

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Rockwood resident's second-nature nabs first place

By: Vivien Fleisher

Rockwood resident Shari Lovell has been an avid photographer since the age of twenty. Her unwavering enthusiasm led to a professional career, but when she's not shooting weddings, her favorite subject is people—those

unscripted moments when the subject is not aware of the camera. However, it was her people-free image of the Eramosa River on a moody day that won first place in the Nature category of the GRCA's recent photography contest. Though she's taken many shots of the same

spot populated with fishers and boaters, it was the fabulous sky in her winning photo—minus any human activity—that captivated judges.

Shari lives two minutes from the park, which allows her to get over quickly to record the kind of fleeting light and dra-

matic weather captured in the shot. She has photographed that same location near the ruins in Rockwood Park many times and says it never looks the same, which is part of the magic that keeps her hooked.

She and her husband moved to Rockwood from Toronto in 2009, and she still can't believe the beauty of the park, adding that it still amazes her local kids can just hop on their bikes and go anytime. Her professional partner is Sandra Laurin, whom she took a



Shari Lovell's winning photo

course with years ago only to discover how well their styles meshed, resulting in Laurin and Lovell Photography.

Over 624 photos were submitted to the contest this year which closed

in late October. Images selected will be used on the GRCA's website. For more info and to see other winners, go to www.flickr.com/photos/grandriverconservation/albums.

Guelph / Eramosa COUNCIL CHIPS

By: Vivien Fleisher

Agriculture and Mineral Aggregate Policy Review

Planning consultant Mitchell Avis presented a report outlining modifications to the Wellington County official plan regarding Agricultural and Mineral Aggregate policies, as per the Provincial Policy statement that came

into effect in April 2014. The county circulated proposed modifications to that statement to the township for review and comment in September of this year. The proposed changes are minor. In agriculture, 'on-farm diversified uses' has been introduced to replace 'secondary uses', meaning that home occupations and

industries and agri-tourism uses will now be considered. The definition of agriculture-related uses has been expanded to include activities that benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations. Mineral aggregate changes include encouraging ancillary uses which promote aggregate resource conservation and

requiring rehab plans for the most 'progressive and comprehensive' rehab of lands used for such activity as possible.

Proposed Dog Kennel Site Seeks Garden Suite Permit

Winter Hill Farm's Stephen Smith is seeking a zoning bylaw amendment to permit a garden suite on his farm, the future site of a dog kennel. Garden suites are by definition both portable and temporary: 20 years maximum and renewable for a three-year period thereafter. In this case, the proposed occupant would manage the dog-kennel business. As Mayor White pointed out, the relaxing of bylaws pertaining to such suites is an effort to "keep farm operations vi-

able without urbanizing." The application will be presented at a public meeting at a later date.

Fee Schedule Review

Parks and Rec director Robin Milne proposed a zero per cent increase to rental fees for facilities in 2017 in the township in order to stay competitive with neighboring municipalities—based upon results of a market study conducted this year. For sports fields, a 2 per cent increase was recommended, given the costs of maintaining high-quality fields, and the fact that operational costs often exceed revenues. Rockwood cemetery fees will remain unchanged, reflecting the fact that up until recently, Woodlawn cemeteries

managed Rockwood and "nothing has changed. It's just who's providing", according to Mayor White.

Canine Control Bylaw

In conjunction with Guelph Humane Society, the town's Dog Licensing and Control bylaw has been adopted. Clerk Meaghan Reid said staff had reviewed existing regulations and one of the highlights of the review was the decision to allow ownership of three dogs now instead of just two. Of particular difficulty was the definition of 'nuisance barking' with respect to enforcement. Additional requirements include tethering and the issue of dogs in cars, which is a recurring bad-news story everywhere these days.



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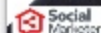


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