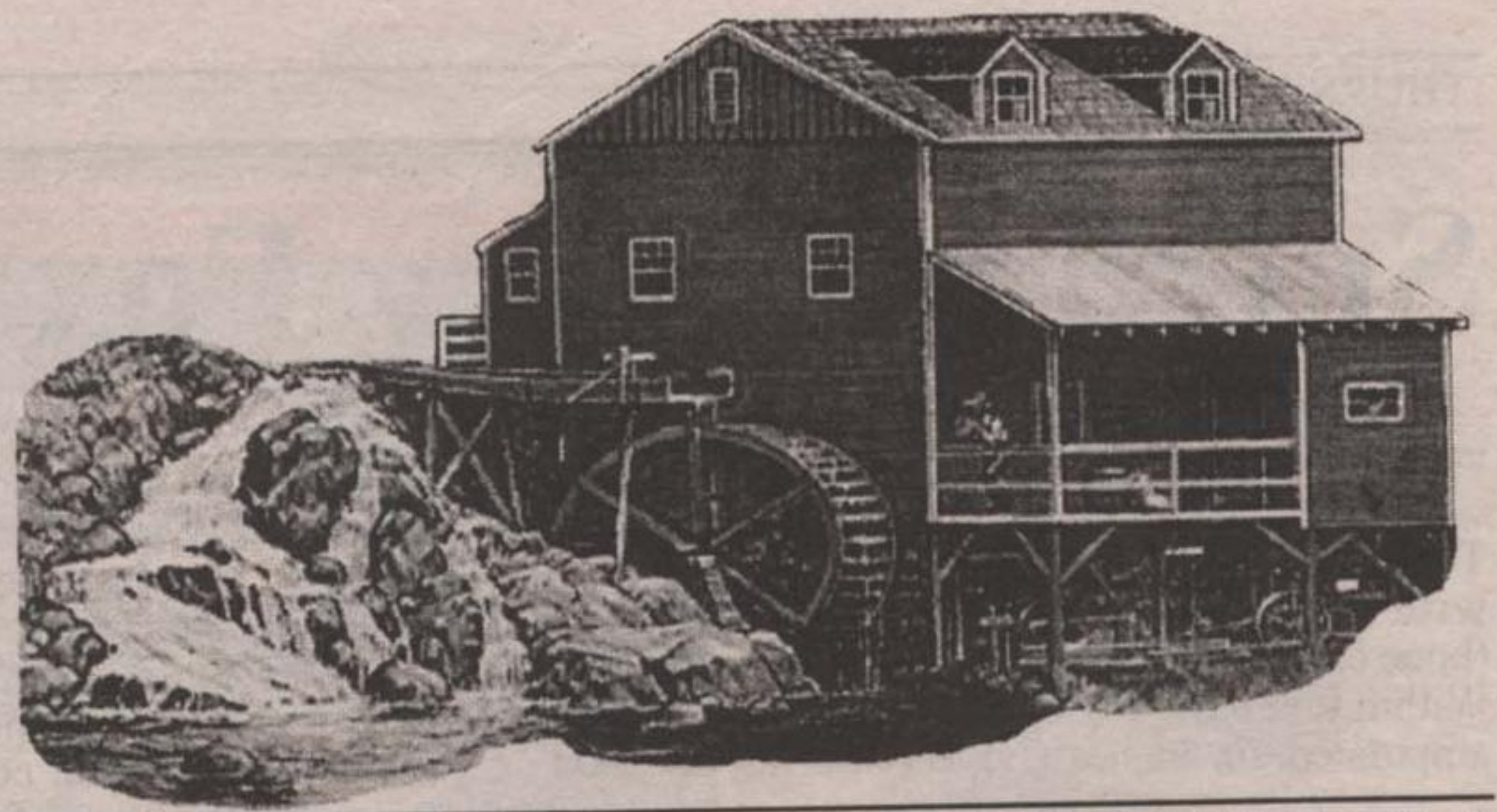


The Rockwood MILLER



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1998

March closings for Rockwood Ridge homes

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Rockwood Miller

After years of seeming inactivity at the Rockwood Ridge housing development prospective buyers are being offered March 1999 closing dates and construction could begin this fall on some of the

approximately 30 homes already sold.

Since the Seaton Group received draft approval in 1994 for 494 homes in a four-phase development all the public has seen happen on the 100-acre site is construction of a model home and site preparation work.

That's about to change according to Seaton Group project manager Jeremy Grant who said "things have been going well," at the development south of Rockwood.

"We plan to register the plan of subdivision for the first phase by the end of this month," Grant said in an interview on Friday, adding that they, "clearly would have liked to have had houses up in the ground by now."

"We're working as diligently as possible and we've done a tremendous, significant amount of marketing and advertising and we build when the right number of sales are there and we are right now," Grant said, adding that the market for top-notch homes is very competitive.

Grant said there is still some servicing work to be done on the roads and they have applied for permits for approximately six model homes. As well, they are waiting for final approvals for infrastructure improvements to Rockwood's sewage system from the Ministry of Energy and Environment.

The Seaton Group and Foxbridge Homes are marketing the site as a friendly small town community featuring front porches on all homes, less emphasis on roads and garages and all of the units are zoned to allow for home-based businesses.



WORKING TOGETHER: Eramosa Fire Department hosted a mutual aid meeting with 18 participating fire departments last Tuesday. Rockwood members are shown above. Inset, Eramosa Fire Department Chief David Sherratt checks out a display of valves and other emergency equipment. - Ted Tyler photos

10th annual Writers' Festival in Eden Mills on Sunday

Ringmaster is an apt description for Eden Mills Writers' Festival organizer Leon Rooke as final preparations are underway for this Sunday's event on the banks of the Eramosa River - the 10th edition of the festival which features author readings, book launches and signings.

"It's a real circus - it's always like this when we get down to the wire," Rooke said in an interview on Friday, adding that a couple of transportation problems are making things interesting.

"I'm fearful the Air Canada strike will affect people flying in for the festival and the new bridge in the centre of the village isn't finished. I've been told we'll

have a walkway for pedestrians to cross the bridge from the parking area at the baseball diamond to the outdoor festival sites across the river."

More than 40 poets, playwrights, novelists, story tellers and performers will take part in the festival and Rooke said he must make the same "fearful choices" as other festival participants when deciding which readings to attend at the three adult and two children's sites which will operate simultaneously. Rooke won't miss Margaret Atwood who may read from her new novel-in-progress and a first-time Writer's Trust lecture by award-winning poet and novelist Dionne Brand.

"A lot of people are very

excited by the appearance of well-known playwright Tomson Highway who will be launching his first novel," Rooke said, adding that CBC Radio host and Eden Mills resident Shelagh Roger's interview of poet Al Purdy will be aired at a later date. Long-time festival friend George Butterfield is helping bring American writer James Salter.

The Festival began a decade ago when the owners of what was then the general store staged a book launching for Rooke. The event has grown in size and scope, Rooke said, because it is unique. The Festival runs from noon to 6 p.m., rain or shine. For information call the hotline at 826-0876.

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