

## LETTERS

### Time for a change

To the Editor,

We are now in a situation where approximately half the voters of Eramosa chose Leverne Harris as reeve, and half chose Don Gordon.

Whoever becomes reeve will have a tough time representing

such a split constituency. Maybe the current election results might be enough confirmation for enough people that our problem is not electing the right people, but having the right system of government.

The concept that five individuals on Council can represent a whole township has become unworkable, especially in light of Eramosa's recent political history.

Canada's traditional system of democracy is based on the power of citizens to choose their representatives every few years. Be-

tween elections, governments can run up large debts, pork-barrel to their friends, and steam-roll over community concerns.

Now, for most issues, each of us could probably be comfortable with almost any representative. The crux comes down to issues that are near one's heart. A farmer in the northern part of Eramosa probably doesn't care whether Rockwood has garbage collection or not, but if there was consideration of a dump next door, the farmer would be very interested indeed.

When an issue is important to

us, we want to be heard, and feel that we have a say in the matter.

This is where bottom-up democracy comes in. This kind of democracy does not mean that each of us is involved in every issue. That is Council's job. However, when an issue is important to us, a participatory system would allow us to become part of the decision-making process, along with other concerned citizens.

Democracy was originally developed based on the faith that intelligent citizens, discussing issues face to face, can on the whole

come to the best resolutions.

Eramosa can become a showcase of a community working together. If we were to listen to each others' concerns, confrontation could turn to cooperation.

With all the skills and know-how in this community, imagine what we could do with an involved and respected citizenry!

What do you think? Would you be interested in bottom-up democracy? Why or why not? Give me a call at 856-9719.

Lev Tarasov  
R.R. 3, Rockwood

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## Township's reeve seat is still vacant

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Rockwood Miller

It could be months before Eramosa Township Council chooses a reeve to fill the seat dramatically vacated by Leverne Harris just weeks after his re-election.

At the inaugural meeting of the new Township Council on Monday night, Council announced they needed time to study the two options available to fill the seat.

Following a closed-door meeting with their solicitor, Council took no action on filling the position except to name newly-elected Deputy Reeve Rick Hughes as interim reeve so they could carry on Township business.

"Council has not made a decision with regard to how the vacancy will be filled," Hughes told rate payers in Council chambers.

"We just got sworn in. If you're looking for a decision tonight, you're not going to get it."

Council may appoint someone from within Council to fill the reeve's seat, or can call a by-election, estimated to cost \$10,000.

Following the meeting, interim Reeve Hughes said he does not know if he wants, or is wanted, for the reeve's job.

"We want to do this, say, in an

elegant way and not be rushed," Hughes explained, "and we have not had any serious discussion about which way we are going."

Hughes said his employer is willing to make concessions so he would have time to carry out the duties of reeve, but he cautioned that the decision is up to Council. If the majority want to have a by-election he will respect that.

Council. Gord Tosh is waiting to see what concessions his employer might make before deciding if he could handle the workload.

"I am unsure if I would want the job, assuming my employer would make some concessions and that Council wanted me," Tosh said following the meeting.

"My wife was just elected to the school board and with both of us attending meetings it would make our house extremely busy and my family is really important to me, so the decision hasn't been made."

Newly sworn-in councillor Cathy McIntyre said they don't want to rush the decision.

"Tonight is the first night we've had a chance to sit down together and discuss filling the position," McIntyre explained.

"We've had a discussion with our lawyer and now we need to sit

down and talk among ourselves.

"We don't want it to be a rushed decision. We want to make sure

we are making the right and proper decision for everybody."

The other new member of Council, Dave Adsett, said he wants the public to comment on how the reeve's position should be filled.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT! Students of Rockwood music teacher Debbie Tilson performed seasonal sounds in the library on Sunday. Here the choir sings a closing medley (Lori Frechette photo)

## Rockwood residents in car crash

A Rockwood woman was taken to hospital after a two-vehicle high-way crash on Friday night.

Jennifer Daborn, 18, was the lone passenger in a 1989 Mercury four-door car driven by a 16-year-old male who has since been

charged with careless driving.

The accident occurred at 9:45 pm on County Rd. 50 at Hwy. 25, north of Acton, as a '91 Ford driven by Daniel Jansen, 20, of Rockwood stopped to avoid hitting a deer. Police say the second vehi-

cle, also travelling eastbound on County Rd. 50, then drove into the back of Jansen's car.

Neither Jansen nor the charged youth were hurt as a result of the crash, but both cars sustained severe damage.

### I'm a community newspaper.

While the high and the mighty strut and stamp across the world's stage, a handful of proud citizens tend the flower beds outside a local church. A young girl scores the winning goal in a soccer game. The local tennis club builds a new clubhouse.

The real lives of real people. People who don't start wars, who don't build empires, who don't go into the history books. But whose stories are exciting, interesting and important. Stories that should be told.

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