

## Seminar will discuss 'taxes to technology'

Rockwood accountants Coté & Associates, in conjunction with sister company CIS Asset Management, are again offering their unique "Manage Your Own Destiny" seminar, on Monday, Dec. 5 at Rockmosa Community Centre.

The evening features two highly qualified and amusing speakers, Robert Jason and Alan Salmon, who will talk about taxation and technology in the '90s.

The selected subjects are appropriate for this time of year. Jason will speak about Capital Gains Exemptions and the new Power of Attorney legislation.

Jason is co-author of "The Accountants Handbook," is a tax lawyer, an MBA and CA.

Alan Salmon will talk about "Changing Technology in the '90s." Salmon is managing director of a computer consulting firm and also contributes regularly to computer trade magazines.

The evening starts at 6:30 pm. A free dinner will be provided for a minimum \$5 donation to the Children's Wish Foundation.

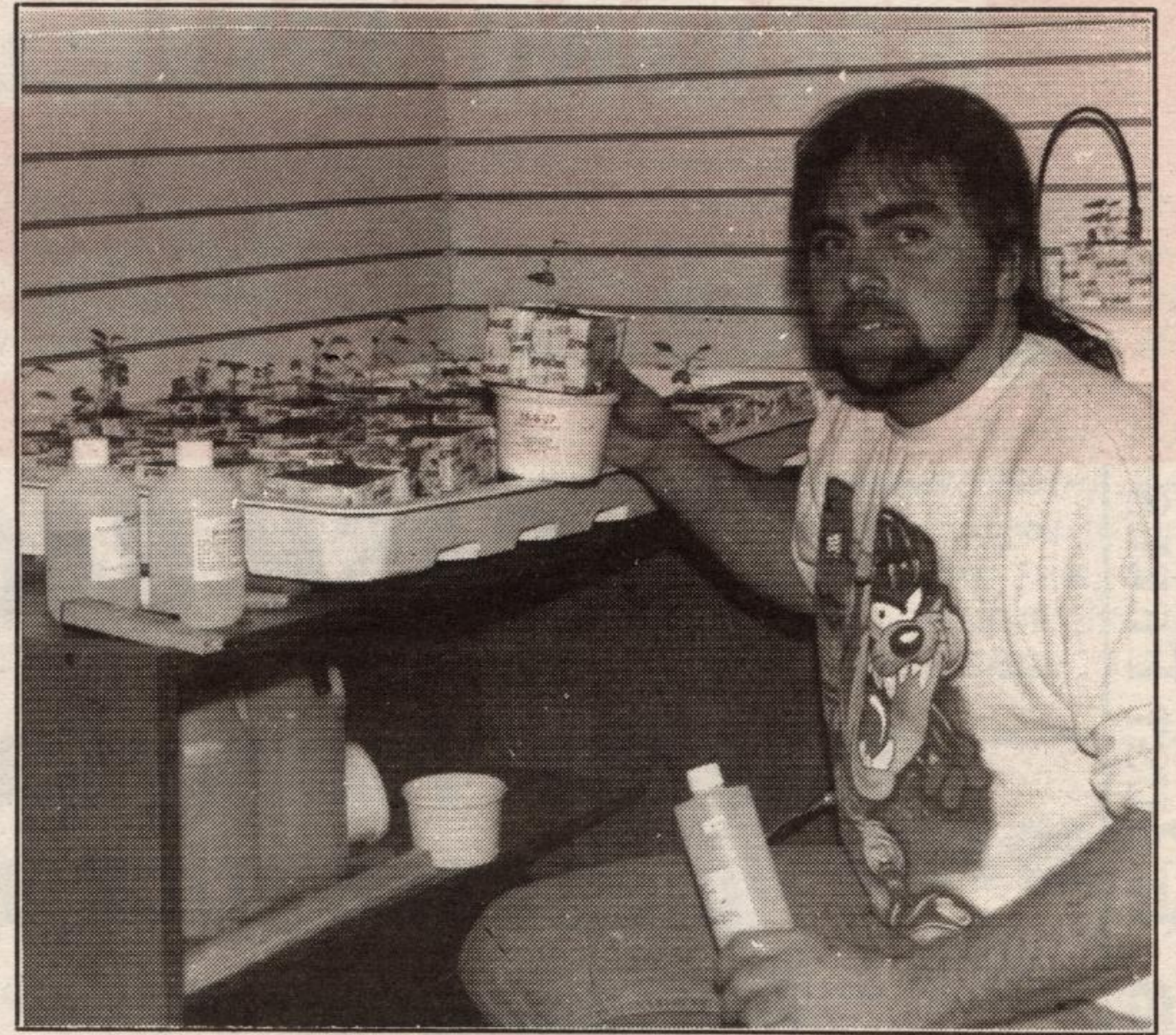
Attendance for the "Manage Your Own Destiny" seminar is limited, so reserve your place by calling 856-9163 before Dec. 1.

