

# Casson paintings offered to council

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Rockwood Miller

Eramosa Township Council has first right of refusal on two rare, limited edition prints by A. J. Casson - painted by the famous Group Of Seven artist in Rockwood seven decades ago.

Council decided to look at the prints after they were offered for sale by their owner, Edward Onderisin, a Markham collector.

Onderisin said he bought the Casson prints as an investment and then grew to appreciate them for their beauty, but now must sell them because he is moving.

One print - *Rockwood, 1926* - is a water colour scene looking south on Main Street, past what is now La Vieille Auberge restaurant. The second print - *Saturday Afternoon* - is a compilation painting of several buildings in the village.

Onderisin said he is selling half of his collection and he thought the "decent" thing to do was to offer the prints to the Township, before the general public.

"Rather than just sell them to another collector, I thought that it would be nice if people

visiting and living there could see these particular images hanging somewhere," Onderisin explained in an interview on Wednesday.

"It's a personal thing to me. I'm not just in it for the money. I want the prints to be appreciated by people that they mean something to."

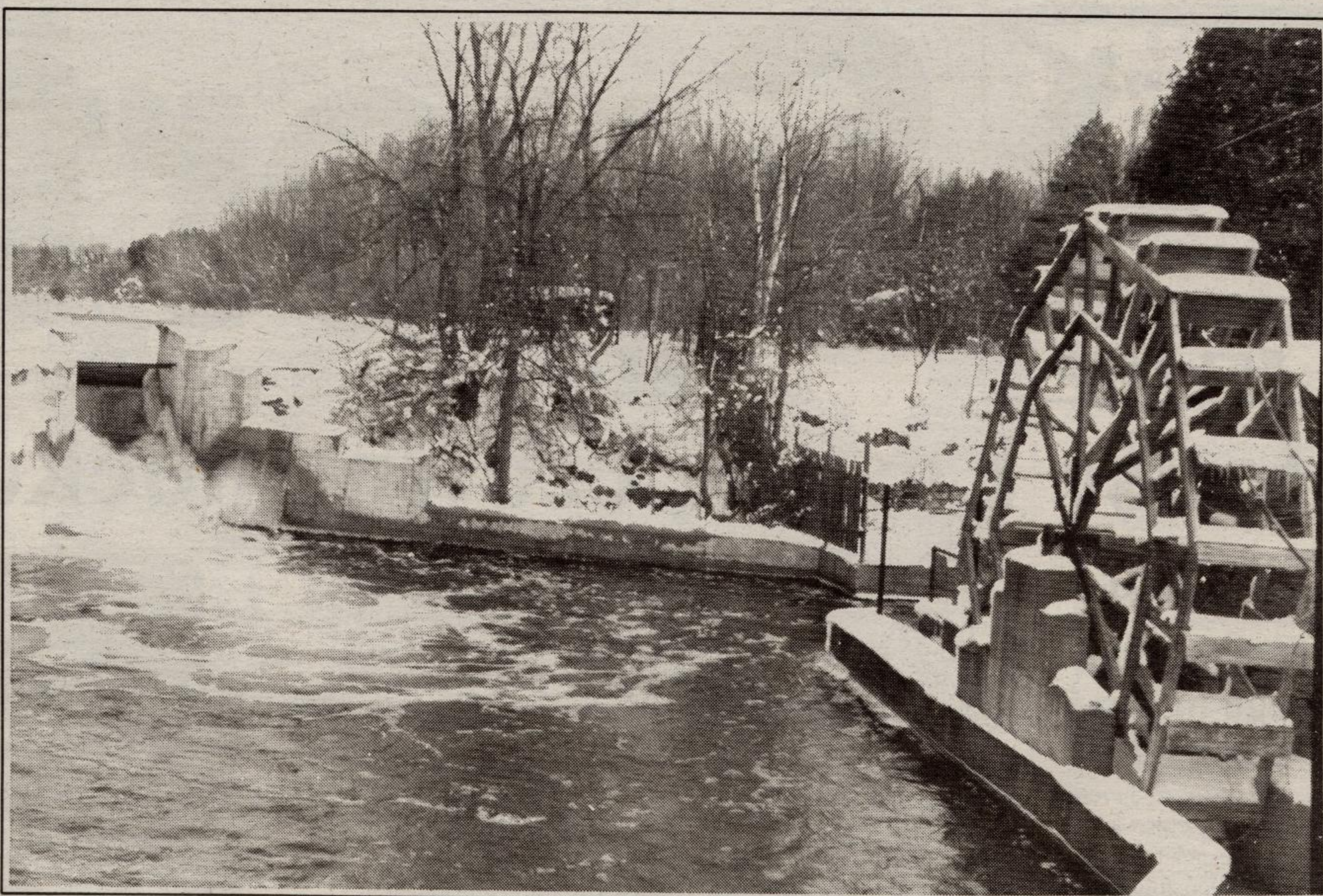
Former Rockwood village trustee John Root saw the prints after being asked by Eramosa Reeve Rick Hughes to investigate the offered sale.

