

New health care company operates on house calls

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

The graying of the population has led to nursing homes with long waiting lists and the tough economic times have led to health care cuts and patients being sent home from hospitals as soon as possible.

Those circumstances prompted Guelph resident Matthew Clark to start a new home health care company – South Western Health Services Inc. – serving Guelph, Eramosa Township and Acton areas.

Clark, a paramedic, said

he and his wife-partner Heather, and a staff of nurses, nursing-assistants, paramedics and companions offer a wide-range of services in the client's home.

"We offer professional nursing, para-professional nursing and home support including meal preparation, property maintenance and providing transportation," Clark said last Thursday.

"Our clients include seniors, the developmentally and physically handicapped and several who have specific medical conditions. We bring all these services to the client's home where they are in control. I think that after living in their own home or apartment for 60 or 70 years, a person should not be forced into a nursing home if they can get the support they need

in their own home."

Clark said when they get a request for service, they determine if the client is eligible for subsidized service and if not, South Western Health Services Inc. will offer the service, based on the client's ability to pay.

"We will also cut the lawn, shovel the snow and do home maintenance – whatever the clients need to be happy and stay in their own home," Clark explained.

Clark said that they are working with a nutritionist who offers home-cooked, frozen meals and are also developing a plan for a professionally-monitored personal medical alarm.

Clark said they may set up an office in Rockwood or Acton, and can be reached at 766-9073.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT! The Rockwood Eramosa Minor Baseball Association (REMBA) held a fundraising dance last Saturday night at Rockmosa which REMBA members Jim and Pat Monaghan attended, Pat with an extra diamond ring on her finger – a surprise birthday present from Jim. (Eve Martin photo)

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Upstairs, the games room provides ample space to accommodate a variety of games or exercise equipment. It could also be used as a fourth bedroom. The master bedroom features a four-piece ensuite.

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The East Wellington Advisory Group for Family Services (EWAG) is offering some outings for seniors in August.

On Thursday, August 8, plan to escape reality and head back in time to the 1920s on a visit to the Orangeville Theatre for the play "Vaudeville." Tickets are \$20 each, which includes transportation. Call soon to join up!

A shopping trip will take place Tuesday, August 13. This time, it's to the Erin Mills Towne Centre. You

must book your seat for this trip. Transportation is only \$3 and you are asked to purchase your own lunch or to bring one with you.

The last trip for the summer will be to St. Jacob's at the Farmers' Market on Thursday, August 22. The cost for this outing is \$8 which includes a picnic lunch and transportation. You must call ahead to reserve your spot on the EWAG'n.

For more information on these trips or EWAG, call (519) 833-9696.

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