## Car-deer crashes

"Be aware and take the edge off your speed!" That's the advice offered by OPP constable Charlie Hunter after 20 car-deer collisions were reported in the Rockwood area last week.

"Cars were almost totalled in some of these accidents — this is a very dangerous thing," explained Hunter.

"Drivers have to take their foot off the accelerator and slow down when they see signs of wildlife."



Grow Your Own Hydroponics owner Mitchell Sheppard shows off a plant in the early stages of growth feeding off air, fertilizer and light in his Alma Street business. (Doug Harrison photo)

## New company is a growing concern

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

Who says avid gardeners can't help but have the winter blahs?

Certainly not those who have expanded their growing talents to the indoors and rely on air, fertilizers and light to grow their favourite flower, herb or vegetable.

And certainly not Mitchell Sheppard, who has grown his own hydroponics for three years and has brought the idea and the name to Rockwood.

Located on Alma Street across the road from Petty's Garage, *Grow Your Own Hydroponics* has been open for just over a month. With winter fast approaching, business has been slow, but Sheppard has attracted people who are intrigued by the name, as well as at least one woman who knew more about hydroponics than he.

"It's more of a hobby than it is commercial, though a lot of commercial operations, such as Maple Lodge Farms, are using hydroponics," says Sheppard, 31. "They benefit from a higher crop ratio and can supply grocery stores in the winter rather than having the store buy from outside the country."

Sheppard says a year-long growing season and faster (by two-thirds) germination period are what lures most people to hydroponics. The thought of keeping a plant growing forever by altering the light conditions with a colour spectrum, as well as seeing noticeable day-to-day growth, also interests people.

"It's a lot cleaner," Sheppard says. "You don't have to worry about pests because you're setting up a controlled environment."

"The growth rate is more exciting and the plants are healthier if you look after them. A lot of people get involved with specific fertilizers and water is important, so you have to keep a better eye on nutrients. Outdoor gardeners tend to leave their plants and watch them grow."

Sheppard's Alma Street business carries fertilizers, lights, fans, pumping systems, test equipment, bug control, among other necessi-

ties to get started.

A new beginner can experiment with a one-plant kit for \$30.

Sheppard, a Milton resident, wanted to start his business away from the city and felt Rockwood was a good town because of its proximity to big centres like Guelph and Kitchener and because it has a large community of senior residents — the mainstay of his customer base.

"There will be good exposure being on the highway and I'll probably get more traffic here than in the city," admits Sheppard. "But I'm certainly not relying solely on Rockwood."

Sheppard wants to see "if he survives first" before exploring a mail-order system that seems to be popular in the States, but hasn't enjoyed the same success here.

He grew up on farm and always helped his parents with gardening, so when Sheppard noticed an increase in hydroponics' popularity in Ontario, he didn't hesitate in making a move. He also relished the idea of being self-employed.

"I'm enjoying the fact that it's me, it's self-sufficient," he comments. "I was looking for something to do and this struck my fancy."

He only hopes local gardeners will follow suit.

Grow Your Own Hydroponics is open six days a week. Business hours are 11 am to 6 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays; Wednesdays from 10 am to 6 pm; 10 am to 7 pm on Thursdays; Fridays from 10 am to 6 pm; and noon to 6 pm on Saturdays.

## Jade school

Eramosa Public School recently was awarded "Jade Status" for completing their 250th environmental project.

Eramosa students now are working toward the Emerald award, for doing 500 projects.

Projects recently completed have included extensive tree planting, reducing lunch garbage, composting food scraps and maintaining bluebird houses.



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