

Bridge work still waits for Coast Guard reply

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

The centre of Eden Mills could be cut off from essential services if Eramosa Township Council is unable to replace one of the two aging bridges in the village within the next year.

The load limit on the Bowstring Bridge has already been reduced to five tons and the York Street Bridge to 14 tons.

In a report to Council, Superintendent of Public Works Len Smeltzer cautioned that if no bridge work occurs this year, then the limit on the York Street Bridge might have to be reduced to eight or 10 tons, which would "in effect, cut off the centre of the village from essential services" including fire equipment, plows and sanders, fuel trucks and school buses.

Currently those vehicles are not allowed to cross the Bowstring Bridge because of weight restrictions, so they use the York Street Bridge and then turn around on the island between the two branches of the Eramosa River.

Township engineering consultant Gary Ezard, of Triton Engineering Services Limited, said no work can proceed on either bridge until the Coast Guard responds to the proposed bridge replacement plans.

A Coast Guard inspection found that the Eramosa River in the Township is navigable and therefore subject to both the Navigable Waters Protection Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

"We've submitted our proposal for the Bowstring Bridge to the Coast Guard in December and haven't heard anything back," Ezard explained in an interview

before his briefing with Council on Monday night.

"We call the south-western Ontario office every two weeks and have been told that we can't hurry the boys in Ottawa."

Ezard said if they don't get a favourable response from the Coast Guard before the end of March, there is very little chance that construction of the new Bowstring Bridge will happen this year as planned.

"Because of the cold and warm water fisheries in the river, our construction window is limited from June 1 to September 1," Ezard said.

Eramosa Reeve Rick Hughes said they will try to avoid cutting off the centre of the village and noted the Fire Department already has a plan in place if that occurs.

Hughes said he expected financing to be a significant part of the bridge discussion.

The Township earmarked \$81,000 for engineering work in last year's budget for design work on the Bowstring Bridge and construction costs are pegged at \$400,000.

The estimated engineering and design costs of the York Street Bridge are \$59,000 with construction costs estimated at \$200,000.

"The Township segregated the engineering costs as part of the 1995 budget and we put the same amount in capital reserves," Hughes explained.

"We also came in with a surplus of about \$150,000 last year, which can go to capital works costs."

Hughes said none of the bridge costs can be firmed up until the Coast Guard announces what conditions Council must fulfill to build either bridge in Eden Mills.



TWO OF A KIND PERFORMANCE!

Brenda Lewis and Ian Molesworth, who make up the duo Lewis and Molesworth, performed their music at Rockwood Presbyterian Church's latest Concert for a Sunday Evening. Next to appear at the church is Thom "Champagne Charlie" Roberts and Carlos del Junco, this Sunday (Feb. 18) at 8 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door. (Eve Martin photo)

Bird feeders finished

WELLINGTON HALL ACADEMY

BY PETER DEWEY, GRADE 3

Our bird feeders are now painted green and we can take them home. We had fun making them. I hope the birds like them.

We have a new student who

started last week. He is in Grade 4. I am happy that he is a boy so we can play with him at recess.

We went cross-country skiing last Monday, but not on Friday because of the weather. Mr. Dewey played his guitar instead, and we sang songs.

TENDERS

Rockwood-Eramosa Minor Ball Association is accepting tenders for those interested in operating the concession booths at the following parks:

- ROCKMOSA
- LLOYD DYER
- EDEN MILLS BALL DIAMOND

Last date for accepting tenders will be Thursday, Feb. 29, 1996

Please forward to:
Rockwood-Eramosa Minor Ball Assoc.
c/o Sherri Thompson
P.O. Box 335, Rockwood, Ont. N0B 2K0

KNECHTEL Food Markets YOUR local STORE WITH **BIG SAVINGS**

Lean Ground Beef
3.51 kg
1.59 lb.

Admiral Light Tuna
Chunk or Flaked 170 g Tin
.79

Habitant Soup
Assorted Varieties
540 mL/796 mL Tin
.88

Duncan Hines Cake Mix
Assorted Varieties
500 g/515 g Box
.99

Humpty Dumpty Potato Chips
Assorted Varieties
180 g Bag
.99

Sunlight Laundry Detergent
Regular 12 Litre or Ultra 6 Litre Box
6.99

Meat
"Famous For Quality"
Dutch Treat or Regular Dinner Franks
Schneiders Red Hots Wieners
450 g Pkg.
1.99

Deli
Maple Leaf Country Kitchen
Smoked Ham
"Family Favourite" Deli Sliced or Shaved
3.99 lb. .88/100 g
Bakery
Fresh Baked Kaiser Rolls
Assorted Varieties
6/1.39

Produce
Product of U.S.A. No. 1 Grade
"Extra Large Size" 1.30 kg
Red Tomatoes
.59 lb.

Prices Effective Mon. February 12, Until Closing Sun., February 18, 1996 At Knechtel Food Markets Only. Savings Based On Regular Retail. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities To Normal Family Requirements.