

# Rockwood Centennial gears up for readathon

By Rebecca Ring

Rockwood Centennial Public School is combining fundraising with fostering a love of reading in a two week read-a-thon, February 17 to 26. Students will read as much as they can to raise funds for school projects. The goal is to raise \$10,000 (about \$20 per family) to purchase an outdoor communications board, technology for the classroom and support individual classroom initiatives.

"Last year's read-a-thon was a huge success," says school council co-chair and parent Neil Wilson, "The funds raised were used to purchase two

'Smart Boards', which is like combining an overhead projector with a computer monitor, into a large 'whiteboard' that makes certain lessons come alive. Imagine true three-dimensional geometry lessons as an example."

Children will be encouraged to read with events like DEAR, or drop everything and read, and PJ reading day. Parents will be involved too, with volunteers coming to the school to read to classes. Classrooms will compete to get the highest total pledges for the most funds raised. Prizes include a toboggan party, gift cards, and authors coming to the

classroom. Local businesses are also invited to participate, such as by placing read-a-thon posters in their windows.

Wilson says the read-a-thon is the school's only major fundraiser: "Instead of chocolate bars or the other traditional things schools do, the read-a-thon is more involving of the students and gives them something to be proud of at the same time."

Any donations over ten dollars must be made to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation, which provides a charitable donation tax receipt for the full amount. The school receives all of the funds raised in the effort. For more information, or to donate, contact Rockwood Centennial School at (519) 856-9556 ext. 312, 223, or 320) or email [sc.rockwood@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.rockwood@ugdsb.on.ca).



**DRAWN IN:** Alice Sinker, an illustrator of the "Franklin" children's books, draws with one young child who celebrated Family Literacy Day in Rockwood on January 27. - Submitted photo

## Guelph/ Eramosa Council Chips

by Rebecca Ring

### Lot line adjustment

Council agreed to adjust the boundary line between two existing parcels of land on Jones Baseline (5717 and 5709). They approved the application submitted by Frances Pelley and Gordon and Bernice Dunk for a severance and merger. The planners' report states that the lands are designated as Prime Agricultural, Greenlands and Core Greenlands in the County's Official Plan, with development permitted in the latter two if "adequate protection of the natural environment is applied" and adds that there is no indication of plans for additional development at this time. The majority of the land is located within the GRCA regulated area, and development would be subject to GRCA regulations and permits. The result is that the lot at 5709 Jones Baseline is increased

to a total of 3.6 hectares, which brings it up to current by-law provisions.

### Renewed leases

Council agreed to continue the Township lease with the County of Wellington for the Rockwood Library. The 4171 square foot building at 84 Christie St. will be leased to the County for a five-year term. The rate increases each year, beginning in 2009 at \$35,130.13 and ending in 2013 at \$38,025.98, including utilities and maintenance (other than janitorial).

Council agreed to lease 106 Church St. to East Wellington Community Services (formerly EWAG) for a five-year term at a basic rental fee of \$456.25 per month in 2009, increasing to \$533.75 per month in 2013. The building houses EWCS's Rockwood office, food bank and Thrift store.

# Snow tunnels dangerous

Wellington OPP are warning parents and caregivers of young children about the dangers associated with making snow tunnels in snow banks.

The increase in snow has many snow banks at the ends of driveways towering 5' and more. To the many motorists' this makes visibility difficult, but to the curious and adventuresome youngsters ... it seems like the perfect place to make a snow tunnel.

### Here's the risks:

- Tunnelling too far into a snow bank is dangerous due to the potential of collapse, resulting in suffocation.
- Playing in tunnels or snow banks close to the roadway is

dangerous. Vehicles frequently lose control on slippery roads and crash into snow banks. • Snow ploughs perform road clearing at odd times and can not see youngsters inside a tunnel or near the end of a driveway.

### Tips for Safe snow fun:

- Build snow forts well away from roadways,

preferably in a back or front yard closer to the house. • Construct tunnels that don't have ceilings. • Work on the fort with a friend or pal who can go for help if one of you needs assistance. • Always check with an adult before venturing onto ice covered ponds, rivers, lakes or streams.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
regarding  
**Community Lead-testing Program**  
in accordance with  
**Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems**

In July, 2007, the Ministry of the Environment amended the Regulation (O.Reg 170/03) that regulates drinking water to include the sampling of residential services for lead.

In 2008, the Township of Guelph/Eramosa sent out notices to Rockwood residents encouraging them to participate in this free lead testing program.

It is now time for us to gear up for another round of Lead sampling in 2009 and we require more volunteer homes to participate.

**This free offer is to everyone connected to Municipal water regardless of how new/old your home is.**

The sampling process involves licensed water operators attending your residence to take a sample from your kitchen tap twice per year (once between February 15th and April 15th the next between June 15th and October 15th). Each round of sampling will take approximately one (1) hour of your time and requires a level of commitment on your part to assist the Township in meeting its Regulatory requirements. **Please note that the first round of sampling must be completed by April 15, 2009.**

All sampling and analysis will be performed free of charge. The test results will be shared with you and must also be communicated to the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health and the Ministry of the Environment.

If you are interested in participating, please contact 519-856-9596 ext 122 for an application form and further information or visit our web site at [www.get.on.ca](http://www.get.on.ca).

Ken Gagnon  
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