MPP's Private Member's Bill waiting for 'green light'

Frustrated with the NDP government's inaction, Wellington MPP Ted Arnott introduced a Private Member's Bill in the legislature on Nov. 21, to allow volunteer fire fighters to use a flashing green light on or in their vehicles when responding to emergencies.

Volunteer fire fighters have

been asking for the safety device, which they say will make their personal vehicles more easily recognized by motorists when responding to emergencies.

Fire fighters believe that the green lights will allow them to reach fires and accident scenes more quickly, while enhancing

safety. They would still be required to observe all rules of the road.

"I believe now that there is broad consensus between all three parties on this initiative," Arnott stated in a press release dated Nov. 22. "I encourage all parties to put their partisan feelings aside and work together to ensure that this Private

Member's Bill is made into law before the House recesses at Christmas."

Arnott has received a great deal of support for this initiative. Many municipal councils in Wellington, as well as the Fire Fighters' Association of Ontario, have given him their written endorsement.

Arnott also received a call from the assistant to the Minister of Transportation, expressing interest in allowing this bill to pass.

"I am pleased that the Minister has shown interest in this matter," Arnott commented. "I will continue to press the government to pass my Bill before Christmas."

The Rockwood

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Council still leaderless?

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK The Rockwood Miller

Eramosa politicians are finding it tough to be leaderless.

Still reeling over the unexpected and controversial resignation of Reeve Leverne Harris last week, remaining members of Township Council are now trying to regroup and make order out of chaos.

As the Township's lawyer researches options to fill the vacant reeve seat, councillor-elect Cathy McIntyre is puzzled over Harris's sudden departure. Harris was reelected by just an 18-vote margin.

"I don't resent what Harris has done but it wasn't a very nice thing to do to the two new councillors," McIntyre said Sunday.

"We were put in a real precarious position by Harris and I'm surprised that he didn't even try to work with us."

Council has two options to fill the vacant seat - they can choose someone from within Council to become reeve, or they can hold a by-election.

McIntyre, unhappy with these limited options, would like to see a change in the Municipal Act that would allow the candidate with

the second-highest number of votes in an election to take over.

Deputy-reeve and former councillor Rick Hughes said the issue of a by-election may be academic if none of the new Council members want to take on the responsibilities of reeve.

"I'm making inquiries into the extent of the workload of the reeve and as well, what accommodations my employer may be able to make," Hughes said Sunday.

"This adversity may bring us together. I don't think this is the only challenge we will face."

Councillor-elect Gord Tosh said he is also reviewing his options, and would not comment on his interest in the reeve's position.

"I haven't discussed it with my employer," Tosh said on Monday, "and that would be the first step."

For Councillor-elect Dave Adsett, it is too soon to know how the reeve's position should be filled.

"We haven't had a report from our lawyer but I've always said that when the going gets tough, the tough get going, and we will deal with Reeve Harris's resignation," Adsett said Sunday.



LEARNING THEIR LINES! Rockwood Centennial parents and students rehearse for the upcoming production of This Is What I Want, This Is What I Get! (Submitted photo)

Play to benefit Centennial PTA

The Eramosa Community Players are donating their talents to a benefit presentation for the Rockwood Home & School Association.

The players, who have their roots founded in the famous production The Spirit of Shivaree, are also known for last year's production Waiting for the Parade. The combined effort features students and parents playing fictional parts,

and community leaders playing themselves.

The play, entitled "This is What I Want, This is What I Get!" depicts present-day life in Rockwood as seen through the eyes of a young boy, who learns a little about life's mysteries from an unusual source.

Proceeds go to the Rockwood Home and School Association, a non-profit group dedicated to enhancing the learning experience at the Rockwood Centennial School.

The one hour play, written by Susan Gailer and directed by Beth Patterson, will run three nights, Dec. 12, 13 and 14 beginning at 7:30 pm at Centennial School.

Tickets are \$2 for students 16 and under, \$3 for seniors and \$5 for adults, available at the door. Call ahead to reserve at 856-4753.

Police issue warning to area residents

Police are warning Eramosa residents to be aware of two suspicious men who have been approaching rural homes.

Area OPP received two complaints last week from rural residents who encountered the men They were driving an older model gray Chevrolet.

driving onto their properties. When approached the men both times claimed they were looking for someone who did not live at that residence.

Both men are white and about 20-years-old.

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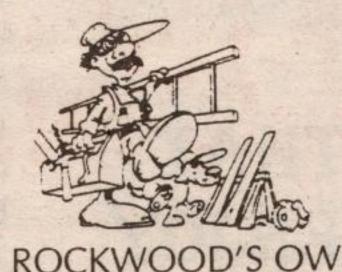
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