bow Bridge

BY ERIC WYNNE

The Rockwood Miller

As a show of good faith, Eramosa Township council has withdrawn two motions regarding a condition survey and replacement of the Bow String Bridge on Main Street in Eden Mills.

At its Monday night meeting, held in the Everton Church, coun-

cil also agreed to further discuss with the Ad Hoc Bow Bridge committee on options and alternatives to replacing the aging one-lane bridge.

A delegation of approximately 50 residents of Eden Mills filled the gallery to discuss the future of their bridge.

Coun. Rick Hughes questioned

the inclusion in the agenda of a motion by Dep. Reeve Ken Mercer, with no seconder, on the replacement of the Bow Bridge. Hughes said he thought the motion died when it was tabled at the March 7 meeting.

Richard Lay, a member of the Ad Hoc committee, said council "needs good information to make

a good decision (on the future of the bridge)."

Council indicated the costs to construct a two-lane bridge would be subsidized by the Ministry of Transportation, while the cost to restore the Bow String Bridge would have to be covered by the taxpayers of the township.

Committee member Michael

Keefe said he "was shocked" to view council's agenda included a motion for the replacement of the bridge. Keefe felt there should be more public consultation on the matter. He felt a two-lane "highway" through the village was inappropriate and the survival of the village as a "quaint spot to live and raise kids" was in jeopardy.

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Dissolution of Rockwood, Eden Mills 'a done deal'

BY ERIC WYNNE

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After almost three years of often heated debates and legal manoeuvres by trustees, the dissolution process of the police village status of Rockwood and Eden Mills is finally complete.

On Monday, an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing finalized the process to dissolve the police villages in a county-wide move to streamline local government.

Upon dissolution, Eramosa township council has agreed: to take over control of the Rockwood Hydro Commission; to create a Rockwood Citizens Advisory Committee, composed of no less than three people, including a council designate; and to retain care and control of Rockwood. The agreement also allows for the transfer of deeds for the Lloyd Dyer Park and the Rockwood town hall to the township.

Contacted last week, Eramosa Township Reeve Leverage Harris said the process to throw out the "outdated" system began when council took office in December, 1991.

Harris said there was "an overwhelming lack of support" by the residents of Rockwood and Eden Mills to retain the police village system.

But in their effort to fight the change of administration and operation, Rockwood trustees John Root, Cathy McIntyre and Rodey Gegear retained a lawyer.

Under the Municipal Act, the trustees are not entitled to a reimbursement of legal fees so all are liable for the cost. However, Harris said if the OMB ruled the township to pay the legal fees, it would do so without argument.

The Rockwood trustees did win a small victory by asking council

to include a question on this November's municipal election ballot, regarding implementing a ward system for township.

Under an agreement with the Eden Mills and District Community Club and the trustees of the village the township has agreed to finance \$5,000 from the 1994

budget to the Eramosa Farmers' Market, contingent upon the successful acquisition of a \$5,000 grant from Foodland Ontario.

Hillsburgh and Bellwood also face the same fate. Earlier this year, the police village status of Moorefield and Morrison was dissolved.

Pioneer Day planning is well underway; June 10-11 is date

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Although it's still a few months away, Marla Reid is thinking about summer — specifically the Rockwood Pioneer Day, June 10 and 11.

This annual event brings together residents from Rockwood and area to do a little celebrating. This year's event is extra special because 1994 marks the 145th anniversary of the village of Rockwood.

Pioneer Day kicks off June 10 at Waterside Park with an outdoor concert. Saturday (June 11), the ever-popular rubber duck race will get underway starting at 10 am, followed at 11:30 with the parade. The procession will begin at Rockwood Park and make its way through the village to Lloyd Dyer Park where the activities of the day will take place.

A number of kids' games, and music concerts highlight the day. Aside from activities, several church and community groups will set up various booths selling items from baked goods to crafts.

The rest of the day will include a baseball game at 4 pm and to end it off, an outdoor dance on the ball diamond.

Pioneer Day started in 1978 when a group of local citizens, including Reid, got together to plan

a special event for 135th anniversary of the settlement of Rockwood. The celebration caught on and continued for about another five years, but community enthusiasm for the event fizzled.

Four years ago, several local residents approached Reid about the possibility of resurrecting Pioneer Day. It has continued to grow ever since.

"Every year it gets bigger and bigger," said Reid. Last year's attendance ballooned to approximately 500 and over 300 for the outdoor dance. Money from the dance will go to the Rockwood Town Hall Restoration Fund.

Weather for the event has not (so far) been a problem, said Reid. "We must have led a 'charmed life,' because the weather has always been good." This year's edition will go rain or shine. There is no rain date.

In the next few months, Reid will be busy co-ordinating groups such as the Rockwood and District Lions Club, the Optimist Club, the nursery school, volunteers and bands. The Acton Citizen's Band and the Guelph Concert Band are expected to return again this year.

Anyone wishing to volunteer or any community groups that would like to get involved may contact Marla Reid at 856-9819, after 6 pm.



TEAMWORK ON ICE!

Five-year-old Rockwood youngster Jason Rauwerda, back, gives his buddy Luke Vanderlaan, 6, a push on a GT-Racer behind Jason's house on Thursday. (Doug Harrison photo)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

After this first edition of *The Rockwood Miller*, we plan to improve and expand our coverage each and every week. But we need your help! Please call or fax us with your comments, criticisms, Letters to the Editor, story ideas and coming events.

You can phone us at 853-5100; our fax line is 853-5040.