

# Firefighters offer to raise funds for hall expansion

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Rockwood Miller

Plans to expand the Township of Eramosa fire hall in Rockwood to accommodate an ambulance bay will be unveiled on Monday night at the Eramosa Council meeting.

Fire Chief Dave Sherratt's proposed budgets for this year will be on the table for Council debate. The proposed operating budget is \$140,645 – just \$60 more than last year's actual – and the proposed capital budget is \$134,007.

Chief Sherratt said they might

not need the \$42,000 in the capital budget that is earmarked for expansion of the Rockwood fire hall.

"We (the volunteer firefighters) are going to take on the challenge of raising enough money to build the 68' x 22' extension to the fire hall," Sherratt explained on Monday.

The extra space is needed to store the department's equipment, to have a larger meeting room and as a future home for an ambulance service.

"We know that the Township doesn't have the money so we will present Council with a proposal to

pay for the expansion that wouldn't cost the taxpayers a penny," Sherratt said.

On Friday, Township Treasurer Terry Noble said that Council had already dealt with the budgets for the library and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee.

The Parks and Rec. capital and operating budgets total \$119,580 and included in that is \$16,000 to replace the floor at Rockmosa Community Centre.

"Staff have been instructed to get quotes for the new floor, but Coun-

cil is still grappling with other proposed upgrades to Rockmosa," Noble explained.

A proposed list of expenditures for Rockmosa totals \$153,500 and includes a new roof for the building, fire code updates and conversion to a gas furnace and stoves.

Noble said Council also dealt with the proposed Eramosa Library budget of \$104,526 and removed almost 10 per cent from it that was earmarked for miscellaneous revenue.

"The Library Board budgeted

\$9,395, hoping that the Harris government would make changes to the Library Act that would allow it to charge user fees for certain services," Noble explained.

"That hasn't happened so Council and the Board removed that potential revenue from the budget."

In an interview on Saturday, Reeve Rick Hughes again predicted that they would be able to come in with a balanced budget with no property tax increase.

Council will continue the budget debates on Monday.

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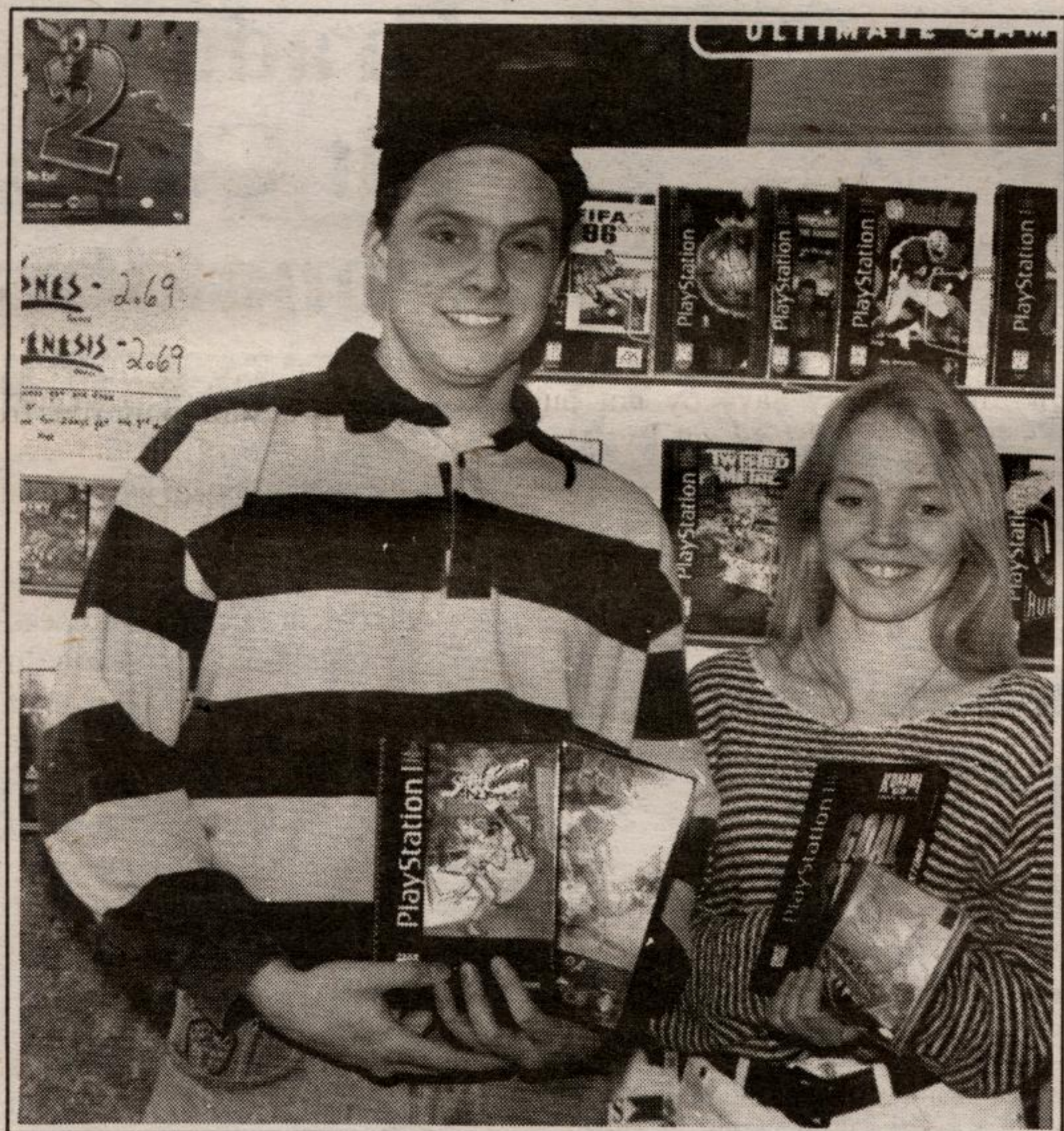
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**VIDEO GAME NUT:** Rockwood entrepreneur Cory Young, 18, and his partner Jaime Drexler, 19, opened *Town and Country Video and Games* on Main Street March 1. Games, systems and movies, including new releases, are available for rent.

