



**HOMeward BOUND BOOKS:** There were stacks of books and tables laden with homemade treats at the annual Homeward Bound Animals book and bake sale in Rockwood on Saturday. Volunteer Krista Kirkland (left) helped shopper Donna Yurek find some good deals. – Ted Tyler photo



**GOOD DEALS:** Sales of Christmas treats were brisk at the annual Rockwood and District Lioness Christmas craft bazaar at Rockmosa on Saturday. Lioness Virena Swanston (left) and Jane Murison were helped by Lions Walter Swanston and Cam Mullen. – Ted Tyler photo

# Council puts brakes on Active Transportation plan

**Concerns with safety and cost lead to deferral**

Unsafe and too expensive. That was the response from Guelph/Eramosa Township Council as it rejected a request to approve, in principal, an ambitious Wellington County Active Transportation Plan – a 20-year strategy to create a pedestrian and cycling-supportive environment.

While Guelph/Eramosa Township Council deferred the proposal to the 2013 budget talks, the six other municipalities within Wellington have approved the County-wide Active Transportation strategy in principle. It has a \$24-million price tag, with the Township's share of \$1.7-million, with \$160,600 in the first 10 years.

"For the love of God – I don't get this at all," Councillor Doug Breen said, commenting on the proposal to add paved

shoulders on County roads. "This is the most dangerous thing we've ever proposed," said Breen. "I can't believe we're even talking about this," he said, adding he'd never allow his children to ride a bicycle on a paved shoulder on a County Road used by transport trucks travelling over 100-kilometres an hour.

County planner Sarah Wilhelm, Andy Goldie, Centre Wellington CAO and chair the Wellington County Active Transportation Plan committee, and Karen Armstrong, vice-chair, of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph In Motion committee, briefed Council on the proposal, which would create an over 1,000-kilometre trail system in the County.

Wilhelm, who admitted the cost of the plan is "big numbers," stressed that they are "not telling you how to spend your tax dollars." She said they've already received a Healthy Communities Fund grant

of \$25,700, are hoping for \$10,000 from a Healthy Communities Partnership grant and are making other grant applications.

Goldie acknowledged that they share the same financial concerns as they've heard from the various councils in Wellington, and decided to focus on the first 10 years of the plan, and not hire a Active Transportation co-ordinator. He said they were trying to separate approval of the plan from approval of the budget, adding there would be some "hard decisions" when it comes to budget time.

Councillor Corey Woods is concerned that as proposed, the second 10 years of the plan would require \$1.5-million from Guelph Eramosa Township, prompting Goldie

to suggest that they need to gauge how much the public wants active transportation, and it could take 30 or 40 years to build the system.

Mayor Chris White said they can't separate the plan from the budget and with all of the fiscal challenges they face, Council needs the opportunity to look at what the consultant has proposed.

"It is a big step for us – we've been at a bit of a snail's pace with trails... we are committed to trails," White said, adding with a \$49-million infrastructure deficit, they must look at the budget implications.

Guelph/Eramosa currently has approximately 12-km of major multi-use trails and paved shoulders. The long-range plan would see 9.8-km of multi-use

trails, 32.3-km of signed routes, 3.5-km of routes with pavement markings, 50.4-km of paved shoulders and 0.8-km of bike lanes for a total of 109-km of facilities.

As proposed, the trail part of the Active Transportation network in

Guelph/Eramosa would include extension of the Trans Canada trail from Guelph to Side Road 14, a loop in Eden Mills from Memorial Street to Laurie Lane, and in Rockwood, a trail from Parkinson Drive to Wellington Road 44, and a loop on Fountain Street.

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Paul & Leah Youngblut are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter Brittany to Mr. Jonathan Redfearn, of Waterloo. Wedding to take place Feb. 23, 2013. Our love and Best wishes to the both of you.

Join Brittany & Jonathan in an evening of Fun & Celebration at their "Crazy Christmas Party Stag & Doe" Fri. Dec.14 at the Breslau Community Center. For more info visit their website [www.weddingwire.com/jonathanandbrittany](http://www.weddingwire.com/jonathanandbrittany) or visit them on face book

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