

# News

## New pool building proposed

by Connie Bélanger

At a recent public meeting the Russell Pool Committee announced that the pool will open on schedule this summer and plans are underway to build new and better facilities.

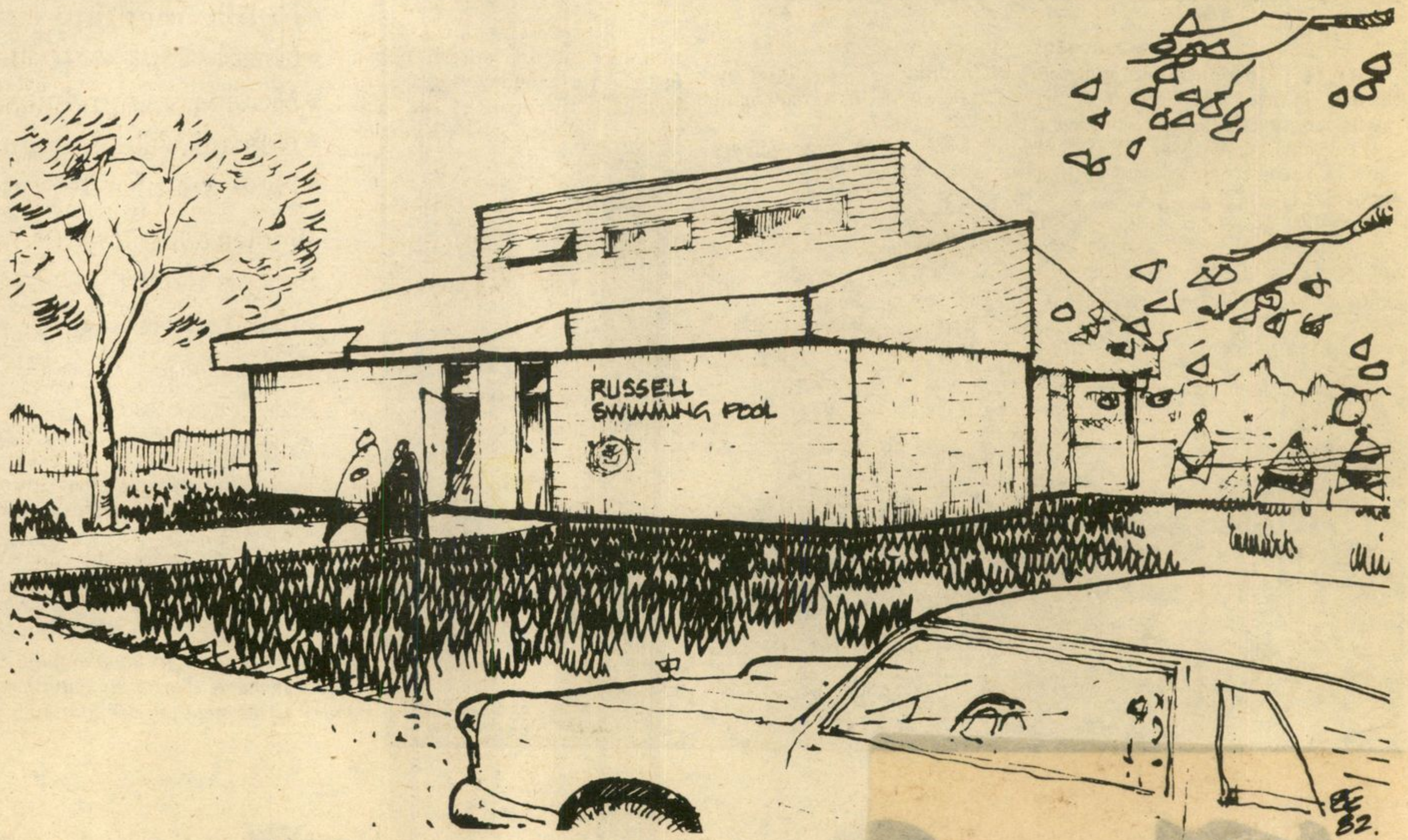
The pool will reopen on June 27th. Registration for Canadian Red Cross swim classes, Royal Lifesaving Society Bronze Medallion and Competitive Swimming will be held at the Dr. Kinnaird arena on June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and June 5th, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Pool Committee hopes that by September construction will be underway on a new cement block building with a pumphouse, showers, washrooms and proper storage for chemicals.

