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County control for garbage, roads?

Waste management and public works were two of seven areas of concentration reviewed over the summer by committees made up of Township and Wellington County staff.

At an open house at the Eramosa Library recently, the committee reports were made available to the public for input. Each report included a set of recommendations regarding Wellington County's proposed restructuring plan.

Public input will be received until Nov. 1. Following meetings in November, the Wellington County Review Committee will finalize its recommendation at County Council on Nov. 27.

The solid waste management committee advised that Wellington County should take care of all of the garbage and recycling concerns. Currently garbage is looked after by individual townships, while blue box materials are picked up by the County.

Eramosa's curbside waste is picked up by BFI in residential and commercial areas and taken to the Eastview Landfill site in Guelph. Rural residents either contract a company to take away their garbage, or take it directly to the landfill or Guelph's Wet/Dry facility.

Other recommendations by this committee include the need to search for a landfill site within the County, implementing user fees for garbage collection and that all transfer stations and landfill sites accept the same materials and charge the same fees across the County.

Within the Public Works Committee's report, it was recommended to adopt major changes, for example, changing the road and bridge maintenance and construction responsibilities to the County level from the Township level where practical, still using municipal staff and equipment.



STUDIO TOUR THIS WEEKEND! Rockwood area artists will again host a Fall Studio Tour this weekend, and Maureen McLeod's pottery and sculpture studio is one of the stops. Call 856-9662 for details; most studios are along Hwy. 7. (Eve Martin photo)

Ward system proposal resurfaces

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Rockwood Miller

With the next municipal election just a year away, the proposal to alter the way that Eramosa voters pick their municipal councillors is on the table again.

At its meeting next Monday, Township Council will debate a Notice of Motion that the question of changing to a ward system be included on the election ballot.

The same non-binding question on the 1994 ballot was answered by just 20 per cent of eligible voters and resulted in a two-vote margin in favour of a ward system. But without a clear mandate Council took no further action on the issue until now. The Ontario Municipal Board

had directed to put the question on the ballot following dissolution of the Police Villages of Rockwood and Eden Mills.

Suggestions of a ward system for Eramosa are not new - a County study looked into the issue in 1989 as did an earlier Township Council.

With a ward system people living within a specific geographic area would elect a representative from that area and also vote Township-wide for the reeve and deputy-reeve. Under the current at-large election voters choose from candidates running Township-wide.

Reeve Rick Hughes said that he's in favour of putting the question on the ballot one more time to try to resolve

the issue and that there are advantages to a ward system.

"There are community, cultural and even some demographic differences between the south part of the Township and the north part and certainly between Eden Mills and Rockwood versus the rural areas," Hughes said, noting that there is sort of an informal ward system in place now, with someone coming from the rural area, someone from the south in the Eden Mills area and a couple from Rockwood.

Changing to a ward system would increase the size of Council from its five members up to seven to 13.

At Monday's meeting Council will debate developing a forum to explore the ward system, including a date for a public meeting.

IN BRIEF...

Pet party

Party cake and pet treats are on the menu for this weekend's first anniversary celebration at the Rockwood Veterinary Clinic on Main Street, South.

Doctors Clare Maine and Mike Levine will host an open house on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and they hope that many of their 1,000 clients will drop by.

The Upper Credit Humane Society will hold a garage sale in the Clinic's back parking lot during the open house.

Rockmosa input ...

Eramosa Council will ask for public input on the booking, kitchen and bartending aspects of Rockmosa Community Centre at its Monday, Oct. 21 Council meeting.

In an effort to make the money-losing Township-owned facility break even by 2000, a number of major changes are being made in the facility's operation and Council wants to know what ratepayers think.

The public meeting will be held at 7 pm in the Township offices at Brucedale.

10th Anniversary Christmas Fantasy Arts & Crafts Show

Oct. 18, 19, & 20, 1996

Friday 1p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Adults \$3.00 Seniors/Students \$2.00
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