

CASTORON REVIEW

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Twenty-five cents

binson quits —

R.A. shake-up complete?

The second resignation in a month since the dismissal of arena manager Dan Thompson

has hit the Russell Recreation Association.

Director Pierre Robinson resigned in May as a direct result of Mr. Thompson's dismissal. The association board of directors voted 4-3 April 19 not to renew the arena manager's contract.

The board cited general administrative concerns for the dismissal and, more specifically, Mr. Thompson's questionable ability in obtaining grants as required by his position.

"Would you, if you were an employer, keep someone on who had lost you \$8,000," association president Jack Chaters recently asked the Castor Review.

Mr. Thompson had admitted following his dismissal that the association had budgetted for grants on his advice but that, in the end, the money was slow in coming through.

Association treasurer Keith Boothie resigned a week after Mr. Thompson's dismissal but said there was no connection between the two incidents. Rather, he pointed to differences over financial procedure between himself and Mr. Chaters.

A public meeting attended by 50 Russell residents seeking more information on the dismissal failed to change the board's mind on getting rid of Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Robinson left no doubt about the reasons for his resignation.

"I left because I felt there was a great injustice being done. I felt something was wrong with the board's handling of Danny and I wasn't about to go for it," he told the Review.

Mr. Robinson said the board refused to look at Mr. Thompson's good points and to accept his personal offer of administrative assistance to the arena manager.

He said he also recommended that Mr. Thompson should be given an appraisal by the board and a chance to correct any administrative weaknesses he may have had.

"I felt it was the only decent thing to do," he said. "I couldn't see how a board, the majority of whose members had only worked with Danny for four months, could pick up and fire him. And when his contract wasn't renewed, I say he was fired."

"The board's attitude will make it difficult for any new guy replacing Dan."

Mr. Chaters said the board has had no problem finding candidates to fill the position. He said 20 applicants have been interviewed for the job and the board expected to vote on one soon.

Meanwhile, board member Chuck Norris has been appointed treasurer and Jack McLaren has filled one of the two directors vacancies.

"We are looking for someone else in the village to fill the remaining vacancy," he said.

"This affair has not affected the board's operation. All our programs are on tap, we're not behind in anything."

He said he was not surprised by Mr. Robinson's resignation.

"He was pretty set on wanting an appraisal of Dan Thompson's work before any decision on whether to dismiss him but we just don't have the time or the facilities for such an appraisal."

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Getting the scoop

The looks on the faces of Carolyn Anderson, centre, and Stacey Hayward, right, tell the story — happiness is a cool ice cream cone on a warm spring day. And Mike Miller, co-owner of the new Kool Korner

Dairy Bar at Concession and Mill Streets in Russell, is only too happy to oblige. The girls are trying out bubble-gum, one of the more popular flavors with the younger set. (Rowell photo)



Sidewalk Talk

By Mark Van Dusen

Cemetery Heritage

A visit into North Russell Cemetery is a visit into local heritage.

This day, the first fine spring day after a grey fortnight of rain, the large lemon-drop sun melted into the horizon behind wisps of white.

The cemetery is cradled on a bluff two-and-a-half miles up the North Road from Russell Village and from there the freshly-turned fields stretched away on all sides.

A line of cows eased toward the fading outline of a barn and a window twinkled to life in a farmhouse three fencelines west.

Sparrows in the big elm at the cemetery's edge softly sang the day's passing. A redwing fluttered to rest on polished marble.

"Henry Hitsman, died June 26, 1874, aged 74 years. His wife, Letitia Gillaspay, died April 29, 1873, aged 72 years. Natives of Ireland."

The blackbird cocked its head, preened a feather, content the epitaph was as it had always been, and was gone.

As it has always been...

It's a natural tendency — to take the present for granted, to forget that those who came before wrought the future, that they carved the comfortable village, there, from bush and boulder. Here, in this peaceful domain a smoke's curl from

where they laughed, worked, died, their memory lives.

Hitsman, Armstrong, Wilson, Ross, Andrews, Little — so the bleached, worn monuments attest to their legacy.

"Reverend Major W. H. Sparks, 1868-1935."

"Margaret Hayes, wife of William Phair, 1853-1926."

"William Graham, 1845-1920. Wife Martha Brownlee, 1858-1918. Jessie, 1883-1896."

"Allan Paul, died Feb. 28, 1907, aged 76. Wife Jean Naimsmith, 1840-1935."

They came near and they came far.

"James Morrow, 1830-1901, native of County Cavan, Ireland. Wife, Mary Hamilton, 1842-1914."

"John Moffat, 1845-1907, native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Wife, Elizabeth Montgomery, 1854-1945. George Moffat, 1876-1953. His wife, Margaret J. Little, 1881-1974."

"Harry Wheeler, 1873-1951, native of Folkstone, England."

Some went young...

"Ada Harrington, 10 months, 15 days, daughter of James and Acme Herrington."

"In memory of Letitia, beloved daughter of J. V. and Isabelle Harrison, died Aug. 26, 1888, aged 17. Thy life was beauty, truth, goodness and love."

"In memory of Rebecca Hayes, wife of Hance Lemon,

died Sept. 2, 1890, aged 30. 'Dear friends I leave you all behind because my Savior calls me home. So do not mourn but trust in God and we will meet in heaven at last'... and suddenly. "Infant children of W. S. and Charlotte Morrow. March 31, 1897; April 6, 1907."

They rest together... "John Shelp, died 1901. Wife, Rebecca, 1825-1916. Thomas A., 1855-1936."

"Smith — Leslie Pratt, 1889-1955; Sarah Agnes, 1891-1977; Archibald Borden, 1919-1921; Carmen, 1921-1934."

"Barber — Ben G., 1867-1914; wife Diana Griffith, 1865-1929; Pearl E., 1904-1975."

"Elisha Scharf, 1860-1937; his wife Margaret Atchison, 1867-1907; son E. R. Scharf, 1902-1969."

... and alone. "In loving memory of John Winchester Low, 1853-1912."

And their names are still carried proudly along the Castor River nestled in the ridge of trees traversing the brown, smokey landscape where the bluff levels and gradually rises from eye's view toward the townships to the south.

Harrison, Boothe, Harten, Rombough, James, May, Wilkin-son...

"George Hay, died June 2, 1956, aged 78."

"Leonard Stanley, 1874-1949. Annie McDermid, 1873-1973."

... Hamilton, Morrow, Hall, Griffith, Harrington, Kinkaid, McNaught...

"John E. Loucks, 1879-1939. Annie M. Scully, 1877-1949."

"Lucius Loucks, 1855-1924. Mary Moke, 1855-1937."

"Henry Booth, 1852-1939. Arvilla Campbell, 1862-1936."

... Eastman, Weatherall, Eadie, Ross, Curry, Boyd, Burton, Dey, Crascadden, hill, Wood.

A while earlier, when the sun still burned high in the firmament, a young husband and wife, Bill and Loretta Rombough, came from the village to inspect the newly-placed tombstone of a family member. With them, Rose Marie and Mark, two of their children.

Their respects paid, the family drifted among the russet and charcoal markers.

"Who's this one, Daddy?" the girl asked.

And the father paused and explained.

