

Rural Women's Shelter extends its Rockwood hours

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

After three years of operation in Rockwood, the Rural Women's Shelter has decided to increase its daytime hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The shelter, which is part of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis, is now open during business and evening hours on both days. Women and children may call and discuss any issue of violence in their lives.

The message the shelter wishes to send to women is that violence from a partner is not their fault, that they're not responsible for the

violence and that changes can be made in their life. Violence in a relationship is really about power; the problem belongs to the man and the woman should not bear the consequences.

The shelter serves school and church groups, and service clubs.

"When people think abuse they often think physical, but there's also sexual and emotional abuse," says Betty Bean-Kennedy, coordinator for south-east Wellington County. "And emotional abuse is the worst. Bruises can heal but when your character is being attacked by being told you're stupid, ugly and worthless, it's some-

thing that's hard to deal with. People don't necessarily label it as abuse, but it definitely is.

"We encourage people to call and let us help them look at their options. We're not trying to break up families. We're trying to end the way women are being treated; we want the violence to end."

The 24-hour crisis line receives about 12 calls a month from Rockwood residents. Trained volunteers offer support to callers over the phone.

"We're here to build self-esteem, self-confidence and have callers understand it's not a personal issue or their fault," she says.

Bean-Kennedy says girls who grow up in abusive families often end up in abusive relationships, believing this the norm. And boys in similar family settings will often pattern themselves after the male role models in their lives.

A committee, the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, conducted in-depth interviews with 420 women between the ages of 18 and 64 last year and concluded the following:

- More than one in four (27 per cent) women have experienced a physical assault in an intimate relationship;
- In 25 per cent of the cases,

women who were physically assaulted reported that their partners explicitly threatened to kill them;

• 50 per cent of the women reporting physical assault also experienced sexual assault in the context of the same relationship;

• And 51 per cent of women 16 and over have been the victim of rape or attempted rape.

Women can contact the shelter locally on two 24-hour crisis lines: 856-2191 or 836-5710 (Guelph).

If no one answers, a message can be left on a machine and a shelter worker will receive it quickly. If you live outside the area, the toll free number is 1-800-265-7233.

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GARDEN PARTY! The Eden Mills Garden Club held its annual plant sale at the Eden Mills Community Hall on Saturday. Working hard at the sale were, from left, Audrey Bloss, Jeanine Loring, Gill Davis and Sue Martyn. (Lori Frechette photo)

No-Stars want some company in Detroit

BY PAUL NOLAN
The Rockwood Miller

Dot Polo, coach of the Rockwood No-Stars ladies' fastball club, is organizing the team's third annual "Getaway Weekend," and she's looking for some community participation.

This year the No-Stars will travel to Detroit from June 17 to 19 to see the Toronto Blue Jays battle the hard-hitting Tigers — Kirk Gibson, Cecil Fielder, Eric Davis and supporting cast.

Last year the group went to Detroit and two years ago they travelled to Cleveland's old Municipal Stadium.

Cost is just \$115 per person

(four to a room), and this includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, two nights' accommodation and tickets to a pair of ball games (Saturday and Sunday).

While Polo enjoys watching the baseball, she admits that the bargain-hunting might be the real highlight of this excursion.

"Last year we found this store that was open 24 hours, and I shopped 'til 2 in the morning," she says. "It was fantastic."

As of Monday morning there were just 22 tickets remaining. To reserve a spot, call Dot at 856-9441 (home) or 823-1178 (work).

"It's really a nice weekend away."

Calling all men and teenage boys!

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

If you have ever wished to experience show business, Eramosa-style, it's not too late!

Although Saturday's initial casting call for the Eramosa Theatrical Hike was successful, organizer Dale Hamilton said in an interview Monday that there are still some roles to fill.

"We had about 60 people at Saturday's casting call and could use 75. We specifically need men and teenage boys," Hamilton said. "We find that wherever community theatre projects are done, there is always a shortage of males. I guess we will have to twist a few arms to fill the roles."

The outdoor historical play, a community event, will be staged in Rockwood on four weekends in August. It is a scaled-down production in the style of the widely-acclaimed *Spirit of Shivaree*, which was staged in Rockwood four years ago.

"Like *Shivaree* this play is a good chance to get out and meet your neighbours, get to know your community and have a little fun," Hamilton explained. Everyone who wants a part will get one."

Hamilton describes the theatrical hike as a snapshot of the local history of Eramosa Township, based on true stories written by local people.

"There will be four narrators,

including two teenagers, who are about to vandalize the Town Hall when they are confronted by two adults, who encourage them to go on a hike and learn about their community.

"On their hike they meet characters from history and contemporary times and undergo a change of attitude," Hamilton said.

Anyone interested in participating can call 856-9891.

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