

# Gaston gives Darcy the Word

Russell Township Reeve Gaston Patenaude was in Toronto Nov. 4 conveying to Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough the message that township residents don't want to be forced into Ottawa-Carleton.

While township council has already outlined its position in a detailed, four-page brief to the minister, Mr. Patenaude felt the personal approach would reinforce the municipality's stand.

"You can often have more impact by making your point in person," Patenaude explained.

The township has based its stand on input received from concerned citizens who attended public meetings at Russell and Embrun in September. A majority spoke against merger with Ottawa-Carleton as suggested in Henry Mayo's provincially-commissioned review of the regional structure.

Dr. Mayo's view is opposed by planner Goldyn Sunderland who has recommended in a restructuring study of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell that the township be retained and enlarged.

Momentum against the Mayo proposal is picking up with Prescott-Russell council and the two counties school boards having filed to Mr. McKeough briefs backing the township's position.

Counties council maintains regional government couldn't properly serve residents of a rural area such as Russell Township because it's too immersed in urban problems.

Council and the school boards warn Russell would lose its rural flavor as well as its "cultural and linguistic identity" if linked to predominantly-anglophone Ottawa-Carleton.

The township brief notes a "unique relationship" between anglophones and francophones living in Russell "in which there is no conflict."

"We are proud of it and wish to preserve it", the brief states.

The brief describes as "quite obsolete" Dr. Mayo's contention most township residents obtain legal, dental, optical, and hospital services in Ottawa.

Since the completion of Hwy.

417, all services mentioned with the exception of hospital have become available within the township.

The professional building at Embrun provides medical, dental, and pharmaceutical care; there are two lawyers working out of Embrun and a third at Russell Village.

Hospital services are available at Winchester which is closer to the township than Ottawa and there's a medical centre at Casselman, only 12 miles away.

"Obviously the people use these services enough to make them economically sound," the brief states. If Russell is allowed to remain part of the counties "it will facilitate the implantation of other viable services in our region."

The brief proudly mentions the township's two arenas, both of which are equipped with artificial ice, and the "well-organized" community centres in the two villages. Most of the work done at both arenas was on a voluntary basis.



## Professional Centre Opens

The \$400,000 Centre Professional Embrun, 418 Notre Dame St., will officially open Nov. 13. The complex, which contains 10,300 square feet of floor space and took a year to build, houses a pharmacy, doctor's

and dentist's office and X-ray room. A laboratory, ophthalmologist's and chiropractor's offices are also being considered. The public is invited to attend the opening and tour between 1 and 5 p.m.

### "This-A-Way"

Mortorists leaving Highway 417 at the Boundary Road exit in search of Russell Village have received a helping hand from the unidentified Good Samaritan who posted this home-made indicator at a crucial point along the way. The sign is at the intersection of the Boundary and North Road.



### "Drop-In Centre Ribbon Cut"

Bertha Smith of the Russell Senior Citizens Club stands by as Denis Ethier, Liberal M.P. for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell cuts the ribbon during the official opening of the club's drop-in centre,

Oct. 29. The centre is located in the basement of the Anglican Church hall and is the focal point of a wide variety of social functions.

### Sewer System Tendered

Tenders for the \$1 million Russell sewer system were opened in Toronto in the presence of Russell Township Reeve Gaston Patenaude, Nov. 3.

Test borings were undertaken in Russell Village this week under the supervision of Township Roads Superintendent Lucien Millare. Using equipment from Ottawa, holes up to twenty-five feet were sunk.

The system will service most of the Village of Russell and sewage will be treated in a lagoon. Some preliminary construction work will begin this winter.

The disposal lagoon will be located on the 4th Concession on properties owned by Leon Gascon and Jim Sullivan. The system will drain from the lagoon into the Castor River. The disposal pipe will run behind the Bank of Nova Scotia into the river.

Mr. Millaire states that the lagoon will be drained only during the spring runoff and that it will not cause pollution of the water. The sewage system will, on the other hand, remove a great deal of pollution currently caused by septic tanks draining into the Castor.

It is expected that once Russell's system is installed a sewage system will be authorized for Embrun. The Embrun system will include the double service of both sewers and water. No municipal water system is contemplated for Russell Village.

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## Township of Russell PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held November 15, 8 p.m., at the Russell Arena Community Hall to discuss the proposed sanitary sewer system for Russell Village.

Council members and consulting engineers J. L. Richards and Associates Ltd. will explain the proposal. Plans of the sewer system will be displayed.

J. G. Bourdeau  
Clerk-treasurer

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