

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Guelph /
Eramosa

COUNCIL CHIPS

By: Vivien Fleisher

Financials “Consistant”

RLB Chartered Accountants Murray Short and Michelle Steele presented GET’s financial report card up to December 2017. The overall picture was solid and steady, with the town funding a lot of infrastructure through judicious use of debt. Short described Guelph/Eramosa as a diverse municipality that, especially compared to others who refuse to take on any debt, is paying it down steadily while meeting the needs of the township. He added that the organization is in a strong position by doing a good job funding capital asset additions. At the conclusion, Councillor Bouwmeester agreed that “everything is hunky dory”, while Mayor White affirmed, “the reality is we do take it seriously. Everyone’s doing a great job.”

Provincial Emergency Management: Wireless Public Alerts

Wellington County Community Emergency Management Coordinator Linda Dickson presented two reports regarding emergencies. The first gave an overview of provincial practices begun in 2016, completed last August that resulted in 52 recommendations from four different reports, most famously the 2013 ice storm and the Elliot Lake inquiry. Climate change looms large throughout. Report two covered

wireless alerts; tests went out that day—May 7—although not all received them as some phones are incompatible. Initiated by the CRTC in 2009, by 2014 the “Alert Ready System” was mandatory for broadcasters. Since Canadians have shifted en masse to mobile devices, and away from landlines, the onus falls on wireless service providers to take on the National Public Alerting System. If the county wants a message to go out however, they must go through the province, not directly.

Camp Brebeuf

Chief Building Official Dan Sharina presented a request by Camp Brebeuf owners for a conditional permit agreement to expand and renovate the dining and assembly hall at the camp. The Catholic Youth Organization through the Diocese of Hamilton must assume all risks of starting before permit requirements are met, necessitating a \$40,000 security deposit to be put in place should the project fail to be completed. A normal permit could not be issued because of septic issues. The applicant was present to explain the non-denominational nature of the organization, citing their presence in the community for almost 80 years, while clarifying the changes they were making, and that they didn’t have the budget for the security deposit, but

emphasizing they will finish the building. Mayor Chris White responded that it was council’s responsibility to protect the municipality and didn’t want to set a precedent. Sharina said that whether the amount was \$40 or \$20,000, it still would not cover the real cost, so council agreed to lower the deposit to \$20,000, admitting the risks are not especially high. Mayor White added that “with 4H at the top of the hill, and Camp Brebeuf in town, they bring hundreds of kids into town” which boosts Rockwood’s downtown.

Older Adult Centre Gets Financial Boost

Parks and Rec Director Robin Milne was very pleased to announce an “infusion” of just over \$42,000 annually in funding to the Older Adult Centre programming. After years of building up programming through a variety of large and small one-time grants, this year they start receiving the SALC grant for which they must report on targets. In applying, they stated their primary need for staff: coordinator Melissa Biffis will now be free to expand programming, while a part-time employee can physically oversee existing programs, such as welcoming at events, etc. Milne played a recently produced video about the senior’s program, which Mayor White loved.

11th Annual Good Brothers Concert in Rockwood huge success



The Good Brothers’ wives, Beth, Susan and Margaret, received beautiful artwork from Doris Ens (second from right).

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Rockwood Lioness Doris Ens is a dynamo. At 82, she still has the energy and enthusiasm to pull off one of Rockwood’s biggest events: the Good Brothers Dinner and Dance at Rockwood to raise funds for the Walk to End Cancer. Using her personal connection to the band from managing a bar years ago, Doris started out helping daughter Colleen raise the funds needed to enter the Princess Margaret cancer fund raiser. Each walker had to raise \$2,000 for the two-day event. That eventually turned into \$1,500 for one day, but either way it was a tall order, so she stepped in to help out 11 years ago. The team was originally five, but last year the numbers dwindled rapidly when one walker had a heart attack, and Doris’s own daughter died sud-

denly one week after the concert last May. Doris was convinced she would not go on with the concert.

But one year on from that devastating loss, she decided to give it one more go in Colleen’s honour, and the band was still willing. What makes this event particularly successful is her personal touch: not only does she successfully collect donations from local businesses for the gift baskets raffled off during the evening, she follows through afterward, personally delivering hand-written thank you notes to all. People say to her it’s a lot of work but she wouldn’t have it any other way, adding she knows sometimes merchants don’t receive any follow-up after they donate. It’s why this year there were 73 baskets up for grabs, at a combined value of over \$7,000. Add

to that the 50/50 draw that pulled in so much money this year they split it over three draws—any leftover funds will go to help walkers elsewhere who couldn’t raise the \$1,500. But that wasn’t all: for Mother’s Day, Doris put her artistic talent on display and presented the band’s wives with framed pictures she made herself.

Doris was recently honoured at Guelph/Eramosa Council for her volunteering and dedication, with Mayor White describing her as “a warm caring individual” and “an inspiration to the community.” At Saturday’s concert, newly minted Senator Robert Black presented her with the 2018 Community Recognition Award for Guelph/Eramosa. As for next year, she says everyone’s getting older, but if she and the Goods are good, it’ll be another go.



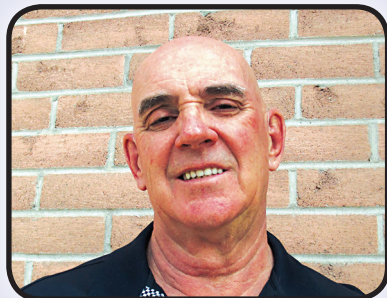
with Vivien Fleisher

WORD IN THE VILLAGE

Did you receive an emergency alert on May 7, and do you believe they are necessary?



Scott Currie: “Yes. They issued two amber alerts today. It’s definitely necessary for those. Although, it can be a little startling when you are driving because they are so loud. It can be distracting.”



Peter Guillemette: “Yes, I did. I do think it’s necessary to let people be aware of emergencies sooner.”



Pete Degan: “Yes, I did. Of course, I think it’s absolutely necessary. I think in our times, when there are so many bad things happening in the world, the little that we all can pitch in and help each other makes for a better world.”



Tom Delmoro: “No, not on May 7. I wasn’t in town. Today, I did; I got an amber alert. I do think it’s necessary. I think it’s brilliant. It gives people a heads up to keep an eye out.”