

Fire department honours Rockwood residents

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

It was hard to tell which was more highly polished — uniform buttons or the new rescue vehicle — on Monday night in Bruce Dale at the Township of Eramosa Fire Department's awards night.

Every three years the department and the Fire Advisory Committee honour local residents who

have made a "beyond the call of duty" contribution to the fire department.

Rockwood's Bob Ward received his award for helping fight a spectacular barn fire last year on Hwy. 7 at the Brenner farm. Ward drove a tractor through the barn wall, freeing all but one horse.

Eramosa resident Steve Osborne was honoured for helping

fight a fire at the Bonner farm in Rockwood in the summer.

Prior to Monday night's ceremony at the Eramosa Township Council Chambers, Fire Chief Dave Sherratt said awards would also be presented to Linda Semanyk, Marla Reid and former village trustee John Root, all of whom have made contributions to fire fighting in the village.

Eden Mills General Store owner Debbie Marshall, who opened her store to a family following a major fire, refusing any payment, also received an award, along with Everton resident Wayne Saunders, who contributed cash to help pay for Eramosa's junior fire safety training program.

Rockwood fire fighters who graduated from an upgrading pro-

gram received their certificates, and Guelph Wellington MP Brenda Chamberlain brought a cheque for \$27,000, a final grant payment to the Township for the new fire rescue command vehicle.

The Eramosa Optimist Club also received an award for its on-going support of the fire department, including purchases of first aid and safety equipment.

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Adsett reaches 2nd for public speaking

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

Call it three times lucky.

After failing to place in 1993 and advancing to last year's final round at the Royal Winter Fair's public speaking contest, Rockwood's Marie Adsett on Saturday took second out of 23 participants in Toronto.

For her efforts, Adsett, 23, also brought home \$300 and possibly the incentive to enter the contest for 18 to 24-year-olds for a fourth and final time next year.

"Mostly," she said from her family farm on Monday, "I get involved to learn a skill. Most of the topics had people learning about their community and agriculture."

The Erin Agricultural Society member discussed the importance of rural and urban relations. Introducing her topic with a mock telecast of CBC-TV's *Prime Time News*, Adsett related it to the recent Quebec referendum issue.

Having attended the recent pre-referendum federalist rally in Montreal, Adsett's point revolved around the possible separation of rural and urban communities.

"If that were to happen," began the broadcast journalism grad from Conestoga College, "the implications would be as symbolic and

significant as Quebec not being part of Canada.

"I also wanted people to get the message to keep in touch with their rural roots and ask questions, because if they're not informed, that is more dangerous than anything."

Adsett also referred to veterans, since her speech was delivered on Remembrance Day.

"I mentioned that we need to appreciate life and the culture of our fellow Canadians," she commented.

While she wouldn't have complained with top honours, the beaming Adsett — who worked as a news reporter with Hamilton's CHCH-TV through the summer — was content with her standing.

"I was really pleased because the person who won was the 4-H public speaking champion in Alberta," Adsett revealed. "He was also the only male in the competition and the only one out of province, so that was nice."

Adsett added that anyone who wishes to compete in next year's event should grab hold of the "wonderful opportunity" despite the heady competition.

As to where she'll devote her winnings, Adsett without hesitation remarked, "Christmas shopping."

The public speaking contest was sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Farm Credit Corporation.



REMEMBRANCE DAY: The Royal Canadian Legion colour party braved a steady downpour at Saturday's Remembrance Day Parade which ran from the village office to the Cenotaph in front of St. John Anglican Church. (Eve Martin photo)

Shoppers shopped 'til they dropped

Thirty-nine "very, very weary travellers," arrived back home after a weekend shopping trip to Woodhaven, Michigan. Organizer Dot Polo of the Lucky Losers, said the trip, a first for the group, satisfied the shopper in everyone.

"You know that saying, 'Shop 'til you drop?' We did," Polo

laughed.

The group checked out the Monroe Outlet Mall for bargains before heading to a Super K-Mart and Wal-Mart, both of which are open 24 hours a day. They stayed at the Knight's Inn, where they were looked after by Sharon, Sandy, Kay and their busy shuttle driver, Kenny.

"Everyone went out of their way for us," Polo said, including their bus driver, Doris.

After leaving Friday at 5 pm, the tired but happy shoppers returned to Rockwood Sunday evening at 9:30.

"It looks like we're going to have to plan some more shopping trips in the future," Polo said.

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