

St. John's Anglican Church offers family services

BY KAREN VOSS PETERS

Special to The Rockwood Miller

Homecoming was Harvest Festival time at St. John's Anglican Church in Rockwood. The traditional service took place Sept. 24 at 9:30 am, when new and long-time members were welcomed.

Church warden Andrew Mellor reminisced about the growth and accomplishments of St. John's,

while Joan Silk, also a warden, shared future hopes and goals.

While the 9:30 service is well-attended each week, members decided a more child-friendly service should be offered to families.

With this in mind, a shorter, simpler service was held at 11 am. The aim was to welcome young families. Without prayer books or hymn books, people are able to

follow the service and care for their children at the same time.

Words to favourite children's hymns and newer songs of praise were easy to learn and sing. Prayer requests were written on squares of paper and, in some cases, crayon drawings were rendered.

This first family service was pronounced a resounding success and will continue every fourth

Sunday unless demand increases, when it would be offered weekly.

Worshippers left the church with a sense of excitement, which increased as they joined other members for a pot-luck lunch in the newly renovated Parish Hall.

Congratulations to those who helped with the renovation. Pride and love of St. John's is evidenced by the care and attention given to

its grounds and buildings.

The newly structured 11 am service is only one of several ways St. John's is offering options to those who are asking questions about their faith, while still continuing to accommodate those who attend regular worship services.

The hope is to continue to discover ways of bringing spiritual choices to the community.

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Should hardball expand by more than 1 team?

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Rockwood Miller

Hardball will eventually expand in Rockwood. The village can't support both it and softball. Realistically, not many will sign up for hardball. And kids want to play what they see.

Those are just some of the concerns and comments made by Rockwood-Eramosa Minor Baseball Association executive members and coaches concerning the issue of whether hardball should expand next season or in the coming seasons from just one team.

League secretary Sherri Thompson reports from the last REMBA meeting on Sept. 4 that no executive member had any interest in hardball and there were no advocates of hardball present.

The consensus was to defer the hardball issue to the next meeting, which is scheduled for Rockmosa Community Centre on Monday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 pm.

"Unless those who are interested in continuing hardball in Rockwood come out, it will die," says Thompson.

"I'm very much pro-softball," REMBA president Colin Langridge reveals. "Personally, I don't care for hardball, but it will eventually happen."

The stumbling block, according to Langridge, is not only the fact there would be a shortage of diamonds with hardball expansion, but the cost of fixing up the two diamonds - one at Lloyd Dyer Park, the other at Rockmosa - to

accommodate hardball.

However, both Rockwood Mosquito Boys' hardball-coach Bob Davis and Peewee Boys' softball skipper Jim Monaghan agree both diamonds could be altered without harming the softball situation, because, as the latter says, "no one is playing on an elevated mound."

Whatever, Tom Parkinson's only concern is that hardball expansion doesn't spell the end of softball.

"The support we had this season was unbelievable," says the head coach of the Ontario Rural Softball Association Squirt Girls' champs and Rockwood Tri-County squad. "It reminded me of when I played at a packed Lloyd Dyer Park when I was a kid.

"If there's room for both sports, that's fine."

