

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Guelph / Eramosa COUNCIL CHIPS By: Vivien Fleisher

Daycare Slated for Sacred Heart

A site plan application for the west side of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Rockwood was presented to council by planning consultant Rachel Martin with the recommendation that an agreement be entered into. Mayor Chris White was effusive at what an asset it would be to the community, which has also seen Centennial Public School planning to open space for a Child Care Centre of its own. Sacred Heart's Child Care and Early on Centre will be 861.9 square meters, to be accessed by the same entrance as the school. Mayor White added that "these are great services, this is huge", and mused to council "Who cuts the ribbon first? Centennial or Sacred Heart?"

Election Sign Bylaw

Changes to the Municipal Elections Act in 2016 have ushered in a much shorter nomination period. The period used to run from January 1 to the second Friday in September, but has shrunk considerably, from May 1 to July 27, a.k.a. Nomination Day. As such, signs will now be up for longer: since they cannot be erected prior to nomination day—which used to be roughly six weeks before the election—the revised closing date of July 27 roughly doubles the period signs can be up.

Joint Compliance Audit Committee

Not to be confused with the ones that will someday be legal in Canada, this

"joint audit", or rather "Joint Compliance Audit Committee"—requiring council's approval—for the terms of reference related to the 2018-2022 upcoming term of council is another facet of the Municipal Elections Act. As in the previous term, in which Guelph/Eramosa and other municipalities in Wellington appointed three committee members between them to handle any elector who wants to challenge a candidate's handling of campaign finances, the concept behind it to "reach the broadest spectrum of interested applicants across the county in a cost efficient manner", prompting Mayor White to remark "we have another law".

Thatcher Farms Receives Recognition for Community Event

On June 10, Thatcher Farms north of Rockwood is holding a "Queen of Craft" event at their farm, requiring a special-occasion permit (SOP). The event pairs craft beers from Wellington County Brewery with the farm's own products, providing educational opportunities for women by empowering them to learn about local and sustainable industries. All profits go to benefit Women in Crisis and Habitat for Humanity, so in order to obtain a "Public Sale SOP" from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, it must be designated a "municipally significant event" which council unanimously supported.

18th annual Arts Festival

By: Vivien Fleisher

Billed as "not just another studio tour", organizers of the Eden Mills Arts Festival had fantastic weather on their side last weekend despite earlier calls for rain which never materialized—though, it might have cooled things off a bit. By Sunday afternoon, the heat had driven most inside, where the bulk of the artists were anyways across several venues in the tiny village.

Inside the Community Hall, eight of the 29 artists enjoyed refuge from the steamy outdoors while receiving many visitors. One returning artist in particular, Guelph's Andrew Bloomfield of Bridges Art Collaborative, was incredibly inspiring. "Bridges Over Barriers" is the full name of the group: Andrew has autism, and his focus since 2004 has involved

finding ways to express himself and communicate through creativity, leading to him and five friends to conceive of and establish the group for those with severe autism. Andrew's mentor Heidi Klaming curated the display and was on hand with volunteer Sarah to talk about the project, which featured the work of many members of the Bridges group who were introduced by Andrew this year to a technique called "wabi sabi", which is Japanese for "honouring the unknown, the uncertain and the imperfect." In visual art, it means not having a preconceived idea of the outcome of a painting, and the materials—oil paint and cold wax—are applied directly by hand instead of a brush to lend immediacy to the process and the finished work. Andrew and Heidi prepared three such

pieces for the show. The highly expressive and textural works use colour to express emotions and are open to interpretation. Although, Andrew's titles for them invite the viewer into his world.

In a book written by Andrew and Guelph Services for the Autistic, a quote in the opening sums up the essence of this collaborative approach: "You don't need to carry me over the bridge...just walk by my side." A foreword talks about the danger of basing one's assessment of others on appearance. The Bridges group fosters many different ways to communicate, such as supported typing and music in addition to art. And the art work was fantastic. One of Andrew and Heidi's pieces featured him on horseback, with the word "listen" on banner held by the artist.



CELEBRATION TIME: Back just in time to get the Maypole set up before the month is over, Georgina Beerman's geese are a sure sign that summer has indeed arrived. - Vivien Fleisher photo

Concerned Residents Coalition continues fundraising for legal costs



Despite the rain, turnout was great at the Concerned Resident's Coalition's (CRC) annual spring plant sale held on Saturday, May 19 behind RE/MAX in Rockwood. All proceeds went to fight the Hidden Quarry proposal, which now has an OMB hearing date of exactly one year from the plant sale. Mike Foley and Mike Carlucci from Wastewise in Georgetown, were on hand to make a donation of \$1,000 to CRC, the fourth donation they have made.

By: Vivien Fleisher

The Concerned Resident's Coalition (CRC) held its annual spring plant sale on May 19 behind the RE/MAX office on Main St. in Rockwood. Turnout for the sale was great despite the rain. All proceeds will go to ongoing legal costs to fight the Hidden Quarry proposal, which now has an OMB hearing date of exactly one year from the plant sale.

Georgetown Wastewise board members Mike Foley and Mike Carlucci were on hand at 9 a.m. to make a generous donation of \$1,000 to CRC, the fourth in as many years, but this one was double the amount they usually give. The lush green background of the plant sale for the cheque presentation was a fitting metaphor for CRC's battle: they will need to bring expertise, both legal and scientific, to make a strong case to pro-

tect the 100 hundred-acre site—on the north side of Highway 7 between Acton and Rockwood—from blasting 23 metres below the water table. It's located within the Paris-Galt Moraine in a major water recharge area, just 1,000 metres from the town of Rockwood. Acton faces a major increase in truck traffic as well, should James Dick Construction

Ltd. receive approval for their application.

Wastewise, based in Georgetown since 1991, runs a large, successful operation selling used goods and contributing to education programs, recycling opportunities and other environmental initiatives in the Halton Hills area, and have given more than \$100,000 back to the community.

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE

Half Chicken, Baked Potato, Cole slaw, Bun, Beverage & Pie

Only \$18

Saturday June 2, 2018
4:30 - 7:00 pm

To reserve tickets call

905-876-3322 or 905-854-1055

Nassagaweya
Presbyterian
Church

3097 - 15 Sideroad
(just east of Guelph Line)
www.nassagaweya.com