

The ROCKWOOD Miller

New home for Eden Mills Writer's Festival?

Elders of the former Eden Mills United Church have accepted an offer from members of the Eden Mills Writers' Festival to purchase the heritage stone church on Cedar Street.

Former Church official Tom Parker said the deal closes at the end of the year - later than the church had hoped - but they are happy with the ultimate use of the church. "We have accepted an offer from a group within the village who want to use it as a social venue," Parker said on Monday, adding there are few issues to clean up, but he anticipates the deal with close as scheduled.

"I don't want to disclose too much, but people in the village know that the Writers' Festival wants the building," Parker said, adding the final service was held at the end of the June at the church, which closed due to a dwindling congregation and rising maintenance costs of the building, built in 1861.

Parker said they got "close to the unan-

nounced asking price" but added that price was not their top concern. "The biggest concern as a church was to have the building kept for some local in the community, and that has been achieved, so we're glad about that," he said.

Peter Grimaldi, an Eden Mills Writers' Festival spokesman, declined to comment on the deal, saying it is "too soon" as they continue to finalize details.

The festival website says the September 11 to 15 edition of the Festival will be the 26th to engage writers with readers, the industry and emerging talent.

In addition to readings, the Festival also features Publishers' Way, where publishers, booksellers, magazine producers, and non-profit groups showcase their wares and authors sign their books. Live music entertains between reading sets, and delicious refreshments can be enjoyed in the tented food court.

OPP REPORT

PROJECT LIFESAVER WORKS

A 78-year-old Rockwood man suffering from dementia who wandered away from his home was found within 12 minutes of searching by an OPP officer trained to use Project Lifesaver equipment, which the man was wearing.

At 1:29 p.m. last Wednesday afternoon, OPP got a call about the man missing from his Guelph Street home. He was wearing a Project Lifesaver radio frequency device that allowed police to track him to the Main Street South area. He was taken to hospital as a precaution.

For more information on Project Lifesaver in Wellington call OPP Constable Nellis at 519-856-1506

SIU INVESTIGATES CRASH

The Ontario Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has invoked its mandate to investi-

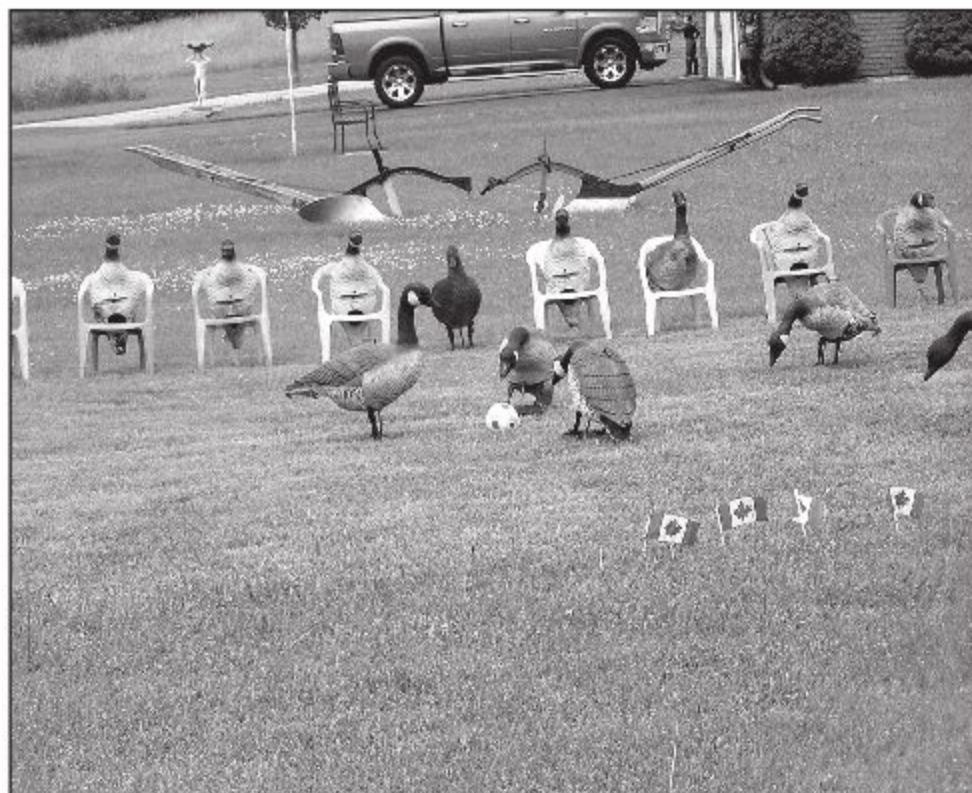
gate a single motor vehicle accident that occurred on Friday afternoon.

