



WALKING TOURS STARTING UP: Walking tours of Rockwood begin this Saturday (July 6). Tourist counsellors Sarah Colling and Gord Martin, in photo at left, will be taking groups of interested walkers from the Information Centre on Main Street every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer, depending on the turnout. Tours are slated to begin at 1 pm and will last about 2 hours. The cost for a tour is \$2, which gives participants a copy to keep of the Historic Rockwood walking tour booklet, produced earlier this spring. The booklets themselves are on sale at the Information Centre and in 30 other Rockwood businesses. It is hoped the tours will bring more people to the village for more than just shopping. (Karen Wetmore photo)

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Two Rockwood businesses close

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller One Rockwood business has closed and another will close at the end of the month. After trying unsuccessfully to sell her business, Diane Ottema has decided to close her Times and Seasons Flower Shop at the end of the month.

"I'm not making money and I'm not going to waste my time if I can't make enough to stay open," Ottema explained recently.

Ottema operated Times and Seasons from a rented building on Main Street for seven years and will continue to do special orders, such as weddings, from her home. She will join her husband, a stockbroker, in business.

"It's been wonderful being in business in the village and I will miss all of my customers, but it's time to try something different," Ottema said, noting that she couldn't compete price-wise with places like the food stores that now sell cut flowers.

Jewel Franchetto has closed her Jewel's Desert and Deli at 142 Main St. N.

Franchetto was forced to close when the bank foreclosed on her ex-husband who owned the building.

Although Franchetto was not available for comment, apparently she hopes to re-

open her deli in Rockwood. Despite the closings, there are some bright spots in the village's retail make-up.

Jim Henley, who moved Jim's Repair Shop to 160 Main St. S. from 136 Main St., reports business is picking up at his new location.

"With the warmer weather more people need repairs on their lawn and gardening equipment and it is easier to park at my new location so things are picking up," Henley explained Sunday.

Henley, who is authorized to do repairs by three major engine firms, also does window glass and screen repairs.

Rockwood and Eramosa Business Association (REBA) chair Ralph MacDonald said while they hate to see any business close in the village, he pointed out that four new businesses had opened and only two closed.

"We have a new video store and the Purple Pig Pizzeria opened along with the Ice Cream Shoppe and the Zip Mart in the old Candy Factory," MacDonald said on Sunday, noting that the veterinary clinic also opened up within the last six months.

"Although we lost two businesses, we gained four so we are in better shape than three years ago when five new businesses opened up but nine closed."

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