

# School Days, Golden Rule Days!

### Esquesing Historical Society seeks to preserve history of area schools

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

The Chapel Street School in Georgetown is long gone now, but members of the Esquesing Historical Society are hoping that people's recollections will keep the history of the school alive for future generations.

For the society's first meeting in the new year on January 12 members will present a talk entitled *School Days, Golden Rule Days!* about the Georgetown Public School, which later would be renamed the Chapel Street School. Constructed in 1869, the red brick two-storey building was located behind the site of St. John's United Church on Guelph St. In 1974, the school closed its doors and six years later in 1980 the structure was demolished. Now there are homes that occupy the site and no tangible reminders that a school once existed on the property.

Mark Rowe, the society's archivist and past president, says the focus of the talk will be on the Chapel Street School. However, the society plans to discuss not only this school, but also others in the Georgetown area. He says people attending the meeting can look at school registers from the society's archives, but they're also welcome to bring any material they may have that would relate to local schools. The society is encouraging people to bring in old postcards, class pictures and any other memorabilia.

Equally important are memories of local schools. "We are looking for stories, teachers' names, even current teachers' names. After a few years, people have forgotten the names. And information on teachers is not readily available."

One person who remembers the Chapel Street School is Marjorie Allan, a member of the society whose children attended the school in the 1960s. She

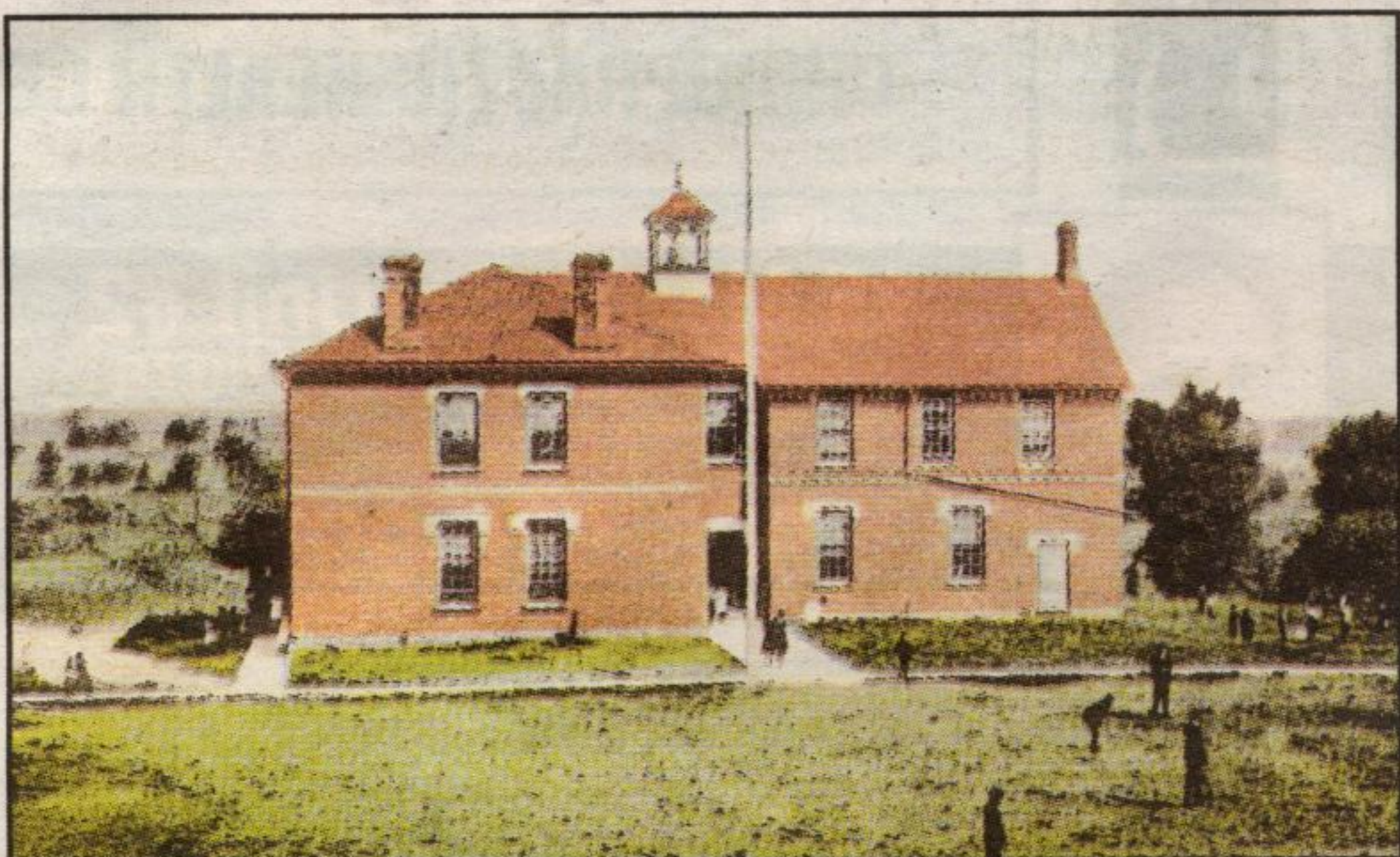
recalls the building as rather bland architecturally, a structure she describes as a "big square brick box" that looked like a typical schoolhouse with a staircase situated in the centre of the building.

