

Free Press

rockwood and district

Rockwood Digest



John Morrison, the Chimney Swift, finds his chimney sweeping business growing rapidly as more and more fireplaces sputter into action. Wearing the traditional garb of the Victorian sweep, John can be seen crawling around Rockwood chimneys all year long.

There were smutty goings on in Minneapolis recently when the National Chimney Sweeps Guild held its fourth annual convention.

One of the 150 sweeps in attendance was our own John Morrison, of R. H. S. Rockwood. He was elected Canadian representative.

John has been in business for two years and calls himself "The Chimney Swift."

Assisted by his wife Louise, John has developed the business from Kitchener to Guelph to Acton, and, of course, Rockwood.

He got started in the sweep business when he was looking around for something to balance the small gardening business he and Louise developed on their Rockwood area farm. Now the sweeping business has taken over and

become a full time job.

Initially, the Morrisons took an intensive training course in the States to enable them to become experts in their field.

"Anyone can put a brush through a chimney," Louise comments "but you have to know how to do it properly and to be able to recognize a dangerous situation when you see one."

The Morrisons clean up to eight houses a day in the summer. John also uses the long summer hours for chimney repair.

With an increase in wood stove heating in both urban and country homes, John finds himself travelling most of the time. He guarantees to leave no mess, using high powered vacuums for the soot and drop cloths close to the fireplace.

A chimney can take as little as an hour to clean and cost as little as \$35.

A member of the National Chimney Sweeps Guild, John feels "gatherings such as this (the convention) are invaluable to sweeps; the information garnered and exchanged insures that consumers continue to receive the best service possible."

President of the National Guild, Robert De Montigny of New Hampshire notes, "Chimney sweeps have an almost quixotic tradition, but in real life terms they perform a vital fire prevention service, often at high risk to themselves. They work year round. Hundreds of thousands of chimneys already cleaned by guild members are testimony to the critical service they provide the wood-burning public."

With wood becoming a popular source of heating and fire departments called out to more and more chimney fires, John Morrison, Rockwood's Chimney Swift, should be busier than ever.

A house fire July 31 caused an estimated \$8,000 flames and water damage to the home of James Fiddler situated on the Fifth Line of Eramosa, two miles north of Highway 24.

Rockwood Volunteer Fire Department were called out at 11.45 p.m. Thursday evening and stayed on the scene until 3.15 a.m.

One injury was sustained when Deputy Fire Chief Tom Rockola received a nasty cut on the wrist from window glass and had to be taken to the hospital for several stitches. Chief Carl Meadows commented Tom was very lucky not to have a major vein cut.

Please call Jennifer Barr 853-2010 or 856-9096 with Rockwood news and many thanks to those who already have.

Ospringe

Edith Kennedy of Clarke. Mrs. Thomas Fines, Bellaghy, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland, visited for three weeks with her cousins Mr. and Mrs. Barry James Stewart visited one day with Mr. and Mrs. James Leitch in Acton.

David Estrin

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Questionnaire for seniors apartments

Eramosa senior residents will take the next major step towards getting themselves new rental housing after Sunday August 17.

Questionnaires concerning the need for such accommodation will be available from churches that Sunday. The questionnaires can also be picked up at the seniors' clubs in Rockwood and Eden Mills. The municipal office will also have some.

Answers on the questionnaires are kept in confidence, according to Deirdre Gibson, "the Toronto based consultants Gibson/Bahrynowski and Associates."

Neither council or the township clerk sees the responses, assures Mrs. Gibson.

A public meeting will be held at which the consultants will answer questions and make a presentation. The place will be Rockwood's town hall on August 27 starting at 8 p.m.

The Eramosa project would come under a government program called non-profit housing. Rents paid for such accommodation are supposed to be mainly in line with the private market. However, as much as 50 per cent or as little as 15 per cent can be ear marked for people needing the rent to be geared to their income.

For the project to advance a need must be demonstrated. The provincial ministry of housing uses the criteria of 15 per cent of the people who would be eligible to have their rent set in accordance with their income.

Most of the residents living in non-profit housing pay rents which would be competitive in the local market, according to the consultant. The range in Eramosa for a single bedroom apartment may be about \$210.

Under non-profit housing the traditional roles between the landlord and tenant are in force, said Mrs. Gibson. The tenant pays rent out of his income. There is no seizing of assets.

Under the Ontario Housing Corporation only single bedroom accom-

modation is available, and tenants receive rent subsidies to a point where the rent costs 25 per cent of their income.

During the public meeting the consultants will advise residents to picture non-profit housing just as they would a regular apartment building.

Councillor John McLeod got the township onto the senior citizens housing track earlier this year.

There are grants from the provincial and federal governments to ease the cost of the project to the municipality.

If, after the questionnaires and the other work by Gibson/Bahrynowski is approved by the ministry of housing, two other stages remain before the project's construction can start.

The second stages concerns the ways and means and the who of building the apartments. The final stage is the construction.



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