

## Home (far) away from home

There are now about 90 residents in Prescott-Russell's imposing new home for the aged at Hawkesbury - but not one of them is from Russell County.

The home, recently completed at a cost of about \$3.2 million, can accommodate a maximum of 150 senior citizens. It replaces an outdated facility of Highway 17 at L'Orignal.

Russell Township Deputy Reeve Albert Bourdeau learned that all those admitted to the new institution so far are from Prescott County when he questioned home administrator Gabriel Carriere during a United Counties council meeting last month.

Mr. Bourdeau feels Council should consider establishing a second home in Russell County. Mr. Carriere agrees a Russell facility with a capacity of about 100 wouldn't be a bad idea.

To township councillor Baird McNeill, the situation illustrates the need for more convenient services in Prescott-Russell. A senior citizens home in the eastern extremity of the counties isn't much use to ratepayers at the opposite end, he observes.

When the counties decided to build the new home a few years ago, a mammoth struggle developed over where it should be located. Prescott representatives wanted it built at Hawkesbury; Russell representatives unsuccessfully countered with St. Isidore which they claimed would be more accessible to a majority of counties residents.

Raymond Ouimet, the counties' chief executive officer, told the Castor Review it probably wouldn't have changed anything for Russell Township residents had the home been built more centrally.

"Even if the counties home was at Plantagenet, Russell residents would still rely on the private nursing home at Embrun," Mr. Ouimet said.

He noted council contributes \$35,000 a year to help finance a community old age home at Clarence Creek which could be considered an institution designed to serve Russell County.

Mr. McNeill claims the location of the new home isn't the only inconvenience to Russell ratepayers.

The Prescott-Russell jail is at L'Orignal which makes it difficult for Russell residents to visit anyone confined there. Provision should be made for the Ottawa-Carleton detention centre to serve Russell because it's more convenient, the councillor maintains.

Mr. McNeill also suggests a clear listing of toll-free telephone numbers in the directory as a means of simplifying contact between ratepayers and the counties offices at L'Orignal.

Despite the nuisances of the counties structure, Mr. McNeill says he's glad Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough decided not to merge Russell Township with Ottawa-Carleton as proposed in Henry Mayo's review of regional government.



## New R.A. slate of Officers

The Russell Recreation Association recently elected its 1978 executive and board of directors. They are, back row from left to right, Ray McNamara, Baird McNeill, Dan Thomson, Leo

Provost, past-president Peter Romme and Keith Boothe; front row from left to right, Andre Castonquay, Angela Loucks, Jack Chaters and President Marilyn Sullivan.

## About the R.A.

For the past two years the people of Russell have asked many questions about the Recreation association and what are its duties.

The Russell Recreation Association is an elected body, being elected each year by the residents of Russell. The R.A. holds monthly public meetings on the second Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Russell Community Centre Hall. The residents of Russell are welcome to attend these meetings and discuss any problems they may have or to suggest new ideas.

There are several active standing committees that function in conjunction with the R.A. These are: Minor Hockey, Figure Skating, Swimming Pool, Parks, and the Russell Dance Group.

Several programs such as Tennis and the Summer Day Camp were very successful in 1977. As well several other areas

of recreation have been mentioned, such as a horseshoe pit and soccer.

The Recreation Association would like to encourage active participation and leadership from the community in establishing standing committees for these programmes and others if a definite interest is shown.

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## Males Dominate

Gentlemen of Russell Township! Do you ever get the feeling there aren't quite enough women-folk in the township to go around?

Well, there's a very good reason for the feeling; it can be traced directly to the fact that there actually aren't enough womenfolk to go around.

Latest population figures from the regional assessment office show the township with 5,246 residents of which 2,693 are men and 2,553 are women - a margin of 140.

Total population increased by about 235 people over the period of a year.

## Co-op Co-operates

The Civil Service Co-operative Credit Society will now consider mortgage applications from Russell Township, Councillor Baird McNeill reports.

Mr. McNeill takes a large part of the credit for this turn of events. He says Russell has become eligible for Co-op mortgage money largely because of his intervention with a member of the company's loans committee.

As a result of that meeting the township's new zoning bylaw was sent to the Co-op, the councillor

said. The committee was convinced good planning would protect mortgage values in the township, he said.

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