

The ROCKWOOD Miller



VILLAGE DIGEST

ACCESS FOR ARDEN

The Rockwood and District Lion's club, along with the Acton Rotary Club, and The Optimist Club of Halton Hills have joined forces to help a 10 year old Arden of Rockwood who lives with a rare condition that has left her confined mostly to a wheelchair. They will be holding the "Access for Arden" fundraiser on Saturday, September 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Optimist Club Hall at #13439 Hwy 7, Georgetown.

Access for Arden 50/50 draw tickets are also being sold until 4 p.m. on the Sunday of the Acton

Fair (September 18) when Miss Acton will draw the winning ticket. Tickets can be purchased at Acton and Rockwood RBC Banks, Saunders Bakery, The Whistle Stop and Acton Optical.

CORN ROAST

RaeField Farms is supporting the S.H.A.R.E Scholarship Fund which donates to help needy teens in Belize go to High School. They will be holding a Corn Roast on September 11 fro 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 5231 Wellington County Rd #27 between Bruce Dale and Rockwood. Bring friends to eat, drink. Listen to live music,

swim or just relax in the country with hosts Ray and Elle Thomson and family.

ALL STARZ BASKETBALL

The All-Starz Co-ed Thursday Night Basketball Program is returning for the tenth season. Junior session for ages 7-9 runs from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The senior session for ages 10-13 runs fro, 7:30 to 9 p.m. The program at Rockwood Centennial Public School will begin on October 13 and runs until March 30, 2017. For a registration form and more information call coach Nick at 519-856-4491.

Rockwood volunteers build sports court in remote Guatemala

By: Vivien Fleisher

The remote Cuchumatanes Mountains of Guatemala are home to the tiny village of Nebaj, a five-hour winding journey from Guatemala City, and home to a mostly Mayan population who depend upon their own agriculture for survival. War-torn and impoverished, the water and roads are bad, and sanitation is poor. They are without any sort of commerce to improve their lot, and have limited contact outside the village. Resources and infrastructure are scarce, and along with them, structured activities. But thankfully, organizations like Missionary Ventures Canada out of Guelph have set their sights on Nebaj, partnering with church groups to bring much needed infrastructure to remote towns like it.

In 2013, the organization helped build a medical clinic with a school to train nurses at. On that trip was Rockwood's Brent Stiles, and it made such an impression on him, that in early August, he returned as part of an eleven-member team from Rockwood and Stone United church for ten days, this time to build a multi-sport court for soccer, basketball and volleyball. The team, ten from Rockwood United and one from Stone, was comprised



of six adults and five youths ranging in age from 14 to 17. They were: Ollie Darcie; Christine Wenger and daughter Heidi; Elizabeth Guthrie; Tammie Oswick-Kearney; Hannah Casarin; Dana Godack; Mark Southwell and daughter Chloe; and Brent's son William, while Brent was team leader.

Bringing along his son this time was clearly a highlight, and this time they got to meet someone very special: a few years ago, his church sponsored a child from the village, Benjamin, who is now ten. The group met Benjamin's family at their home, and it was gratifying to know that he and other kids in the village can now access something called the "Compassion

Centre" where they can acquire cooking skills, pick up a new sport or learn all about nutrition. They also met the town's doctor, Juan Pablo Noriega, whom Brent had met on the previous trip. The group brought 24 bags of donations, both new and used items ranging from clothes and sports equipment to school supplies, all gathered from within the Rockwood community and both United churches. They got half the court done before the week was over, hauling rocks, mixing cement, all with enthusiastic help from village kids who pitched in when not in school, which is a half-day for them. Brent can't wait to go back there, having made a lot of connections now.



GUATEMALA GIFT: Children from the remote Cuchumatanes Mountains in Guatemala were thrilled to receive jerseys and other equipment donated by the Rockwood FC and the Guelph Soccer Club. -Submitted photo

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