



## Eden Mills Hall retrofit update

Guelph/Eramosa Township Council will consider a request from the Eden Mills Community Club to invest \$60,000 over three years to help with an on-going energy retrofit of the 100-plus year old Hall – the centre of community life in the village. The Hall is co-owned by Guelph Eramosa Township and the Eden Mills Community Club.

At last Tuesday's council meeting, Tim Laing, representing the Eden Mills Community Club, updated Council on the progress of an on-going Hall energy retrofit program – part of the village's efforts to become the first community in North America to go carbon neutral – and requested the financial aid to help make their dream a reality.

Laing said an energy audit found that the Hall was the least energy-efficient building in the village and that it "leaked like a sieve." He said the audit showed with the retrofit, the building's rising energy costs would make it impossible to sustain in the future because, "you can't sell enough cookies and pies to cover those costs in the future."

Completed and proposed work includes installing a new metal roof and triple-glazed windows, insulating the building, installing a heat pump and replacing inefficient equipment. Laing said work done to date has reduced hydro usage by 30 per cent and propane usage by 43 per cent.

He said the next steps are to install the heat

pump and to clad the outside of the building, replace leaking outside and inside doors and upgrade the electrical system.

Of the total \$600,000 budget, \$71,000 has been raised through donations and fundraising, \$27,000 through grants and \$113,000 through in-kind donations, leaving a funding shortfall of \$298,000. "So, here's what I'm here to suggest you consider tonight – an investment from the Township of \$60,000, or \$20,000 over three years," Laing said, adding the Club would have to match half of the Township funds so \$60,000 would become \$90,000.

Laing said in exchange for its money, the Township would get a model for sustainability, and an



**VILLAGE HISTORY:** Eden Mills native Barbara Marshall (right) helped organize the Eden Mills History Day on Sunday at the Community Hall. Her niece Louise Marshall of Milton checked out the family's history display, one of many at the annual event. – Ted Tyler photo

asset that will maintain itself over time at zero cost for overhead. He said the most important thing the Township would receive is the valuable knowledge they've learned in the process of going carbon neutral.

"If we can achieve these kinds of savings for a 100-plus-year-old building, what could we do if we shared this with you that you could lower your overhead for much younger buildings that the Township is responsible?" Laing asked, adding they will share their experi-

ence and expertise with the Township.

Laing said while the Club's initial plans to install solar panels on the roof was derailed by changes in the Ontario Power Authority, they are investigating a behind the metre system as part of the Hall's energy program. He said the work would also help enhance the Hall so they could increase rentals to generate more revenue.

Councillor Doug Breen called the request for funding a "good ask" and that he really like the fact that the Township money

would be contingent on the Club matching half of it.

Laing said the next step is to reduce overhead and cover \$20,000 in annual operating costs is to make the Hall more desirable to rent, increasing revenue. He said plans include a refurbished kitchen, upgrades to the stage, lighting and sound system, and a walking trail to the Mill Pond.

The Eden Mills Community Club's request was referred to the Township's strategic planning committee.



East Wellington  
Family Health Team

Check out our upcoming workshops

### ONTARIO TELEMEDICINE FIBROMYALGIA WORKSHOP 7 week series

Erin clinic: Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00-3:30pm; \$35.00 fee

### HEART HEALTH MEAL PLANNING FOR DIABETES

Erin Clinic: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-12:00pm; FREE  
Rockwood Clinic: Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30pm; FREE

### LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES

Rockwood Clinic: Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-12:00pm; FREE

### LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES: DIABETES BASICS

Erin Clinic: Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30pm; FREE

### NUTRITION AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Rockwood Clinic: Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30am; FREE  
Erin Clinic: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-5:00pm; FREE

### PRE-DIABETES SERIES: Session 1

Rockwood Clinic: Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:30pm; FREE

### ONTARIO TELEMEDICINE OSTEOPOROSIS WORKSHOP

Erin Clinic: Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-3:30pm; \$35.00 fee

Erin Location: ERIN WELLNESS CENTRE - 6 THOMPSON CRESCENT  
Rockwood Location: ROCKWOOD CLINIC - 175 ALMA

You must pre-register. To do so, or for more information about these sessions, go to [www.ewfht.ca](http://www.ewfht.ca) under "workshops" or call 519-833-7576 ext 341

## TOWNSHIP DIGEST

### CANCER FUNDRAISER

The Juno-winning *Good Brothers* will headline the sixth annual cancer benefit dinner/dance on May 11 at Rockmosa. The event, sponsored by the Rockwood District Lions and Lioness Club, will raise money to help a team join the annual Weekend to End Women's Cancers – a 60-kilometre walk in Toronto to raise money for cancer research. Each participant must raise \$2,000 to register and the Rockwood Lionesses are sponsoring a team of four.

Lioness Doris Ens said more than 60 Rockwood, Guelph and Erin businesses are generously donating door prizes for the event which includes a catered dinner, dancing to the *Good Brothers*, door prizes, a 50/50 draw.

Last Tuesday, Township Council agreed to Ens' request to waive the \$450 rental fee for Rockmosa for the event, as has been done for the past five years. For ticket information call Doris at 519-856-9419.

### EXPANDED USES?

Acton's David Chapman,

owner of building now used as a health product and bottling operation on the eastern edge of Rockwood wants to expand the uses allowed in the building to make it more attractive to a new tenant.

"(The owner) wants to broaden the uses to lease it out," Mayor Chris White said on Monday, adding he expected the building to be empty shortly. On Tuesday a company spokesperson said the plant will operate until June and all employees – no number was provided – would be relocated.

In 1989, the permitted uses for the building were expanded to allow Chapman's Purity Life – now operating as Purity Plus Advanced Naturals in Rockwood – to open a health products warehouse and bottling centre on Harris Street. Previously, Rockwood Gardens, a seed distribution company, operated in the building.

The site is prime agricultural and core green lands with a wellhead protection zone, and special provisions allow a nursery stock warehouse/mail-order distribution centre, a health

food and products distribution centre and bottling centre. If approved, the expanded include agricultural products processing, storage and sales, agricultural research, breeding or grading, agricultural supply establishment, business or professional office, produce outlet, commercial greenhouse, contractor or tradesman establishment, service shop, veterinary clinic, warehouse or wood-working shop.

Purity's rezoning application will be circulated to commenting agencies and to Township planners for a preliminary report.

### FIRE STATS

Three house fires and response to the storm water pond failure and flooding in Rockwood kept Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department very busy last month. The January Rockwood station report shows firefighters answered 23 calls for help. Seven were for medical aid, six involved motor vehicle accidents, three were false alarms and there were two mutual aid calls with neighbouring fire departments.