An artist's sketch and plans have been drawn up and the committee is planning to launch a fund-raising drive soon. The committee is looking for volunteers to help raise money as well as support from clubs and the general public. Wintario is expected to provide a major portion of the necessary funds.

The facility "will be built for the future", said committee member Dick Sherwood. "It will be made to last, with the idea that 10 years down the road a new and larger pool may be needed."

The present building has been called substandard by the Health Department and each year the list



The New Pool Building

Russell's Pool Committee is working on getting a new building for the Russell Centennial pool. The pool is over 15 years old and while it has been providing clean, safe, supervised recreation it is getting old. The

Committee wants to replace the old changing rooms and toilet facilities with a new building. Pictured above is an artist's concept of the proposed building.

of repairs required to allow the pool to open grows longer. While the pool itself and the machinery are in good repair, the existing structure is bordering on the condemned.

"The Health Department has been very understanding," said Mr. Sherwood, "and is allowing us to open provided we meet its list of requirements and keep the area clean."

Over the last few years it has become increasingly more difficult to meet the Department's requirements as the building is showing too many signs of age. "The only sensible course," said Mr. Sherwood, "is to rebuild. Over the past few years we've just been bumping along."

The existing structure was built by volunteer labour as part of a Centennial project with money

raised by the Lions Club and public donations.

The pool has been a great success in the area providing lessons, public swimming and a home for the Russell Swimming team. The team placed first two years ago in the Eastern Ontario Swimming Meet. Last year it came in second.

The committee hopes to produce "another winning team" this year, and is "urging parents to en-

courage their children to take part" said Mr. Sherwood. "The emphasis is on fitness, skill and good sportsmanship, and our staff will gladly work with any boy or girl to improve skills they have and teach them new ones."

"The Committee will work with any group of parents who would like to take this first-rate summer sport and promote it in Russell by forming a Swim Club"

## Russellers petition for wards

A petition calling for the establishment of wards in Russell Township received a luke-warm reception from the Township's Council recently.

The petition, which was signed by 135 people, asked the Council to request the Ontario Municipal Board to approve the restructuring of the Township into four wards: Embrun, Russell, the 4 Concessions and the 6 Concessions. The Township's Reeve would be elected at large and the Deputy-Reeve would be appointed from Council.

A group of 15 people from the Russell area presented the petition to Council at its meeting on April

19th.

"I don't say I'm in favour (of the ward system)," said Township Reeve Gaston Patenaude, "but I don't want to say I'm against it."

"Before we move to something like this the pro's and con's have to be thrashed out. I can't see where it would benefit" said Mr. Patenaude.

Angela Burgess, a spokesperson for the group that presented the petition, said: "All we're suggesting is that Council representatives should come from all across the Township. With a ward system the electors would have someone specific to praise or criticize and it would stop accusa-

tions of Council favouritism.

Another petitioner, Jean Beaudoin, said: "Nothing gets done until we bitch. We feel people in Russell aren't well represented — with the ward system we are sure of proper representation."

Deputy-Reeve Albert Bourdeau told the group: "You have to get organized. Two or three people running from Russell splits the vote."

The Council has 30 days from receipt of the petition to consider its position. After the time-limit has expired the OMB can be requested to implement the ward system without Council approval of the plan.

## The Castor Review subscribe

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Association Récréatif et Conseil du compte de Russell

Le 26 avril 20:00 hr

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Russell

Discussion: Payment du déficit de l'Association Récréatif de Russell au Conseil.

Russell ASSOCIATION RECREATIF

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