

The Rockwood MILLER



Conservation Authority wants to look into municipal services

By **MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY**
The New Tanner

The Grand River Conservation Authority has asked Guelph-Eramosa council for permission to hook the Rockwood Conservation Area Park into its municipal services.

GRCA representative Steve Gemmell told council the park already has its own private wells and its own septic system but the authority isn't satisfied with that sort of arrangement. It wants all its parks on municipal systems.

He assured council there is no intention to expand the existing facilities, only to upgrade them from privies to comfort stations, for example.

If the park is connected to the municipal system the existing wells would be decommissioned according to Ministry of the Environment

(MOE) requirements, and abandoned.

Judy Beauchamp of Stantec Consulting Ltd, representing the Authority's engineers, said MOE requirements demand water samples be taken regularly in the park just as they are throughout the municipality's water distribution system. If the residual chlorine content was insufficient, then the authority would have to build a booster station in the park to raise the levels. But that would be an authority expense and not a municipal responsibility.

Gemmell said the services would just be closed down for the winter. The valve to the park would be closed and the system drained. Other places where their parks are already on municipal services, such as Elora, experience no problems when the services are

turned on again in the spring. There is no back flow from the park and Rockwood should be no different to set up.

Gemmell said the authority is not expecting to begin actual construction on new service lines in 2001 but would like them complete by December, 2002.

Mayor David Adsett said council didn't want the proposal to impact on ratepayers but at the same time everyone knew the importance of the tourist dollars the park brings to the municipality. The township's engineering consultants will look at how the request will impact the system.

Adsett said the authority's needs were mentioned in talks between Guelph and the municipality when they were discussing the township's future needs more than a year ago. At that time the city was prepared to be cooperative.



NEW ADDITION: Over the past week scaffolding and protective plastic have come down from the new addition to Rockwood's St. John's Anglican Church. The new addition is expected to be ready for use early in the New Year and the official opening will come later in the spring. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Public meeting planned for woodshop application

By **MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY**
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The public are going to have to help Guelph-Eramosa council decide how to deal with an application for a woodworking shop and tree farm beside the municipal office on County Road 124.

In his report to council Monday, the municipality's consultant, Bernie Hermsen of MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited, said Frank Meyer's zone change application does not conform to the County's Official Plan and recommended it be denied.

Meyer wants to build his home and a 6,000 square foot woodworking shop on the 11-acre site and use the remaining area to grow evergreens. The shop would employ three or four people.

Hermsen, the County planners and the Township's lawyers, Kearns McKinnon, all feel the shop is too large to be considered a home industry which supplements the farm income. Likewise, home industries usually only allow one or two non-resident employees.

Council had mixed feelings about the land's prime agricultural zoning.

Counc. David McCrae questioned whether 11-acre parcels are viable as farms.

"They're getting to the point where they're more nuisance than value," he said.

Counc. Les Foote noted how many similar parcels exist where a small patch around the house is manicured and the remainder grows up in Golden Rod.

Counc. David Hindley suggested the property would be far more valuable to both the municipality and Meyer with something worthwhile on it like the woodworking shop. He agreed that its agricultural value is very limited unless perhaps it could be rejoined to a larger, adjacent farm.

Counc. Doug Breen noted there's "a lot of fallow land around that falls through the cracks" of plans to protect prime agricultural land. Eventually politicians will have to

decide whether this is the best way to protect agricultural land.

At the same time council must be mindful of the precedent it will set if the re-zoning is permitted, especially given the large number of small agricultural parcels scattered throughout the municipality.

Meyer's planning consultant Astrid Clos of Green Scheels Pidgeon asked council if the application could be amended while the Township clerk arranges a public meeting. She said her client wants to work with the municipality and she wants to see if a smaller shop can accommodate his needs. That would bring the application a little closer to the intent of the County plan.

EWAG NEWS

A Happy New Year to all from EWAG Community Services

We would like to thank all the organizations, the schools, churches, businesses and individuals who supported us over the holidays with donations of food, toys and money to help those in need. The outpouring of support was exceptional this holiday season and we appreciate it. What a great community of Eramosa!

We are pleased to be able to offer two courses of Tai Chi during this winter season. The daytime course will begin on Thursday, January 11 - March 29 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. and will be held at Rockwood library. The nighttime course will begin on Thursday, February 1 - April 5 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The fee

for both courses will be \$45.00 for seniors and \$50.00 for non-seniors. If you are interested in either course, please call Lynn at the EWAG office at #856-2113.

We will also be starting a Book Club on Tuesday, February 13, meeting at the Rockwood library at 10:00 a.m. This group will meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month and there are no fees involved!! Please call Lynn for more information on this new group.

If you want some good deals this month, then come into our thrift store where everything is 1/2 price!! (Hand-knit excluded.) Exceptional bargains for everyone.

For parents we are offer-

ing a program called "Nobody's Perfect" in conjunction with the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit. This program consists of six workshops for parents with children from 1 - 5 years old. Parents will learn more about the physical and emotional health of their children and problem solving as a way to understand a child's behaviour. "Nobody's Perfect" starts Monday, January 22 from 9:45 - 11:30 a.m. at the Rockwood United Church on Harris St. Childcare is available (\$3.00 per child per session) and there is no charge for this program.

Please call the EWAG office for more information and to sign up.

Clara St. sewers cost \$189,000

Installing sewers along Clara Street in Rockwood will be cheaper than first expected, a consultant told Guelph-Eramosa council Monday.

John Burns of R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. said a review of the area to ascertain the actual depth to bedrock along the street shows there is more soil than first assumed, thus making the project easier to execute.

The proposal to install sewers resulted from residents approaching council about problems they were experiencing with their existing private septic systems. While the municipality doesn't actually have to enhance its service to the concession booth in the park, it would be a good idea, Burns said.

Costs range between \$189,000 and \$178,000 for the project depending on whether the line joins Passmore or Balaclava streets and whether it services seven or nine lots. Individual homeowners will face costs ranging from \$21,500 to \$17,500 depending on where the line goes and how many lots it serves. The municipality's cost to hook in their concession booth will range from \$30,000 to \$27,000.

The prices Burns quoted only brings the service to the lot line and individuals would have to arrange the remaining connection into their homes with their private plumber. They would also have to arrange decommissioning of their septic systems according to Ministry of the Environment requirements.

Public Works Supervisor Fred Pierce suggested it would be good to include stormwater drainage and curbs and gutters along the street while the project was under construction. Burns agreed to look at additional municipal costs for that, noting that would be the appropriate time to do the work when the street is all dug up anyway.

Council's next step is to meet with residents and determine whether they are still anxious to participate in the project, given the costs involved.

Mayor David Adsett said that since some of the residents may be on fixed incomes the municipality may have to look for an alternate way to finance the project because council does want to see it proceed.

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DON'T MISS OUT! THERE'S STILL ROOM TO SIGN UP
Classes are being held: Tues, Wed & Thurs 6:30 to 8:30pm and Saturdays 11:30 to 1:30pm at the **BALLINAFAD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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