

Re-zoning tainted by Hilts conviction?

Rockwood's Lou Hilts does not think a court conviction for building without a permit and zoning approval will hurt his chances of getting a re-zoning for a property behind the Old Town Hall.

Hilts wants to legitimize an existing car repair garage and storage area on land on the west side of Main Street, from Eramosa River to Balaclava Street.

At a recent public meeting at Eramosa Township Council to review the application no one spoke in favour of the proposal and there was one letter of objection from a neighbour of the property, former Deputy-Reeve Ken Mercer.

In the letter Mercer urged Council to reject the application, based on environmental, planning and le-

gal issues that include a court conviction against Hilts for building and zoning regulations.

"Bearing this (the conviction) in mind, you as the guardians of the by-laws must now consider the effects that accepting this re-zoning will have on all other applications," Mercer's letter read.

"When a conviction for zoning violations is obtained in the courts, it is your obligation to validate such a conviction if Township laws are going to be effective."

Mercer, who lives near the property, went on to list at least four sections of the zoning by-law that the application does not meet.

Council took no action on the application but will debate its merits at a future meeting.

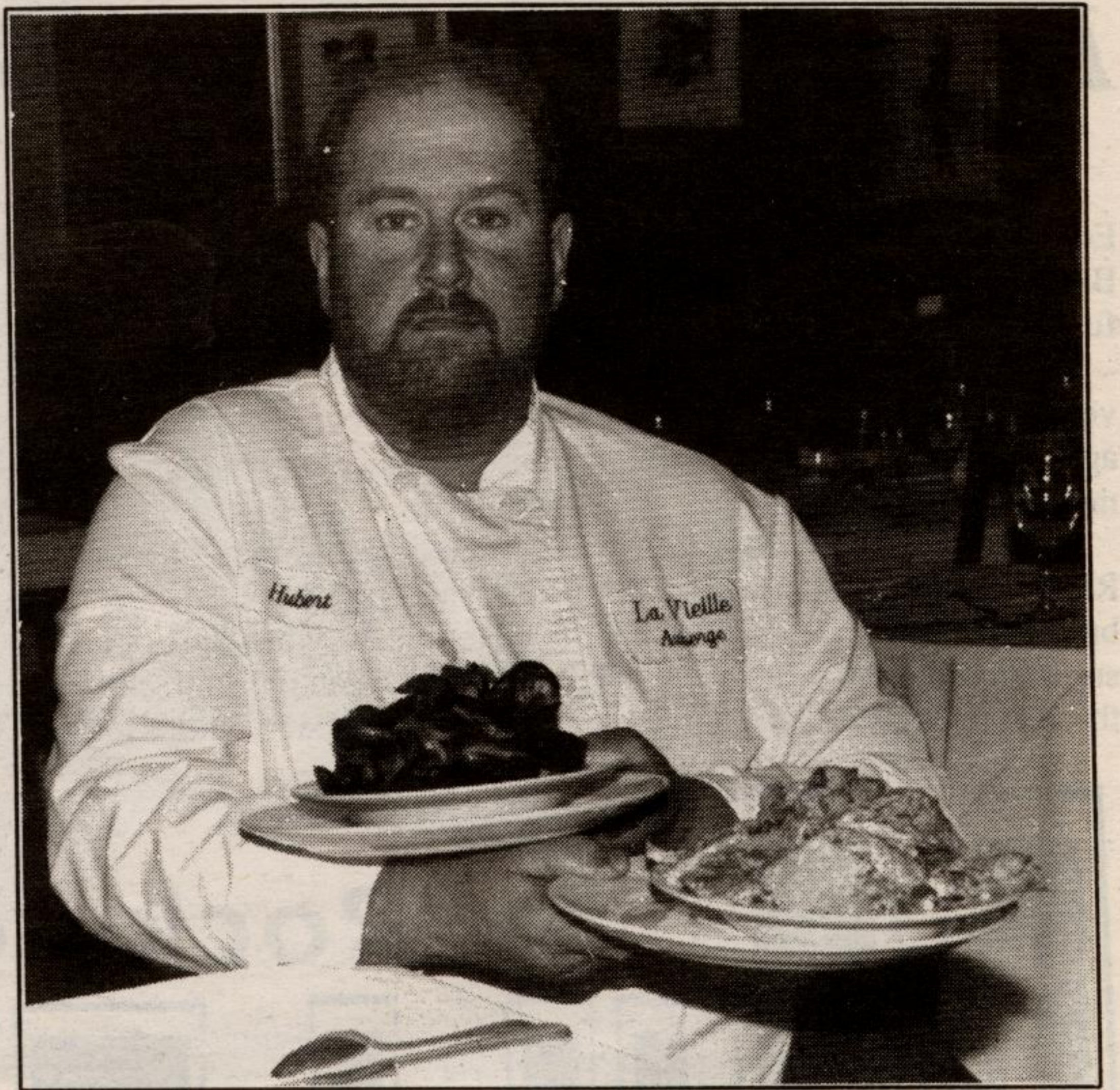
What's up!

