

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Solar panel plan approved for Eden Mills

Two solar panels – which critics claim are ugly and will hurt the heritage charm of the village – will be installed beside the Eden Mills Community Hall as part of an energy retrofit program that ties in with the village’s Going Carbon Neutral initiative.

Guelph/Eramosa Township Council, as co-owners of the Hall with the Eden Mills Community Club, approved the plan at a recent council meeting, despite another round of opposition by village resident/business owner Michael Coull.

In a delegation to Council, Coull made another plea for a compromise to locate the solar panels away from the Main Street. He said many feel the proponents of energy conservation are “imposing their views” on the village about the

location of the 10-by-20-foot solar panels beside the Hall, facing Main Street. “We’re in a situation where we have options – good options,” Coull said. “We do not need to take uninspiring solar arrays out of a farmer’s field and sit them in the middle of our towns,” Coull said, adding the panels will create a loss of joy, possibly reduced property values and will cause some to leave.

Council received Coull’s presentation, and then Mayor Chris White detailed how the Ontario Municipal Board ruled in 1994 that the Township and Community Hall Club co-own the building, with the Club in charge of maintenance and upkeep. He said after several public meetings, lots of e-mails, and debate, the motion from Council

was to support the Club’s energy retrofit project, including the solar panels which will help make the building more affordable and sustainable in the future.

Councillor Doug Breen, acknowledging there are differing, strongly held positions on the issue, said just as Council has responsibility to run the Township, despite the meddling from Queen’s Park, so the Club has the responsibility to run the Community Hall. “I feel like if we were to interfere any more than we already have in this issue, we would be doing exactly them same thing to the Eden Mills Community Club.... and it behooves us to therefore give them the authority to run this hall,” Breen said, adding they will never be able to please everybody.

Rockwood Year end

January

• The newly elected Guelph/Eramosa Township Council gave \$4,000 to the food bank to buy a freezer. A previous council refused a request for cash to expand the Erin facility.

• Local farmers applaud Council’s decision to rescind the roadside weed-spraying program to kill noxious weeds that invade adjacent farmland.



February

• Eden Mills celebrated the rich heritage of the village at the annual History Day at the Community Hall.

• Faced with a potential 10.9 per cent tax hike, councillors are asked by Mayor Chris White to make a list of cuts because a double-digit increase was not acceptable.



March

• OPP investigated the traffic death of Eramosa resident Gordon Ball, 82, who died in a head-on crash on Highway 7, near the Sixth Line.

• With an energetic stage show and memorable original songs, Rockwood’s *Hometown Roots* advanced to the quarter-finals of a Hamilton radio station talent contest.

April

• Rockwood residents expressed anger, frustration and concerns about over-crowded neighbourhoods and increased traffic, at a public meeting on the 258-unit Harris subdivision development at the south end of the village.

• Rockwood Centennial School is ranked 6.6 out of 10 in a Fraser Institute report card – not great, but the results were trending up officials said.



May

• Erik Stern’s quiet, effective leadership earned him awards from the Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington and Wellington County Council.

• With 63.7 per cent of the vote, Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong was returned to office.



June

• The rugged beauty of Rockwood Conservation Area is re-created in a mural in the lobby of Centennial school that all students and staff worked on.

• Rockwood paraded, partied, ate and had fun at the annual Pioneer Days.



July

• A scheduled transit service from Eramosa to Stone Road Mall is offered by East Wellington Community Services in a one-year

pilot project.

• Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott is granted an Honorary membership in the Ontario Association of Road Supervisors

August

• Eighteen-year-old Kassandra “Kassie” Davis of Erin died after being thrown from her horse at an Erin Township horse stable.

• Township officials asked the Ministry of Transportation to assign an additional crossing guard on Highway 7 near Falls Street to improve student safety during reconstruction of Highway 7 through the village.

September

• Renovations were completed at Rockwood Presbyterian Church to make the main floor fully-accessible with a new washroom, Sunday school room and kitchen to avoid some “wicked stairs”.

• Some Erin residents complained after Erin staff cut down trees – with no advance notice – to prepare for reconstruction of 32 Side Road, west of Highway 25 to Crewsons Corners.

October

• Canada Post assigned an “ergonomic assistant” – a human to ride with the mail carrier after she complained it was unsafe for her to reach the mailboxes on the route.

• Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church celebrated its 175th anniversary at a renewal and memorial service.

November

• Rockwood honours its War Dead with two solemn services at the Cenotaph featuring school children, veterans, politicians and a special guest – a Canadian Reservist just back from Afghanistan, whose wife teaches at Rockwood Centennial.

• Rockwood’s Autumn Malik, a Grade two student at Centennial was featured in a CBC *The National* report on beauty pageants.

• Plans for two solar panels outside the Eden Mills Community Hall spark lively debate about aesthetics and energy conservation.

December

• Parents of French Immersion students in East Wellington – Rockwood, Eden Mills and Everton – are upset with board of education plans to redirect their children from an overcrowded Guelph school to schools in Erin.

• Guelph/Eramosa Township Council approves ambitious plans for the Eden Mills Community Hall that include two solar panels, which some residents said were ugly and hurt the heritage character of the village.

Make part of your New Year’s Resolution about improving your health!

Whether it is for weight loss, lowering cholesterol, pain management, etc, we can help!



Welcome Intern
Lauren Hungler BSc CCNM ND 2012
to the
Rockwood Naturopathic Clinic team

She will be seeing patients on Fridays from January to April 2012.

Clinic visits with Lauren are \$45 plus HST per hour and a special introductory 3 visit package rate of \$120 plus HST.

Please call the clinic for more details



Rockwood Naturopathic Clinic
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