

**WE REMEMBER!** Members of the Rockwood Centennial Intermediate Choir perform at the Remembrance Day memorial service at the school on Friday. (Lori Frechette photo)

## Busy calendar coming up in Rockwood and area!

### COMING EVENTS

With the holiday season getting closer every day, things are getting busy in Rockwood, Eden Mills and area. So grab a marker and circle your calendar!

**Nov. 11, Friday — 7 to 9 p.m.:** You can do your Christmas shopping the easy way at a Discovery Toys/Kids Only Clothing Party. Profits support Tot Time, Eramosa Library's program for children aged birth to 5 years. Every purchase enters you in a draw for prizes! Everyone is welcome, so please come out to the Community Room at the library and pick out some educational toys and quality clothing!

**Nov. 16, Wednesday — 8 pm:** Rockwood Gardening Club will have Henry Koch from the University of Guelph Arboretum discussing "How Trees play a part in your Landscape" at their meeting in the basement room at Rockmosa. Everyone welcome!

**Nov. 16, Wednesday — 7 pm:**

Next Rockwood Home & School Association meeting at the School Library

**Nov. 24, Thursday — 7:30 pm:** Roger McCombe, a well-known Humorist will be bringing an entertaining and thought-provoking evening to Erin Public School. He will invite the audience to laugh and to cry with him, as he seeks to challenge them to enhance their lives with humanity, humour, hugs and happiness! Plan to attend. Sponsored by Erin Public School and EWAG.

**Nov. 26, Saturday — 9 am to 2 pm:** Plan to attend the Rockwood Lioness' Annual Bazaar at Rockmosa. Free admission. Penny table, baked goods, refreshments, crafts, etc.

**Dec. 3, Saturday — 9:30 am to 2 pm:** Rockwood Nursery School Mom's Best Holiday Baking and Vendor Fair at the Rockwood Townhall, 191 Main St. S. Squares, cookies, cakes, shortbreads along with assorted trays of delicious, fresh baked goodies. See you there!

## REBA on an ambitious track

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

A few years ago, the only REBA known to Rockwood residents was the popular country singer. But in the last year, it's been the rejuvenated Rockwood-Eramosa Business Association — thanks to local business owners and countless volunteers — that has been making all the noise.

Its members have made significant contributions, either directly or indirectly, to 19 area projects.

Some of them include a liaison with key groups in the community (i.e., the Lions Club) to co-operatively promote events, the making of a Rockwood-Eramosa Township tourist information brochure, the Eramosa Theatrical Hike '94, hiring of a temporary information director, liaison with Rockwood Conservation Area to develop a joint visitor program and approval of two park benches for downtown Rockwood.

The biggest accomplishment of REBA, though, has been the opening of a tourist information centre-Chamber of Commerce, says an executive member.

"We've done monthly stats on walk-in traffic and it's increased each month since the opening, to where we have 100 people come in every month," says information director Regg Struyk, who is also head secretary with REBA.

With 50 per cent of the traffic local, the centre — which opened in July — is now open five-days-a-week, up from its weekends-only hours through the summer.

One of REBA's short-term plans is to set up a database of the Township's 350 businesses for a service directory. They would like to incorporate all the year-round scheduled events in the Township.

"We were given \$1,000 by the Township for operating and start-up costs, so we want them to know that it was good for the community," Struyk says, adding REBA is welcoming, on average, three to four new members each month.

The next step is to get more businesses in Rockwood on board.

"We want to get other businesses, like agriculture and manufacturing companies, not just the downtown business centre. We want everyone as a member,"

Struyk explains.

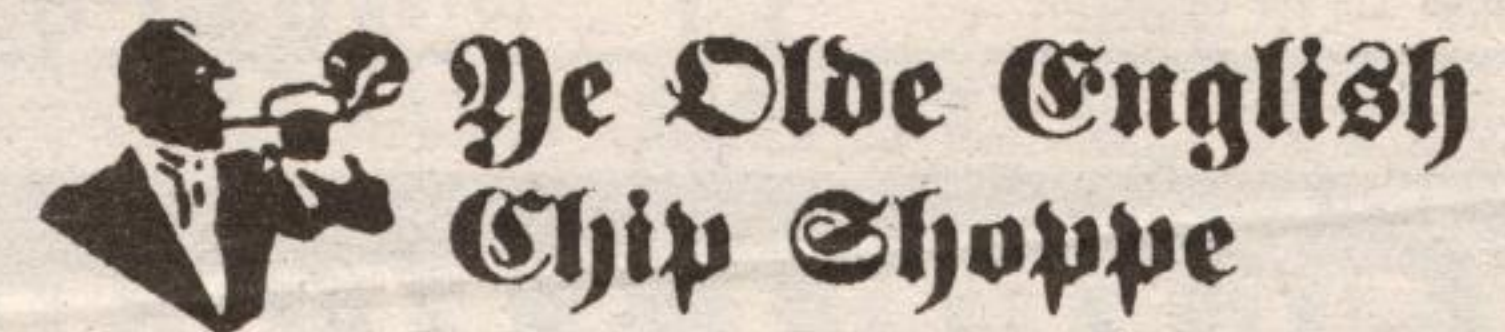
Another goal is to improve the look of downtown Rockwood.

"A lot of people who drive through town are not stopping, and it's still a problem. We have to make people stop, and that starts with the physical features," insists Struyk.

"However, in the last year, the downtown seems busier."

With the Rockwood Conservation Area being a top attraction, Struyk feels it's important that REBA partner with them and offer visitors a tour through the park and around town.

"In three to four years," says Struyk, "I would like to see Rockwood as a nice, quaint town where you get the whole experience of a St. Jacobs or Elora."



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