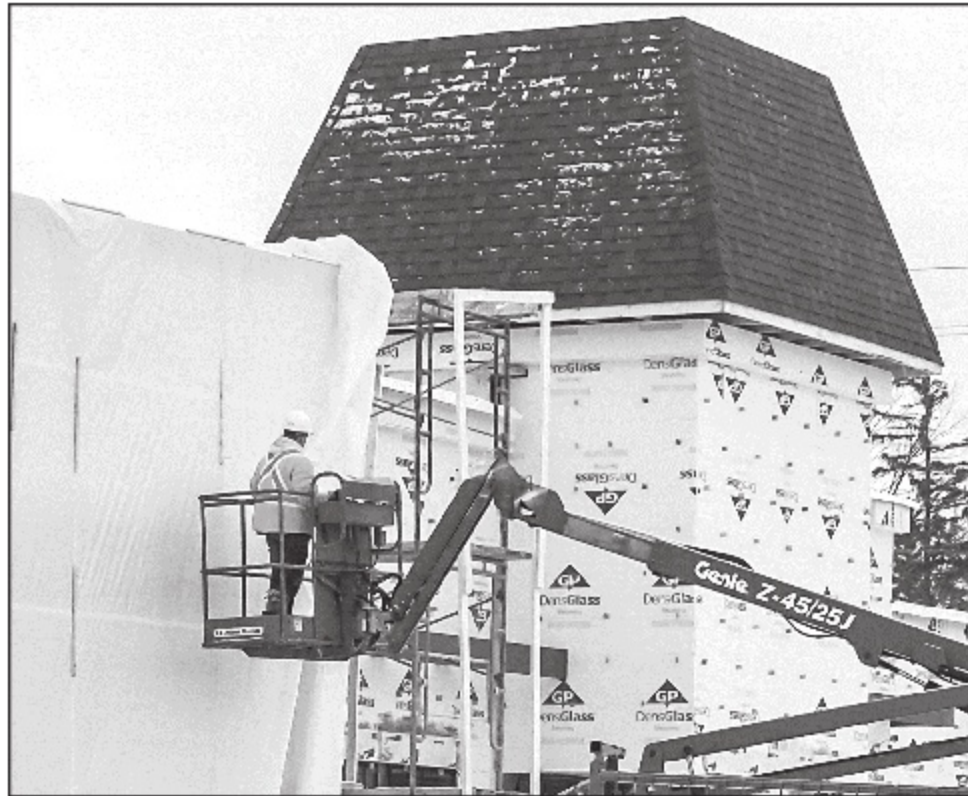


# The ROCKWOOD Miller



**WINTER WORK:** Workers enclose the scaffolding around a building at the Ridge Square plaza so work on the exterior can continue. - Les Schmidt photo

## Rockwood Conservation area used for Canada: The story of us

By: Mark Thomsen

Over the years, Rockwood Conservation has been used for dozens of movies and music videos. This past summer, it was the backdrop for several scenes in a 10 part docu-

drama, Canada: The Story of Us. The series will explore the people, places and events that have shaped Canada. It will combine fact, CGI animation and interviews.

The mill and other water locations were used. Even

the sinking of a mock-up submarine in the lake.

The series will air exclusively on CBC in 2017 as part of the line-up of original programming commissioned by CBC to celebrate the country's 150 anniversary.

## Mayor White and Council host Levées in Guelph-Eramosa, kicking off Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>



By: Vivien Fleisher

The New Year's Day levée is a uniquely Canadian tradition which began in the 1600's, long before Canada was Canada. The word is French, not to be confused with the other levee pertaining to river embankments, although in both cases the word means 'to rise'. Our levées began with France's King Louis XIV, who would rise in the morning and receive male subjects in his bedchambers for the purposes of sharing information, a practice that spread throughout Europe. It evolved to a New Year's Day tradition in

Canada that was first recorded in 'New France' in 1646, where the Governor of the day held one to keep citizens informed of news back in France. From there, it became a way for fur traders in the New World to pay their respects to their masters at the start of the new year, and was eventually adopted by the Governor General and lieutenant governors as a way to meet the public who could then pay their respects.

Today, the levee is still held in many municipalities across the country, and on Saturday, January 7 at Rockwood's Older Adult Centre, the Lion's

Club hosted one of two in Guelph-Eramosa Township. While attendance is typically small, the atmosphere was lively, and guests enjoyed refreshments provided by the Lions Club, as well as a chance to chat up Mayor White and Councillors David Wolk, Corey Woods and Mark Bouwmeester. While only males were allowed to partake up until World War II, today of course all are welcome—especially babies, with the result that Councillor Wood's youngest family member Eli resoundingly eclipsed the Mayor's own star power.

## OPP are back out patrolling the trails

The Wellington County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind snowmobilers to ride safely and to take the necessary precautions in order to ensure an enjoyable winter season and to avoid tragedy. The Ministry of Transportation report that every winter about 30 people are killed and another 1,126 are injured while snowmobiling in Ontario.

Over this past weekend, OPP officers travelled over 111 kilometres conducting snow vehicle patrols in the Townships of Minto, Mapleton and Arthur. A total of 82 snow vehicles were stopped and four charges were laid for fail to display permit. Eight warnings were also

issued for minor violations.

The Wellington County OPP will continue their snow vehicle patrols throughout the season and want to remind riders of these important tips that will help make your ride safe:

- Obey speed limits and road/trail signs and always drive within your ability. Reduce your speed when driving at night and watch out for fences, guide wires and other objects that are more difficult to spot at night.
- Avoid driving on frozen lakes and rivers. If it can't be avoided, check ice conditions beforehand. Wear a buoyant snowmobile suit. Carry

ice picks and make sure they are accessible.

- Tell someone of your outing; including where you are going, the route, description of your snowmobile and your expected time of return.
- Never travel alone... always with a friend. Always be prepared for the unexpected. Carry a fully charged cell phone if available.
- Never drive impaired. Alcohol, illegal drugs, even prescription and some over-the-counter drugs can slow your reaction time and affect your ability to make good decisions.
- If convicted of impaired driving on a snowmobile, you will

lose your driving privileges for all types of vehicles, including motor vehicles, commercial vehicles and motorcycles.

- Use appropriate hand signals when driving with others before stopping, slowing down or turning. Exercise caution on corners and hills, and always remain on the right-hand side of the trail.
- Never ride on private property without permission of the landowner.
- Snowmobile operators are obligated to carry documents with them when operating a motorized snow vehicle.
  - a valid driver's licence or motorized snow vehicle operator's licence,
  - evidence of the

vehicle's registration

- proof of insurance - the vehicle must be insured under a motor vehicle liability policy under the Insurance Act

The Wellington County OPP also wants to remind snow vehicle operators that when a police officer, in the lawful execution of his or her duties requires the driver of a motorized snow vehicle to stop, the driver of a motorized snow vehicle shall immediately come to a safe stop.

Another reminder is that drivers and passengers must all wear helmets unless you are on land occupied by the owner of the vehicle and then it is still highly recommended for safety.

To operate a motorized snow vehicle along a highway a person must

be 16 years old and has a valid driver's license or a motorized snow vehicle operator's license.

To operate motorized snow vehicle upon a trail, the person must have reached the full age of twelve years; and have a motorized snow vehicle operator's license.

Also, keep in mind if you choose to operate your motorized snow vehicle on property without the owner's permission you could face charges under the Trespass to Property Act as well as Criminal Code charges if you cause damage to that property.

For further information on safe snowmobiling and trails in Ontario please see the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) at [www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca)