

Spirit Valley Experience to be planned for Rockwood

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Rockwood Miller

A multi-media arts event is being planned for this fall in the Rockwood Conservation Area.

Billed as "The Spirit Valley Experience," the nature-inspired event will feature music, theatre, dance, literature, video, visual arts, crafts and food.

The project has staff level approval at the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and formal approval is expected within weeks.

The event is a production of Arts and Culture Eramosa (ACE), which includes some of the same people involved with the widely acclaimed community play *The Spirit of Shivaree* and the Eramosa

Theatrical Hike.

The audience will begin their experience in the village and wind their way along the Eramosa River, through the limestone caves and bluff area known as Spirit Valley, and then to the woolen mill ruins.

ACE member Dale Hamilton recently unveiled the plan to the Rockwood and

Eramosa Business Association (REBA) and suggested that it become involved.

"This could have the same impact that the theatrical hike did in bringing people into the village and hopefully, add to local business," Hamilton explained.

"On a very practical level, in our discussions with the GRCA it was made clear to

us that we not use the "back door" way into the Conservation Area," she said, noting the concern was if people used the Valley Road entrance into the Conservation Area for this event, they might not go through the gate and pay the next time they visited the Conservation Area.

"The GRCA said that they might put up a bigger chain-

link fence to stop people from getting into the park that way, but we suggested that maybe some people could man a secondary entrance and charge people to go through that way," Hamilton said, suggesting REBA members could help staff the booth during the summer months.

The Spirit Valley Experience is set for Sept. 6 and 7.

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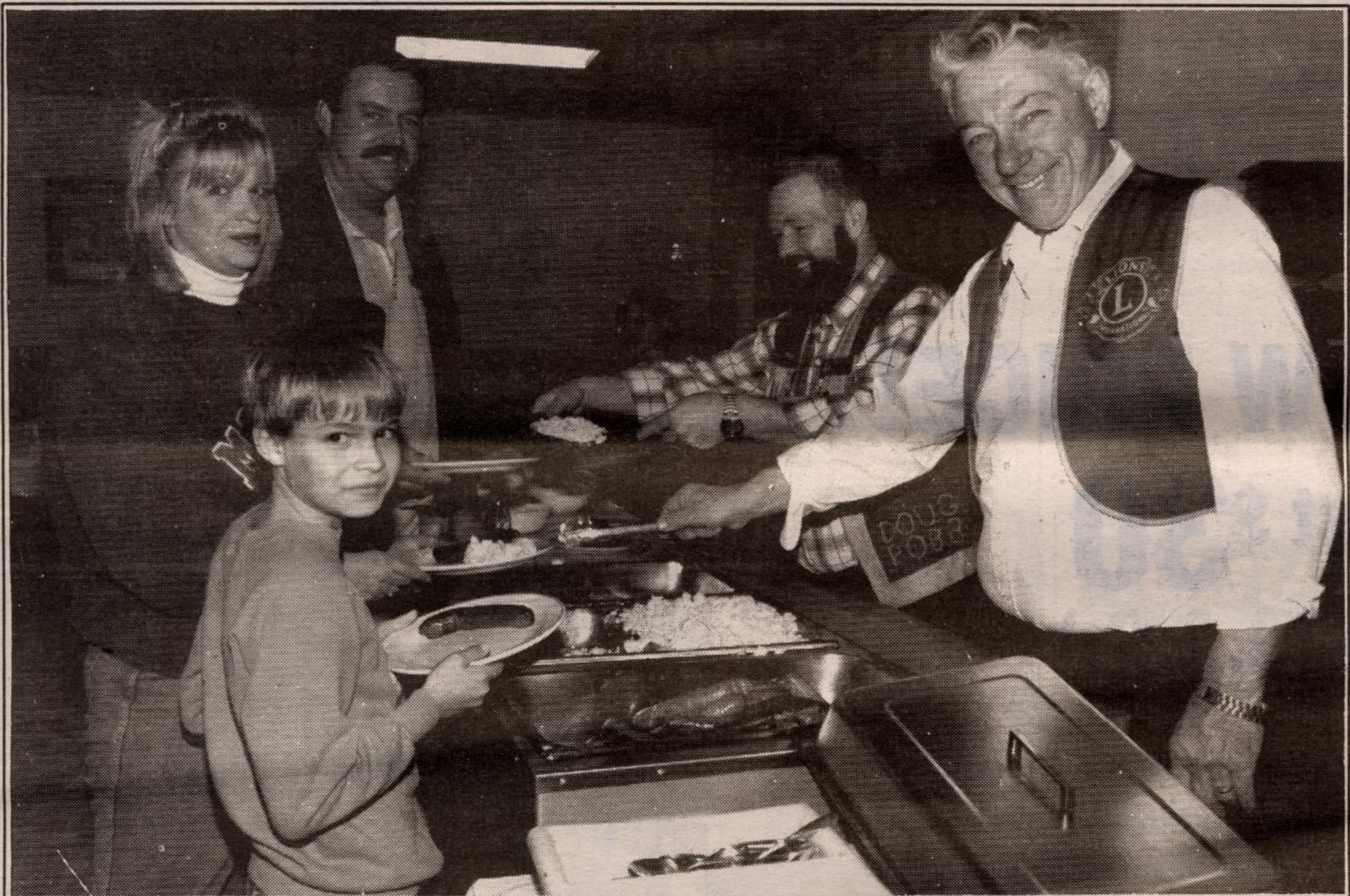
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DISHING UP: Lions Club members Fred Hawkins in front, and Doug Robb help the Hoskins family to an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast held at Rockmosa last Sunday. Getting ready to enjoy their meal are David, Cindy and their son Justin Hoskins. More than 450 people attended the fundraising event. (Eve Martin photo)