Here's a preview of coming events in the Rockwood and Eden Mills area:

Feb. 22, Wednesday — 8 pm: The Rockwood Gardening Club will have Ron Crawford from Crescent Nursery showing slides on irises, including a talk on their history and cultivation. In the basement at the Rockmosa Community Library. Everybody is welcome!

Feb. 24, Friday: No adult-teen community volleyball tonight. We couldn't get the gym. Volleyball resumes next Friday night.

Feb. 26, Sunday — 1 pm: Sunday Afternoon of Music. In the music room at the Rockmosa Community Library. There is no admission, but donations towards music books for the library would be appreciated. Dessert will be served after the concert.



LOOKS GREAT! Hubert Biemann shows off steamed mussels and Caesar salad, dishes available at the Mardi Gras feast.

Rockwood Mardi Gras set for March 12, 19

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

While the next seven days will bring about more cries from those suffering February blahs, this time of year always conjures up memories of dancing in the street for Hubert Biemann.

With Mardi Gras celebrations wrapping up this weekend in New Orleans, the owner-chef of *La Vieille Auberge* recalls his days growing up in the French area of Basel, Switzerland, where for one week of the year, restaurants never closed and people paraded through the streets night and day.

Biemann likens Mardi Gras to Halloween here. There's a ball every night at each restaurant with people, who can't reveal themselves until midnight, dressed in costumes. And speaking is taboo.

"It can be a lot of fun," says Biemann, who visited New Orleans for Mardi Gras five years ago. "I met my first girlfriend that way. I wouldn't have otherwise, because I was too shy."

And for the sixth straight year, chef Biemann wants fun to be part of Rockwood for Mardi Gras in the village on March 12 and 19.

Although there's not the same feel of Basel or New Orleans, Biemann — who immigrated to Canada in 1975 — says the event is still successful.

The highlight of the two Sundays is a six-course cajun meal at *La Vieille Auberge*. About 55 people will be seated each night from 3 to 6 pm and enjoy such delights as black bean soup, cajun shrimp, catfish, crawfish, cajun beef, corn bread and whiskey pudding.

A band consisting of banjo, clarinet, tuba and trombone players will provide entertainment and add to the cozy atmosphere of the Main Street South restaurant.

"There's a certain warmth about the event," Biemann explains.

"People are taken with the music, Dixieland-style. It's very lively and people feel good."

In the past, people have cross-country skied through the Conservation Area, skated at Lloyd Dyer Park and enjoyed other family activities before dining.

And new this year, Biemann announces, is an ice sculpture demonstration on March 5 at St. John Anglican Church, by professional ice carver Ross Navaro. Navaro will have works of dragons, seals and swans on display for purchase.

The hill at the side of the church will also be open for tobogganing, says Biemann, who created a swan from his lone attempt at ice sculpting 15 years ago in Edmonton.

About 15 Rockwood Centennial students will be cooking sausages and hot dogs, along with selling hot cider to raise money for their Grade 8 trip to Ottawa.

Fred's Pizza break-in

Police responded to a break, enter and theft at Fred's Pizzeria in Rockwood that occurred overnight Saturday.

Beer and alcohol, totalling \$1,200, were taken from the popular eatery on Hwy. 7.

OPP are investigating.

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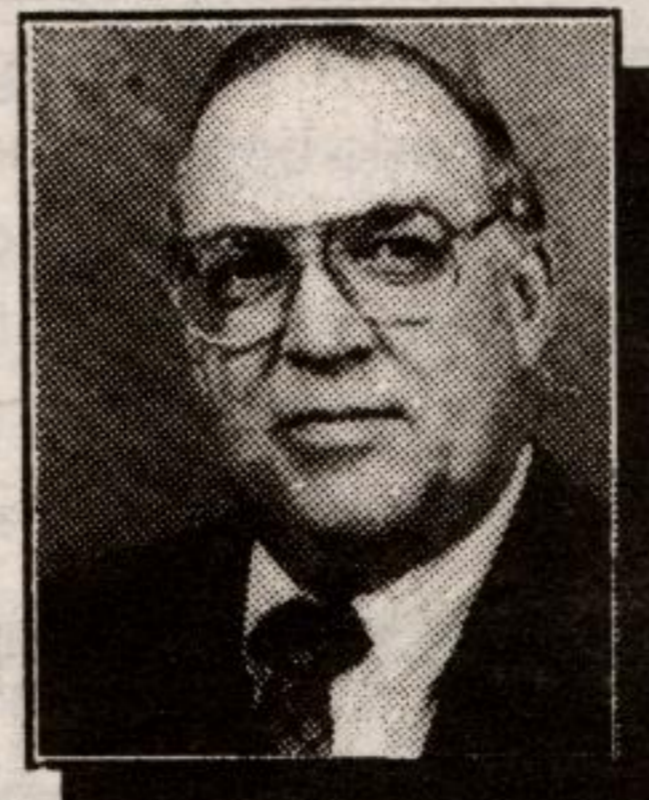
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