

McPhed's closing July 18, moving shop to Guelph

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

It was a difficult decision, but convenience and the potential for increased sales has prompted Al and Cathie McPhedran to put the For Sale sign on McPhed's Keep It Country and move to Guelph. While business has been steady

during eight years here, Cathie says it didn't make sense to have two stores within a 10-mile radius.

"It would almost be like competing against yourself," she says, adding the Guelph store will open on July 20. "There's a different clientele of business there. People wouldn't make the drive here, but

the rural Rockwood people would drive to Guelph."

Being close to the University of Guelph, Stone Road Mall and Hwy. 401 were other selling points to the McPhedrans' move to a plaza across from the mall.

"We appreciate the support the Rockwood and area people have

given us over the years. I hope they come visit us. The coffee pot will be on," said Cathie, adding the Rockwood store will remain open until July 18.

The Guelph store, complete with tack shop, boots and clothing, will carry the same merchandise as the Rockwood business.

"We try to carry things other stores don't, so you don't see 12 of you on a dance floor or in a show ring," Cathie explains.

She likens the move to leaving home. But, she quickly adds, "we will stay a part of the community, because our kids go to school and play ball here."

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Citizens oppose south-end variety store

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

Plans for a neighbourhood convenience store at the south end of Rockwood were the focus of an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing on Thursday at Eramosa Township Council chambers.

The hearing was instigated by Rockwood developer Lou Hilts, who appealed a 1990 Eramosa Council decision against a proposed commercial development on his property on the east side of

Hwy. 7 at MacLennan Street.

Although Hilts' proposal originally was for a large food store, it has been down-sized several times and currently includes only a convenience store.

The current Township Council neither objected to, nor supported the proposal at the one-day OMB hearing — much to the dismay of many local residents, who are opposed to any type of commercial development on the site that borders the Rockwood Cemetery.

"Council has let the residents of Rockwood down," said John Street resident Elaine Boothe in an interview on Sunday.

"Past councils rejected commercial development on this site and we expected this council to do the same."

"This is one of the main entrances to the village and I think this Council should have supported the 260 people who signed a petition against commercial development at that location," Boothe said.

The petition, which was filed with the OMB, lists seven reasons why the proposal should not be allowed, including no need for more commercial space in Rockwood outside of the established core, potential traffic and pedestrian safety problems with a single access-exit on MacLennan Street and the incompatibility of a commercial development adjacent to an operating cemetery.

"We didn't move to Rockwood from the city to have the convenience of having something like a Mac's Milk or 7-11 on the corner," Boothe said.

"We moved here for the flavour of the community and I believe that we have a responsibility to keep existing retailers in business, considering the number of vacant stores already in the village."

Reeve Rick Hughes said there had been many compromises made heading into the OMB hearing.

"We've come a long way from

the proposals for a large food store and a gas bar," Hughes said in an interview on Sunday.

