



Rockwood to get new traffic signals on Highway 7

By: Dawn Brown

Rockwood will be getting safer for drivers and pedestrians alike after an announcement on June 23 from the Guelph/Eramosa Township (GET) that as a result of a partnering with the Ontario Government traffic signals will be installed on Highway 7 at both MacLennan Street and Dunbar Street.

"I am very pleased with this Provincial announcement. This was a major safety concern for our residents and I want to express a heartfelt thanks to Minister Liz Sandals and Minister Del Duca for their foresight in moving forward with this traffic light," Mayor Chris White said. "This is a very busy and potentially dangerous school crossing and this

traffic light is critical for the safety of our children and our residents," Mayor White continued, adding, "I also want to give a special thanks to our MPP Ted Arnott, who worked continually on this and was pivotal in getting this done. I would also like to thank Jen MacLeod and all the folks at the school and in the community who worked to resolve this issue. I look forward to the installation of this light."

While the signals are expected to increase road safety for all users, there has been a great concern for those travelling back and forth from École Harris Mill Public School at the end of MacLennan Street. As well as installing traffic lights, the westbound left turn lane will be extended and ac-

cessibility features for those crossing the road will be improved.

"Children walking across Highway 7, on their way to school, need to be able to cross safely," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott, who attended the Rockwood announcement with Minister Liz Sandals. "For a long time we've maintained that the installation of new traffic signals is the best way to ensure their safety."

Arnott has been working with Mayor White and raising the matter in the legislator since the school opened back in 2014. He and Mayor White also launched a petition back in November of last year for Government to install traffic signals, which garnered more than 400 signatures.



VOLUNTEER TEA: Rockwood's École Harris Mill school volunteer tea was held Monday. Principle Carrie Conrad and staff happily made all the breakfast treats to say thanks. The 300 student school has an impressive 140 plus volunteers. - Vivien Fleisher photo

St. John's Parish makes hall wheelchair accessible

By: Vivien Fleisher

Parishioners at St. John's Anglican Church in Rockwood have been busy this spring. They held a Strawberry Tea Saturday to honour Canada's 150th birthday—just one of the many ways they've gone about raising funds to enhance some of the grants they've received for hall upgrades, including wheelchair accessibility.

Over 40 guests enjoyed fresh Ontario straw-

berries with whipped cream and homemade shortcake—providing a natural red and white theme to complement the occasion—accompanied by tea out of fine china from noon to 3 p.m.

A Provincial grant provided a big boost for the group, which also required them to match the funds. To keep costs in line, they did most of the work themselves, according to organizer Anne Balanyk. Everyone pitched in, but she especially

credits Keith and Valerie Davidge for all their work in the construction of the new wheelchair-accessible washroom near the entrance. A wheelchair ramp was poured at the entrance exterior, as well. Plans are now underway to renovate the kitchen at the back of the hall, which gets a good workout Balanyk said, as they hold a lot of events in the hall. A New Horizons grant for the kitchen will help to complete those upgrades.

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong: Major funding for Eden Mills

By: Vivien Fleisher

Before the Peter Appleyard tribute concert kicked off Sunday afternoon at the Eden Mills and District Community Hall, Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong announced funding for hall upgrades to the tune of \$118,770, from the Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program (CIP 150).

No ordinary upgrades, this money will go toward the Town's overall objective to become 'carbon neutral', an initiative launched Nov. 2007. The tiny town is aiming big: to become the first North American village to achieve carbon neutrality, and besides supporting the ongoing energy retrofit, the grant will pay for other upgrades to the 100 year old hall, including accessibility, electrical and technical improvements. Guelph-Eramosa Town-

ship has kicked in money over the years too in the form of special grants totalling \$60,000. Under the terms of the Canada 150 funding, the recipients must match funds.

In a letter from Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains, the hall was noted for its historic and "treasured cultural" significance in the community, and the Canada 150 grants were specifically intended to help preserve the kind of spaces that allow "Canadians and their families

to enjoy moments of learning, leisure, and contemplation for years to come."

In his remarks, Chong said, "On this 150th anniversary of confederation, it's apropos that we renew a community institution like this. This community actually predates confederation...it dates back to 1844. The hall came sometime after, so this is a chance to protect our built heritage." He went on to remember Peter Appleyard, commending the residents for their success in keeping the hall

alive with culture, when so many "places like this have fallen into decline and neglect."

GET Mayor Chris White echoed Chong's words, and thanked the group by saying that though the OMB ruled several years ago that the town "owned half this hall, I don't know how our municipality would have ever done any of the things that you folks have done." He thanked Chong for the partnerships that have enabled the town to improve and implement so many projects. In the ten years since launching

their carbon-neutral plan, volunteers have already reduced the hall's carbon emissions by 64 per cent, and with this grant, hope to reduce it by another estimated 20 per cent in years to come.



MP Michael Chong

Ron Henry
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