She has fond memories of the school and she can mention the names of some teachers including Miss Stull, Mrs. Dorothy Green, and Anne Lough, a former teacher at the school who recently moved away from Georgetown. The principal that she remembers is Val Stein.

Mrs. Allan says there is historical information available about local schools, but the society would like to gather more information. For Mr. Rowe, there's still a wealth of untapped information about local schools. And he still has unanswered questions about the Chapel Street School. One mystery concerns the bell. Mr. Rowe would love to hear from anyone who may know what happened to the bell or any other more concrete reminders of the building's existence. Some of the brick used to construct the school, for example, may still exist.

Mr. Rowe says people who want to share information on local schools can contact him at 905-877-9510 or by email at mrowe6@cogeco.ca.

The Society's meeting on local schools on January 12 begins at 7:30 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown. All meetings of the society are free of charge.



Pictures still exist on old postcards showing Chapel Street School, formerly known as the Georgetown Public School, as it once was. The school opened its doors in 1869 and was closed in 1974. The building was demolished in 1980.

# Rockwood Eramosa Business Association

By BREN CHISHOLM

The Rockwood-Eramosa Business Association (REBA) represents businesses located both in the village of Rockwood and in the surrounding township of Guelph Eramosa.

The mission of REBA is to foster the growth of business in the community and provide networking opportunities for its members. REBA is looking for all businesses in the area to formally join the organization so that everyone can benefit from a united voice.

Dr. Timothy Peloso of Rockwood Family Chiropractic and Massage Therapy, Doris Bozzelli, owner of Rumours Furniture, and Rockwood Karate Club owner, Donna Haskett have expressed a desire to be part of this community initiative and have stepped forward to act as the interim executives for REBA.

REBA was originally formed in 1990 and went through various stages of activity. Between 1995 and 1997, they placed several park benches, some street banners and flower planters in downtown. In addition, they created a walking tour booklet of historical downtown buildings.

Peloso has been in Rockwood for ten years now and has witnessed an influx of more merchants but not much being done in the way of highlighting and providing support for these new businesses nor the ones that are already established.

REBA has the full support of the current Guelph-Eramosa Township Economic Development Committee and Council. "The new council," says Peloso excitedly, "is more friendly and they recognize the importance of economic development". As a result of this encouragement, REBA will now work together with the local government, services, clubs, developers, etc., to improve the business climate through the completion of specific projects and events.

REBA is currently working on promoting their member businesses to the local community with a planned "shop locally" campaign, as well as endorsing their own brand of tourism. The village has a unique combination of exceptional shops and restaurants (such as "The Rose Garden", "Geckos International Imports" and "La Vieille Auberge"), together with incredible nature trails.

REBA will represent business concerns to municipal and other levels of

governments to ensure all voices are heard, as well as work to access potential funds/programs for business improvement. "Our goal is to stir economic growth. Why not spend a small amount to show there is an economic growth potential?" says Peloso. He believes the first couple of steps will point them in the right direction.

