

# Gzowski alive and well in Rockwood



by Barb Wynneck  
Peter Gzowski stands outside his Rockwood stone house. It is fall, his favourite time of year. He's waiting for the waving sumac at the bottom of the hill to turn crimson. However, when he walks back in the front door, it is time to "think spring." He is writing a book, "Spring Tonic." It includes contributions from famous, and not so famous Canadians, due on book store shelves in February. His deadline is October first.

Gzowski, writer, radio and T.V. personality, moved to Rockwood this past spring. The name here is a familiar one. A village street is named in honor of his great-great grandfather, Sir Casimir Gzowski. Long-time residents do not pronounce the street name the same way as Peter does, but that doesn't matter. People in Poland pronounce it differently too, so he discovered this summer. In fact, it sounds more like the Rockwood version!

The grand four storey stone barn which stands in the centre of the village, high on

the east bank of the Eramosa River, hidden from passing view by towering cedars, was designed by Sir Casimir. He and Squire Strange, original owner of the property, were friends.

The solid stone barn measures 80 feet by 60 feet and rises 45 feet from the stable floor to the highest peak. Inside the main structure, two solid stone cross walls divide each of the four floors into three separate areas. The barn's lowest floor was heated by a huge stove whose stone flue climbs to the roof top. The rainwater was collected into two huge basement cisterns and piped into gravity-fed troughs for the livestock.

Great-great grandson Peter sees this barn, with its fantastic acoustics, as the greatest recording studio in Canada—as yet an unfulfillable dream.

Peter is aware that not many Canadians can take their visiting children across the road from home and stand on the same land as their great-great grandfather did. Not many Canadians can

view a unique building of architectural beauty, constructed in the mid 1800's, knowing it was designed by their ancestor.

Did Peter move to Rockwood seeking his roots? "Not really," he says. Sir Casimir left his mark in Rockwood, just as he did in many other Ontario locations. His home base was really Toronto, where he lived with his family in the beautiful mansion "The Hill", on Bathurst St. S.

Gzowski enjoys telling stories of Sir Casimir who was exiled from Poland in 1834 at age 21. A Polish nationalist, he fought unsuccessfully against the Russian czar's annexation of his homeland in 1830. Casimir's own father was a member of the Imperial Russian Guard.

Deported to America, he was given five dollars with which to start a new life. Casimir, a professional engineer, knew four languages, but not one of them was English. English he learned, while instructing the young ladies of Massachusetts in the skills of fencing and horsemanship.

He was a member of the Polish gentry—at that time most Poles were titled, according to his great-great grandson. He studied law, was called to the bar, but chose to find employment in the engineering field.

He came to Canada at the invitation of Sir Charles Baggott. Baggott, was a family friend, a former British Ambassador to the Court at St. Petersburg. He met young Casimir again in Kingston, Ontario and offered him a position with the Canadian Dept. of Public Works. Once settled in Canada, Casimir accomplished much, both in his professional field and in the area of public affairs.

In 1848 Gzowski left his government position and organized his own firm "Gzowski and Co." He received the contract for building the Grand Trunk Railroad from Toronto to Sarnia on that rail line.

One of the stories told of Sir Casimir is how he ordered the militia to march in lockstep across a London, Ontario bridge. While he stood be-

nath the girders. Local authorities had questioned the safety of his unorthodox design. Gzowski dramatically proved his point.

His reputation as a brilliant engineer was assured in 1873, when he constructed the International Bridge across the Niagara River. He also urged that the Niagara Parks System be established, and that a small percentage of hydro funds always be allotted to park maintenance.

He was a lieutenant colonel in the militia and in 1879 was appointed ADC to Queen Victoria. He was a great supporter of the Royal Military College, Kingston. In 1890 he was knighted.

The founding of the Canadian Jockey Club, of which he was the first president, is to his credit. The running of the first Queen's Plate was under his organization. His ancestor was greatly interested in horses, as is Peter who is presently taking riding lessons at the local Cedar Creek Farm.

Sir Casimir was the first president of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, as

well as a founder of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.

A large figure of a man, at over six feet five inches, he left an even larger impact in Canadian history.

Peter made his first trip to Poland this summer with a group of travel writers. There he found his great grandfather is a known historical figure, with a school named in his honor. Many Poles recognized the created family ring Peter wears. His Dad presented it to him on his 21st birthday. On each of his five children's 21st birthdays—he too will present them with a family ring. His daughters will also receive a ring—an alteration to the tradition.

Has Peter Gzowski settled in Rockwood? Yes, he says, he's too settled. He's finding it harder and harder to leave the village and drive to Toronto, where his work centres. Presently he's looking for local partners to play a round of golf with him at Acton Meadows—if interested, give him a call, his hours are flexible.

ERAMOSA T-BALL players. Front row, left to right: Michelle Rokola, Jason Massey, Heather Ried, Jason Baldwin, Pam Osborne. Back row: Janet Burnett (coach), Sheri Townsend, Kurt Pinder, Kim Halliman, Tammy Townsend, Kent Petty, Heather Windgate.



