

## North Halton Happenings

### ONGOING

**Summer Teas** at McCrae House, 108 Water St., Guelph. July 5, 12 and 26, 2 to 4 p.m. \$6 plus tax, advance purchase only. Special blend teas, scones, jam, shortbread and fresh berries. Call 519-836-1221, ext. 307.

### AUGUST 5

**Garage/Trunk sale** at Limehouse Memorial Hall, 5th Line and 22nd Sideroad. Indoor tables \$10 each, trunk space \$5. Set up at 7 a.m. and sale is from 8 a.m. to Noon. Coffee, donuts and hot dogs available. Call 905-877-2136 to book space or donate gently used items.

### AUGUST 8

**Nasagaweya Historical Society** regular monthly meeting at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, 8 p.m. Speaker will be Bonnie Mullen on Duchess Olga Romanov-Koulikovsky.

### AUGUST 11, 12 & 13

**Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games**, 55th annual event at Fergus Community Centre. 31 different pipe bands performing, Celtic music, Scottish heavy events, Highland dancing, Genealogy tent, Avenue of the Clans, Heritage Tent and more. Friday night tattoo with seven brass and pipe bands and The Lightin' - a candlelight tribute to the homeland at closing. Opening ceremonies feature John Anderson, massed bands and fling, 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Call 519-787-0099 to order tickets, email scottish@sentex.net or visit www.fergusscottishfestival.com

### AUGUST 26

**A Celtic Night of Mystery** amongst the Rockwood Mill ruins, 6 p.m. to midnight. In support of animals Homeward Bound a registered charity. Call 519-856-9002 for further details or visit www.counteractbalancing.com/homewardbound/

### SEPTEMBER 1 - 4

**Labour Day Weekend, 40th Annual Steam-Era**, Milton, Ontario featuring 'Classic Canadiana' farm equipment; vintage racing cars; daily parades of steam engine and gas tractors; demo's of threshing, sawmill, baker fans; tractor pulls. Trading post/flea market; evening talent shows at Milton Fairgrounds. Online at www.steam-era.com or call 905-878-6576 for directions and details. Non-profit event run by the volunteers of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Ass'n.

### SEPTEMBER 6

**Fall Warbler Workshop: Practise, Persistence & Patience**. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., this workshop tackles the "Confusing fall warblers." Learn identification during fall migration, focus on those that look different from their springtime feathers as well as warblers with similar fall plumage. Also learn calls, fall migration and wintering grounds. \$45, registration and payment by Wed. Aug. 16. The Arboretum, U of G, 519-824-4120, ext. 4110.

### SEPTEMBER 12

**Hawk Workshop: those magnificent raptors**. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. workshop designed to help you develop skills in identifying migrating hawks, falcons, vultures, eagles and osprey. Through hands on activities learn about plumage, body shape, foraging techniques, flight patterns and migration times of 15 species. \$45; registration and payment required by Aug. 29. The Arboretum, U of G, 519-824-4120, ext. 4110.

### SEPTEMBER 17

Tickets are on sale now for the **Third Annual TASTE OF GUELPH fundraiser** in support of Guelph's Health Care Foundations. The "deliciously different" charity event will be held this year on September 17. Starting at one o'clock, guests will gather at Riverside Mansion to savour the culinary masterpieces of more than 25 local restaurants. The Early Bird ticket price is \$75 but only until August 17, when prices increase to \$100. Tickets are available by calling 519-767-3424.



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## The Verner T. (Tack) Smith Sure Grip Boot Company

BY H. LLOYD DYER  
SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Tack Smith drove a big Hudson car; he was a large fellow and a bit on the stout side. He liked to chew tobacco and had to spit frequently.

Tack said when he drove to Toronto, he cut every curve to the inside. With no centre lines and little traffic, he figured he cut a lot of miles off the trip.

Back in the 1920's the boot factory was located down the lane opposite the War Cenotaph. The building was three storey, built of stone and quite large.

One day Mary Bolton, who worked in the office, said, "That sounds like the building's fire alarm!"

The year was about 1929 or 1930 in February, I believe. Herb Bolton, Mary's younger brother, had the poker in the boiler, firing up. When he took the poker out a spark fell off, igniting the fuzz that was like cobwebs and was spread all over the place. This was from cutting the liners from the rubber tires. This flash fire went through the building in a hurry and everybody had to get out quickly.

Now in those days our volunteer fire brigade had two chemical tanks mounted on two wagon wheels. There was a good length of red rubber hose rolled up. The hose could emit a three-quarter inch stream of water when under pressure. A crash axe was mounted on the tongue of the fire wheels and a container held bottles of hydrochloric acid. The tongue had a drop leg to keep the fire engine level. This was folded back in the "up" position when

being towed by any car or truck to a fire. The fire engine was kept at the east side of a double house owned by A. K. Thomas, the second building on Guelph Street from Main Street. (The building has lately been torn down.) You could slide a door back into the building, rope onto the tongue with a vehicle and be on your way in a minute.

