

ALTON
Travel

with
Bruce Hood



How does Year-round average 80s (25 C) sound!

Our recent Mexico visit included the Baja Peninsula areas of La Paz and Los Casos, with the latter town a duel offering of a quiet Mexican village in San Jose del Cabo, while not far away Cabo San Lucas is an action packed party town! All are beautiful areas with lots to see and do.

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Sport fishing, diving, snorkelling are very popular in the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez, with world renowned catches of fish at the 60-200 lb. range being reeled in! The town of Loreto is another area north of La Paz that is well known as a fishing centre and popular tourist area as well, with golden beaches and rolling hills. A year round average temperature in the 80's makes it a great location to enjoy golfing, mountain biking, kayaking, to name a few of the active things one can do. (Sunquest Vacations has a package to Loreto).

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Aero California serves Mexico from two destinations in the US, Los Angeles and Tuscon, offering very good service, we might add! They fly into some 24 cities and towns across this beautiful country with their fleet of DC9-30s and 10s and have their operating base in La Paz. They operate in conjunction with two Canadian carriers, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines, distributing passengers throughout Mexico via connections at these two points.

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WOW! What a response we got from our mention of the Lake Chapala area in Mexico in last weeks column! Here's more - you can stroll along the waterfront, see their artistic malls and drop into the Beer Garden, the largest and best known restaurant/bar, established in 1929, and enjoy the Mariachis playing their music during the afternoon. Next week we'll have more details with actual on-site contacts for those interested in the 'retirement opportunities' there. Seem there is a lot of interest in this element, and we agree this is a beautiful part of North America to consider.

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Travel tip of the week: get a good Spanish translation book to assist you in learning some of the usual terms of the language. Not necessary, but handy! Adios amigos!

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Eden Mills firm saves Arboretum school programs

A unique partnership between an Eden Mills-based company specializing in nature interpretation and the University of Guelph's Arboretum saved the popular and highly-praised educational programs for school children.

The company, NEST, will provide interpretive programs on a contract basis, so recent budget cuts at the Arboretum won't mean program cuts for the 4,000 Kindergarten to Grade 6 students from across south central Ontario that take part in programs at the Arboretum annually.

NEST owner Susan Northcut is a nature interpreter who relocated to Eden Mills to take care of a friend's home, but now wants to stay. She

said that interpretation is a form of teaching that links the student's past experience to the topic being taught, using hands-on activities.

"This type of teaching is very effective for introducing youth to nature and the outdoors because it usually excites the participants to continue their learning beyond what we present to them," Northcut said.

The school programs, most of them written by Northcut's partner Donna MacWilliams, follow the Ministry of Education and Training common curriculum. Northcut, who has worked at the Arboretum, has provided off-site programs at the Ontario Science Centre, conservation areas, museums and schools.



STUDIO TOUR: Rockwood and area's fourth studio tour took place recently, featuring 15 local artists. Here potter and sculptor Donna Diamond, right, stands by her sculpture of Henry VIII done in cement while visitor on the tour Brigit Richards holds a dragon incense burner. (Eve Martin photo)

Close shave for Mr. Root?

CENTENNIAL NEWS

The last few weeks at Rockwood Centennial have been

busy ones. Our whole school celebrated the partnership we have with the Conservation Area by holding a special assembly where a tree was dedicated, tulips were planted, and there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

In sports our intermediate students have participated in the touch football and soccer tournaments. Junior students have also competed in soccer. Our intermediate boys came first in soccer and the junior students all came second.

We also held a successful open house and used book sale in September. Our school was full of curious parents and students who were also able to enjoy our annual desert party. Many parents have also started to help out at noon hour as volunteer playground

supervisors.

Primary students have been enjoying the season by visiting the apple orchard and searching for pumpkins. As part of their history unit, our Grade 7s took a walk to the local cemetery. There was also a panel discussion about the history of Rockwood - panel members were well-known members of the Rockwood community.

Currently our school is holding a Read-a-thon to help raise money for the upgrade of our computer system. If we raise \$6,000, or about half of our target, Mr. Root, a Grade 8 teacher, will shave off his beard!

Coming up in November will be report cards, parent interviews and our book sale. Watch for news of these events in the coming weeks.

Soccer teams in tournament soon

ERAMOSA P.S. NEWS

BY KELLY WOODS & SHANNON DODGE

Did you have a happy Thanksgiving? All the kids at Eramosa did!

Last week Eramosa's cross-country team ran about

3 km at Rockwood Centennial School. Everyone did very well and we are all proud of them.

On Thursday our soccer teams are going to Erin District High School to compete in a soccer tournament. Good luck!

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