

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Eden Mills holds 16th Annual Art Festival



Textile artist Rita Brouwers at her booth on Sunday

By: Vivien Fleisher

For the 16th year, Eden Mills was filled with beautiful music, art and food throughout the tiny village last Saturday and Sunday.

Mother Nature kindly withheld all precipitation, as artists and musicians showcased their talents and visitors strolled, stopping in at the hall for refreshments, which was lovely and cool after the thirty-plus celcius temperatures all weekend.

27 artists exhibited their work, which ran the gamut from sculpture, fibre arts, all kinds of painting, to pottery and so on.

New this year was a collaborative work set up next to the hall. Juanita Johnstone of Guelph, a self-taught painter, has painted since retirement. She framed her first - and what she thought would be her only - artwork seven years ago, but went on instead to create over 500 works after that. For this year, she chose to oversee the painting project rather than exhibit as part of her personal philosophy that "...everyone has a bit of artist in them." To that end, she drew a village scene onto a long canvas and stood it on an easel, and then encouraged visitors to add their

own touch to the work. It was a big hit, and all were amazed at how much they enjoyed it. The results were impressive, and the work will be auctioned at next year's festival.

Inside the hall, Heidi Klaming showed the work of her friend Andrew Bloomfield. Heidi works with Andrew, who is autistic, as a collaborator in the artistic process. Heidi lays down his ideas on paper, and Andrew adds the color and movement to the piece. Heidi has learned a lot from him; her role is to facilitate communication as it can be difficult for Andrew to get his ideas out of his head and

onto paper, but when its his turn to add paint, the pure expression and gestural quality he brings to the work is free, uninhibited and uplifting. Heidi was at the festival to bring awareness to Andrew's vision of something called "Bridges-Over-Barriers", a center with a garden where he and others with autism can connect artistically. Art is a great way to express their feelings and perspectives outside of words, and to let others know that just because they can't communicate that way does not mean they have nothing to say.



Self-taught painter Juanita Johnstone oversees a painting that all were invited to participate in and will be auctioned at next year's festival

OPP REPORT



Drug charge

On May 21, at approximately 3:37 p.m., a Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer stopped to check on a man standing beside a motorcycle on Eastview Drive, Guelph-Eramosa Township. While speaking with him, the officer noticed the smell of marijuana. Police seized suspected cannabis resin (hash) and made an arrest. He was released at the scene with court documents.

A 57-year-old of Stouffville man has been charged with Possession of Cannabis Resin over 1 gram contrary to the Controlled

Drugs and Substances Act. He is to appear in Guelph Criminal Court on July 8.

Over 80 mgs charge

On May 29, at approximately 7:18 p.m. members of the Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Traffic Management Unit (TMU) were conducting RIDE spot checks on Conservation Road in Guelph/Eramosa Township when they observed a 2012 Mercedes pull over to the north shoulder and the occupants switch drivers.

Officers spoke with the occupants of the motor vehicle including the male who was initially observed

in the driver's seat prior to switching and a strong odour of an alcoholic beverage was detected on his breath. The male confirmed that he had been consuming alcohol earlier. An Approved Roadside Screening Device test was conducted which resulted in a fail. The driver was arrested and transported to a local OPP Operation Centre for further testing.

His driver's licence has been suspended for 90

days and the vehicle impounded for a period of seven days as per statute.

A 43-year-old of Brampton man has been charged with over 80 Mgs contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada. He is to appear in Guelph Criminal Court on July 8 to answer to the charge.

Attempt to steal stop sign

On May 27 Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received a report that sometime overnight an attempt was made to steal the north bound oversized stop sign at the intersec-

tion of Jones Baseline and Mill Road, Guelph/Eramosa Township. The pole was bent in this attempt.

It was also reported that two weeks earlier the flashing red light on top of the stop sign with

a solar panel was stolen from the same intersection. This is valued at approximately \$2500.

Any person with information regarding these incidents should contact the Wellington County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

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Wow what a party!

Many thanks to everyone who phoned, sent cards, gifts and all who were able to celebrate my

90th Birthday Party

Extra special thanks to my wonderful family, relatives, friends and the fabulous ladies of the Acton Legion Auxillary.

With love and appreciation

Pat McCutcheon

