



VACATION PARADE!

Kattina Lorenowich, 6, spent Friday morning making a banner for the Praise-Parade during the Vacation Bible School week at Everton Community Church. Some 55 youngsters aged 5 to 12 marched in the parade. (Doug Harrison photo)

Theatrical Hike 'very successful'

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

On the eve of Eramosa Arts and Culture's final production of *If Stones Could Speak*, it was already deemed a success by at least one production member.

"It's been very successful and we've had a lot of positive feedback. And that's only what people have said after the show," beamed co-artistic director Beth Paterson on Friday.

Aside from one performance when rain disrupted the natural beauty of Rockwood's picturesque Conservation Area, Paterson reported the \$2,000 production, which starred amateur actors, went off without a hitch.

In fact, she pointed out, the inclement weather brought out a certain aura in the settlers' scene, where a boat is headed toward land, crashes and is shipwrecked.

The Theatrical Hike was a follow up to the 1990 production of *Spirit of Shivaree*.

The story revolved around two teenagers who are vandalizing the old Town Hall. An elderly couple, George and Bridget, catches them and then blackmails them to join them on a hike through the Conservation Area.

However, while on the hike, the

teens discover magical events as they become part of a scene of the past. They see their ancestors, chat with a native and soon have a deeper appreciation for the history of their community.

Paterson, 25, said *If Stones Could Speak* is in line for a profit, since an average of 50 people took part in the 90-minute hike for each of the three weekend afternoon performances covering August.

"We had over 60 a few days and 62 was our highest," Paterson said, adding 50 was the limit prior to the show's inaugural performance, because the scenes were set along a narrow trail. "But we had people coming in from Toronto and Niagara Falls, so we couldn't turn

them away."

The production crew seems to have made good in its plans to make the Theatrical Hike an annual event in Rockwood.

"A lot of people were coming up to me and saying 'tell me about Eramosa, about the Rockwood area and the people,'" Paterson said. "People who have never been to the Conservation Area loved it. They were amazed at the mill, so hopefully next year we can use more of the natural surroundings."

Paterson is a graduate of McMaster with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dramatic Arts.

"I think everyone in the cast took away something positive from the production."

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Fee: \$45.00 - Info: Call Ann - 856-9132