

# Fish 'n chip restaurant closes

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

Three years after opening Ye Olde Chip Shoppe, Rockwood's lone fish 'n chips restaurant, all Edna Woolley has to show for it is an empty storefront — and a bitter taste in her mouth.

Woolley was asked by her landlords, Gord and Michele Dawe, to clear out the Main Street building by Nov. 15 after admitting she could only afford to pay \$480 of an imposed rent of \$800-a-month on the two-storey building.

Already two years locked into a five-year mortgage, the husband-and-wife team came to a three-year lease-to-own agreement in 1991 with Woolley. On May 1, 1991, Woolley began paying \$1,400 — \$963 for the first mortgage the Royal Bank in Guelph was holding and \$437 on a second mortgage to the Dawes. On Oct. 1 of this year the mortgage was due.

However, when Woolley approached the bank, she was told she didn't qualify — for no specific reasons — for a personal or commercial mortgage, thus contributing to her inability to assume ownership of the building.

At this time, Michele says, she did a re-mortgage and asked Woolley to pay \$800 rent. Michele adds that Woolley sent her a letter telling her she wouldn't pay that much, but would give her \$480.

"I didn't want to increase her difficulties or wish her ill in any way, but when you don't have a lease, you don't tell (your landlords) what you are going to do," explained Michele on Thursday.

Disgusted by what she termed "a very rude letter," and deciding enough was enough, Michele returned a letter to Woolley asking her to have the chip shop cleared out by Nov. 15.



**BITTER!** Edna Woolley with her old sign and an eviction notice.

"After giving her the notice I had three people ask me about renting the building. I could easily rent it for \$800 a month," Michele insisted. "It's the best location in town — it's on the Main Street, there's parking, and you get people from both ends of town."

Woolley claims charging her \$800 rent was a vindictive act on Michele's part.

"She was asking me to pay \$13.50 a square-foot for the 600 square-foot building. You would be lucky to get that in Toronto, let alone in Rockwood," Woolley charged the other day, adding she would have agreed to a five-year lease at \$550 a month.

Michele refused and the restaurant served its last customer shortly before 7 pm on Nov. 12.

"To have that control by some-

one in your life who says 'pay this or get out' really hurts," explained Woolley, 44. "She (Michele) knew if she raised it that high I couldn't afford it, but she had the law behind her in evicting me."

"People should be aware when renting commercial property that there are loopholes that you can fall through and have no recourse," said Woolley, who attended grade school with Gord Dawe. "It's a lesson very hard-learned."

Woolley, who swears she'll never open a business in Rockwood again, had problems each time she pursued relocation in the village. The landlord who owns Rhonda's didn't want a restaurant in that building, another business didn't have a water-sewage hookup and the electrical wiring at a third location was not up-to-par.

# Play practices continue

## CENTENNIAL NEWS

BY JACOB RUPPERT, MATT MILSON & LEE JACOB

This week at Centennial the junior and intermediate students held a hackey-sack tournament. The winner was Scott Monaghan; runner up was Mike Moffit.

The intermediate boys and girls volleyball teams travelled to Erin for exhibition games last week. Both teams had a lot of success.

Two of our primary classes also travelled to Erin High for the folk dance jamboree. Mrs. Jestin said the children enjoyed themselves

and even did some line dancing. Grade 6 students went to the Medieval Times dinner and tournament in Toronto. Many students were wearing special crowns on the bus home that night.

The Grade 6s have also been holding bake sales to help raise money for their trip to Mansfield Conservation Area.

Many classes have been working hard to prepare for the holiday festival assembly. Mr. Root's drama group is practicing the play "Reindeer on the Roof." Primary students will present "Cock-a-doodle Dandy."

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