

Rockwood seniors: You may be entitled to more benefits!

Special to The Rockwood Miller
It is an unfortunate fact that couples are sometimes forced to separate when one spouse can no longer be cared for at home and must be placed in a long-term care facility. This can place the spouse who

remains at home in a difficult financial situation since there is often little money left after the institutional care has been paid for. However, if you are a senior receiving the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) in ad-

dition to your Old Age Security (OAS), you may qualify for higher benefits as a result of this "involuntary separation." Please call your Senior's Resource Centre for details. This is just one example of the

type of information your Senior's Resource Centre provides. Whether you have any questions concerning your GIS benefits or other seniors' issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. If we do not know the answer, we will

find it for you!
Please visit us at 126 Main St. S. in Rockwood on Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm, or phone us at 856-2191 (Thursdays). Area seniors can also reach us at 1-800-640-0928.

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Eramosa electors to vote for new ward system

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

Along with electing new councillors in next month's municipal election, Eramosa Township ratepayers will be asked if they favour a ward boundary representation system.

Currently Eramosa's five elected officials — three council-

lors, a reeve and deputy-reeve — are elected "at large" and represent all taxpayers within the Township.

The ward boundary system proposal came from the three Rockwood Police Village Trustees who will lose their jobs after the election, when the trustee system will be dissolved.

Traditionally, the Trustees were responsible for services like snow removal, street lighting and garbage collection but their sphere of control decreased as the township grew.

Claiming the trustee system was archaic and redundant, Eramosa Township Council moved to dissolve the trustee group. The issue

went to an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing which ended when the Trustees agreed to withdraw their objection to the dissolution, providing a number of conditions were met.

The general interest question on the election ballot was one of those questions.

As far as Reeve Leverne Harris is concerned, the ward boundary question is a non-issue.

"Rockwood residents were overwhelming unconcerned about dissolution of the Police Village Trustees and now don't care about the ward system question," Harris said in a recent interview.

"The question came from John Root, chairman of the Trustees, and as a way of acquiescing to the Trustees we said we wouldn't oppose putting the question on the ballot.

"In order for Root to give in, or roll over, the question is there, but for what it's worth, it's not going anywhere or doing anything," Harris said.

"The ward system is dead. It would never work here because you can't get three decent people to run on Council now. How are you going to get 11?"

"We can't get anybody to run from north of Highway 24 at all, and with a ward system you have to have one person from each ward," Harris said.

"The whole question is totally ridiculous but if they want to have the question on the ballot then that's fine."

Trustee John Root agreed that the Police Village system is archaic, but said the Trustees were not willing to see their positions disappear without some conditions.

"Rockwood has one-third of the population of the Township and after the election there will be no guarantee of representation," Root said in a recent interview.

"When we went to the OMB hearing we didn't like the way we were being treated by Township Council and felt there was something funny going on. After we adjourned the OMB hearing Council finally sat down and we settled almost all of the issues, including to put the ward system question on the ballot," Root said.

The results of that question, which is not a plebiscite or referendum, is not binding on Township Council.



FIRE DEPT. OPEN HOUSE!

From left: Township of Eramosa fire chief Dave Sherratt; Len Smeltzer, superintendent of public works; Reeve Leverne Harris; Sgt. Rick Waller; incoming Community Oriented Policing (C.O.P.) officer Andrew Ferguson; and Guelph-Wellington MP Brenda Chamberlain face all in attendance during the opening ceremonies of the Township of Eramosa Fire Department's open house on Saturday. (Lori Frechette photo)

REBA meeting is tonight

The monthly meeting for the Rockwood Eramosa Business Association is slated for tonight (Wednesday) at the Eramosa Community Library. Time for the gathering is 7 pm; for information before or after the meeting, call 856-2120.

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