OPP were doing traffic enforcement on Wellington County Road 124 when they saw a white Chevrolet Avalanche travelling eastbound at what appeared to be a high rate of speed.

When officers attempted to stop the car the driver lost control, struck a stop sign and went into the ditch at County Road 124 at Sixth Line.

A 48-year-old Erin man, the lone occupant, was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

When police officers are involved in incidents where someone has been seriously injured, dies or alleges sexual assault, the SIU has the statutory mandate to conduct independent investigations to determine whether a criminal offence took place.



FIFA FLOCK: All eyes were on the soccer ball as the Rockwood Geese got into the World Cup spirit. - Marie Shadbolt photo

TOWN DIGEST

VILLAGE HUB FUNDRAISERS

The recent jazz concert, and the August 2 concert featuring Lauren Mann and the Fairly Odd Folk, help pay the bills at the Eden Mills Community Hall, allowing it to "green", and to contribute to the village's carbon-neutral quest.

The crowd clapped loudly at the July 27 jazz concert when MC Kit Bresnahan reported the village's "pretty amazing" 22 per cent carbon foot-print reduction in the past six years. He said the Hall's new windows and insulation reduced propane use by 62 per cent last winter.

GPS 101

Want to learn how to use a GPS unit and then try out your new skills on a "Geodash" course? Check out the Rockwood Conservation Area on Saturday from 10 to 11:30 a.m., when a naturalist will be on hand to offer help.

Next Thursday (July 17) from 2 to 3:30 p.m., you can join a short stroll to one of Rockwood's largest caves as part of an afternoon Rock Walk with a Muddy Ending event. If you plan to crawl into one of the tunnels, cover your knees and elbows.

For both events, kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult and groups meet at the trailer behind the mini-putt.

GET STAFF CHANGES

After less than eight months on the

job, Guelph/Eramosa Township Council accepted the sudden resignation last week of Saidur Rahman, the Township's director of public works.

In another closed door session, Council, satisfied with her first six months performance, ratified the contract of CAO Kim Wingrove.

On Tuesday, Wingrove said Rahman "provided" his resignation. "He resigned - I don't know his motivation," Wingrove said on Tuesday. The department has had several changes in leadership in recent years - both of the former public works directors left due to medical reasons.

Asked if she was troubled by the inconsistency at the helm of the important department, Wingrove side-stepped the question. "People get sick. We're really fortunate to have staff in the department who've been with us for a long time, and they've all stepped up and helped kept us moving forward in some difficult circumstance," Wingrove said.

Wingrove will deal with public works issues until Council determines how to fill the public works director's position.

Wingrove said she was "very pleased" with Council's vote of confidence in her, but knew it was a good fit almost from the beginning of the CAO search because the Township took its time, and she was returning to the area she knew where she grew up.

Arnott earns critic job

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott has been appointed Ontario PC Critic to the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure. In a press release on Tuesday, Arnott thanked Leader Jim Wilson for his confidence.

Ontario's unemployment rate remains stubbornly high at 7.3 per cent according to Statistics Canada. The province's jobless number has been higher than Canada's national average unemployment rate for over seven years.

"Clearly, the Liberal Govern-

ment's jobs strategy, if it has one, isn't working," Arnott said. As Critic, Arnott will hold the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure accountable in the Ontario Legislature, and at the same time, propose constructive suggestions to strengthen Ontario's economy. He will also monitor the Government's infrastructure spending.

"The Government is planning

to spend over \$12-billion this year on infrastructure projects. The Throne Speech boasted of a ten year, \$130-billion infrastructure plan," Arnott said. "I want to ensure that there is honesty and fairness in the process, that the Ontario taxpayer is getting good value for money, that rural Ontario receives its fair share of available funding, and that sensible priorities are set."