

Wintario plugs Rockwood's winter carnival



Val Hall and Judy Kozak entertained at the local talent show before the Wintario draw program Thursday night. For more photos of Rockwood-Eramosa's big night turn to This Week Thru The Lens, on page 5.

Rockwood's upcoming winter carnival and Eramosa Township earned some grade A publicity as the community hosted the 336th Wintario draw Thursday night.

The program graphics indicated the draw was coming from Guelph, and it was, but it wasn't. Host Faye Dance explained right off the bat that while the draw was coming from the auditorium of the Col. John McRae Legion, Branch 234, in Guelph, the hosts for the evening were nearby Rockwood and Eramosa Township.

Co-host Greg Beresford informed the audience in the packed hall, as well as those watching their TVs tuned to Global in every corner of Ontario, that February 24 to 26 Rockwood and the surrounding township are putting on their first ever winter carnival and "if you like winter in Ontario you'll love it in Rockwood."

The first person from the audience to push the button to stop the draw machines wasn't from Guelph or Eramosa, but Acton. Well known Bert Davidson let Beresford know where he hailed from and the host said it was close enough to the host community to earn him a button push.

The next button pusher was Fred T.

Harkins and his three daughters. Fred is the chairman of the winter carnival and he said "We think it's going to be a great party for all these folks here and just what we need." His daughter Kathy did the honors for the button push.

Councillor Elda Jackson introduced chairman of Eramosa's recreation committee Alex Lush, and Walter Swanston, head of the Rockmosa Community Centre Board, and then urged people come to the winter carnival. Jackson noted there'll be a farmer's walk, snowmobile and cross-country skiing races, hockey tournament and lots of other fun events. She invited everyone to "come out and enjoy yourself any way you can (at the carnival)." Beresford replied, "You do, you will." Swanston pushed the button.

Karen Howard pushed the button and said she'd be going to the carnival, while MPP Jack Johnston expressed hope the winner of the draw he was pushing the button for would be in the audience or at least from Rockwood-Eramosa.

Spinning the mystery bonus prize draw wheel was Lorraine Stubbs, who

lives in Rockwood and was on both the '72 and '76 Canadian Olympic Dressage teams. In Montreal in '76 she became the second Canadian to make the top 10 in the world.

In a short presentation Wintario gave viewers a "closer look" at the host community. While familiar scenes and buildings from Rockwood and Eramosa were shown on the screen, the audience was told that Eramosa is in the south-west corner of Wellington County close to Guelph. Eramosa has a population of 5,000 people and consists of the villages of Rockwood and Eden Mills and hamlets of Eramosa and Everton. In the early years of the last century, Eramosa was settled by Irish and Scottish people. Even today there are many examples of the fine craftsmanship of Scottish stone masons around to be admired since many of the original homesteads and Victorian buildings in Eramosa are still used.

Eramosa was settled primarily because it offered excellent agricultural land and the area still boasts a large number of highly productive farm operations.

With a branch of the Grand River cutting through the township, there

are excellent recreational opportunities in Eramosa and some beautiful scenery.

Rockwood is the site of the Rockmosa Community Centre, viewers learned, and it's the social and athletic hub of the township. Rockwood also features the recently completed seniors' apartment complex.

In all 19 photographs of familiar Eramosa buildings and scenes were flashed on the screen during the presentation, as well as at commercial breaks.

Prior to the TV program, Councillor Jackson was mistress of ceremonies for a local talent show. The Rockwood Centennial School grade 8 Centennaires; Gordon Burnett; Sunshine Boys band; and Val Hall and Judy Kozak; entertained.

Before air time plaques were presented to Ralph McKen of the Legion for the Branch's help in putting on the draw and to Swanston and the Rockmosa board for their assistance.

Proceeds from admission tickets, as well as commission on draw tickets sold that night, went to Rockmosa and township recreation projects.

A. E. LEPAGE
REAL ESTATE SERVICES LTD. • REALTOR
170 GUELPH STREET
GEORGETOWN
877-0173

The **Acton Free Press**
A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

GEORGETOWN
PONTIAC - BUICK
GMC TRUCKS
336 GUELPH ST.
GEORGETOWN
877-0149

One Hundred and Ninth Year — Issue 29

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1984

40 Pages — Thirty Cents

Council delegation

Pomeroy defends land purchase

Challenging the use of lot levies for the purchase of the Stevens property was a bit late, former Mayor Pete Pomeroy told Halton Hills council Monday night as he reviewed arguments put forward by the citizens opposed to the land purchase.

He noted the lot levy reserve fund had been set up in 1978, and had been confirmed each year but none came forward to challenge it. "But when council decided to use it, it was challenged, the timing seems a little questionable". He noted it is healthy for the town and council to have their bylaws challenged and reviewed.

He said the citizens' brief suggested there was not enough work done on other possible

locations, and specifically mentioned the Garret property at the curve on the highway at the west end of Georgetown. Pomeroy said it is clearly in contravention of the Official Plan, pointing out there is no access to servicing and would really affect the timing of any project.

The former mayor stressed council did not go ahead with the project without a lot of information. "We hired appraisers, hired engineering consultants to make sure the land could be serviced and soil experts to ensure a building could be erected."

