



HAPPY RETIREMENT! Ivy Ritchie celebrated her retirement from Canada Post with an open house at the Rockwood post office last Thursday.

Final mail run for Ritchie

BY JAMIE HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

After 30 years of service, Ivy Ritchie is hanging up her mailbag.

Ritchie, who took over her route from Fred Everett in 1966, has delivered her last piece of mail for Canada Post, capping off a career which has seen Rockwood grow from a hamlet of less than 100 rural clients, to 170 with more on the way.

In her time delivering the daily mail, Ritchie has seen a number of changes take place, including having to adapt to a right-hand side

drive vehicle, making it easier to fill the mailboxes on her rural route.

"It's changed tremendously, especially at this time of year. When I started off, you could figure on getting stuck almost everyday and having my husband tow me out," Ritchie said. "I haven't been stuck for a while now—the roads are much better."

She remembers going to an auction wanting to buy a right-hand drive car. She ended up going to Buffalo to take possession of a Jeep after an American man bought three Jeeps. He sold two and

gave one to Ritchie.

"I can remember driving over the Burlington Skyway Bridge. I almost didn't make it over."

Farmers light up 5th parade year

A unique Christmas tradition continues next Thursday, Dec. 19, as Rockwood area farmers offer a holiday gesture of goodwill to the village with their fifth annual Parade of Lights featuring farm tractors and implements festooned with lights, bows and Christmas trees.

Nineteen antique and modern tractors and pieces of equipment—each with its own portable generator and decorations—will parade through the village in an event that is just for fun with no fundraising or advertising attached.

The first parade was a spur of the moment affair by a group of farmers that evolved into the Third and Fourth Line March Blahs Committee and Friends. Murray Williamson said the whole idea began when one of the March Blahs members saw a magazine picture of a combine all decorated for Christmas and thought it would be fun.

"We got talking about decorating some of our equipment and the parade idea snowballed from there."

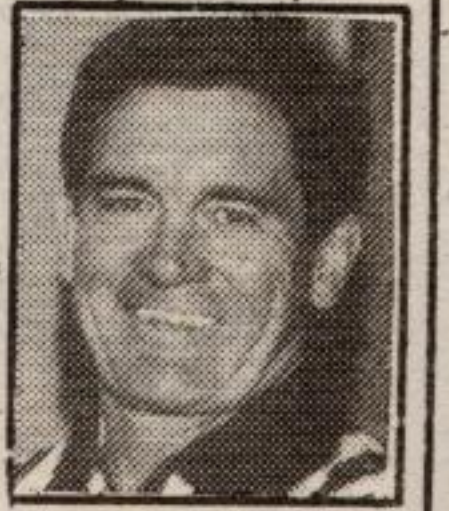
"It kind of takes your breath away when you see all of the lights on the equipment. It is so awesome and gives you a good feeling and that's why we do it," Williamson said, noting his entry will be a square baler that includes snowmen, platforms for sitting, lights and ornaments.

Guelph OPP and Rockwood volunteer fire fighters will escort the parade and direct traffic while Santa's elves and helpers will hand out candy canes.

The floats assemble just north of the village and at 7 pm head south on Main Street, west on Hwy. 7 to Falls Street, east on Mary Street and Guelph Street, north on Main, east on Jackson, north on Princess, west on Gzowski and back north on Main Street.

Travel

with
Bruce Hood



Want 'activities' or 'snoozin' in the sun?'

Talk about activities—on land, on or in the water, in the fitness centre, in the dining room, in the bar/disco—you name it, it's available at many locations in the warm, sunny Caribbean! Of course, one can choose the type of property to suit their needs—it may include golfing, or horse-back riding. Or, to do **nothing but lie in the sun** (with proper skin protection!), and enjoy a good book!

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All-inclusive resorts are out there on almost every island in the south and their numbers seem to double each year. Mega-choices for you—from many excellent five-star new presentations, to older locations, refurbished, which may get a three or four star rating. (These ratings, although supposedly international, vary considerably from country to country in many cases, as many veteran travellers will attest to!). Our suggestion is not to look at only the price—you know best what you can afford. Decide what you want in your vacation and then indicate this to your professional travel agent, who can assist your decision.

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Grand Montego Beach Resort, a Jack Tar Village property in Jamaica, is one in the middle of the group. Newly renovated, it has a charm all its own: tropical gardens, a low-rise beachfront hotel with a private beach, only minutes from the airport at Montego Bay, (better than the long drive to either Ochos Rios or Negril) with access to lots of shopping around the bay area, and you can ride on the soon-to-come shuttle! Only 130 rooms with either a balcony or patio and most overlooking the beach, it is small enough to offer your own individuality and privacy compared to being at one of the larger resorts that sometimes resemble a 'city' in themselves!

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A Reggae Splash, Mardi Gras, Spanish Fiesta, Wild West, and Island Night are some theme nights they feature to add to your fun. Snorkeling, water sports, beach volleyball, — it's all here, plus Ironshore Golf Club is just down the road. You have your choice of participating in the activities, or just 'snooze in the sun with a margarita!' Or how about a little of both? That's our favourite — **especially the margarita!**

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TIP OF THE WEEK: Get every bit of information possible about your vacation destination (or destinations, as in a cruise itinerary) **before you leave!** Your local professional travel agency has it available for you.

Your community-involved travel agency. For the best routing, best fares, best service — come see us!
**56 Mill St. E.
853-3580**

Good reports at Eramosa School!

ERAMOSA P.S. NEWS

BY SHANNON DODGE & KELLY WOODS

Last week we got our first term report cards. Most people were pleased with what they achieved.

All of our classes are busy getting ready with their plays for our yearly Christmas concert. Everyone is looking forward to Christmas and all the presents that come with it.

The Grade 6s had a guest speaker in from the John Howard Society last Wednesday. We watched a video and he left some interesting board games for us to play that focus on vandalism. We talked about the importance of making good choices and we hope we can learn from that.

ROCKWOOD KNECHTEL

YOUR *local* STORE WITH

BIG SAVINGS

Taster's Choice Instant Coffee

Regular or Decaffeinated
150 g Jar

3.99

Fresh Chicken Leg Quarters

1.74 kg

.79

lb.

V8 Vegetable Cocktail

or Campbell's Caesar's Choice
Large 950 mL Bottle

.79

McCain Pizza

or Pizza Pockets Assorted Varieties
Frozen 400 g - 525 g Pkg.

1.99

Stokely Vegetables or Beans

Assorted Varieties
341 mL/398 mL Tin

2/.99

Meat

Knechtel Black Forest Ham

Whole, Half or Mini
6.59 kg

2.99

lb.

Deli

Summer Sausage

Schneiders 'Famous For Quality' Jumbo or Cloth Bag

5.99

lb.
1.32/100 g

Bakery

Assorted Tarts

"A Lunch Box Treat"

6/2.99

Produce

Product of U.S.A.
"Florida Grown"

Pink or White Grapefruit

6/.99

Prices Effective Mon., Dec. 9, Until Closing Sun., Dec. 15, 1996 At Knechtel Food Markets Only. Savings Based On Regular Retail. We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities To Normal Family Requirements.

Gift Baskets • Hall Decorating • Balloon Bouquets



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Our custom-designed gift baskets will impress you with their beauty - and great price! Simply call and let us know how much you want to spend... we'll design a basket that's perfect for everyone on your shopping list!



COUNTRY REFLECTIONS
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