



**LIGHTING UP THE STREET!**

A familiar sight in winter is seeing someone putting up Christmas lights outside on their property, from untangling the mess from last year to figuring out how the strands connect. We caught up with Rockwood resident Rosemarie Gill who was stringing her pine tree with white lights. Let's hope they worked when she plugged them in! (Karen Wetmore photo)

**Land owner trying to get zone change**

BY KAREN WETMORE  
The Rockwood Miller

A man whose family has owned land in Rockwood for more than 100 years is at odds with Eramosa Township Council over a zoning change that would allow him to access and build a house on the property.

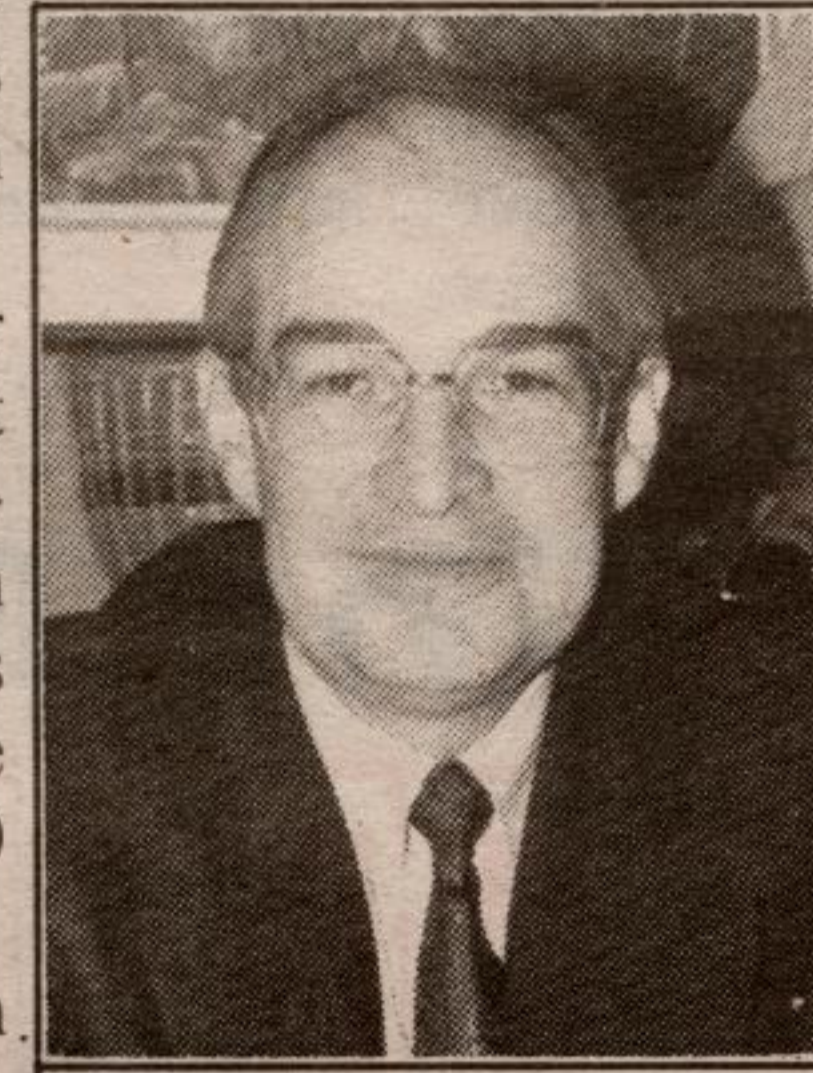
Murray Taylor says it's not that Council is being argumentative with him, but the fact he's been trying to get the zoning change for 10 years.

"I've been through five different Councils and that's part of the problem," he said. "Each new Council just wants to do their job."

The six-acre lot in question is part of the 235-acre farm once owned by Taylor's family. The farmland was sold in 1958, except for the corner of the property clos-

est to Rockwood. At that time, the family assumed the boundary of their land included access to Division Street.

However, 10 years ago it was discovered there was about 100 feet of land separating Taylor's land from the road. A neighbour donated a piece of land to the Township and Taylor attempted to fill in the ravine off the north end of Fall Street for a road to join the two pieces of land. But it proved to be too costly to complete.



MURRAY TAYLOR

Taylor then decided to try creating vehicle access to his land via Division Street. He thought this would be the answer to his problems and even sold his house in Guelph last spring in anticipation of building his dream house.

But it didn't work out that way. He found out through Council that he had to bring his section of road up to Township standards.

"Everything they've asked me to do, I've done," he said. "But this is impossible to do."

The steepness of the road and its sheer rock surface make it extremely difficult to bring the road up to standards. And after already investing \$30,000 on the road to date, further costs are a factor.

But there may be a light at the end of this 10-year tunnel. Taylor has offered to assume liability for the road, since it will only be people travelling to his house who will use it. He has even agreed to add a clause in case he ever sells the land again, for the new owner to be liable for the road. The locked gate going across the road on his property also prevents anyone else from using the road without his knowledge.

He's fairly confident Council will enter into an agreement with him soon. But the past has taught him not to celebrate too early.

"I'm not bitter at anyone," he said. "It's just the slow workings of bureaucracy I guess, more than anything. Part of the frustration is that I grew up on that land and now I can't use it."

If the zoning change is implemented in his favour, Taylor says he still might not start building a home until the spring of 1997.

"But if there's an end in sight, you don't mind the delays as much," he said.

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