

# Mark Thomsen is named to Eramosa Council

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Rockwood Miller

In a 3-to-1 vote, Everton resident Mark Thomsen, a defeated candidate in November's municipal election, was chosen to fill the vacant councillor's seat on Eramosa Township Council.

Thomsen, 36, was chosen by Council from eight candidates interviewed to fill the vacant Council seat.

The surprise resignation of

Reeve Leverage Harris set up a domino effect on Council, as newly-elected Deputy-Reeve Rick Hughes was chosen to fill Harris's seat and Councillor Dave Adsett was chosen to fill the vacant deputy-reeve's position.

Thomsen said he would have preferred to come on Council with a clear win in November's election, but was pleased to be able to serve.

Thomsen said his first job will

be to get up to speed on the issues facing Council.

"Certainly, there is a lot of homework to be done over the next while," Thomsen said after Monday night's Council meeting.

"I have to look at the issues that are facing Eramosa and make the best decision possible in the favour of the people. I certainly have good insight from the various committees I have been involved with in the past and hopefully I can

bring some of that information to Council."

Thomsen, a communications consultant, has chaired the Everton Resident's Group and chaired Eramosa 20-20, a citizen's group, which was looking at a long-term vision for the Township.

Thomsen defeated Don Gordon for the vacant Council seat. Gordon came within 18 votes of winning the reeve's seat in the November election.

Reeve Rick Hughes nominated Gordon, noting that he was a long-time Eramosa resident who was involved in the arts and political scene.

Hughes said that all eight of the candidates who put their names forward had impressive qualifications and skills and that Council had taken "appropriate steps" in nominating two people who had campaigned for a seat on Council during the election.

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## STAR SPEAKERS!

Rockwood Centennial students Lindsay MacNevin, right, and Chad Airdrie finished first and second in the school's Junior public speaking competition on Thursday. MacNevin, who spoke about her teenage sister, Jenny, will compete in the area finals on Feb. 7. The county finals are Feb. 14. (Doug Harrison photo)

# New 'Plan' for Township

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK  
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A strong commitment to protect the environment and a stated vision for the future are highlighted in the newly revised Eramosa Township's Official Plan - the blueprint for future growth.

At a meeting on Monday night, Township Council was briefed on modifications made to the new Official Plan since it was approved by Council in 1992.

Planning consultant Brett Salmon said the revised Official Plan was still waiting for provincial approval, which is expected within months.

Salmon noted that some portions of the new Official Plan, including those dealing with all vacant developable land within the existing Rockwood Police Village boundaries, can not be approved due to appeals and referrals on items that they have been unable to come to agreement on.

"The two developments that likely will come on board in Rockwood are the Seaton and Bernardi developments because they already have verbal approval by the Ontario Municipal Board. There are also four or five requests to include land that currently is outside the Rockwood boundary," Salmon said.

"In addition to that, there have been concerns expressed about the amount of natural environment lands designated within the

Rockwood boundaries and that the residential development potential in Rockwood has been underestimated," Salmon said.

Outside Council Chambers, Salmon said most of the 106 modifications he was reporting on were technical wording changes.

"The old Official Plan really started out as the Guelph and Suburban Plan. It was split in 1985 so that plan does not have a strong statement of a local vision like this new one has," Salmon explained.

The new plan's vision calls for managed growth with preservation, protection and enhancement of the attributes of Eramosa's rural landscape.

There is also a strong theme in the new Official Plan to preserve the environment. Included are provisions that would require developers to prepare environmental impact studies.

Reeve Rick Hughes said they are already looking beyond the Official Plan with a 50-year Master Serving and Land Use Plan.

"One of the key thrusts of this study, from an engineering and suitability study, is where the growth should go, outside the boundaries of the Rockwood Police Village," Hughes said.

"This study will look beyond the horizon of the current Official Plan, and depending on how quickly you have growth, it could be that you would include additional lands a lot sooner than 50

years." Hughes added the situation is very "fluid" at the moment because the Township has not received formal confirmation from Guelph that it will sell the Township additional sewage capacity.

"Growth hinges on sewage. I seriously doubt that we could ever get Ministry of Energy and Environment approval for our own sewage treatment plant on the Eramosa River, and I don't think I would want it, personally," Hughes said.

Council expects to give final approval of the new Official Plan in March.

## Bingo!

Don't forget: the Rockwood Lions Club is hosting Progressive Jackpot Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month.

The action begins at 7 pm at the Rockmosa Community Centre, and all area residents are invited.

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