

Precast concrete bridge won't be built in Eden Mills

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

A precast concrete structure will not be used to replace the deteriorating Bowstring Bridge in Eden Mills.

Eramosa Township's consulting engineering firm said it approves of the technology, but the use of precast spans and culverts,

instead of conventional poured-in-place structures, depends on many variables, including soil conditions, hydrology and road clearance.

Faced with a multi-million dollar price tag to replace 19 of the Township's bridges, Council asked staff to investigate the precast technology, brought to

Council's attention by a ratepayer. In a letter to Council, Trevor Smith of Triton Engineering Services said the recommendation to use the technology would depend on the specific project needs and conditions at each bridge site.

Small said using a precast concrete culvert is not feasible in Eden Mills because the minimum verti-

cal walls for road speed design can not be met if the bridge driving surface is to be raised, unless a significant amount of private land, necessary to build the bridge approaches, was acquired.

Small also said the arch shape of the product makes its use uneconomical for the Bowstring replacement job.

The pros for using precast structures include rapid installation, long service life, low maintenance and lower costs.

Reeve Rick Hughes said the hydrology, the river flow, will determine what type of structure will be used in Eden Mills.

Survey work is underway to replace the Bowstring bridge.

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Rash of vandalism deemed 'isolated cases'

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

A rash of vandalism in the village two weeks ago, including between 10 and 13 occurrences and 14 different mischief charges, was an isolated case, says Rockwood Community Oriented Police

(COP) officer Andrew Ferguson. "Rockwood's been pretty quiet for a while. This latest incident shocked a lot of people, but I think it was just a matter of getting blitzed in one night and everyone was a victim," Ferguson explained on Friday.

Police received several reports from homeowners of damage to lawns, shrubs and fences, as a late 1970s cream-coloured pick-up truck was driven across properties and through neighbourhoods.

Other occurrences included a red Firebird stolen from a Rock-

wood home and later recovered on Hwy. 24 and two other stolen cars — a grey Camaro and an Acadian.

The truck was stolen from a home on Hwy. 24 and taken for a joy ride. It was later involved in an accident at Eramosa and Speedvale in Guelph, where the culprits apparently made off on foot.

Ferguson said the cause of damage could be estimated at \$3,500.

Guelph OPP Constable Belinda Rose, who is the investigating officer in this case, said on Friday that more than two males, as was initially reported, were involved in the vandalism. One sporting a shaved head and the other appeared to be a teen who couldn't see over the steering wheel.

As well, Rose added, the Firebird may have had personalized or new-style plates.

"One of the culprits even asked someone on the street at three in the morning where the truck went," she commented. "There were four vehicles involved, so someone

must have seen them."

Ferguson said the fact that some trees that were planted and nurtured all their life and now can't be replaced, is the greatest inconvenience to residents.

When asked if Rockwood was a target for these acts, since it's a small town, Ferguson replied, "possibly."

"Rockwood doesn't have a big night-life and a lot of people commute, so stores aren't open late. There are no factories and the streets are usually quiet by 11 pm on weeknights," said Ferguson. "Therefore you don't have the volume of traffic and eyes."

He suggested that residents should be aware when something unusual occurs in front of them. Jotting down a license plate number, getting the make, model and colour of the vehicle are factors in leading to an arrest.

If you have any information concerning this case, please call 822-7250 or 1-800-265-2525.



HOLY ROLLERS? National Hockey League player Mike Hudson was back home in Rockwood recently to attend the annual Eden House fundraiser for Alzheimer's disease. Mike, who toiled for the Pittsburgh Penguins this season, suited up for the St. John Anglican Church "Holy Rollers" team in the bed race. Above, Mike, along with Nancy Beattie and Jane Thatcher, tries to eat dessert without a spoon during the race's obstacle course. (Eve Martin photo)

Break-in at Fred's Pizzeria

Fred's Pizzeria on Alma Street was the site of a break-and-enter at 3 am Thursday. A brick was thrown through the window of a door causing \$200 damage, and \$500 worth of liquor was taken.

Though the alarm went off, the culprits made off before police arrived.

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