

The Changing Face of Eden Mills Park

BY RAY DARLING
EDEN MILLS

The residents of Eden Mills will soon hear a new sound from the park in their village, the sound of bouncing basketballs. A new standard and asphalt pad are just the latest in a series of recent changes to the picturesque playground, the scene of countless baseball games on warm summer nights, tobogganing and ski parties on cold winter days, and an after school meeting spot for kids and parents all year round.

The latest change is the culmination of seven years of work by a group known as the Park Committee. The happy band includes childcare workers and stay-at-home parents who were looking for a place to occupy their charges, residents such as: Susan Allen, Heather Nagel, Susie Cousins, Lee Wisener, Annette Bantychen, Kirsten Goodman, Amanda Goerzen and Joanne Smith. Ironically, their children have grown up and some of the group have moved on and yet the project

continues, a sign of the dedication of the Park Committee to their community.

The project was planned in three phases. The first phase saw the addition of a teeter-totter and slide, aimed at the younger set. The second phase was a larger structure for older kids that was constructed last summer. The installation of the playhouse was a grand success due to the assistance of many volunteers, including staff and equipment generously provided by Eramosa Township. The third phase is the latest project; a basketball court for kids of all ages, to be installed the first of May.

The Park Committee's plans did not come at a small cost — an estimated \$20,000 was required to complete the three phases. After an inauspicious start, raising \$30 on a raffle for a gingerbread house, their fundraising quickly gained momentum. The group has operated a successful teahouse at the annual Eden Mills Writer's Festival



JUST HANGIN' AROUND

Local youngsters such as Andrew Smith, Elliot Shrive, Trent Copeland, Mac Born and Graham Copeland enjoy the Eden Mills Park and its new equipment on a regular basis.