Root said that if he had the money, he'd buy *Rockwood, 1926* for himself.

"I don't have the money, but I'd be willing to support some kind of fundraising to get enough money to buy one of the prints," Root said as he suggested the print could hang in the Eramosa Public Library.

Root said he is trying to find an independent appraiser to look at the prints, one of which Onderisin had offered at \$2,200.

The public is invited to see the prints and comment on a possible purchase on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 pm, when both prints will be on display in the Eramosa Township Council Chambers.



WELCOME TO SPRING: The view from the York Street bridge in Eden Mills was picturesque after last Wednesday's snowfall on the first day of spring. To many, spring has postponed its arrival indefinitely. (Karen Wetmore photo)

## School closes after spring snowstorm

### CENTENNIAL NEWS

Two days of warm sunny weather made everyone think that spring had arrived. Then Wednesday we all woke up to a big surprise - the school

was closed due to the terrible storm. Everyone came back the next day grateful for the extra day of holidays, especially the teachers!

Rockwood students are preparing posters for our upcoming Jump Rope For Heart event. This will take

place during Education Week in May. Students will be looking for sponsors in April. Let's all work together to make this event successful.

Mrs. Spence and Mrs. McDonald's classes are studying rabbits. They had a visit from Babette the rabbit

on Tuesday. This rabbit is owned by our vice-principal, Mrs. Gregg, who keeps the rabbit in her office. Students are welcome to visit Babette when they are walking by.

Our choirs have started working on music for Education Week.

## Welcome back to Erynn!

### ERAMOSIA P.S. NEWS

BY KARA DERMA & JENNIFER KUPFERSCHMIDT  
This week at Eramosa P.S. we will be interviewing Erynn Biffis, a returning student coming from another school. She started at Eramosa school

in Kindergarten and left in October '95. She used to go to a school in Guelph. Now she is back with old friends.

Q: Erynn, what makes the students here different from the students at other schools?

A: *The people seem a lot friendlier because I've known them all since Kindergarten.*

Q: Do you like the city better, or the country?

A: *I don't know because I did not live in the city long*

*enough. In the city I could walk to school and stores. Here, I take the bus to school and I have to be driven to the store.*

Q: What makes Eramosa School different?

A: *It is a smaller school, and everyone knows each other. There are big trees in the yard, the playground is much bigger. The school yard is surrounded by farms. In the city the school yard is surrounded by houses.*

## Reading festival

### WELLINGTON HALL

BY DAINE ROGERS, GR. 4  
Last week we returned from our March Break week off. We have started new units now. In history we are learning about World War II.

We are also reading two novels. One is called *Number the Stars* by L. Lowry and the other is called *The Diary of a Young Girl*. It is the story of Anne Frank.

On the last Friday night of March, all the students are celebrating a reading festival. We are having guest readers and speakers, and special musical entertainers. The senior class is going to sleep over! It should be a fun night.

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