Discourage young people from smoking: Arnott

Special to The Miller

On April 11, Wellington MPP Ted Arnott made the following statement, urging the provincial government to adopt measures aimed at discouraging smoking, especially among young people:

"We in Ontario must continue to do all we can to discourage smoking, especially among our young people.

"In recent years, all levels of government have taken steps to discourage tobacco use, but if the past is a guide, this year in Ontario alone, 13,500 people will die as a direct result of smoking.

"Clearly, more needs to be

done. Today and in the future we must continue to be vigilant on this issue. Here are some ideas we should consider:

"We could take further action to ensure that Ontario workplaces are smokefree. If possible, the use of smoking areas that are separately ven-

tilated might be a solution for some workplaces.

"The federal government could show leadership by gradually reintroducing to-bacco taxes. Low tobacco prices have been linked to increases in smoking rates. Among young people aged 15 to 19, smoking rates have

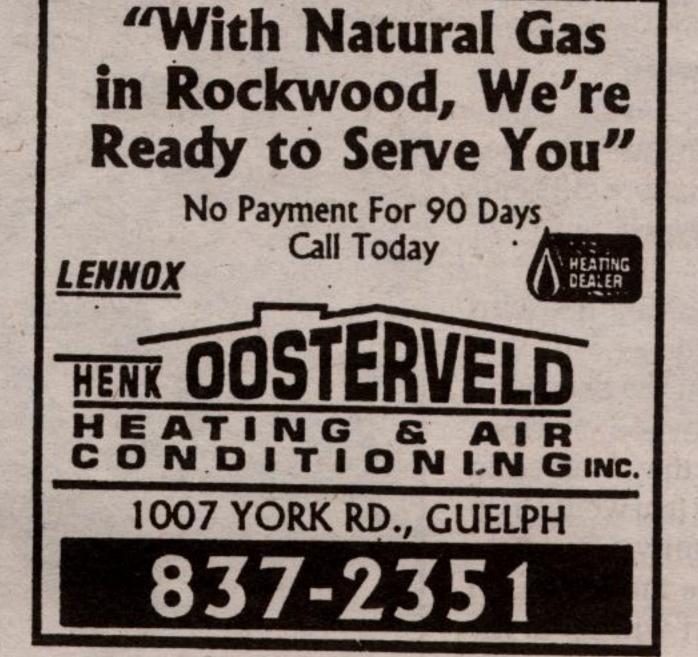
increased an average of 9 per cent from 1994 to 1995.

"We could put a 1-800 number on all cigarette packages, which would direct smokers who want to quit towards the help they need.

"We could enhance enforcement of the laws which prohibit the sale of tobacco to minors.

"We could strengthen public education programs in our schools.

"I strongly urge the government to review these suggestions so that we can take every step possible to discourage young people from starting to smoke."







Torch run in Rockwood

Watch for members of the Guelph OPP tomorrow (Thursday) in Rockwood as they take up the torch for the Ontario Special Olympics.

OPP officers will be carrying the torch along Hwy. 7 from Harris Street to the Eramosa fire hall, beginning at 12:30 pm.

The Ontario Special Olympics is a grass roots, year-round sports program for children and adults who have a mental handicap. This year, more than 7,500 law enforcement personnel will cover more than 8,000 km and converge in Cornwall on May 2 for the final leg run into the

opening ceremonies of the Spring Games.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the torch run by police personnel.

Participating in the torch run across the province will be municipal police, Ontario Provincial Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Corrections and other justice field agencies throughout Ontario.

In 1995, the Ontario Law Enforcement Torch Run raised \$925,000 and over the past 10 years, it has raised more than \$4,475,000 for Ontario Special Olympics.

The torch run has three main objectives: to raise

funds for Ontario Special Olympics, to increase public awareness of Special Olympics and to involve law enforcement personnel in a community-based provincewide program.

FINDERS CREEPERS!

The Rockwood and Eden Mills Presbyterian Churches Senior Youth (and Friends) performed the mystery comedy Finders Creepers last Saturday night at the Eden Mills Town Hall. In photo at left are Amanda MacDonald, Michael Wahlstrom, Brett Gardiner, Wayne Allen and Cheryl Wahlstrom. Also included in the cast were, above, John MacDonald, Jennifer MacNaughton and Doug Black. (Eve Martin photos)

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