

Pioneer Day, June 10, should be better than ever

BY PAUL NOLAN
The Rockwood Miller

Pioneer Day is almost here and organizer Marla Reid is predictably putting a lot of hours into the annual project.

But the Rockwood woman is quick to defer most of the credit for the popular celebration.

"The people who help me are just great," Reid enthused last night (Tuesday). "I've been able to del-

egate jobs, and when someone says they'll do something, they really do it!"

Reid, who has been juggling Pioneer Day responsibilities with a year-end audit at work, explained that "the whole community gets involved; sometimes I wonder who'll be around to watch the parade, because it seems like the entire village is marching in it."

Reid said that the kick-off pa-

rade (which leaves Rockmosa at noon next Saturday, June 10) should be exciting, thanks to Parade Marshall John Root.

"We've got a lot of entrants lined up - at least as many as last year," she assured.

The parade will wind its way to Lloyd Dyer Park, where there will be a horse demonstration, drill-team dogs, Rockwood cloggers, the Guelph Citizens' Band and the

ever-popular dunking booth.

Rockwood Scouts have arranged for a hot air balloon to take residents up in the air, while Sky High kites from Eden Mills will be demonstrating and selling a variety of quality kites.

Reid said that one highlight of Pioneer Day will be the return of the "Swiss Band," which will entertain people with their "outlandish costumes and music."

Hubert Bielmann of La Vieille Auberge arranged for the band's return to Rockwood.

The Rubber Duck Race is actually the day's first event, starting at 10 am.

Township staff and politicians will play a "mystery" squad in an exhibition ball game at the Lloyd Dyer diamond at 4 pm.

As usual an outdoor dance is scheduled for the evening.

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Pre-cast bridge supports could save bundle

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

Eramosa resident Gary Martin thinks a Guelph company can save Eramosa Township a lot of money for bridge replacements and repairs.

Shocked when he learned of the \$5.25 million price tag to replace 19 of the Township's 29 bridges, Martin brought the owners of Con Cast Pipe to a recent council meeting.

After hearing that the Township could save one-half to two-thirds of the bridge costs by using pre-cast culverts and spans, Council asked their consulting engineers to look into the product and

report back.

"This technology has been used in Quebec and in the States with two vertical walls and an arch," Martin said in a recent interview.

"I costed-out six Township bridges and found a large savings. I'm glad that Council has agreed to look into using this type of pre-cast product."

Con Cast spokesman Dean Coffin told Council that using pre-cast culverts instead of poured-on-site sections would result in lower costs, quicker installation, and lower maintenance costs. He also noted that the culverts would meet all government specifications.

A cost comparison done by Coffin on one bridge showed that the Township's proposed cost was \$279,000 and Con Cast's price

was \$107,000.

"Maybe this is the compromise that some people are looking for in the Bowstring Bridge controversy

in Eden Mills," Martin said.

"Here is a cost effective replacement plan using eight pre-cast arches in a double span."

Rockwood thefts may be linked

Two occurrences of petty theft in Rockwood may be linked, says Constable Mike Gordon of the Guelph OPP.

Sometime overnight last Monday, a pick-up truck was entered and a briefcase and its contents, which value \$450, were stolen.

The truck was parked in the driveway of a Main Street residence at the time.

That same night, a truck parked in a Brady Lane driveway was entered and a cellular phone was taken. Value of loss is \$200.

In both cases the vehicles were unlocked.

"The village has been targeted in the past, especially over the summer when the weather is better. I would remind people to lock their cars," warns Constable Gordon.

In an unrelated case, a man reported finding a cellular phone under his car on Main Street last Wednesday, around 2 pm. This phone was linked to a previous theft, reported last year.



TALENTED TRACKERS! These Rockwood Centennial students were the big ribbon winners at the school's Grade 7 and 8 track and field day on Friday. Front row, from left: Andrew Buckland, Graham Marsh, Katie Jowett and Melissa Wassens. Middle row: Brady Straw and Justin Davis. Back row: Dawn Airdrie and Mike Wahlstrom. (Doug Harrison photo)

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See Page 13 for an election update.

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