

# The ROCKWOOD Miller

## Township Digest

### Township money for student safety

Any school board trustee reluctant to continue sharing the cost of bussing Rockwood south students to Centennial Public School should be made to walk the dangerous route.

Guelph/Eramosa Councillor Doug Breen made the comment last Monday as Council approved contributing its share for this year, \$15,000, to bus the students, who otherwise would walk along Highway 7, where there are limited proper sidewalks.

Three years ago, Council petitioned the Upper Grand District School Board for the bus service after the Board restricted bus eligibility, that it offers as a courtesy, not a right, to urban Kindergarten

and Grade one students who live more than 1.6-kilometres from the school, and Grade two to Grade six students who live more than 2.4-kilometres from the school.

Councillor Breen said to make Grade three students walk along Highway 7 is "ridiculous" and for Kindergarten and Grade one, it is "beyond stupid," especially since the school board is "bussing people around woodlots in Guelph, because some one was in their five years ago as a flasher. We should haul all those old guys out here to walk that road," Breen said.

Mayor Chris White, who noted the extra bussing was a temporary fix until Highway 7 is reconstructed, echoed Councillor Breen's call for the Board to declare Highway 7 a "dangerous route," and continue the bussing for students living south of Harris Street.

### Hillside cash

Guelph/Eramosa Township will contribute \$2,000 in in-kind services to support the Hillside Community Festival, which will stage the 28th festival on July 22 to 24 at Guelph Lake Conservation Area.

Festival officials apologized for the last-minute request for Township help, but said it would lead to a collaborative grant to extend the festival to include a new Thursday night performance.

Mayor Chris White noted the event is in the Township, and they should be proud. "We need to start connecting with it and branding with it..." White said, like they do with the Rockwood Parade of Lights and Eden Mills Writers' Festival.

The Township's in-kind contribution includes advertising space in the summer news letter, allowing linking opportunities through the Township website, and providing meeting space at Township buildings.

## Guelph/ Eramosa Council passes reasonable budget

The "average" Guelph/Eramosa resident will pay \$38 more in Township property taxes this year – a total of \$829 – or just over 10 cents a day for services like recreation and parks, public works, planning and fire protection.

Township Council approved a \$4.3-million operating and capital budget on Monday. When County Council sets its tax rate later this month, the combined County/Township and Education property tax changes will result in a 2.8 per cent tax increase for the owner of a Guelph/Eramosa residential property assessed at \$335,000. That's \$106 more than last year, for a total tax bill of \$3,898.

At a statutory public budget meeting last Monday, Linda Cheyne, the Township's Manager of Finance said the budgets allow the

Township to continue initiatives that promote a healthy and prosperous community.

"We want to expand our economic viability, although, you know, we have limited funds to do so...we want to pursue funding opportunities," Cheyne said, adding they've been very fortunate to get government funding in the past years to help build roads and bridges.

Cheyne said the Township debt levels is good, and within three or four years, it will pay off all its taxpayer-supported debt – a "pretty good position to be in," according to Mayor Chris White.

The Township faces an "extraordinary increase" in insurance costs, with premiums up 18.5 per cent to \$316,000 – almost double just four years ago. Cheyne said new challenges include

costs to comply with mandatory regulation changes – one that forced the Township to unexpectedly buy a \$25,000 UV system at the Rockwood splash pad.

In a press release issued after the budget was approved, Mayor Chris White said faced with significant increases in insurance and inflation costs, it is a responsible budget with a tax increase less than inflation.

"This budget allows us to pursue funding opportunities and support a prosperous, healthy and growing community for future years," White said.

For every Township tax dollar collected, 56 cents is spent on roads and transportation, 21 cents on fire and emergency services, 17 cents on parks and recreation, seven cents on general government and three cents on planning.

## Speeder of the week

A 25-year-old Limehouse man was charged with

Wellington O.P.P. Report

Race a Motor Vehicle after a 1998 Lincoln MX8 was clocked at 142-km/h in an 80-km/h zone in Guelph/Eramosa Township.

Wellington OPP stopped the car on Highway 6 near Wellington Road 51 last Wednesday. The driver appears in Guelph court on May 18.



Join us

**Saturday,  
April 30, 2011**

from 11 am - 3 pm  
at St. Johns Church  
HALL in Rockwood  
for great gift ideas  
for Mothers Day!

Vendors include  
health and wellness,  
childrens fashions,  
jewellery home shows,  
specialty baking,  
artists and artisans,  
home decor and  
much, much more.

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## Do you, or someone you care about, suffer from depression?

Do you struggle with what to do to best manage your symptoms?

The East Wellington Family Health Team presents a panel presentation on depression:

### *More Than Just the Blues*

#### **We will discuss:**

- what depressive symptoms look like
- what's going on in the brain of someone who is depressed
- what the current treatment options are, with both conventional medicine and alternative therapies
- how to offer support to someone who has depression

**When:** Wednesday, May 4th, 7:00-9:00pm

**Where:** Centre 2000, 14 Boland Drive, Erin; Community Room, off the main lobby

**RSVP:** Space is limited so please RSVP by either calling (519) 833-7576 ext. 341 or go to [www.ewfht.ca](http://www.ewfht.ca) and register under "Workshops"

#### **Panelists include:**

**Dr. Wendy Davis B.Kin., N.D.** - A Naturopathic doctor who will discuss complementary and alternative remedies for depression

**Amy Cousineau,** is an Anglican Priest. She was the minister at All Saints Anglican Church in Erin until 2007 when she was overcome by depression and anxiety and will be sharing her story.

**Fred Cousineau** is Amy's husband of 40 years, who will discuss his experience supporting Amy through her depression.

**Dr. Alejandra Marin, MD** is a Family Physician with the East Wellington Family Health Team; she will give an overview of the current medical interventions for depression

**Kim Bell** is a Mental Health Worker at the East Wellington Family Health Team with a 23yr history working in mental health, supporting individuals experiencing a variety of mental health issues.



East Wellington  
Family Health Team

175 Alma Street, Rockwood  
6 Thompson Crescent, Erin

519-833-7576  
ext.341 [www.ewfht.ca](http://www.ewfht.ca)

**ALL IN A BASKET**  
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Easter Sunday 11:00 til 2:00  
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