

# Breen brings energy to committee

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

With most community groups, Doug Breen has sooner or later stepped in the chair or president's role. In high school he worked his way up on student council and was captain of the football team.

So it's not surprising to see Breen succeed Gary Martin as chair of the Eramosa Parks Recreation and Culture Committee.

"I guess I might be a control freak. But the group gave me an endorsement when they made me chair," said Breen, who was essentially acclaimed at the Jan. 18 meeting when two others declined their nomination.

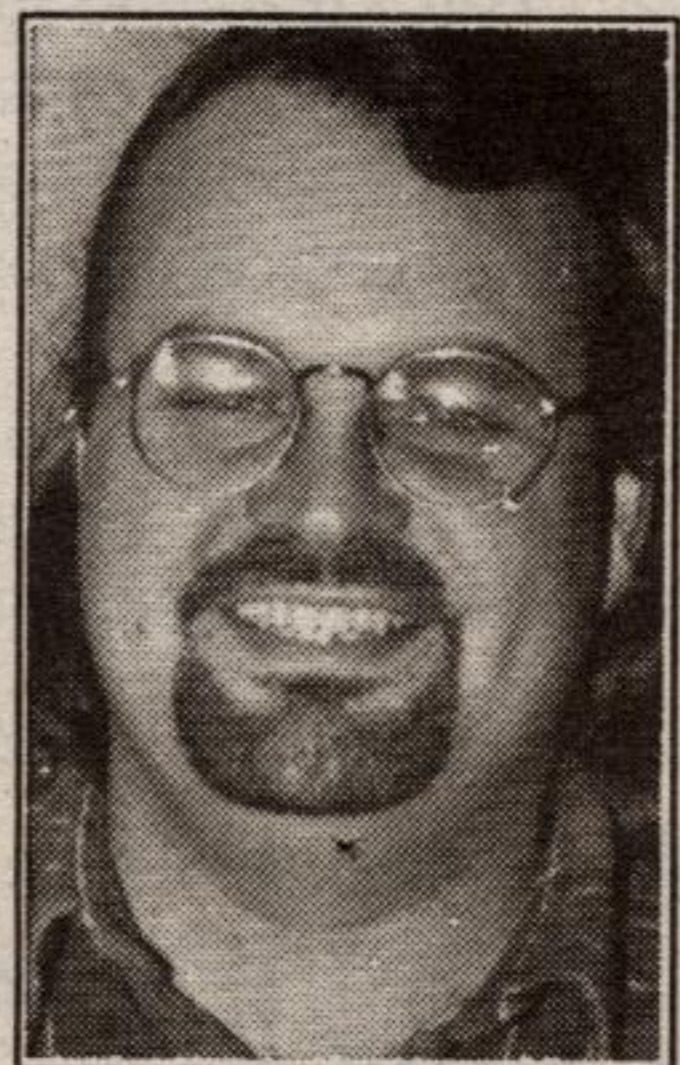
"I feel like I can fulfill the duties. I try to think beyond my years."

The 29-year-old Rockwood resident even applied for a councillor's position last February.

"I always had aspirations of getting involved in the community," said Breen, who moved here from Guelph a little over three years ago. "My family traditionally has been involved in municipi-

pal politics. My younger brother is involved with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and my grandfather was a school board trustee."

Breen, whose wife Krista works with Parks and Rec. in Toronto, came to the local Parks, Rec. and Culture Committee with a new wave of members last year. He enjoyed the energy and success of the group and is excited about the next year.



DOUG BREEN

He took a critical look at everything in the Township. Gary's done a fantastic job guiding us through the last year," praised Breen, an assistant superintendent of the golf course at the Guelph Country Club.

With the seven-member committee having recently received \$44,500 in principal from the

Town to complete natural gas conversions at Rockmosa Community Hall, Breen lists playing surfaces at Rockmosa and Lloyd Dyer Park, with talk of an alarm system at Lloyd Dyer's concession booth and a volunteer drive as the group's immediate priorities.

"We want to stay the course right now," reveals the University of Guelph agriculture, crop science and international development graduate. "We want to look at all avenues of cost saving with each project, and we are going to be asking for volunteers if we paint park bleachers and fill holes on the Rockmosa soccer patch."

A native of Putnam (near London), Breen is encouraged by the group's energy. "Everyone in this group is legitimately concerned. People care about the community. Any decision made isn't with any bias, but what's best for the community."

The Parks, Rec. and Culture Committee is looking for two new members. If interested, contact the Eramosa Township offices at 856-9951.



**HONOURABLE JUDGES...** Kenny Purton gave the first speech he had ever written last Wednesday, during Rockwood Centennial's speech competition for the junior grades, held in the school's gymnasium. Ten-year-old Kenny explained to the audience "Why I Like Cubs." (Karen Wetmore photo)

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## Ouch! CENTENNIAL NEWS

Last Tuesday, students who will be attending Grade 9 at Centre Wellington High School in September had a chance to visit that school at an open house.

Last Wednesday saw the junior students participate in the Junior Oral Communications Final at Rockwood. The winner was Bobbi-Sue Airdrie and the runner-up was Katie Leslie. The winner received a medal and a certificate and the runner-up received a medal. Each participant received a special bookmark and public speaking seal.

On Friday our gym was taken over by the Health Unit for the measles immunization. It went very smoothly and all students went through in a friendly way. Way to go Rockwood!

Intermediate students have been busy preparing their speeches and researching their science fair topics. The science fair will be held next Tuesday. Parents and guests may visit from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 pm.

## Ski time! WELLINGTON HALL ACADEMY

BY TRAVIS VAN RYN  
This week was packed with fun and work. In gym, we have started a new unit. It is badminton.

On Monday, we had our first cross-country ski lesson. It was very cold but everyone did really well. We will be skiing every Monday during gym class until the snow goes.

Our January story was due and we presented them to the class. Our weekly spelling test also went well for everyone. The senior class has begun studying the human body for science.

We finished a busy week with our measles vaccinations. The nurses did a great job. Afterwards we relaxed and had a special treat of jelly doughnuts from Saunders.