

Lincoln

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Council's stand that the project cannot be afforded at the present. Rankin said that of the \$690,000 which supposedly was necessary for the installation of the water and sewage facilities, approximately \$350,000 would be for a sewage treatment plant - a plant which would be capable of servicing twenty-five hundred people. In a district which has only ninety property owners, this would seem unnecessarily large. Furthermore, it has recently been estimated that a treatment plant for the area known as Lincoln, outside the city limits, would cost only \$60,000, although there are two hundred families in this area. Rankin says, therefore that the proposed cost of the Lincoln Road plant "seems ridiculous."

Rankin also said that in the case of the treatment plant now serving most of Fredericton, approximately seventy-five percent of the cost was paid for by grants from the N.B. Water Authority and Central Mortgage and Housing. This caused some of the Lincoln Road residents to wonder if indeed this would be possible as a means of partially offsetting the cost of their proposed

plant. If it is, City Council has said nothing of it.

Another fact pointed out by several of those interviewed is that one of the arguments advanced against the proposed services contends that there are not enough homes in the area to warrant this expenditure. However, the residents say that the reason there are relatively few homes in this area is indeed the fact that there are no water and sewage facilities supplied by the city. In other words, the argument works both ways. Furthermore, if the services were to be installed, thus encouraging more people to move into the area, the cost would be more widely distributed among the homeowners. It is therefore felt that Councillor Millett is being deceptive when he quotes a particular figure per house as being the cost of the proposed system.

A few days after the trimmed-down budget was approved, the City appeared before the Capital Borrowing Board to borrow \$800,000 with which to purchase seven hundred acres of land in the area of Lincoln and the Lincoln Road for industrial purposes. The sum was reduced to \$350,000 after protests from residents of the area as well as from the New Brunswick Conservation Council. A number of those interviewed voiced their disapproval of the move to the BRUNSWICKAN. Their principle contention is that the City should not be borrowing money to spend on land, two-thirds

of which is outside the city, when they cannot service the land already within the city limits. Lincoln Road has always been within city limits and yet virtually the only services received from the city are garbage disposal and streetlights. Rankin also pointed out that if amalgamation did not occur, the city would receive no tax revenue from this land they are purchasing.

Two of those spoken to suggested there is a possibility some individual or group may be profiting from the land purchase, although this cannot be substantiated at the present. There appears to be some suspicion that the land may have been owned by Fredericton Housing.



Ross Millett

The same argument which is being used to protest the land purchase is being advanced against the proposed amalgamation of the outlying areas with the city of Fredericton. Last summer, Mayor Walter Rickard of Barker's Point expressed his opposition to amalgamation citing the example of Fredericton's backing down on its proposal to provide water and sewage services for Lincoln Road. Mrs. Clark stated that she too had encountered persons living in Barker's Point who were fighting amalgamation on the basis of the Lincoln Road situation. Indications are that this feeling is present among residents of Silverwood. Mrs. Mabel Smith, who operates the Rainbow Cabins and an apartment building in Lincoln Road, said she does not think any of the people involved favor amalgamation.

Mrs. Smith also described some of the problems confronting her as the proprietor of these establishments. She has five septic tanks on her property. One of these alone, the one servicing the apartment building, has to be cleaned out twice yearly at a cost of \$120 each time. "It's very expensive," she commented. She was annoyed by Councillor John Bliss's statement that the offensive odor from the septic tanks was the result of poor upkeep. She was among the residents who attended Council meetings and said she "just burned inside" when she saw the attitude taken by Council. She added that it "seemed hard to take."

When Mrs. Clark, mentioned earlier, was interviewed, she pointed out that Councillor Millett was one of the persons instrumental in preventing the extension of water and sewage services to Lincoln Road at the present. She also suggested that Millett, when confronted by those who complain of the conditions of their septic tanks, uses the argument that he

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