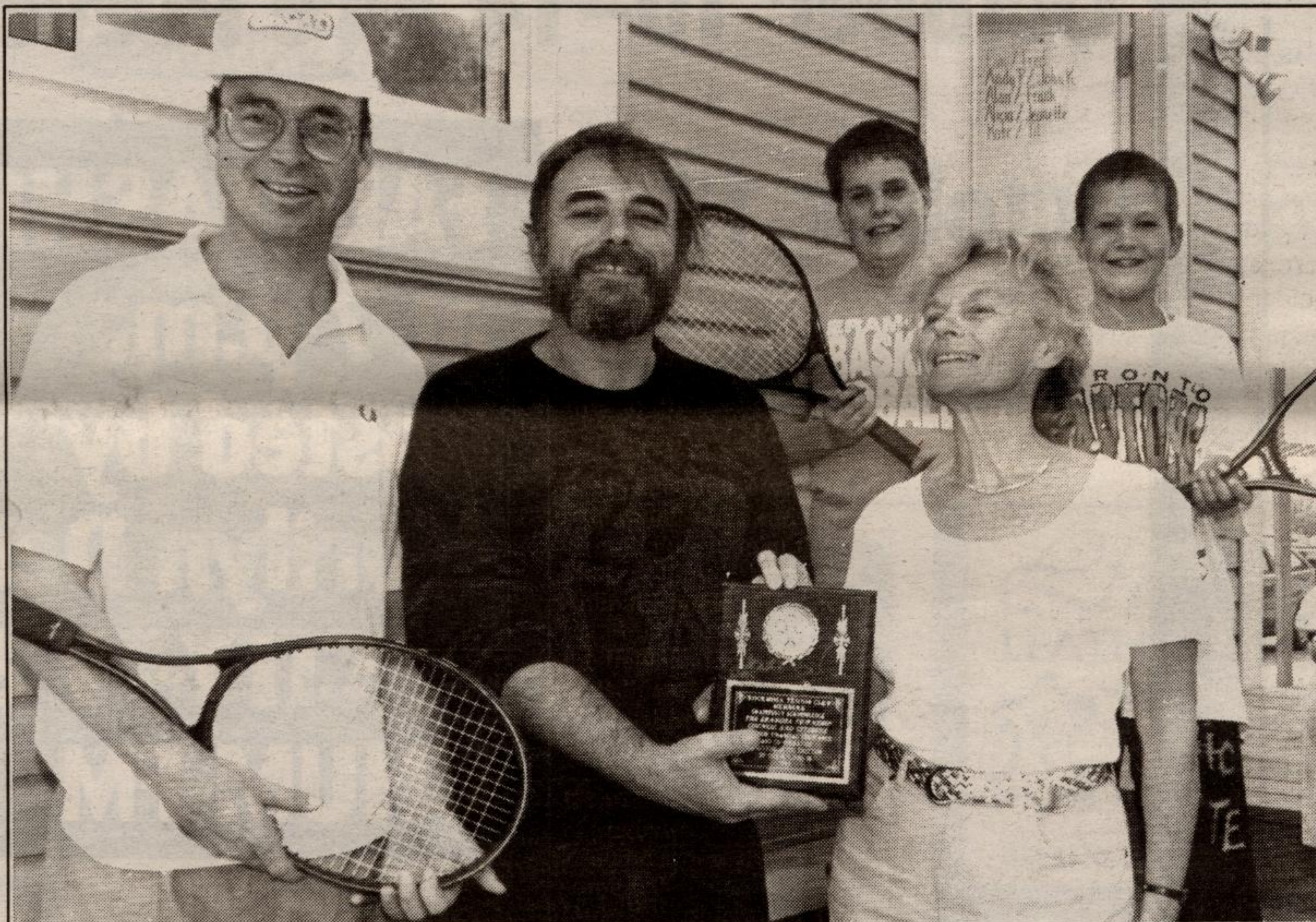
Drawing from a village of 2,100, is this realistic? Davis says yes, Monaghan a steadfast no.

"Each year in softball there are always two or three teams in each of the young age divisions," Davis points out.

Monaghan, on the other hand, questioned how it could possibly work with only 275 players who played over the past summer.

So what's the next step in giving youngsters the option of playing hardball?

Legally, Davis notes, there has to be enough support to change the constitution to permit it. He adds there would have to be enough interest in starting a new or separating the current constitution, which he figures to be "ri-



BEAUTIFUL CLUBHOUSE! The Rockmosa Tennis Club hosted an open house on Sunday to mark the official opening of their new clubhouse. Eramosa Township Reeve Rick Hughes, second from left, stopped by to present Club President Jane Isbrucker with a commemorative plaque. Also on hand were member Kirk Bradley and junior players Ean Newell and Josh Thompson. (Eve Martin photo)

diculous" in that constant conflicts over facilities would arise.

"There's enough interest in hardball that it wouldn't take over softball," Davis says. "There would be some hurt to softball, but it won't disappear. Hardball could cover all age groups in five years."

Davis says while hardball is a different game, it's more like what young players see on television.

"Young kids want to play hard-

ball. It's what their heroes play."

Adds Monaghan: "Softball, as a game itself, is good but it's dominated by a few good pitchers. It's a tough game to pitch well at. I think in hardball you can develop more pitchers."

Monaghan also feels REMBA's decision to go the Tri-County route has resulted in less competition for the ball player.

"That's why communities, such as Acton, are moving to hardball, so why not Rockwood?"

Garden talk

The Rockwood Gardening Club will feature Carol Hughes showing sides and discussing Low Maintenance Gardening at their next meeting at the Rockwood Town Hall.

The meeting is slated for Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 8 pm; everyone is welcome.

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