



Here Comes Summer Rockwood rocks first-ever Music Fest

By: Vivien Fleisher

With four local sponsors and four supporters, and in conjunction with the soon-to-be-opened Rockwood Farmers Market—now in its fourth year—the first-ever Rockwood Rocks Music Fest was by all accounts a big success. It was free, the weather was spectacular and the event hosted had an amazing lineup of great talent, with the backdrop of market vendors offering all their fabulous fare in a “pre-season taster”. Local business Tithorea made the Greek food that sold out all 50 plates and generated enough funds to cover rent and advertising. The event was organized by the same group that put together last year’s “Sounds of Support” Refugee Sponsorship Concert at Lloyd Dyer Park—Rosslyn Bentley, Marion Willms, and Chris Barlow. They hope to build up support with each year so they can get past “break even” status for the event, and pay their musicians, which included great local tal-

ent like Anika Berringer who has been a market staple for several years, as well as duo Zach and Thomas, traditional Aboriginal Funga drummers, Adrianna McKinnon, singer song writer Ian Reid, jazz pianist Kevin Mak, and the “happy sounds of the Rockwood Nursery School kids and Bianca Chambers and friends shaking and tapping along to cheery children’s songs,” said Bentley. The event began at 10 a.m. with an Aboriginal Welcome, and opening remarks by Mayor Chris White who said, “These are the kinds of grass roots events we really want to encourage in our community, it’s great.” Bentley added, “We realise how hard it is for small scale musicians and those starting out to get in front of an audience. We believe music connects us all and provides ways of creating community that small towns like Rockwood truly foster.” And, she really hopes it can become

a kind of mini-Hillside, the hugely popular annual music festival on Guelph Lake each summer.

Because they don’t want to charge for the event, Bentley said they have plans to meet with the Mayor to talk about support for next year, adding, “We’d love to be able to pay the musicians a stipend at least to cover mileage.” But in the meantime, it’s an act of generosity toward the town to celebrate the start of summer, not unlike the local Farmer’s Parade of Lights that kick-starts the Christmas season and unites the town in a truly community-spirited way.



Guelph/Eramosa Homegrown Art Show now in second year



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The turnout for year two of Rockwood’s “Homegrown Art Show” on May 31 was a little tamer than last year—construction all around the library and Rockmosa has dampened attendance on all fronts—but the show went on. And with 10 artists—down from fourteen last year—submitting in a range of mediums from photography, pottery, soap stone sculptures, acrylic paintings to embroidery, Branch Supervisor Kirstin Maki was “very pleased with the variety, quality and beauty of the pieces” that came in. Newcomer and participant Vita Keeling gave a brief talk on the artist’s life after remarks by program coordinator and GET Community

Programs Coordinator Melissa Biffis, who said this June is the 34th Annual Seniors’ Month, and the theme is “now’s the time to start something new.” The idea is that age is not a limitation and does not prevent any of us from leading fulfilling lives, which Keeling echoed when she said that artists are especially lucky to have such a fulfilling and passionate pursuit well into their old age. She also encouraged her fellow artists to “paint what you know” because the best results are from the heart, adding, “everybody has an inner passion.”

The Rockmosa Older Adult Centre partnered once again with the Rockwood Library and admission was free and open to the whole community. Light snacks and beverages were provided. The show was the brainchild last year of interim Programs Coordinator Kim Coultis, who filled in while Biffis was on maternity leave.

Coultis was inspired by an event of the same name in Banff Alberta that continues to this day and had approached Maki about bringing it to Rockwood. It was such a success it now promises to be a regular event.

Programming Assistant Brittany also gave a brief talk on library resources including an incredible new online collection—“Kanopy”—which offers patrons access to over 26,000 movie titles that are not mainstream fare. The catalogue includes documentaries, indie, classic, festival and world films, and also feature over 200 films on art and artists alone.

The show is up for the remainder of Seniors’ Month, and other programming will include a Grilling Class on June 12, and Music in the Garden Summer Series on June 21 featuring singer-songwriter James Gordon. More info can be found at www.get.on.ca/living-here/olderadult.aspx



WORD IN THE VILLAGE

with Vivien Fleisher

With Father’s Day just a few weeks away, why is your dad the best dad in the world?



Riley Onion: “I love him. He does jigsaw puzzles with me. He is a good cook and he makes good dinners. He makes pasta.”



Max Frolovs “Papa is the best. He gives me presents.”



Evan and Ethan McGee: “He takes me to my soccer games. I’ve been in soccer since I was four years old. He makes food for us. He makes us French fries.”



Summer McConnell: “My dad is the best. He takes me on my golf cart all the time. And in the wintertime, if I ask him to go on my snowmobiles, he takes me on them, and on very hot days I always go to the beach on my Sea-doo with Daddy.”



PIONEER DAY SATURDAY JUNE 9

Noon - 4p.m.

All day activities at
Lloyd Dyer Park

• 1 p.m. Pet Show

Bottle Stall ★ Plant Sale ★ Penny Table
Face Painting ★ Kids’ Games
Local Crafts ★ Demonstrations ★ Fish Pond
Delicious Food ★ Much More!

• 5 p.m. Rubber Duckie Race at Waterside Park with Food available from Rockwood Lions Club

Waterside Park Concert

with Ian Reid and friends

Friday June 8th - 7:30 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair and bug spray