## Main Street games store opens

BY DOUG HARRISON

The Rockwood Miller

Many 18-year-olds are itching to finish high school and wonder which university or college will accept them as they build toward their futures.

But, for Cory Young, the future is now.

In his last semester at John F. Ross High School in Guelph, Cory has taken knowledge from school business courses and inspiration from his father, who runs Satellite TV in Toronto, and opened *Town and Country Video and Games*.

The Rockwood business, located beside the old Candy Factory on Main Street, opened March 1 and houses 90 games (Genesis, PlayStation, Sega Saturn, Jaguar and Snes) and 110 movies, the bulk of which are new releases (two for \$5 Monday through Thursdays and \$3 each on weekends).

"I wanted to start young. If it doesn't work out, I don't have to worry – I don't have a house or a family. Now is the time to do it," says the determined entrepreneur,

who has partnered with Jaime Drexler, 19.

"I probably will go to college, but I want to see how this goes first."

Cory has completed his job placement in sales at Zellers in Guelph as part of the school's co-operative education program and received a business specialist certificate in business and marketing.

He took a liking early in high school to Ross' three main business courses – introduction to business, marketing and entrepreneur – excelled and decided he would rather open his own business than pump gas at a local gas station.

"We were taught in business class to start young and invest young."

Cory says he learned a lot from introduction to business, while the entrepreneur course was small business management.

"Being an entrepreneur is high risk, but there's good reward if it turns out. I'm a video game nut myself and play all these games, so I will have the knowledge when customers come in. Plus, I like the idea of working for myself, having

my own business."

Cory warns it took a lot of financial backing to launch *Town and Country Video and Games*, not to mention tremendous support from his parents. He also had to get a vendor's permit, merchandise licenses and register the business.

Cory also researched his new venture, taking a trip to Toronto and scouting a similar business, Video Games Plus. After seeing customers rent a game and put their change in a nearby video machine, Cory was sold on the idea and has two machines in-store.

The fact he doesn't have a video game competitor in town, coupled with a large student population at Rockwood Centennial school were factors in opening the business.

"In the summer, videos will drop and with all those kids out of school the games will pick up," Cory predicts, adding the PlayStation system is rented for the entire March Break.

"A lot of our business is foot traffic. I don't think it's clicked in," Cory says. "I still drive by and say, 'Look what we did.'"

## Nancy Minden speaks on the family

Special to The Rockwood Miller

The Baha'i Community of Eramosa welcomes Nancy Minden, the third speaker in a three part series on the Family, at the Eramosa Community Library on March 15, beginning at 8 pm. Ms. Minden will lead a discus-

sion on the importance of the family to the achievement of a peaceful global society.

Ms. Minden, a wife and mother of three teenage boys, has experience as a music therapist and a public school teacher. She chose to home

school her children. She studied for her Masters in Education in the Department of Counselling at OISE, and is currently employed by Durham Region as a family therapist.

Call 856-2678 for details on the speaker series.

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