ALL ONTARIO Champions, the Rockwood Squirts! Front row left to right, Neil Simpson, John McQuinn, Craig Shaw (pitcher), Gary Coverdale, Brent Lush, Trevor Massey. Back row: Todd Willms (catcher), Jim Flanagan, Bob

Myer, Steven Wilson, Larry Shaw (pitcher), John Griffin, Paul Milne, Jeff Flanagan, Rob Hannam. Coaches Neil Millson and Alex Lush stand behind their players. Absent from photo: Mathew Iutzi, Daryl McDougall.



SIXTEEN AND UNDER Girls. Front row left to right, Corinne Gooyers (most lady like trophy winner) Sue Parkinson (most improved player) Sharon Coverdale (most valuable player),

Justine Baldwin. Back row: Lisa Meyer, Marilyn Leslie, Lori Legat, Heather Britney, Hester Groenevelt, Bev Moss, Sue Bilton.



ERAMOSA BANTAMS Front row left to right, Jeff McNabb, Mike MacRae, Kevin Laughlin; Centre row, Tim Ferguson, Dave Allan, Mike Cleary, Leo Troy, Terry Willms, Brent

Beauchamp, Hudson Merit. Back row: Alan McPhedran, Brad Billings, Tim Halliburton, Chris Weir, Bob Jestin (coach).

## Free Press ROCKWOOD & DISTRICT

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### Squirt boys are local heroes of ball players at "fun day"

by Barb Wynneck  
A "Fun Day" it was, in the sunshiny Rockwood Hall Park on Saturday afternoon. Cheers and laughter echoed throughout the village as kids, Dads, coaches and umpires played their favorite summer game—baseball. Fun, not scores was the most important part of the contests.

This was the wind-up of the season, with trophy and crest presentations. Each player received tickets for treats at the food booth—all compliments of the Eramosa Ball Association.

Here is the final rundown of where the teams placed in their individual leagues:

Senior men, failed to make playoffs; junior men, failed to make playoffs; midget boys, finished third in an eight team league. Lost in consolation final; bantam boys, finished third in consolation round of tri-county league; pee wee boys, got to O.R.S.A. semi finals. Won consolation championship in Tri-county; squirt boys, won Tri-county league championship, won O.R.S.A. All Ontario championship for the second year in a row. Five players were on both 77 and 78 teams. Won Acton and Puslinch tournaments, won 33 of 36 games played this year and will attend O.R.S.A. banquet in Waterdown to receive

trophy and crests; atoms, won Tri-county league consolation championship; juvenile girls, got to finals of Provincial Women's softball association juvenile championship. Currently playing in own league; bantam girls, failed to make playoffs in Halton Rural softball league. Won Glen Williams tournament; 13 and under girls, won Tri-county consolation championship; 10 and under girls, runners-up in Tri-county consolation final; 16 and under girls, failed to make playoffs.



ONE OF THE YOUNGEST girls to receive the Canada Cord, Guiding's highest achievement is Sarah Hurland, First Eden Mills Company. Behind her stand the Company's Leaders. Left to right Remy Heard, Lieutenant, Anna Maria Bell, helper and Ann Chesworth, Captain.

### Planning firm has answers

by Barb Wynneck  
The opportunity for local residents to ask questions, seek answers and air their views about future land use and population growths within Rockwood is next week.

The time is drawing closer for a decision to be made on a secondary plan for the village. This plan will determine where future housing development will take place.

Nine maps, each indicating a different plan for land use, have been drawn up by the firm Marshall, Macklin and Monaghan. The maps will be on display Tuesday, Oct. 3, 6:30-9 p.m. at the Rockwood Town Hall.

Planner Jim Collishaw will give a formal presentation at 8 p.m. He will point out the planning advantages and disadvantages in the areas suitable for development. An open discussion will follow. Local politicians will be on hand for this event.

### Pot luck luncheon for Sunshine club

by Robina Pearce  
The Sunshine Club of Rockwood opened the first meeting of the season with a pot-luck lunch which was fairly well attended.

Mrs. Vera Black the president thanked all those who helped to make the lunch such a success with all kinds of hot dishes, salads, jellies, cold meats, pies and a variety of cakes, rolls and butter, tea and coffee, with enough for some to have second helpings.

Mrs. Black after lunch then



WINNERS OF THE First Junior Doubles Tournament at the Rockwood Tennis Club stand to the left of the net Gary Lumbers and Sally Briggs. This team in a hard fought match, defeated Christina Bell and Chris Hudson two sets to one.

### Scouts need a master

The Rockwood Boy Scout Troop needs a helping hand. They require a Scout Master. The boys, 11-15 years are at an age when they need a sense of purpose and direction. A focus in the Scout movement provides this.

If anyone wishes to take on this rewarding task, or just discuss its responsibilities, call Bill Hammond at 656-9824. An assistant is available to help share the load.

### Lumbers-Briggs clinch title

by Barb Wynneck  
The weather was perfect for the first Junior Tennis Tournament ever to be played on the Rockwood courts.

They started at 9 a.m. and the exhausted players headed for home at 5 p.m. Gary Lumbers and Sally Briggs teamed up to face Christina Bell and Chris Hudson in the final match. The hard fought play saw Lumbers and Briggs opponents. Lumbers was the winner 7-6, 7-5.

Trophy presentation will take place at the final tennis dance of the year, coming up soon.

The senior tournament gets underway this Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. The game schedule will be posted on the court bulletin board by the end of the week.