The big problem was the water had to be drained from the tanks during winter months as there was no heat in the building. Precious minutes counted to get to the fire as quickly as possible. Arriving at that fire to the fighters' dismay, there was no water in the tanks since they were drained for the winter. Now they had to get to the river for a quick fill-up. Usually two lines of volunteer firemen lined up at the river, one line passing the empty pails down to the river, the other line passing the full galvanized pails back to the tanks to pour in the top. A large screw cap came off the top of each tank with a good-sized opening to catch the water. In panic there could have been a quarter of a pail of water spilled each time. I don't remember whether there was any open water at the river or if the firemen had to cut a hole in the ice with the crash axe, losing more precious minutes.

Baking soda was dumped in, and in a cage mounted in a large cup inside the tank was a fresh bottle of hydrochloric acid. On arriving at the fire the second time, it was too late. The fire engine tanks were emptied of water as it was still winter and

the fire wheels were put away. On top of the chemical tank were gauges to show the pressure built up when charged. To break the acid bottle you turned a handle on one tank at a time to empty the acid into the baking soda water. You only used one tank at a time when the pressure got down you charged the second tank.

You may go to the burnt out building down the lane and to the left and see what remains.

## Certificate recipients honoured for Rural Women's Shelter Program

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

Joanne Page, Executive Director of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis, presented Certificates of Appreciation to 12 recipients from rural Wellington County at the June 27 Annual General Meeting. Recipients were honoured for their ongoing contributions to the women supported by the Rural Women's Shelter Program.

In Southeast Wellington, those honoured by the award were Audrey Devonshire of Minerva's Aesthetics, Joanne Blomberg of Rockwood, Anna Marie Holtom of Holton's Bakery, and Dot Polo of Dottie's Diner.

### Dr. Tim Peloso, B.Sc.(H.K.), D.C.

#### Rockwood Family Chiropractic

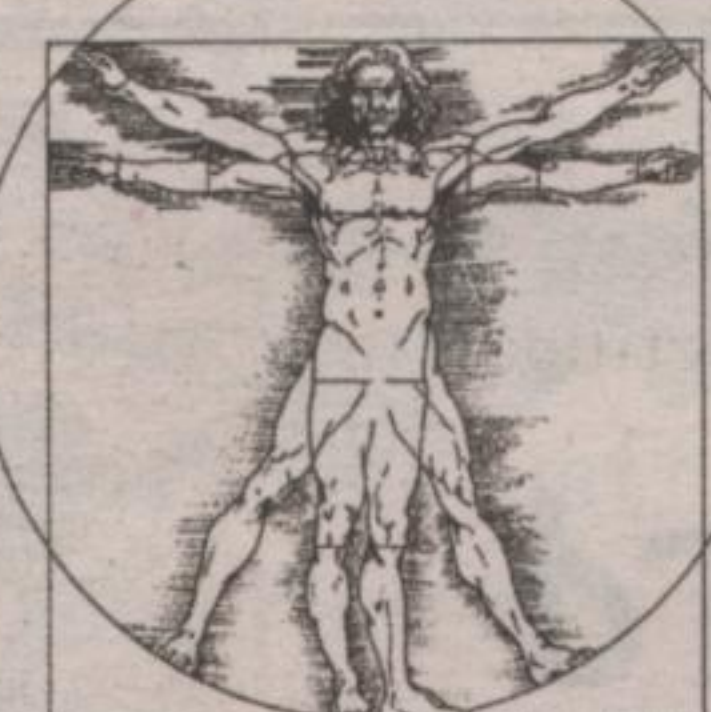
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from Dr. Tim and Daphne

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## A Celtic Night of Mystery

held amongst the Rockwood Mill ruins

August 26, 2000

6:00 pm - midnight

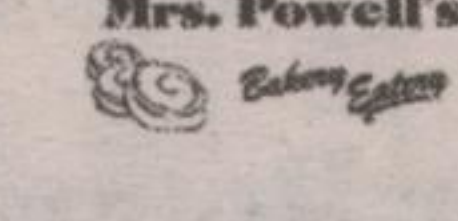
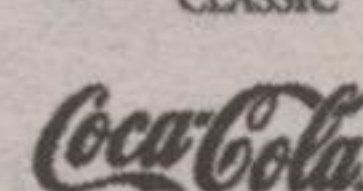
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## Citizens concerned about proposed firehall

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE  
THE COMPASS

Many residents of Guelph/Eramosa are concerned about the proposal to build a new firehall on the corner of Highway 7 and Fall Street in Rockwood on Grand River Conservation Authority land. The surveying stakes have been in the ground since spring.

There will be a regular township meeting on August 8 at the Brucedale office. Rockwood resident Julie Sargent will be presenting some opposing views to the proposed site.

Sargent says that those against to the new location are invited to sign petitions of opposition located at Lifestyles Hair Design, Shell Gas, Saunders Bakery and Rumours Furniture, or may call 856-4174 for information.

Township clerk Janice Sheppard stated that there will be an information night in September (date and location as yet to be confirmed) during which the township and residents will be able to go over more detailed information.

"At this point we don't have anything confirmed with GRCA," she added. "We want to get some plans and alternatives [together] first."