

Rick and Judy to perform concert for Van der Geers

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Rockwood Miller

Having lost his father in a car crash when he was just a little boy, children's entertainer Rick Avery of Rick and Judy, knows what the Van der Geer boys of Rockwood face.

Jake, 4, and Justin, 2, lost their father Frank in a car crash last month and, with their mother Leslie, are struggling to go on with their lives.

When Avery was asked to perform at a benefit concert to raise money for the boys, it struck a chord.

"I have strong empathy for these kids," Avery, of Guelph, said on Thursday.

"They are looking at a pretty tough time and if I can be part of making that a little easier, then I will do my best."

Avery was contacted by the Rockwood Nursery School, which the Van der Geer boys attend, to play at the concert.

"The Nursery School phoned me about this fundraiser and when I heard the tragic story, it set off bells in my brain and in my heart" Avery explained, noting that he had his wife and partner, Judy Greenhill, immediately

offered to waive their fee - about \$500 - as their contribution to the boys' trust fund.

Avery, who said he became an entertainer because he was "not very good" at his first profession as an engineer, said that children are his main audience.

"Part of my love of making kids laugh may be because I had such a difficult childhood myself and I'm making up for that now."

Donna Johnson, who along with widow Leslie Van der Geer is on the executive of the Rockwood Nursery School, said they wanted to do something that would help the whole family.

"All of the money raised at the concert will go to the boys. Rockwood Centennial School is giving us a good price to rent the gym and the Nursery School will pay the balance," Johnson explained on Wednesday.

The concert is scheduled for 2 pm on May 11. Tickets are \$5, with no charge for children under two. Tickets are available at Rockwood Nursery School at 191 Main St. S., Village Video or by calling Johnson at 856-1174.



SWING, BATTER! Ten-year-old Shawn Hitchcock takes a mighty swing at a pitch during a pick-up game at Rockwood Centennial School last Sunday. Although Shawn didn't get a hit with this pitch, he's got the rest of spring and all of summer to practice. We wish him the best of luck. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Council firm on development costs

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

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Once again Eramosa Town-

ship Council has reaffirmed its stance that development in Rockwood will have to pay its own way.

Council rejected a request from Seaton Group Planning and Development Manager, Jeremy Grant, to consider giving Seaton a full or partial credit of development charges against the cost of hard services - sewers, roads and water - that must be put in for Seaton's development to proceed.

The cost of infrastructure upgrades will be paid for through development charges or lot levies paid by the developers.

Phase 1 of Seaton's proposed 494 lot subdivision includes 85 lots. Before development can begin, \$1 million worth of sewer system upgrades are needed and will have to be paid for by the developers.

In asking Council to rescind its earlier decision, Grant said the issue could affect the amount of financing needed for the project and the viability of Phase 1.

He explained that the development charge money collected for Phase 1 could be spent on sewer upgrades and that other expenditures for upgrades to the water sys-

tem, a new hydro transformer and a new fire truck, won't be needed until the other phases of the subdivision are built.

"Instead of building up the development charge fund and up-fronting all of the cost of needed sewer services, we are requesting you to use all of the money we are paying for development charges to fund what is needed now," Grant said, adding that instead of Seaton borrowing funds to be repaid by future developers, the Township should use its own development fund surplus and be repaid by future development.

Eramosa Treasurer Terry Noble disagreed with Grant's contention that the development charge credit plans would not cost the Township money.

"This is being presented as being financially neutral to us, but, if someone is gaining, someone is losing," Noble said as he called Grant's request basically a loan.

Deputy Reeve Dave Adsett told Grant that he was not prepared to budge from Council's previous position.

"I guess what I suggest is that you get your money lined up and come back with your subdivision agreement," Adsett said as he made a

motion development charges be collected as specified in the Township's by-law.

"I don't want to give Mr. Grant the illusion that this is something we'd reconsider with your submission agreement," Adsett said.

Council rejected Grant's request to defer the decision, and instead voted to reaffirm its earlier decision not to give Seaton full or partial credit for its development charges.

Reeve Rick Hughes did note it had not been determined if Seaton would get a credit for the sewage component of the development charge upgrades.

R.I.D.E. charges

The Sixth District (Mount Forest) R.I.D.E. unit and Guelph OPP set up a check-point on Hwy. 7 in Rockwood last Friday night, resulting in several charges.

John Clayton, 31, of Guelph was charged with driving with more than the legal amount of alcohol in his bloodstream. Milton resident Edward Wilson, 28, was charged with the same offence.

Two 12-hour licence suspensions were also issued by the R.I.D.E. check.

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