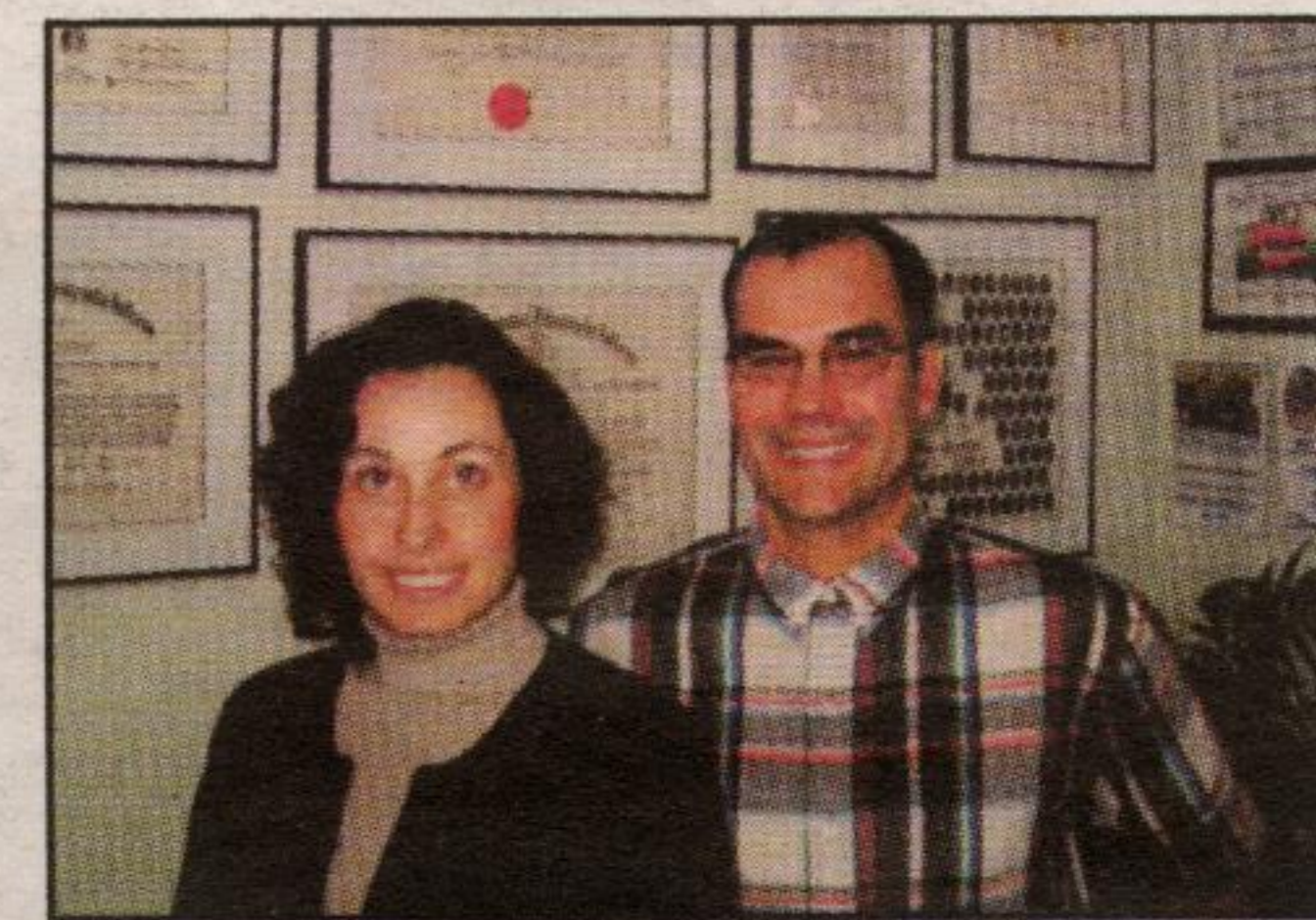
"Really, what we're doing are simple projects. Our first one was the community announcement to introduce ourselves and to entice the community." Owners of home businesses interested in supporting the economy are being urged to join. Peloso is working with REBA to get some welcome banners out in full view and with Christmas right around the corner, the potential is there for some strategic marketing.

Bozzelli says, "We have committed to two projects: a business association website - [www.rockwoodbusiness.ca](http://www.rockwoodbusiness.ca) - as well as a business directory of members to be released in Spring 2005."

To join REBA complete a 2005 membership form and remit together with a cheque for \$50.00 to REBA, Box 478, Rockwood, Ontario, N0K 2K0. Forms may be obtained by contacting [geba@cogeco.ca](mailto:geba@cogeco.ca) or by calling (519) 856-2624.

For the \$50.00 annual membership fee members get a listing in the REBA Business Directory with a minimum of 5,000 copies to be distributed to the local community, libraries, Township office, realtors, new home offices, etc.

Members are also listed on the REBA website [www.rockwoodbusiness.ca](http://www.rockwoodbusiness.ca) with a link to their own website. Memberships must be received by January 15, 2005 in order to be included in the business directory.



Dr. Tim Peloso with his assistant, Daphne.

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