

Rockwood's Eden House 'tosses in the (wet) sponge'

Special to The Rockwood Miller
Under sunny skies and with an enthusiastic crowd of spectators the final chapter of the Eden House Alzheimer Fundraiser took place on Thursday.

The result of over six months of

planning and the combined efforts of residents, staff, families and volunteers climaxed in the presentation of a cheque totalling \$11,770, exceeding the goal by some \$3,200.

Frank Valeriote, a board mem-

ber of the Alzheimer Society, ably, although somewhat hesitantly, took his place in the centre of a wooden forget-me-not and after artfully dodging a series of wet sponges tossed by the spectators, finally succeeded in nabbing the

cheque-laden sponge in his teeth. Thanks to "the man of a thousand teeth" for his great sportsmanship.

Eramosa Fire Chief Dave Sherratt accepted the baseball trophy on behalf of the Department and the OPP for a hard-fought win

over the Eden House team, and he eagerly accepted a challenge for a rematch at next year's fundraiser.

Refreshments concluded the afternoon, where whispers of devious events for next year could already be heard.

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'Bridge blackmail' allegations in Eden Mills

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

The Friends of Eden Mills will not give up their fight to save the village's historic Bowstring Bridge — even if the opposition means they will not have a say in the design for the replacement bridge.

"That's like blackmail, or something of the sort," said Eden Mills resident and Friends of Eden Mills member Michael Keefer, in an interview on Wednesday.

Eramosa Council said it will consider aesthetic enhancements to the replacement bridge, if the residents will give up their fight to save the aging one-lane bridge.

"We are not willing to give up our opposition to a replacement bridge and will continue to press for a proper environmental assessment," Keefer vowed.

In a memo to Council asking for direction, bridge replacement project manager and engineering consultant Trevor Small noted that although the new bridge was to be built to Ministry of Transport (MTO) standards and the lowest cost, "should the public or various special interest groups cease their objection to the replacement structure, the consultant would give consideration to incorporating cosmetic features, or some of the old bridge components, into the replacement structure."

"We have talked with Council

about public input for the new bridge, but we said that all possible avenues of opposition to a replacement bridge will be investigated," Keefer said.

A majority of village residents are opposed to replacing the unique heritage bridge with a modern, two-lane structure that could mean faster and increased traffic.

Keefer said he finds it "bizarre" that Councillors who campaigned on a fiscal responsibility platform are not questioning the cost of replacement versus rehabilitation.

"The head of the MTO structure unit told the Reeve it would cost \$255,000 to rehabilitate the Bowstring bridge but now, the revised cost to replace the bridge is \$400,000," Keefer said.

Reeve Rick Hughes said the cost of possible enhancements depends on the final design and that won't be settled for six weeks.

"I'd like to see the final structure compatible with the character of the village," Hughes said in an interview last Tuesday.

"There is a better chance to have an enhanced structure if the Township doesn't have to spend money to uphold its decision to replace the bridge at some hearing," Hughes explained.

Keefer said they have written to the new government at Queen's Park asking for an environmental hearing. The extent of public con-

cern is one issue the Ministry of Energy and Environment will look at when it determines what level of environmental screening the project will be subject to.

