

The ROCKWOOD Miller



Make memories at Madeira Farms



TREE TIME: Madeira's Tree Farm of Rockwood was a buzz with families over the weekend who were looking for that perfect tree for Christmas. - Goretta Almada photo

Peter Williams and his wife Karen lived in Guelph and needed to get out of the city because of their business and found their current location in Rockwood. Madeira Farms began when they bought the farm in 1997 and started planting trees. The name of Madeira came from his wife Karen's family name.

They started selling trees in 2004 and sold about 30 trees in the first year. And then it started growing a bit every year. There is about ten acres in trees and they also bring in some of the larger trees giving the customer a greater selection. The two businesses, Williams Forestry and Madeira Tree Farm are complimentary to each other and share the labour

and year round costs.

At Christmas time there is a large migration of equipment to the main barn allowing room for the Christmas trees, wreaths and tree stands. They provide maps to find the trees, (over 10,000 growing now) and have lots of saws and some sleds and mitts to borrow. While trekking through the snow, with your map in one hand and your saw in the other, you're in search of that perfect tree. Then you see it, your children go running for it, "we found it, this is the one" they scream. As you drop to your knees with the saw in hand, your think to yourself, "an artificial tree would be a lot easier". Then you look up and see the joy and excitement

on their faces and any previous thoughts quickly vanish. This is what Christmas is all about, spending time with family and making memories.

Families start their traditions and return year after year to enjoy the hunt for that "perfect tree" or pick one from the pre-cut ones on display. After choosing your tree, stop by the Shoppe for a chat and enjoy the complimentary hot cider, cookies and Christmas music. Always a big hit before heading home with a new tree.

The farm is located at 5369 Wellington Road 27, R.R#1, Rockwood. You can call 519-856-1009 for details or visit www.madeirafarms.com for more information on other services.

EWCS REPORT

EWCS Give the Gift of Community Support Campaign

East Wellington Community Services launched our Give a Gift of Community Support fundraising campaign at their Erin offices location on Tuesday, December 2 unveiling a \$25,000 goal that will be used to fund various agency programs and services.

Wintersinger's Tree Farm: Donate your Discount to the EWCS Food Bank

This year, Wintersinger's Tree Farm is asking their customers to help support the food bank by donating the value of their \$2 tree coupon toward the EWCS food bank, after enjoying the "harvest your own" experience and selecting that perfect Christmas Tree this December. The way the program works is that customers can have the option to pay the full price of the tree and then donate their \$2 off coupon which in turn, a monetary donation will be made to the food bank.

"The food bank is an incredible program and community resource for so many people," stated Josie Wintersinger, who owns the 100-acre operation with her husband

Albert. "It's incredible to think that more than 250 families in the area rely on the food bank for basic food needs and the thought of having a Christmas Tree may be considered a luxury. This is why we wanted to encourage our customers to donate their discount and Wintersinger's will donate the total dollar value of all collected coupons to our food bank."

Wintersinger's Tree farm is located at 5837 Third Line, Hillsburgh and is open daily until December 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thank you Station 10 Fire Fighters - 10th Annual Food Drive Event

The annual food drive, sponsored by the Erin Station 10 Fire Fighters, is already well underway this year.

The fire fighters were collecting food at the Santa Claus Parade on November 22, and it was a beautiful day for a parade. The community came out in full force filling the red Food Drive Van customized by local fire fighters just for the parade.

"WOW, we have an amazing community - this is a fantastic start to the food drive for Station 10. It is such a huge food drive for us - we can't thank Charles, Laurence and those at Station 10 enough for their work in coordinating this each year in support of our food bank program," said Erika Westcott, Manager, Marketing and Fund Development.

Furthering with the food drive, you can purchase a bag of needed items for the food bank

from Marc's Valu-Mart to donate to the drive.

"The annual Station 10 Erin firefighters food drive is a huge event for us each year and really helps us to fill our shelves at Christmas and as we head into the New Year. Last year, with their help and kindness, matched by a truly outstanding local community who is always so generous in donating to this drive, helped raise over 4,155lbs of food and \$3,747.33 in cash, cheques and gift cards. This really helped us get through the winter months in being able to provide food support to those in the community. The partnership that the fire fighters and our agency have mean so much because we're both looking to help our neighbors and to help those in the community to be safe - we couldn't do what we do without partnerships like this." said Westcott.

"With the need continuing to increase in the community, food drives like this are especially important. I can't imagine how EWCS could support so many without food drives and the donations we receive. It is just such an important program for so many in our community who rely on the food bank to have enough to eat," said Alyssa Cunningham, Care Coordinator for East Wellington Community Services.

The Station 10 Fire Fighters food drive will be ongoing in December, with donations being collected at Valu-Mart, the Erin office of EWCS at 45 Main Street and participating businesses.



55+
FITNESS PROGRAMS

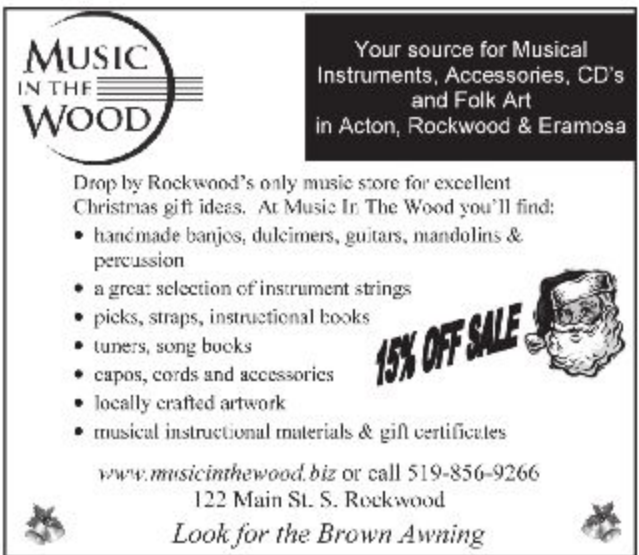
Registration Opened on Dec. 1, 2014
Classes start in January and end in March

12 Week Sessions!

Register Now!
Register for classes prior to December 24th to ensure your class doesn't get cancelled.

The Township of Guelph/Eramosa is offering programs specifically for Active 55+ residents. Delivered by trained instructors at Rockmosa Community Centre and the Royal Distributing Athletic Performance Centre, our affordable 12-class programs will prove that fun and fitness go together!

Registration opened on December 1, 2014. Classes start in January and end in March
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