



Guelph / Eramosa COUNCIL CHIPS By: Vivien Fleisher

Emergency management program plans

Wellington County Emergency manager Linda Dickson presented the Emergency Management program for 2015, and overall no major changes were proposed this year. Two meetings in March and August this year fulfilled the province's mandated training in hazard identification and risk assessment, which deals with weather trends. It was noted that many municipalities in the U.S. communicate weather emergencies wirelessly, something the committee plans to adopt. Strategic planning requirements include shelters, generators and better crisis communications, which were all advanced by lessons learned in the 2013 ice storm. Key recommendations for 2016 were to look more closely at having a pool of generators to move around the county; increased public education; staged evacuation processes; communica-

tion strategies (ie. push for wireless); and creation of a standardized heat and cold extreme weather policy.

Condo application
Planning associate Kelsey Lang presented comments to council regarding a vacant land condominium application in Rockwood. East of Dowler St, featuring a private road providing access to 7 detached dwellings, with an additional independent lot at the corner of Shanley and Dowler. The land between the two parcels is wetland and as such, designated hazard. The application was submitted to the County and then circulated to the township for comment. The County is the approval authority. Public input was heard in September. Designated residential and greenlands within the urban centre in the County official plan, it is zoned as Village Residential Low Density and hazard with a holding provision to ensure certain requirements are met before development.

Because land between the lots is unsuitable for municipal parkland, the township is seeking cash in lieu of green space. In his final comments to council, Mayor White told Lang to "...tell them it's a-o.k."

Council adopts new record management system

In a report presented to council, deputy clerk Amanda Knight gave an overview of the new Electronic Document Records management program adopted by council, which will be used for all current and future records. Pre-existing records will not be backfiled, as this system is about going forward, but it means that in the future, any access-to-information requests made to the township can be quickly and easily provided. The system, known as TOMRMS and currently used by hundreds of Ontario municipalities, will be up and running at the start of the new year.

Rockwood Nursery School holds second Annual Quarter Auction



Rockwood Nursery School held a Quarter Auction at Rockmosa on November 16 with 11 local vendors donating everything from gourmet food items to jewellery and cosmetics. For \$5.00, attendees bought a paddle and then laid down their quarters in the hopes their number was drawn to win \$25 to \$50 items for as little as 2 quarters. After the bidding ended, buyers could go on to purchase items directly. All proceeds benefit the school. - Vivien Fleisher photo

Eden Mills dedicates History Day to late long-time resident

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Eden Mills History Day, held every few years in the Town Hall on York St., was dedicated this year to long-time resident Reid Kennedy, founder and publisher of weekly newspaper North Halton Compass which ceased publication in 2005. Reid, who passed away after a short illness two weeks shy of the event Sunday, was warmly remembered by colleague and local historian Deb Quaille and Nassagaweya Historical Society member Audrey Allison. His untimely passing serves as a reminder of how ephemeral records of our shared history can be: were it not for people like Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Quaille and event organizer Barb Marshall as well as the many people present who dedicate hours and hours to the preservation of the town's history, events such as this would not be possible.

Eden Mills, founded in 1842 and named so because it evoked the garden of Eden for one of its founders, miller Adam Argo, has a particularly rich and well-preserved history too. Libby Walker, Activity programmer at Wellington County Archives said that "Of all the communities in Wellington County, Eden Mills is one of the best to care for and own their own history." This was echoed by Nassagaweya Ward 3 councilor Cindy Lunau, who added that "Eden Mills is the only section of Nassagaweya (which means "river with two outlets") that fought becoming part of Halton Region" during the 1970's when regional government was brought in "to provide more efficient services and effective voter representation".

Camp Edgewood has been a strong presence in the village since 1944 when the Lutheran Church took the camp over from Duncan McDougal who ran 'Edgewood Park' as it was then known. McDougal operated it as a private summer camp for 20 years. Their impressive display featured neatly organized binders full of photos going back to 1944. However, after the year 2000, the binders stop. While they have seen lower numbers of campers in the last decade or so, and have diversified operations in order to remain viable, it was actually the onset of digital photography that caused the photo documentation to dry up. "People used to send us their photos back before digital photography" said Chairman Eric Schultz.

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