

Students busy as year closing down

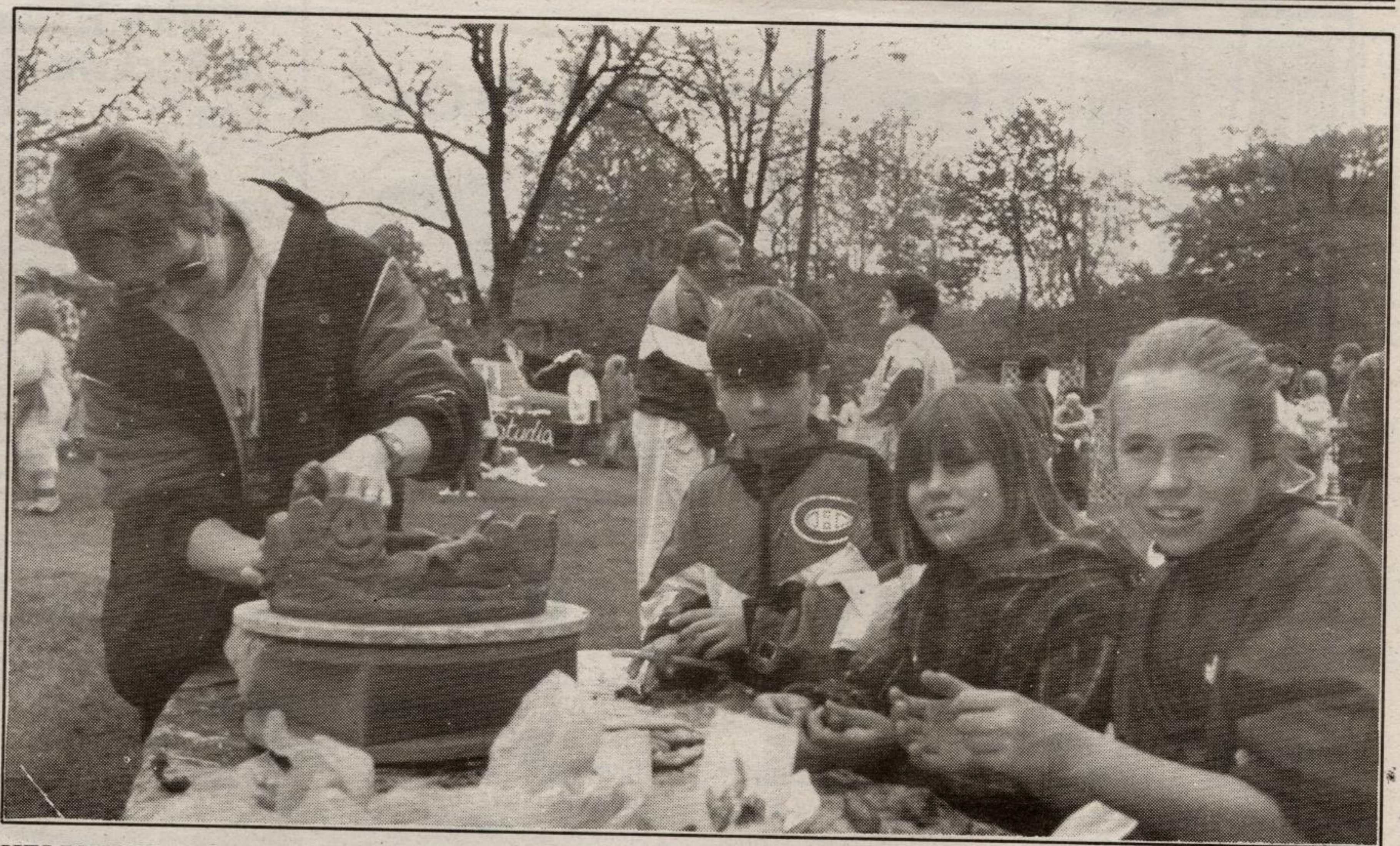
CENTENNIAL NEWS

The students of Rockwood Centennial School have been very busy these past few weeks as the end of the year approaches. Junior and intermediate students have participated in track and field meets both at the school and at the county level. Several new records were set at both meets.

The Kindergartens spent a day at the farm. Grade 1s have been to the hospital (just visiting!). Junior students in Mr. Scollard's class went to the Blue Jays game and also participated in the Rockwood pioneer parade. Grade 4s were off to War Memorial Hall in Guelph for a drama production.

Both junior and intermediate students are participating in 3-pitch tournaments during the month of June. The intermediates recently came third in their tournament at Guelph Lake. And Wednesday (today) a trip is planned for all helpers including student council and patrols, to see the Blue Jays.

Our Grade 8s are getting very excited about their Ottawa trip. They leave next Monday and return Friday. This trip is always the highlight of their year. When they return, they'll be celebrating their graduation, on June 25



HELPING HANDS: James Burgie, 8, Ashley Patterson, 9, and Shawna Holmes, 12, help Donna Diamond make a clay bowl by adding their own creations during Pioneer Day celebrations at Lloyd Dyer Park. (Eve Martin photo)

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Council may require Hilts to demolish illegal building

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

Eramosa Township could force Rockwood developer Lou Hilts to tear down an illegally constructed building on land behind five lots that front Main Street in front of the old Candy Factory.

Ordering the demolition is one of the numerous options Township Council is considering following an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) ruling that denied Hilts' appeal of Council's refusal to rezone the property as commercial.

