

# The ROCKWOOD Miller

## Hopscotch fundraiser

With the poise and aplomb of seasoned marketers, three Eden Mills tweens successfully pitched their plans to raise money for impoverished kids and break a Guinness World Book of Records hopscotch challenge to Guelph/Eramosa Township Council last Monday.

Kamari Brown Gain, her best friend Kory Melnick, both 12, and sister Robin Melnick, 11, were inspired to raise money help impoverished children after attending a Free the Children Foundation workshop.

Instead of celebrating their birthdays, the girls will kick off their fundraising with a Dance 4 Change

youth dance on May 6, at the Eden Mills Community Centre.

Kory Melnick told councillors that their campaign also includes the Hopscotch 4 Hope, slated for October 1 in the village, when they will try to break the world record for the longest hopscotch route, which is 5.2-kilometres. The route that will wind its way through the village, beginning and ending at the ball diamond will be 5.5-kilometres.

Kory told councillors the hopscotch event – in concert with a group of University of Guelph students – will raise money for needy overseas children through sponsorships and by “selling” hopscotch squares.

“People or teams pay a registration fee to participate, and on the day of the event, we’ll sell food, drinks, merchandise, (we’ll) raffle off prizes and have a silent auction,” Melnick said, noting the hopscotch will be marked with templates using biodegradable chalk.

Kamari said the event would benefit the Township by providing publicity, locally and beyond, by fostering togetherness with the village, promoting volunteerism and promoting physical fitness. The girls asked for Township permission to use the roads in Eden Mills, to hold a concert at the end of the day and to supply garbage bags and pylons.



**EGG HUNT:** Rockwood's Reese Mason (left) joined the Easter Bunny and a friend for the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Rockwood's Valentino Park on Good Friday.

– Submitted photo

After hearing preparations the girls have made to draw the hopscotch course, for parking, road closures, insurance, and police and medical assistance, councillors were very impressed, including Councillor John Scott.

“I think it is absolutely outstanding that you’ve

taken this to task in hand, and the way you presented it, you’d almost think you were at some type of political convention...” Scott said, confirming the girls had already applied to the Guinness World Book of Records for the event.

Councillor Doug Breen also congratulated the girls on their thorough presentation, and said they can work out the details because “this is something we want to see happen.” After Council gave the girls approval in principal for the event, Mayor Chris White also congratulated the girls for their efforts, and said issues like notifying village residents and motorists of the road

closures, and finding the least intrusive route can be worked out and publicized well before the October 1 event.

The girls hope to raise \$15,000, money to help build a school and well in Kenya, which they hope one day to visit. The kick off dance will feature music, concessions, prizes and dancing from 7 to 11 p.m. for seven-to-14 year olds. Tickets are available at the door with proceeds earmarked for the Step Up 4 Change campaign to be donated to Free the Children.

For more information about the girls and their fundraising efforts visit [www.stepup4change.com](http://www.stepup4change.com)



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