



Budding Picasso

Finger-painting is just one of the many activities offered at the recently-opened Metcalfe Co-operative Nursery School and Greg Jeacle, 4, of Metcalfe, wasted little time in getting into the thick of it. And

he's obviously enjoying his work. Looking on with an appreciative eye is Suzanne Bebbington, 3, of Greely. (Photo by Rowsell).

Albert upset —

Gaston misses Link Meeting

Osgoode Township Reeve Albert Bouwers is worried that Russell Township is backing out of its stated commitment to transform the Boundary Road into a major link from Marionville to 417.

Reeve Bouwers said he was "very disappointed" when Russell Reeve Gaston Patenaude failed to show for a meeting with Transportation and Communications Minister James Snow when the project was discussed.

The meeting took place recently in Toronto during the annual meeting of the Ontario Good Roads Association. Mr. Bouwers complained that the Russell reeve did not turn up although he was invited and was attending the same convention.

"We could lose this if we don't show full cooperation on it," the Osgoode reeve warned.

Russell was one of four municipal neighbors which participated

in preparation of a brief last year which recommended reconstruction and paving of 11.4 miles of the Boundary to facilitate access to 417 from Metcalfe, Russell, Chesterville and other points. The project would cost an estimated \$2 million.

In addition to Osgoode and Russell, other partners in the brief were Cumberland and Winchester townships. Mr. Bouwers emphasized that Winchester Reeve Gerald Holmes and Cumberland Councillor Frank Kenney attended the Toronto meeting.

Reeve Bouwers said Mr. Snow was genuinely interested in the proposal but wondered where Russell stood on it.

"It's upsetting because Gaston faithfully promised to be there. I don't understand why he would be against it because as far as I can see, Russell would be the main benefactor."

He suspects that Mr. Patenaude now has other priorities including securing development money for a road in Russell's east end.

But Reeve Patenaude denied any loss of interest in the 417 link, claiming that he had been led to believe that getting it funded this year would be impossible.

He admitted he has been looking for up to \$300,000 in development money from the province to reconstruct 4½ miles of road in the east end.

"If you can't buy the cow, take the calf," he said, explaining that he would rather get the development money than nothing at all.

He apologized for missing the Toronto meeting, claiming he couldn't make it because at the same time he was being made a member of the Good Roads Association executive.

Baird's tax plan nixed

A tax bash rather than a tax slash is what's most likely in store for Russell Township residents this year.

Although it's still early to tell for sure, a five per cent tax increase may be required to meet municipal spending estimates, Reeve Gaston Patenaude told the Castor Review. The reeve said he'll have a better handle on this year's budget by the end of the month.

Mr. Patenaude was commenting on the recent assertion by Councillor Baird McNeill that

taxes could be cut by five per cent if the township spent less on property investment and recreational grants this year. Such a break would ease the burden for Russell Village residents facing the first year of payments on their new sewage treatment system, Mr. McNeill noted.

"I can't see it," the reeve said. "I don't know how Baird figures it because we never discussed tax cuts in council."

While council may be able to "juggle things around" to prevent raising taxes, "unforeseen expenses" could definitely affect

the mill rate. These include \$140,000 cost of 125 acres for a future industrial park and more than \$14,000 to the South Nation River Conservation Authority's river management program.

Reduced taxes would almost automatically bring reduced services, an eventuality Mr. Patenaude doubted residents would condone.

"Everything is going up, salaries, upkeep. We've hired one new full-time roads department employee and we're looking for another to help with accounting. There's no way for a tax cut."

Breakins
(Continued from Page 1)

Seven counts of possession of stolen property totalling \$20,000 were laid against David Potvin, 30, of Forest Park, just east of Embrun. The goods recovered by Casselman OPP in early February included a four-wheel drive vehicle, lawn tractors and chain saws. Their recovery was linked to a rash of breakins in Eastern Ontario in the past several

months. Police are treating the breakins in the Castor area as separate incidents.

Daniel Bourdeau, of Concession 1, Russell Township, was charged with arson in connection with the burning of his car June 22. He will appear at a preliminary hearing March 29. A second man is being sought in connection with the fire.

Robert Carr, manager of the Russell Hotel, was recovering

from severe frostbite and facial cuts in Ottawa General Hospital after being found unconscious in the hotel parking lot about 7 a.m. Feb. 18. He told police he was beaten on returning from the Russell Legion to the hotel in the early hours of the morning. He was found near the Castor Street entrance to the lot by Gary Hysert, of Kars, and his father Claire, of Hamilton, who were driving by. Police said Carr was not robbed.

Embrun water —

Pit vs. River

A gravel pit in south Russell Township is being tested as a possible feed for the proposed Embrun waterworks as council backed by the Chamber of Commerce looks for an alternative to piping water from Casselman.

Consulting engineer Marcel Dugas has been pumping water at the pit under controlled conditions to determine if capacity would meet Embrun's current and future water needs.

Council and the Ministry of Environment would have to be convinced of the pit's adequacy and reliability before depending on it to supply the new village water system, Mr. Dugas said.

Car dealer Raymond Gregoire, president of the 27-member Chamber of Commerce is optimistic that the pit, owned by Councillor Leo Marion, will prove feasible.

The chamber supports pumping from the pit, Mr. Gregoire explained, because that water would require less treatment than water drawn from the South Nation River at Casselman and piping would be less expensive because the pit is closer to Embrun.

"We want to try our own territory first and if we can't get enough good water, then go to Casselman."

Several alternatives have been looked at in the search for the raw product to fill Embrun's planned water mains. Combined with a sewage treatment system, the project will cost Environment several million dollars.

Gerry McKenna, a spokesman for the ministry, allowed that the government favors installing a link between Embrun and the Casselman water filtration plant, 12 miles away, because it could solve water problems at Forest Park East.

Forest Park has always been plagued with an inadequate waterworks as well as poor quality water. While subdivision water is free of bacteria, it has a high chloride content which affects taste and can be detrimental to people with heart conditions.

If a pipe were to be run from Casselman, Forest Park could plug into it as well, Mr. McKenna pointed out.

The ministry is concerned, that capacity at the pit could deteriorate with long-term use. On the other hand, the South Nation water supply is guaranteed.

He admitted that Casselman's treated water sometimes has a disagreeable taste and odor because the river is sluggish in the summer and the water gets too warm. Health-wise, however, it has never been in question.

"I don't think Casselman water is bad," said Russell Reeve Gaston Patenaude. "But I think there might be better water in our own township."

Some of Embrun's senior citizens are worried that Casselman water is not fit to drink, the reeve said.

While it might cost more to tie into the Marion pit, the village would be assured of good water for many decades, he concluded.

Coming Event

Mrs. Pat Downing of Ottawa Russell Home and School Association will be the Guest Speaker at a Block Parent Meeting of the Russell Public School. iation on March 29 at 8 p.m. at the Russell Public School.

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Dean Loucks, Principal
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