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Lincoln

owners \$48 per year. He said that if they were forced to help pay for the \$690,000 cost of the proposed Lincoln Road project, it would raise their water and sewage rates considerably, and commented, "Is it fair for those who have already paid more to turn around and subsidize the sixty some homeowners in the Lincoln Road?" (These Lincoln Road homeowners, it might be recalled are already paying what they claim are taxes generally as high as those in the city, while receiving considerably fewer services.)

Millett felt that if there was sewage running down the ditches, the septic tanks should be relocated so as to drain

in another direction. He did not feel this was the fault of the city and said the residents "supposedly have room enough to have a suitable disposal system." (Mrs. Clark says that in some areas this is not true.) He added that if people designed their disposal systems correctly, they would not run into any problems; such as one person's leaky septic tank contaminated another's well. He finished by saying it was "strictly a financial thing as far as the city is concerned," and that the "situation isn't all that bad." He stated once more that only one well was contaminated and added that the Department of Health could back him up on this. This apparently was meant as an example of just how minor the problem is. Rankin had earlier stated, however, that if one well was polluted, it was a "sure sign" that others would be in the near future. It might also be noted that Millett lives on Regent Street, quite a distance from

the scene of the problem.

We contacted Rankin a second time to see just how he would react to some of Millett's comments. With regard to homeowners being at fault for sewage in the ditches, Rankin countered Millett's accusations by saying that most of the septic tanks were alright before the city moved in a few years ago and deepened the ditches allowing more sewage to seep in from below the surface. He also pointed out that if the residents of Lincoln Road were to go ahead and reconstruct their septic tanks, they would find themselves minus a sizeable amount of money if the city actually did install sewage and water facilities. If the city constructs such a system, the residents are forced to pay the costs of hooking up, regardless of whether their present disposal system is adequate. Rankin also said that because of the topography and height of land it would be difficult to fix the septic tanks.

In his interview with the BRUNSWICKAN, Millett made reference to "the sixty some homeowners" in the area. In a Gleaner article last October it is said of Millett: "He said the estimated cost...was not realistic for the sixty-six homes which would be serviced."

Rankin, however, claims that there are sixty-six WELLS on Lincoln Road serving NINETY property owners. He concluded that Millett must be counting the Fundy Line Motel, the Rainbow Cabins and the various duplexes as one house each. Also, some of the property owners on Lincoln Road have not built houses yet.

Just what are the alternatives for the people of Lincoln Road? Some people have recommended that the residents wait until the time if and when amalgamation becomes a reality and then try to get support from the Provincial Government. However, the residents of Lincoln Road are sceptical about this. Rankin suggested that under amalgamation, the residents of Upper Lincoln the area immediately outside the eastern limits of the city, would be free to form a village and that it would be possible for the people of Lincoln Road to join them in this venture. However, the people of Upper Lincoln, it appears, are totally against amalgamation if they do not get water and sewage services.

In summarizing, the Lincoln Road area is a district hampered by a lack of water and sewage facilities, by poor road construction and snow removal which has been described as "a mess," by a lack of protection from the Fredericton Fire and Police Departments, and by the absence of sidewalks for pedestrians. The residents, nevertheless, must pay taxes which they say are on a par with those in the heart of the city. When will the situation be improved? Certainly not until some sort of agreement is reached between the residents of the area and the members of the City Council as to where the priorities lie and how the tax money should be spent. Furthermore, with construction costs rising, the longer the City delays taking action, the more it will cost to install the services. Yet they cling to the argument that the project is not "economically feasible" at the present.

Will the area grow? The residents state that the city has frozen all construction in the area until the sewer and water services are installed.

Says Mrs. Clark, "the priorities are in the wrong place... People should come first." Councillor Millett, however, sees it as "strictly a financial thing as far as the City is concerned."

Who will win? Mrs. Clark, at least, is not keeping her fingers crossed: "Ten years from now the situation will be absolutely the same as it is today."



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