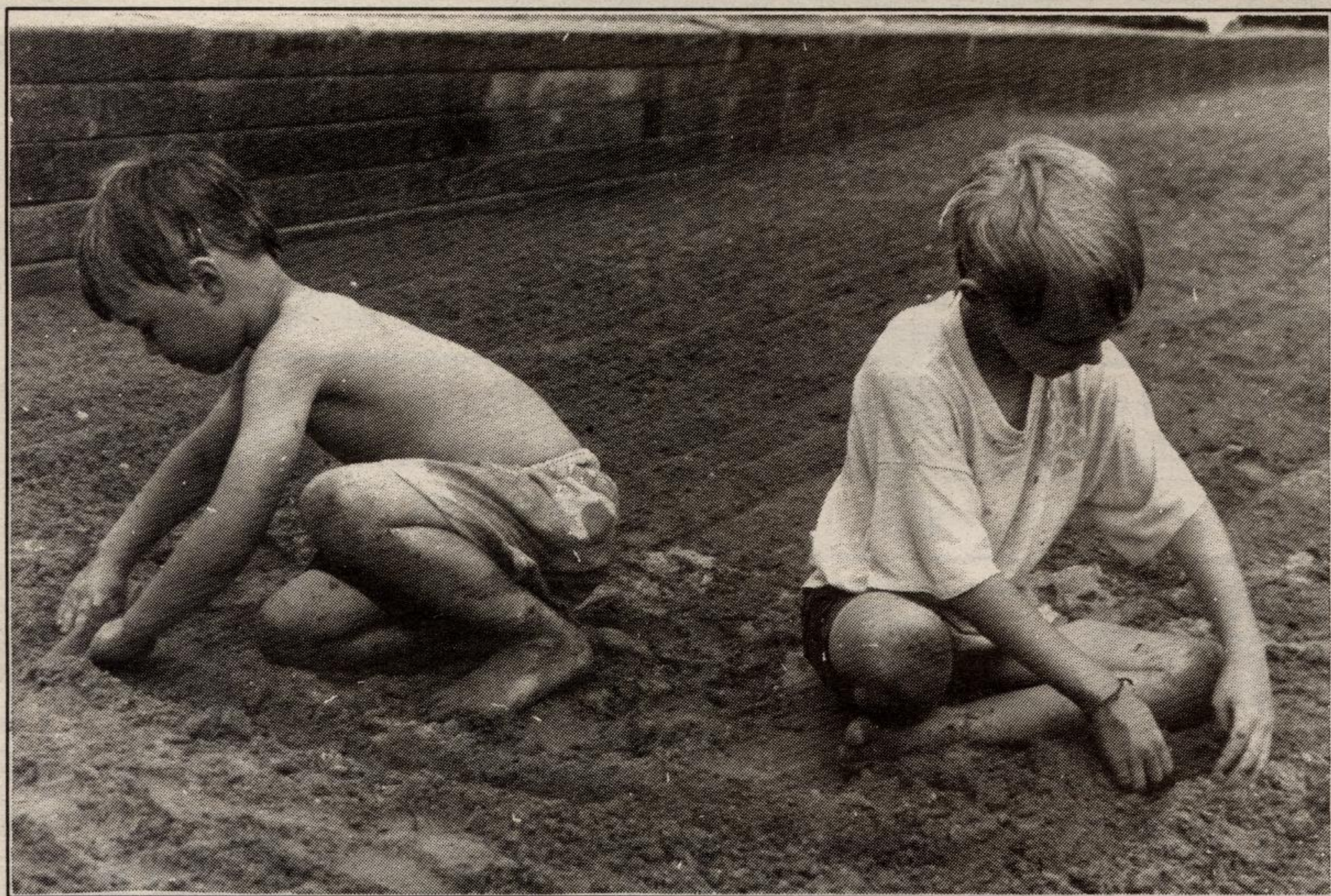
"Hilts came forward with a proposed site plan that fits in, to a large degree, with the adjacent neighbourhood in terms of having it well landscaped and buffered and lit to protect the sight lines to the cemetery."

Eramosa Township Clerk-Administrator Virginia Sinnott said Council will be able to control what type of develop occurs on the property, if approved by the OMB, through site plan control.

"The Township asked the Board not to issue an order, if the development is approved, until a site plan is finalized and agreed to," Sinnott explained on Monday.

That means the Township will have a say on issues like fencing, lighting, landscaping and drainage on the site.

The Board reserved a decision on the proposal.




ON THE BEACH! We caught Nolan Brown, left, 6, and his friend, 5-year-old Justen Boss-Moodie, digging a path in the sand along the beach at Rockwood Conservation Area on Thursday. The two boys managed to finish their roadway before the rain came down. (Doug Harrison photo)

Garage, sidewalk sale

Here's your chance to get in on some great bargains!

The community garage and sidewalk sale is slated for this Friday and Saturday. The event kicks off on Friday with an open house at the Rockwood Information Centre, 126 Main St. S. from 6 to 9 pm (everyone is welcome!).

For details on the sale or on how you or your organization can get a table, phone Gord Martin at 856-2120.




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