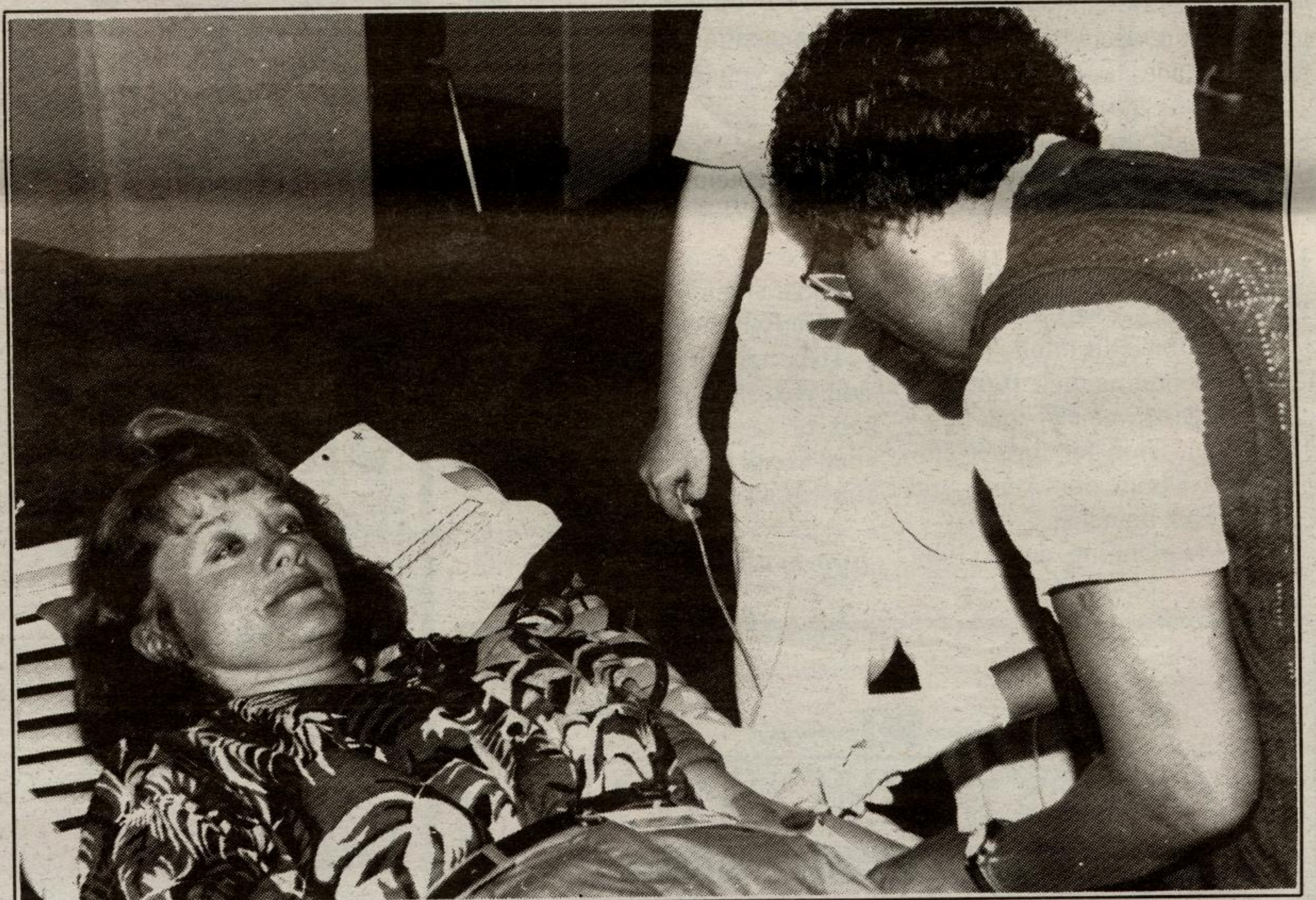
Council will also appeal a Canadian Coast Guard ruling that the bridge site on the Eramosa River is navigable. The navigable design-

ation means that Coast Guard approval of the proposed bridge reconstruction is needed. The Coast Guard will use the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to assess the project.

Hughes said Council asked its engineer to investigate if the Coast Guard's regulations concerning

the need for a two-metre clearance, from the river to the bottom of the bridge, could be reduced.

"We want a lower clearance because if we have to follow the Coast Guard regulations the deck of the new bridge would not be level with the road and that would impact on the design and the cost."



DONATION NO. 17! LeeAnn Dennis waits patiently as clinic assistant Gloria Roach helps her give blood for the 17th time at the first-ever blood donor clinic at Rockmosa last Wednesday. The clinic was sponsored by Rockwood Lions and Lionesses. Lions president Darryl Nichol said 45 units of blood was donated. "I think for the first time we did quite well," he stated. (Doug Harrison photo)

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Losers soon will begin their new weight-loss support session.

community Library Meeting Room.

The fall session begins on Sept. 7, while Orientation Night is next Thursday at the Eramosa Com-

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