

# The ROCKWOOD Miller

## Township Digest

### Renewable energy

Opportunities to develop renewable energy projects will be offered at a seminar tonight (Thursday) at the Natural World Speaker series at the Eden Mills Community Hall. A manager for the Community Energy Partnerships Program will explain how community groups, sports clubs and hospital foundations can become owners and operators of renewable energy projects.

Communities like Eden Mills, which is going carbon neutral, can apply for funding to develop community-based renewable projects. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

### The price for wedded bliss

If you want to get married at Guelph/Eramosa "city hall" it will cost you \$200. After recently voting to authorize the Township clerk to learn how to officiate at a civil marriage, Council voted to charge the \$200 fee for a basic service. Surrounding municipalities charge between \$200 and \$400 to solemnize a civil marriage.

If the service was held outside the Council Chambers, or before or after Township business hours, the fee would be \$300. If a Township employee is a witness, a \$20 per hour fee would apply,

and it would cost \$75 to hold a rehearsal or to renew vows.

### Jane's Walk in Eden Mills

The special places in Eden Mills were visited on a walking tour of the village on Saturday to mark Jane's Walk, a world-wide exploration of neighbourhoods in honour of planner Jane Jacobs who championed the anti-car centred approach to planning in favour of livable neighbourhoods.

Village native Barb Marshall – born above her grandfather's main street general store – led a group of approximately 25 people through the village, providing insider stories of village life, and ending with refreshments at the Hall. The Eden Mills Walk – which may become an annual event – was one of 424 world-wide in 68 cities in nine countries.

### Used book sale

Under-circulated and/or damaged books and materials will be sold at great prices until closing time on Saturday at the Rockwood library.

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There's still space in the library's Fourth Tuesday Book Club for kids in Grades four through six. The drop-in Club will read a graphic novel sampler. The Club meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rockwood library.



**FIREFIGHTER OPEN HOUSE:** Kids visiting the Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department open house at the Rockwood station on Saturday each got a fire hat, along with a tour and demonstration of some of the life saving equipment. Taking a break were Mom Maiya Szabo, and sons Ethan, 3, and Kaidan, 4, all of Rockwood. – Ted Tyler photo

## Are drivers paying close attention?

How many people would knowingly get in a vehicle with a drunk driver? Would you speak out if a friend, family member or loved one was driving while impaired, or would you just sit and wait to be a victim? Would you intervene if a friend or family member was talking on a hand-held phone, or texting while driving?

Research conducted in Canada and the U.S. has identified and documented the increased risks and negative impacts associated with distracted driving.

The OPP has declared that "enough is enough" and the lack of voluntary compliance by many motorists regarding the use of hand-held devices, and other forms of distracted driving, prompted one of the largest enforcement campaigns in recent OPP history. From May 16 to May 22, the first of four one-week enforcement campaigns will take place, focusing on distracted driving, over the next 12 months. Education efforts are also being stepped up, using a

number of innovative resources.

"People need to understand the level of risk they are dealing with; distracted driving kills! We know it is seriously under-reported in our statistics and is a major cause of collisions in Ontario," said Chief Superintendent Bill Grodzinski, Commander of the OPP Highway Safety Division.

Distracted driving is defined as engaging in any secondary activity which takes a driver's attention away from driving and can include: adjusting the radio, searching for something in the car; eating while driving, watching an entertainment monitor or using a hand-held communications device or other entertainment device.

Using a cell phone or device capable of texting while driving can result in a fine of \$155 under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). Watching an entertainment device can result in a fine of \$110. Other forms of distracted driving can result in a charge of Careless Driving with fines ranging from \$400 to \$2,000, a possible licence suspension of up to two years and/or a jail term of not more than six months.

### Education Efforts

OPP personnel will work with the media, schools, other law enforcement partners, road safety advocates, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police to educate drivers over the coming year about the dangers of distracted driving. The

OPP has added distracted driving to its list of "Big Four" causal factors for death and injuries on Ontario highways. The other three are: aggressive driving, failure to use restraint devices and driving while impaired.

### Fast Facts

In 2010, the OPP charged 8,522 drivers for using a hand-held device while driving. Police began enforcing the new distraction legislation in January 2010. In 2010, there were 7,733 collisions on OPP-patrolled roads where the driver was deemed to be inattentive/distracted, resulting in 35 deaths, 1,040 injuries and considerable property damage.

A recent study by researchers at the University of Utah concluded that drivers on mobile phones are more impaired than drivers driving over the legal limit. A Canadian Automobile Association poll of 6,000 Canadian drivers found that "texting while driving" is the single biggest traffic safety concern of drivers while on the road.

A recent Ontario Health E-Bulletin indicated: "Teen-driver car crashes remain the leading cause of permanent injury and death in Canada, the United States and almost every industrialized nation world wide". The main culprit is teenage overconfidence in emerging driving skills and a failure to acknowledge personal limitations. Teenagers falsely believe they can "drive distracted" without increasing the risk of a serious collision.

**SILVIA AYRES**  
REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST

Silvia has left the Rockwood Physiofitness Centre, but continues, to provide treatments. She is now at her new location in Rockwood.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS & TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CONTACT SILVIA DIRECTLY AT:  
**519-822-5877**

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