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## Pioneer Day '96 enjoyed, despite cloudy skies!

**BY MARLA REID**  
 Special to The Miller  
 Pioneer Day '96 has again come and gone. Although we didn't have sunshine, the rain held off and a good crowd stayed for the day's activities.

I would like to thank the Eramosa Township Works Department for all their hard work again this year, to Gary Martin for driving his flatbed to return the tables, and to the GRCA for the use of the picnic tables.

The day started with the favourite Rubber Ducky Race. Thanks to Jan Osborne for organizing the event.

Thanks to Ken and Ruth Steele for delivering and collecting all the other tables and chairs, and to John McClintock and Ray Death for the use of their tents. Special thanks to John Root, Parade Marshall, who organized the entrants at Rockmosa, and to the Eramosa-Rockwood Fire Department for their usual great job of traffic control.

My thanks also to Linda Semanyk, Nancy Beattie and Joanne Blomberg, who had

the difficult job of judging. The following are the winners:

**Business floats:**

- 1st, Noah's Ark;
- 2nd, Nursery School;
- 3rd, Studio on Main.

**Service clubs:**

- 1st, Spirit Valley Experience;
- 2nd, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts;
- 3rd, Optimists of Eramosa.

**Individual groups:**

- 1st, Rockwood Centennial Public School;
- 2nd, Greg Dales;
- 3rd, Swiss Band.

The best-decorated bike winner was Sarah Hepburn.

I would like to thank the Acton Citizens' Band for marching in the parade and to the Swiss Band for marching and for their performances during the day.

Thanks also to the Dance Spirit Studio and Country Cabin Cloggers for their performances during the day.

Tom Semanyk, "Rockin' Tom," provided the sound system for the day and was D.J. for the outdoor dance at

night. Thanks Tom! Our door prize was a hand-made afghan donated by Joanne Blomberg. Thanks to Joanne and to Cathy McIntyre, who donated her services as bartender.

Food at the dance was prepared by Dot Polo of Dottie's Diner and Jan Osborne arrived with the liquid refreshments.

Thanks to all the groups who set up displays at the park. One favourite is always the dunking booth, which was run by Gord and Michelle Dawe and Paul Blomberg. Thanks to all the good sports who went in the dunking booth, including our Reeve, Rick Hughes! Bernie Liebig organized the tug-of-war, and although the first rope broke, it was a great crowd-pleaser! Next year Bernie hopes for more competitors.

The Optimist Club ran the bike rodeo at the Medical Centre, with four bikes as draw prizes! And Maureen McLeod once again came up with an original design for this year's medallion. What a talented woman! Thanks Maureen.



**FLOAT WINNERS:** The entry by The Spirit Valley Experience, a festival of the arts in nature coming to Rockwood in September, was the winning float during the Pioneer Day Parade. Kelly Baker, Jenn Aver and Jenn Crompton, standing, in photo above, helped make the float tops.



**DUMPING DUCKS:** Pam Osborne and Michael Semanyk release the rubber duckies entered in the race during the morning activities at Pioneer Day. The day proved to be one of good times. (Photos by Eve Martin)

Many thanks to Al and Lori Savage, who ran the horseshoe pitching tournament. This is a new event and I must thank the Township Works Department, Al Savage, Jim Graham, Jim Reed and Jack Fuller for all the prep work on the pits.

We hope horseshoe pitching will become a regular event. (Jack came all the way from Scotland to work on the pits!)

Thanks to the Township of Eramosa and to the "Highwaymen" for the great ball game. Both teams were great sports and provided an entertaining finish to the afternoon.

It is gratifying for me to see the day become more suc-

cessful every year, and to have new businesses and groups in town come out and participate. The support and co-operation I get from the community makes my job of co-ordinating this event a very enjoyable one. To anyone I may have missed, thank you, and please let me know

if you have any ideas for next year!

I want to also thank *The Acton Tanner/Rockwood Miller* for the great support and space given to Pioneer Day. Your coverage and publicity are instrumental in the success of the day.

Thank you Eramosa!

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