He noted Peter Walker, of the consulting firm who did the downtown Georgetown study, admitted his recommendation that a municipal complex go downtown, was only a concept. Pomeroy claimed Walker said he had done no studies on the cost of assembling the land, or the willingness of the owners to sell. "There has to be a willing seller and a willing buyer or you must expropriate."

Referring to a statement in the citizens' brief that the land was appraised at \$471,000, the former mayor commented, "If we could have acquired it at that price, we should have, but the vendor wouldn't sell it at that price. He made it very clear through his lawyer."

He maintained the Humphries-McCaw appraisal at \$600,000 was the most accurate and easiest to understand, since building

(Continued on page 11)



Ontario and Halton's first woman Agricultural Representative, Phyllis McMaster (centre) attends a weigh-in of a 100-day Ram at the sheep operation of Ralph and Suzanne Southward near Campbellville, as part of her duties. The Southwards are on Record of Performance (ROP), a federal production measurement program. Stanley, the Ram, weighed 117 pounds. Halton's new Ag. Rep. is in-

terested in expanding the education of urban dwellers about farming and farm concerns, a philosophy shared by her predecessor Henry Stanley, who has moved to Carleton County, his old home. See inside for story.

Photo by Bryon Johnson, courtesy The Burlington Post.

Inside
Councillor Bonnette wants the Town to fund Neighborhood Watch signs. Details on page 2.
There's more on the ambulance for Acton issue. Turn to page 3.
International Peace Camp dropped its appeal and is now back at square one. Turn to page 3.
The Free Press has won a newspaper award. More on page 2.



Here John Kriticos sits with his 14-year-old son Emanuel following his brave action Friday evening when he pulled a baby from a burning car. They live on Storey Drive.

Acton man risks his life, pulls baby from burning car

by Helen Murray

An Acton man risked his life Friday night when he crawled into a burning car on Highway 401 to rescue an 18-month-old baby.

John Kriticos, 34, of 57 Storey Dr. said he could see the face of his own 14-month-old son as he watched the flames lick through an older model Mustang, and knowing there was a baby inside, felt there was only one thing to do—try and get the child out.

Aided by a pair of asbestos gloves, Kriticos yanked open the passenger's door of the burning car and began feeling around in the dense smoke for the car seat. His own son's seat is on that side of the car and he automatically headed there. However, there was nothing in that spot in the Mustang and it was not until the smoke cleared for a fraction of a second that Kriticos saw the baby behind the driver's seat.

The Acton man said he crawled into the car and across the backseat to reach the boy, but then had to fumble "for what seemed like an eternity" before he could undo the straps on the car seat. It was the same kind of seat his son uses and he has a hard enough time undoing it when there is no emergency.

Suddenly the baby came free and Kriticos saw the infant's mother at the driver's door. He flung the lad into her arms and waited in the burning backseat until he was sure the baby was safe. By this time, the flames were engulfing the car, and Kriticos hair was singeing and his plastic jacket melting. He

managed to escape the inferno with no further injury to himself.

Kriticos was driving his CN tractor trailer westbound on the 401 Friday evening when at about 7.40, as he was near the Dixie Rd. interchange, he saw the Mustang shooting across the highway. It went about 300 feet, across three lanes of highway before it hit a cement guardrail and crashed into a snowbank, he said. He found out later the Mustang had been stopped at the side of the road and was struck from behind by another vehicle, which pushed it across the road.

When the impact occurred, Kriticos said, the Mustang's gas tank burst and the car left a trail of gas across the highway. The other car, in the meantime burst into flames, igniting the gas which was leading to the Mustang, several feet away.

By the time Kriticos got his tractor trailer stopped, he was right beside the car and grabbing his special gloves jumped out to help. That's when he heard the mother shouting her baby was still in the car.

Once the baby was free, Kriticos' next concern was for the 400 litres of fuel in his own truck, which was dangerously close to the burning car. He pushed the mother and child into his cab, and drove it up the road to safety. At first he said, the police thought he had caused the accident because of the way his truck was blocking the road.

The accident left the 401 down to one lane, Kriticos said, yet motorists still continued to inch their way past the burning wreckage.

Even after he signalled some to stop, he said, they kept on coming.

Wee Timothy Lachance was taken to Peel Memorial Hospital with minor injuries. He was kept a few days for observation.

His parents, Raymond 24, and Karen 20 of Rexdale were also taken to hospital, but were treated and released. The driver of the other car was uninjured.

In his 17 years of driving for CN, Kriticos said he has come across numerous accidents. Many times he has stopped and put out car fires with his always-handly extinguisher. Just minutes before he witness part of Friday night's accident, the five-year Acton resident said he passed another accident at Highway 7 and 401, but did not stop because he was afraid of blocking traffic and the police were already on the scene.

A few months ago, Kriticos went to the rescue of a burning taxi near Silvercreek between Acton and Georgetown. He said he burned his hands as he tried to open the door of the burning car, but was relieved when he saw there was no one inside.

And a couple of years ago, the 34-year-old jumped in a lake north of the Muskokas to save a young boy who had fallen into the water when his canoe tipped over.

Besides the obvious happy ending to Friday's near tragedy, Kriticos said something else good has come out of it. Through all the publicity, old friends who he has lost touch with have seen his picture, read the story and contacted him. He plans to renew a lot of old friendships, he says.