

GROUP HAS \$67,491.44 CASH ON HAND . . .

Replies To Critics Of

Simcoe College Foundation member W. D. (Rusty) Russell answered recent criticism concerning the group's financial status by revealing yesterday that the foundation had \$67,491.44 in cash as of Jan. 1.

He also reported that the foundation will publish shortly a complete financial statement in the Packet and Times and mail others to those who have subscribed to the foundation's fund-raising campaign.

In a blunt, wide-ranging speech delivered to the Rotary Club of Orillia at the Sundial Restaurant, the city lawyer discussed the foundation's financial situation and the status of a recent brief submitted to the Ontario Commission on Post-Secondary Education. The commission is expected to release an important report on education in September. The future of the proposed Orillia university will hinge largely on the recommendations contained in this report.

PROPOSALS

It is believed the commission's report will contain many of the educational proposals submitted by the Orillia foundation.

Mr. Russell said that the total cash received from the beginning of collections up to Dec. 31, 1970, was \$36,121.16, out of which \$115,299 was paid for the land, \$78,593.68 to a fund-raising company, and an estimated \$12,000 for the preparation of the foundation's latest brief to the commission.

HOSTED CONFERENCE

Also, the maintenance of an office on Peter St. S. costs about \$8,000 per year, Mr. Rus-

sell said. The foundation also paid \$7,000 to host the recent educational conference at Geneva Park.

He added that accounts receivable from local service clubs total \$37,600 and outstanding pledges from individuals and business groups \$191,616.47.

The fund-raising campaign was halted in 1968 in what Mr. Russell described as a "hold pattern" when the provincial department of university affairs "took a firm stand that we were not in 'existence' as of the date of the change (of the university grant structure) and that we were not eligible for grants."

Fund-raising had barely begun when the campaign was halted, he said.

WELCOMED CRITICISM

He said he and the other foundation committee members welcomed recent critical comment.

"It could be that in our zeal to get a university for our community, in our meetings with government officials, in our preparation of briefs, in our organization of conferences . . . that we overlooked the necessity of reporting to the public," Mr. Russell said.

He said that in 1968 Premier William Davis (then the education minister) personally arranged for Dr. D. T. Wright, chairman of the committee on university affairs, to visit Orillia to look at the site of the proposed university and discuss the Orillia group's progress.

"Subsequently, Dr. Wright was appointed chairman of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education," Mr. Russell said.

He feels this will have a significant bearing on Orillia's chances of obtaining a provincial go-ahead on the university.

EXPECT REPORT

"A draft report from the commission is expected in September," Mr. Russell said. "It will not necessarily be pro or con Orillia but will deal with education requirements in general, how the problems of education are solved and where the new institutions will be. (This latter) is the decision of the provincial government. We have since learned that only one city — Brantford — has submitted a brief in competition with us."

The proposed university was described in the foundation's brief as "an open approach to knowledge by interdisciplinary learning and teaching, by strong emphasis upon independent, directed study, by the use of proved educational technology, by the vital position accorded to the arts in the learning process, by a participatory form of university government, by intimate association with the general community and resources."

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

Mr. Russell said that foundation committee members and others have frequently not submitted expense accounts for money spent conducting foundation business. He said the following personal expenses were reimbursed by the foundation: 1966, \$117.65; 1967, \$172.78; 1968, \$25.50; 1970, \$49.30 and \$10 so far this year. No expense accounts were turned in for 1969. "And let me make one thing clear," Mr. Russell said. "No

director or member of the executive of the Simcoe College Foundation has directly or indirectly ever received an remuneration whatsoever for services to the foundation. Secondly, neither Mr. (Norm) Booth nor myself, as lawyers, have ever invoiced the foundation for any legal services performed. They were all donated. And thirdly, every member of the executive who made a pledge has paid that pledge in full."

THE COMMITTEE

Chairman of the foundation committee is Sue Mulcahy. Members are Mr. Russell, Mr. Booth, Donald Fournier, Wilfred Stoll and Clayton Parnaby.

What about plans for the future?

"Our next move is to set up an advisory committee composed of senior professors in the province to act as advisors, and secondly to set up a planning committee composed of citizens of the area who will dedicate time to the project," Mr. Russell said. "Our committee can't carry the whole burden. We need more support."

Mr. Russell then appealed for help from interested Orillians willing to devote time and effort to the university campaign.

"We do need responsible citizens to help us on our planning committee," he said. "We can't do it alone. We can't pay you for your services. We can promise you nothing but hard work, and you must be prepared to accept public criticism."

"But believe me, the objectives are worthwhile. We are extremely optimistic of victory. Please help us."