The Township took Hilts to court, and won a conviction in 1993, when Hilts ignored a stop-work order on the second of two extensions to a heritage building on the site, which had operated as the Rockwood Garage, without proper zoning.

Hilts was ordered to tear the building down or get the necessary building permits and that led to the OMB hearing on his proposed rezoning.

Both Council and OMB officer Susan Fish rejected Hilts' zoning amendment, which would have allowed a storage garage and outdoor parking and restricted all other uses until Hilts applied for and received all necessary permits.

Fish said Hilts was asking the Board to believe that he

designed and built a repair garage but didn't intend to use it until all public agency requirement were met.

"Having regard for Mr. Hilts' history of non-compliance with previous municipal requirements, I find that Mr. Hilts is not credible in this regard," Fish wrote in her ruling.

Fish also outlined three Township concerns that Hilts had not dealt with, including services, storm water management and traffic study and access improvements at Main Street.

Township Reeve Rick Hughes said they are "pleased" with the OMB ruling, but he couldn't comment on what will happen next because Council's discussions have been private because it is a matter of litigation.

"However, I think it would be in Council's and the municipality's interest to let the ratepayers know Council's position with regard to that property because I believe it is still being used, in contravention of both planning and building by-laws, and because the addition is still illegal," Hughes explained last Wednesday.

Hughes said he suspects the maximum use of the property that will be allowed will be "some form of storage."

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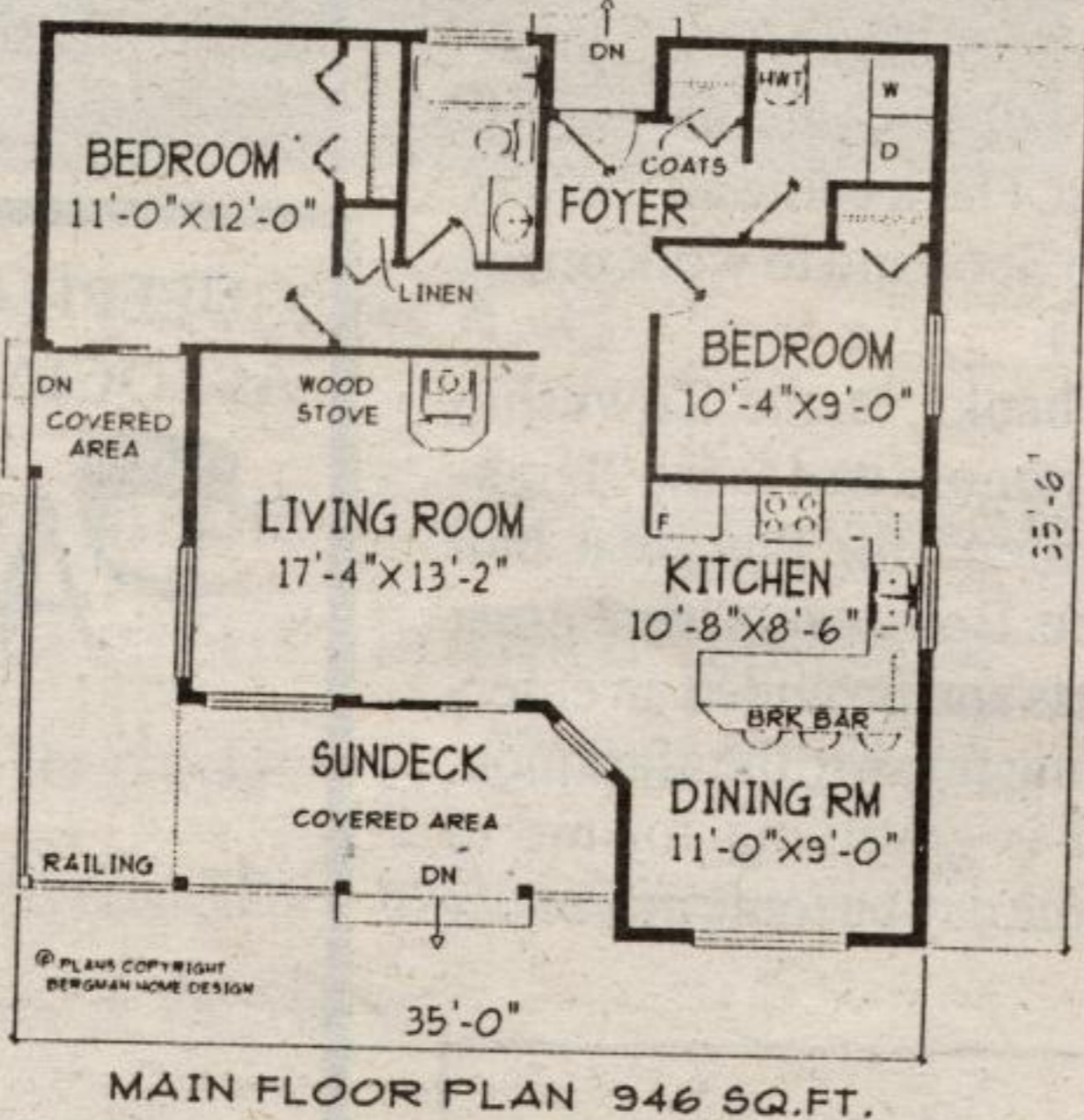
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