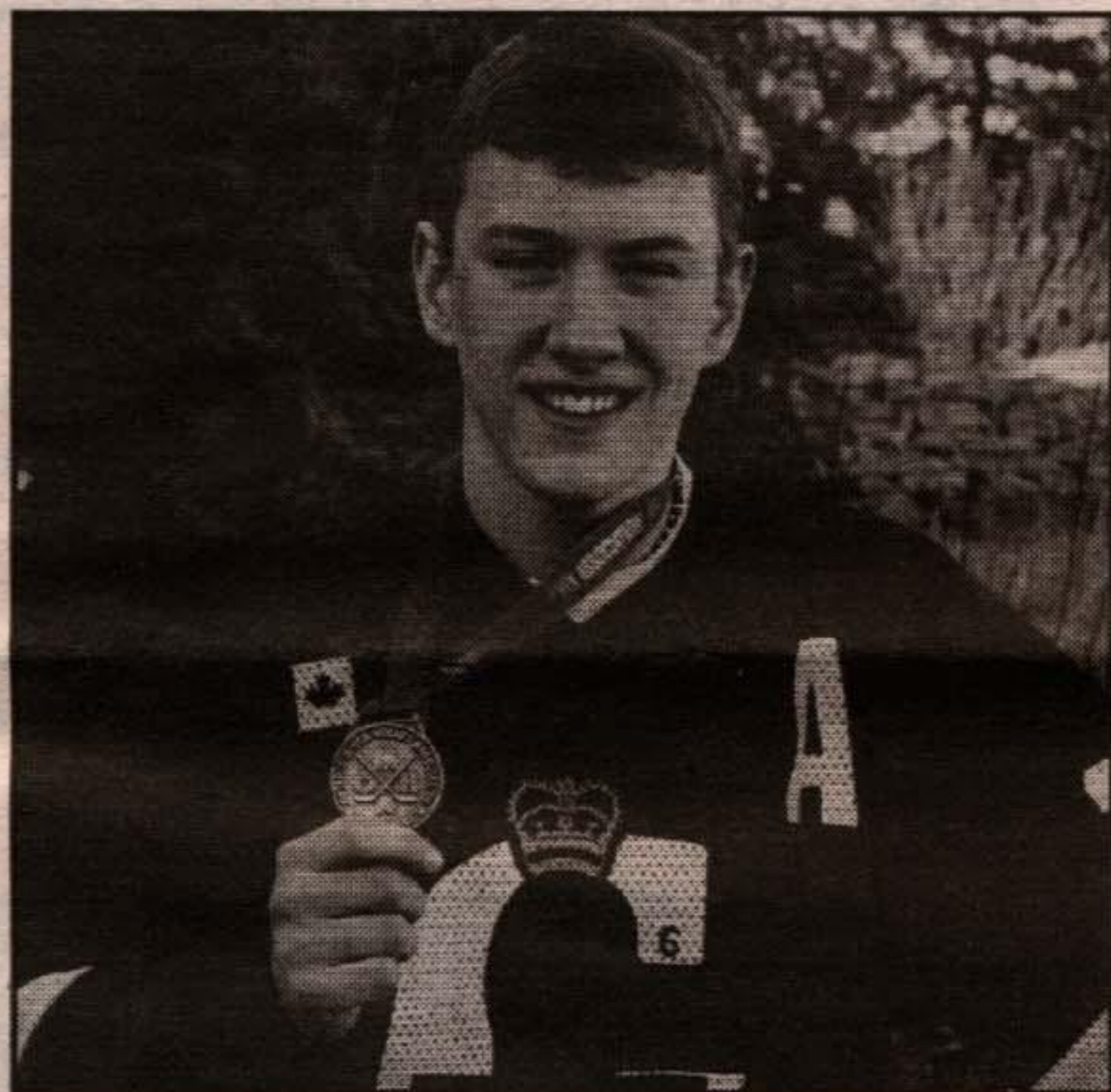
PHOTO BY RON KINDT

and has offered gourmet buffets and other private catering jobs. They were also very successful at tapping in to the generosity of local business and service organizations. Gifts included: \$3000 over three years from the Rockwood Optimists Club; \$500 from the Rockwood Lioness Club; \$2000 from

BFI; \$500 from Union Gas; \$500 from McNeil Consumer Products, as well as countless private gifts. They also received bequests in the amount of \$550 in memorium to local resident Lorna Tomlinson.

With the project close to an end, there is just one more bit of fundraising left to do.

The Park Committee hopes to raise enough money to lay an asphalt pad by running a basketball skills clinic or three-on-three tournament. Anyone interested in participating in or planning this event is invited to attend a meeting at the Eden Mills Community Centre on Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.



SMART & TALENTED - Justin Davis is the complete package, great athlete and "A" student. Pictured with Southern Ontario Championship Medallion

STORY BY RAY DARLING

PHOTO BY RON KINDT

Local ice hero wins OHMA Championship

What do winning hockey games, heaving rocks, and reading Marcel Proust have in common? Nothing for most people, but that is everyday life for our hockey hero, Justin Davis of Eden Mills.

Justin and the rest of his Guelph Frigidaire Midget A squad have just returned from New Liskeard crowned provincial champions after sweeping a five game round-robin. The winning tournament capped off a great season for the squad, which earlier won Guelph's first Southern Ontario OMHA Midget Championship in 41 years by beating Stouffville three games straight. It was a banner year for Justin, a strong skater and checker, who scored 25 goals during the

regular season and 3 goals in the series against Stouffville, including the game one winner in over-time.

Justin is truly a local product who perfected his hockey skills on the millpond in Eden Mills. When he is not working at Knechtel's Grocery Store in Rockwood, he is heaving rocks around his parent's property in the village (a common pastime for area residents). Sixteen-year-old Davis is a true student-athlete who is maintaining an "A" average at J.F. Ross High School and has an apparent fondness for French novelists. He hopes to play university hockey and at 6'1" and 174 pounds with skills and smarts to match his size, his *Remembrances of Things Past* should one day be fond.

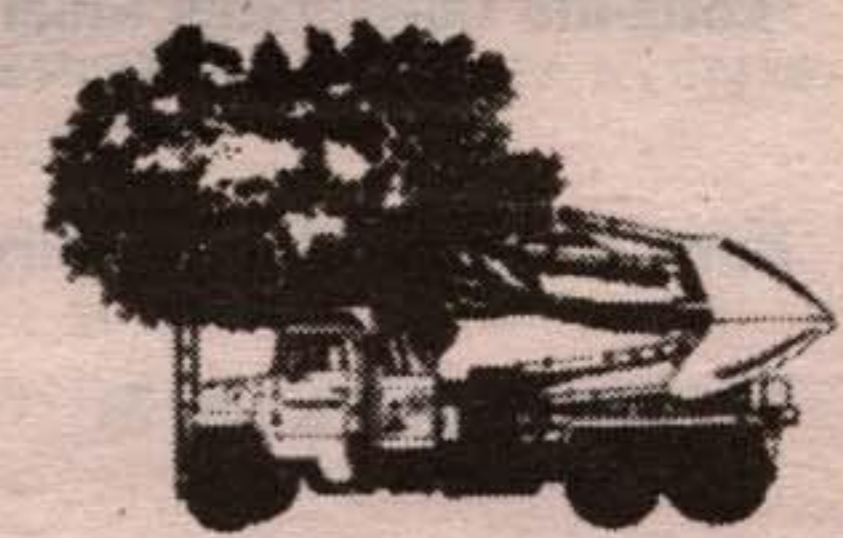


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Rockwood youngsters celebrate poetry

Nineteen children from Kindergarten to Grade Three at Rockwood Centennial held an Oral Communications Festival on April 9 to celebrate poetry.

All students participated by learning and reciting poems in the classroom prior to the festival, and many performed their own compositions. The students that represented their classes at the program received a school certificate of recognition. The event was coordinated by Mrs. Spence.



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