

Cripton heads National Arts Centre

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller
 Rockwood resident John Cripton started his new job as Director and Chief Executive Director of the National Arts Centre (NAC) of Canada last week with an ambitious game plan.

Cripton, most recently president of Great World Artists Limited, was hailed by the NAC selection committee as "...a Canadian of vision and creative power" whose "vast experience has given him unique knowledge of the national and international performing arts field."

Before heading to Ottawa last Sunday, Cripton said his first job will be to make sure the Centre is in line with good business practices.

"I think that right now the first steps will also be to fill in the two or three outstanding artistic positions that are open and try to find the right people to fill those positions," Cripton said, noting that the

orchestra leader is leaving next year and that the English theatre artistic director's position is also open.

"I also want to begin work on the planning for the 1997-98 season. We want to expand the number of companies in both the English and French theatre and we're going to be talking to a number of people who are touring with some of the major shows around North America. We want to make sure that Ottawa has a chance to see those shows the way Toronto does," Cripton said.

Cripton said he thinks he won the position because he is one of the few people who has the "funny cross between having worked extensively in the private sector and in government circles as well."

"I was with the Canada Council, and on occasion internationally doing projects in various countries on behalf of the Canadian government, so I do understand the

bureaucracy and at the same time I've also been out there risking my own money on private projects and I'm considered to be an entrepreneur."

Asked what he hoped to get from the new position, Cripton said "At this point in my life the choice was to continue the ad hoc projects and perhaps retire to my farm, or coming alive again with a big challenge."

Cripton most recently was one of the driving forces behind the rain cancelled Spirit Valley Experience.

Cripton will maintain his Rockwood farm and commute to a home that he also owns in Ottawa.

Highlights of Cripton's stellar career include program co-ordinator and administrator of the Dalhousie Arts Centre, general manager of the touring office of the Canada Council, work with his Great World Artists at five Expos and producer and

program consultant of Toronto's Sesquicentennial International Festival.

Cripton is married to Linda Sword, who is also an arts administrator, and they have three children.

New session, new program

The Lucky Losers weight loss club begins a new 10-week session with a new program this week.

Meetings take place at the Rockwood Community Centre on Thursdays at 5:30 pm.

The first regular meeting is tomorrow (Sept. 26). For more information, call Dot Polo at 856-4433, Lois Walker at 853-4523 or Grace Day at 856-4676.

Where in the world is ...?

WELLINGTON HALL

BY NICK VAN RYN
GRADE 4

This is my second year at Wellington Hall and I hope this year will be as much fun as last year. I have a new teacher and her name is Mrs. Hare. We are playing a game in geography that is called "Where in the World is Mrs. Hare?" This has been a fun

way to learn where places are located around the world.

In novel study we are reading *Charlotte's Web*. This is a book that probably many children have read. A student in my class brought in a spider in a bug case and we are enjoying watching how he lives. It will soon be time for us to let him go, so that he can prepare for winter.

We are also planning some

class trips for the fall. In our science class we are studying a unit on trees. We will be going to the University of Guelph's Arboretum to see the variety of trees in their collections.

Our teachers have asked that we bring some of our work from last year so that the school can submit it for the Acton Fall Fair. I hope we win some ribbons!

County restructuring meeting

A public meeting will be held next Thursday (Oct. 3) at the Eramosa Public Library to get community input to Wellington County's restructuring proposals.

The final reports from the seven sub-committees will be

available to the public and county and Township staff will be on hand to answer questions and note concerns and comments.

Each of the various sub-committees looked at services like waste management,

public protection, public works and roads, recreation and culture and general government. The were to then make a recommendation on how each service could possibly be streamlined to save money.

Flag oath receives support

Guelph-Wellington MP Brenda Chamberlain recently announced that she has received the support of more than 1,000 Canadians from coast to coast, and four municipalities, regarding her Private Members' Bill, C-302, which would establish an official oath or pledge of allegiance to the Canadian flag.

"I am pleased with the re-

sponse that has been given since the Bill was introduced in June. I have heard from just over 1,000 Canadians from Newfoundland to British Columbia, including over 130 that have written to me with their suggestion for an oath," Chamberlain said.

Canadians have expressed their support in letters, faxes and by signing petitions. As well the Councils of the

Township of Esquimalt, B.C., the Town of Cardston, Alta., the Township of Sandwich, south Ont., and the City of Windsor, Ont. have passed resolutions in support of the idea.

"These endorsements have come within days of my writing to member of the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, informing them of my initiative. I am obviously pleased by the quick response," she added. "Canadians love their country and their flag."

While the Bill was not selected for debate in the last lottery, Chamberlain remains hopeful that it will be debated in the next few months.

"The support that I am receiving indicates that Canadians want to honour their flag and their country in this way," she said.

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