

# The ROCKWOOD Miller

## Parents worried school board wants to 'oust' Rockwood, Eden Mills area students

Parents of approximately 45 Junior Kindergarten (JK) to Grade six French Immersion students in East Wellington – east of Jones Baseline Road, including Rockwood, Everton and Eden Mills – who attend the overcrowded Edward Johnson Public School are expected to be among those who attend a public meeting tonight (Thursday) to talk about changes to school boundaries which will affect which school their children attend.

Currently, French Immersion (FI) students from East Wellington attend Edward Johnson PS in Guelph, where existing over crowding will be worsened with implementation of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) in 2013. The school has capacity for 280 students and has an enrolment of 390.

A boundary review committee developed options to deal with

the overcrowding, and the preferred choice is to reassign the East Wellington FI students to Brisbane PS. JK to Grade four FI students attending Edward Johnson PS in 2011/12 would go to Brisbane PS in September 2012, and Erin PS and Erin District High School for Grades seven through 12.

All current Grades seven and eight students would continue to go to Guelph schools for FI. All the current Grade six students would stay in Guelph for grade seven, and the current Grade five students would be grandfathered in so they could continue in Guelph. Children currently in Kindergarten to Grade four would go onto Brisbane next year.

One Rockwood parent, Julie McFater, alerted The Rockwood Miller to the public meeting, noting not enough parents know about the meeting where the Board's plan to "oust

Rockwood kids, and send them instead to the school in Erin," will be unveiled.

East Wellington Trustee Katherine Cooper said there is no move to "oust" any students, but to provide a quality program to all students, and she sympathized with concerned parents. "I can really understand why parents feel upset – I've been in a position myself where I want my kids to go to that school, and the Board says no..." Cooper said on Tuesday, adding that situation is upsetting.

The public meeting hosted by the Upper Grand District School Board is from 7 to 9 p.m. tonight at Edward Johnson PS. Parents can look at the recommended boundary scenarios, ask questions and provide comments. The boundary report is available at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/brej](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/brej) and feedback is invited until January 6 on that site, or at a Board meeting in January.



**ON TRACK ST. NICK:** Santa handed out Christmas treats as he rode the rails – on a fully refurbished 1922 streetcar – on a special holiday run at the Halton County Radial Railway in Nassagaweya on Saturday. – Ted Tyler photo

## Township Digest

### Socio-economic profile

Guelph/Eramosa Township, as part of Wellington County, has a stable, non-transitory population, average incomes that exceed the provincial level, is close to urban areas, and most importantly, provides a skilled workforce.

Jana Reichert, a Wellington-Waterloo community economic development officer, delivered the profile at a recent Guelph/Eramosa Council meeting, adding that the economic recovery is "extremely fragile" with flat line incomes and a growing level of household debt.

Reichert said the number of trades, apprenticeships and diploma graduates is higher than the rest of the province, and housing and residential developments

are higher than in neighbouring regions as people want to live in Wellington. She said industrial, commercial and institutional development activity is back to pre-recession levels and there has been significant investment in new facilities and upgraded infrastructure. Reichert said the manufacturing and agricultural sectors continue to thrive, and new health clinics, like the ones in Rockwood and Erin, resulted in a considerable increase in the number of health care workers in Wellington.

Mayor Chris White said the socio-economic information would form part of a County sustainability plan to ensure the viability of its communities.

### Emergency management

The need for additional back-up power options at

Township facilities was highlighted by a power outage last spring, which affected all of Guelph/Eramosa.

In her annual Emergency Management Program report, Linda Dickson, Wellington's Community Emergency Management Co-ordinator said Township staff is researching back-up equipment options and costs for emergency preparedness and service viability as the evening outage disrupted programs in Township facilities.

"Presently, there are no generators at any of the (Township) sites – there hasn't really been a need for them – a few of them have been identified as evacuation centres, but we just haven't worried about that at this point of time," Dickson said on Monday.

Dickson said staff are looking at each facility to determine what options there are to provide a back-up power supply, and what are the costs.

## OPP Report

### Drunk driver

A 63-year-old Simcoe woman was charged with impaired driving and having more than 80-milligrams of alcohol in 100-millilitres of blood

after a citizen alerted the OPP about a Volvo weaving in traffic on Main Street in Erin last Thursday afternoon.

She appears in a Guelph court on February 7.

### Sacred Heart Parish (Rockwood) & St. Peter's Mission (Oustic)

238 Main St. N. Rockwood  
519-856-4711

### Mass Times

#### Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24, 2011

5:00pm Sacred Heart Church  
7:00pm St. Peter's Mission  
Midnight Sacred Heart Church

#### Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2011

9:00am Sacred Heart Church  
11:00am St. Peter's Mission

#### New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, 2011

5:00pm Sacred Heart Church

#### New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2012

9:00am Sacred Heart Church  
11:00am St. Peter's Mission



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