Support lacking for retirement community plans

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

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There were a lot of pointed questions about financing and ownership, but no declarations of support from about 40 Eramosa residents who attended a recent meeting on plans for a retirement community in Rockwood.

Community Management Services Ltd. (CMS) has optioned a nine-acre parcel of land on the east side of Hwy. 7, below the Stone Barn Estates, and wants to build 24 townhouses and 44 apartments on the site. Common areas may include games and meeting rooms, a wellness centre, pool and clubhouse.

CMS was invited to a meeting of the Rockwood and Eramosa Business Association (REBA) last week to explain the plan publicly.

Although brochures handed out at the meeting indicated members of a community board are already looking into the proposal, Vic Heinrich of CMS admitted that statement was premature because the public meeting was the first step in seeing if people in Rockwood want the project and want to be part of the community board.

Heinrich stressed this type of retirement development was not a condominium or a freehold, but that residents own the rights to occupy their unit. The deed is held by the

non-profit group chosen by residents to manage it.

Heinrich said the project would allow residents to retire in their own community.

"It's one thing to be part of a community when you are healthy, but all too often people are forced to move outside of their community when they get frail or ill and need special care," Heinrich said.

As proposed, the development would include optional services, such as nursing and housekeeping.

A 1,000 square foot unit would cost \$120,000 and the clubhouse between \$3,000 and \$5,000 with the total package costing \$1 million.

Jim Reed, manager of Eramosa Non-Profit Housing's Squires Lodge, suggested the proposal was too expensive.

"Rent is the key thing because people are living off the equity from their homes and how many could afford a lifestyle like you are proposing?" Reed asked.

On Monday, Heinrich said REBA members had agreed to collect questionnaires handed out by CMS at the meeting. It asked people if they would be willing to be part of a non-profit board to plan the facility.

This proposal is not part of a plan by several Rockwood land owners to develop four adult lifestyle communities with 2,300 units.

Dottie's Diner expands into Ray's Variety

Dottie's Diner, open for less than four months, has expanded. The Hwy. 7 home-cooking establishment re-

cently added the space previously occupied by next-door neighbour Ray's Variety. "We pushed the wall down


and opened it last Friday," said Dot Polo, who owns Dottie's with Kert Pinder.

The expansion brings the total number of seats in the restaurant to 64 from 40. The added space provides room for small meetings, baby or bridal showers, or other special occasions, said Polo, adding she and Pinder will cater

your event as well.

Dottie's Diner has also become one of the local distributors of Optimist Bingo cards for the televised games on Cable 4 Tuesday nights.

Polo said over the past two weeks, she's sold two winning cards for the bingo, one for \$50 and one for \$150. Beginner's luck, perhaps?




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