

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Township Digest

Focus on Economic Development

Wellington County politicians are getting serious about economic development, striking a new committee to encourage growth and prosperity in the County and its seven municipalities.

Warden and Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White is championing a strategic plan exercise for economic development. "We'll take a look at who we are, what our strengths are - what are we close to, what is our transportation system, what's our rail system, (and) also study if we should be chasing food processing (businesses) or equine," White said, adding they may want to adjust the charges that developers pay for growth-

related services.

"If a guy is in Korea and he wants to locate in Ontario, and wants to Google Wellington County to find out who we are, we don't have an economic website," White said, adding they need commercial and industrial taxes because "we can't live off residential property tax."

"I'm not talking about government taking over - I'm talking about facilitating, bringing people in and setting stuff up," he said, adding the approximately \$140,000 budget for the strategic plan will be money well spent.

Insurance switch

Switching insurance companies will save Guelph/Eramosa Township approximately \$80,000, as

the new premiums and taxes with BFL Canada risk and Insurances Services will be approximately \$220,000.

BFL was the low bidder at \$217,836, and the Township's consultant, Robert Harder, told council on Monday that the company had the most competitive bid to meet the Township's needs. He said a few issues need to be looked into with the policy - they will canvass Township departments for any outstanding claims - for any "skeletons in the closet."

Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White, who characterized insurance costs as "money down the drain" said any money saved is a "good news" story. While the Township did not make any firm time commitment to the new broker, Harder said the general practice is to give a three-year indication to a new broker, with a review at least every five years.

OPP Report

While theft from an auto is never a laughing matter, this poem, released by Wellington OPP has an entertaining take on the issue.

"Lock it or Lose it" Christmas Poem

*I laid in the couch in the dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
The dog was asleep, with its head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the town to a wintry delight.
With twinkling lights on my tree I believe,
Completing the magic, it's Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded in home I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
I fell into sleep, I started to dream.
The sound wasn't loud, but it was quite near,*

*I opened my eyes and perked up my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
I'm sure it was footsteps outside in the snow.
I started to tremble, I struggled to hear,
I crept to the doorway to see who was here.
Outside my home, while our families asleep,
The police were patrolling, my safety they keep.
They spotted some teens going through my new truck,
They had taken my wallet and laptop for luck.
My truck was wide open with stuff on display,
Allowing these thieves, quite easy prey.
I was dumfounded, nervous and speechless for sure,
The officers questioned me, their intentions were pure.
They had captured the thieves, and recovered my stuff,
They spoke to the youths, whose replies were quite rough.
At the end of this case, they*

said they could prove it, They reminded me saying, "Please Lock it or Lose it"

The County of Wellington OPP continue to encourage home owners and vehicle owners to be vigilant in securing autos when not in use. Police continue to respond to many calls for service each day involving someone with articles stolen from autos overnight. Following a couple valuable tips may prevent you from becoming a victim of crime.

- Never leave your auto unlocked while unattended.
- Never leave your keys in the vehicle.
- Always park in a well lighted area.
- Never leave valuable objects in plain view. Remove them or secure them in the trunk.
- Protect your vehicle from theft. Always roll up your windows.

The County of Wellington OPP remind all vehicle owners-"Lock it or Lose It".

Thank you to all of the individuals and groups who have supported the

food bank leading up to Christmas. Sadly this is going to be a very busy holiday for the foodbank, but luckily we have received an outpouring of support to give Christmas Hampers to families in need. Thanks especially to the Erin Firefighters, Marc's Valu-Mart, Mundells, Steen, Coffee Time and all of the local churches and schools who sponsor a hamper and do food drives.

Fill Up Your Tanks tickets are now on sale for the 2012 raffle. Stop by one of the local grocery stores or a number of other sponsors' locations to pick up yours. On top of the \$500 monthly prize there will be bonus weekly draws this year for \$25 coffee gift cards. There are 48 chances to win this year, and only 2,000 tickets. Tickets are also on sale at all New to You stores, and EWCS offices.

Beginner Computer Lessons are still being offered by EWCS. One-on-one lessons are offered to anyone in the community, at the Erin and Rockwood offices as well as the Hillsburgh Library. Great for a refresher or if you're looking to learn something new - emails, internet browsing, or help trouble shooting. Call to make an appointment 519-833-9696.




~ Deck the Halls ~
Wishing our neighbours, customers, and friends a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

We look forward to serving you in 2012
Thank-you for your patronage.



Rockwood Home Hardware
273 Alma St., Rockwood ON
519-856-9551



david burland
sales representative

Local **Real Estate**
Knowledge and Services

519-853-5155
Johnson Associates
REAL ESTATE LTD. BROKERAGE

JIM'S REPAIR SHOP
105 Alma St. Rockwood
Tel: 519-856-2564 Fax: 519-856-9657

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
May all your wishes come true this festive season.



Bruce, Jeannette, Betty-Ann, Kevin, Jeff, Ken, John, & Mary Ann.

Dec 24 8am-1pm • Dec 25-26 Closed • Dec 27 8am-3pm
Dec 28-30 Reg Hours • Dec 31 8am-12pm
Jan 1 Closed • Jan 2 8am-12pm • Jan 3 Reg Hours Resume