

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Another successful season at Rockwood Conservation Area

The last marshmallow of the summer will be roasted over a Rockwood Conservation Area campfire next weekend as the popular 105-site park/campground closes for the season on October 14.

With approximately 50,000 paid visitors from May through October, it was a busy year at the 197-acre park, owned and managed by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The "couple of thousand people" through the gates over the July 1 long weekend was the busiest day ever, closely

followed by the August 1 long weekend as crowds enjoyed the clean beach, historic setting, great trails and spacious campgrounds, including 40 un-serviced ten and camp trailer sites and 65 sites offering hydro and water.

Park Superintendent Brad Dixon said they expected the serviced sites to be full this Thanksgiving weekend, but only half of the non-serviced sites were booked. Drawing campers and day-trippers from all over the GTA and west through Kitchener-Waterloo areas, Dixon

lamented that "locals" seem to take the area for granted.

"For some, maybe it's too close to home, and they think that they can't go five minutes from home and have fun," Dixon said on Friday, adding the area as something for everyone, from scenic trails, glacial potholes, spacious campsites, boat and canoe rentals, mill ruins and mini-golf.

One of the main draws to the site is the Harris woolen mill ruins, where the mill was powered by water from the Eramosa

River. After the mill closed in 1925, the Harris family operated a private park on the site, and the GRCA bought the mill and surrounding land in 1959 and developed the Rockwood Conservation Area.

Dixon said with \$850,000 in funding – \$755,000 in a federal infrastructure grant and the balance from the GRCA and its Foundation – the mill ruins underwent a major refurbishment/stabilization last year. Deteriorating walls were rebuilt, stonework was re-pointed, arches rebuilt and landscaping done to

preserve and beautify the ruins which are a popular spot for both weddings and film shoots. The ruins were booked for a wedding almost every weekend of the summer, and there are five or six already booked – at \$950 for the day – for next season.

Throughout the summer, staff – Dixon and his assistant and 16 seasonal workers, most of them students – offered visitor programming including Beginning Birder, Swamp Tromp, and Rock Walk with a Messy Ending," a leisurely stroll to a large limestone cave where the bravest crawled into a tunnel for a good look. Various guided hikes showed off the limestone cliffs and potholes created 16,000 years ago by the retreating glacier, ancient Cedar trees and prime fishing spots.

Dixon said while the park is officially closed as of October 15, there is a "fair bit of traffic" through the site on weekends with people hiking and walking their dogs. He said the GRCA is trying to determine if there is a business plan for opening year-round.

"We've got a few more studies to do to make sure that it looks like it would be viable... we might provide a plowed access and parking and it would just be winter activities, maybe some snow shoeing and winter visitor services – I don't know if winter camping would go," Dixon said, adding that funding is the issue as the GRCA does not fund recreational activities through tax dollars and activities would have to be paid for through gate receipts.

Dixon said with the family atmosphere of the area, they have very few problems and in most instances, the dozen or so evictions each year are alcohol-related. "This park is really quiet," Dixon said, adding that on-line reservations open in mid-January and since they are often fully booked, "less desirables" who did not book ahead can't get in to cause trouble.

The Rockwood Conservation Area celebrates its 50th anniversary next year and Dixon said they are in the midst of planning for the celebration, which could include a public open house weekend.



The Township of Guelph/Eramosa is currently accepting applications for the position of **Seasonal Winter Night Patroller**

The Township is seeking enthusiastic individuals who are effective and innovative team players to fill this seasonal position. Working under the direction of Public Works supervisory staff, the Seasonal Winter Night Patrollers will perform a variety of duties associated with winter road maintenance. Duties include but are not limited to: performing and documenting road condition inspections, providing spot snow/ice removal and calling-in of additional operators when required.

Minimum qualifications for this position include: grade 12 education or equivalent and 3 to 5 years experience in roads maintenance. A clean driver's abstract and a valid class DZ drivers license are a requirement for the position. Previous snow plow experience is preferable.

The successful candidates will possess excellent verbal and written communication and computer skills and be able to work independently with minimal supervision.

The pay range for this position is \$20.74 to \$23.44 per hour for the seasonal employment period beginning November 5th 2012 and ending April 14th 2013

How to Apply

An Application Form and detailed job description can be obtained from our web site at www.get.on.ca/employment.aspx from our municipal office, or by e-mail at: humanresources@get.on.ca Qualified applicants are invited to submit the **required** Application Form and a detailed Resume, clearly marked "Confidential", not later than 12:00 p.m., **Friday October 19th, 2012**, by e-mail or mail to the address below.

Human Resources
Township of Guelph/Eramosa
P.O. Box 700
8348 Wellington Road 124 (at Bruce Dale)
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

We thank all applicants, but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Personal information collected through the recruitment process will be used solely to determine eligibility for employment and will be handled in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Alternate versions of this posting are available upon request



East Wellington
Family Health Team

Check out our FREE workshops this fall to help improve the health and quality of life of those living in East Wellington

HEART HEALTH NUTRITION

Rockwood: Tuesday, Oct 16 9:30 am – 11:30 am

WALK FIT – 6 WEEK WALKING GROUP

Erin: Starting Friday Oct 5 9:00 am

PRE-DIABETES: YOUR CHANCE TO CHANGE THE FUTURE

Erin: Tuesday Oct 23 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES

Erin: Tuesday Oct 9 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Rockwood: Thursday Oct 4 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

HEALTHY YOU- 6 WEEK SERIES

Erin: Thursday Oct 4th, Oct 11, Oct 18, Oct 25

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Rockwood: Tuesday Oct 2, Oct 9, Oct 16, Oct 23, Oct 30

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

RELAXATION AND STRESS MANAGEMENT

Erin: Thursday Oct 4 7:15 - 8:45 pm

DIABETES DROP IN

Rockwood: Oct 29th 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

To register please go to www.ewfht.ca and click on workshops or call Leah at 519-833-9396 Ext 362.

Erin Location: ERIN WELLNESS CENTRE - 6 THOMPSON CRESCENT
Rockwood Location: ROCKWOOD CLINIC - 175 ALMA