

First anniversary for General Store

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Rockwood Miller

Some days Debbie Marshall feels crazy owning her business. But then she realizes she's living her dream.

Marshall, who, with her husband Mike, co-owns Marshall's General Store in Eden Mills, worked in a lot of variety stores when she was a kid. As the years passed, she continued to talk with Norman, Mike's grandfather, about his years owning the old Marshall's store, from 1925 to 1968.

Norman told Debbie she was crazy and wouldn't want to own a

store. As much as she listened, she wasn't about to give up her dream.

So when her chance came last April 3 to open shop, the lifetime resident jumped in with both feet.

"My dream has come true so far," says Debbie, no stranger to working 14-hour days. "I'm satisfied, I own a business and I'm making it work. Sometimes I wonder why I'm doing this — it's so much work — but there are more good days that make up for it."

"Family suffers for it, but everyone knows what we're working for. And it gets easier as you get more organized."

The old gas station-turned fur-

niture store turned Marshall's General Store recently celebrated its first anniversary. A big cake and draws highlighted the special day.

"I thought I knew it all — but I was wrong," emphasizes Debbie, a former employee of the Ontario Harness Horse Association and part-owner of Captain Per.

Marshall's may only be a year-old, but it's a historical site from the first step in the door. The store boasts an old 1940s telephone, old-time wagon wheels, saws, license plates and the counter top of the original Marshall's store. A memorabilia wall features a 1945 copy of the *Albertan*, old pictures of the village and a picture of Girl Guides from around the world who visited while at a jamboree in Guelph.

The store has 300 videos for rent, hardware supplies, a mini craft shop and food.

Debbie admits one of the best additions to the store was a deli, which came in late December.

"People can get cold meats, fresh bread and produce rather than worrying about having to go to the supermarket," Debbie explains.

Debbie adds she and Mike would like to retire with the store.



COME AGAIN! Marshall's General Store co-owner Debbie Marshall sells Ruth Wright a newspaper on Friday. The store recently celebrated its first anniversary. (Doug Harrison photo)


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Coming up in Rockwood & area

June 2, Thursday — 5:30: Don't "weight" ... become a Loser! The Lucky Losers meet every Thursday evening at the St. John Anglican Parish Hall in Rockwood. Come and join in losing those extra pounds. Call Dot Polo (856-9441) or Jan Osborne (856-4605) for info.

June 4, Saturday — 10 am to 3 pm: Klondike Days Community Fair at Brookville School. Rain or shine. Admission free.

June 8, Wednesday — 7:30 pm: Meeting at the Township Offices to discuss the setup of an Eramosa Green Dollar system. For info call Ross Durfey, 856-9662 or Lev Tarasov, 856-9719.

June 11, Saturday — Pioneer Day at Lloyd Dyer Park. Events all day including the famous Duck Race. Outdoor dance in the evening. For information: Marla Reid, 856-9819.

June 12, Sunday — 9 am: Rockwood's 145th Anniversary Reunion at Rockmosa. Renew old friendships, relive old memories and experience some new ones. Contact Pam Ingle, 856-9192.

June 17, Friday — Rockwood's No-Stars ladies' ball team hosts its annual Weekend Getaway through Sunday. The team and guests will visit Detroit to see the Blue Jays play the Tigers. To reserve your spot, call Dot Polo at 856-9441.

June 19, Sunday — noon: Eden Mills annual "East vs. West" baseball game at Memorial Park. Other activities include horse-shoes, kids' games, and a pot luck picnic. Players can sign up at Marshall's General Store

June 23, Thursday — 6 pm: Eden House's 10th Annual Alzheimer Fundraiser. Bed races, walk-a-thon and great food.

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Man pulled from wreck

The Rockwood Fire Department was called Friday to rescue a man from the wreckage of a 1994 Chrysler, which had crashed near Concession 7 and County Rd. 50 in Eramosa.

The car was totaled after going into the ditch, hitting a tree and rolling over three times.

The driver, a 40-year-old Rockwood man, was taken from the wreckage and transported to Guelph Hospital with injuries.

Police are investigating the accident; no charges have been laid.

MORE ROCKWOOD NEWS ON P. 20!

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