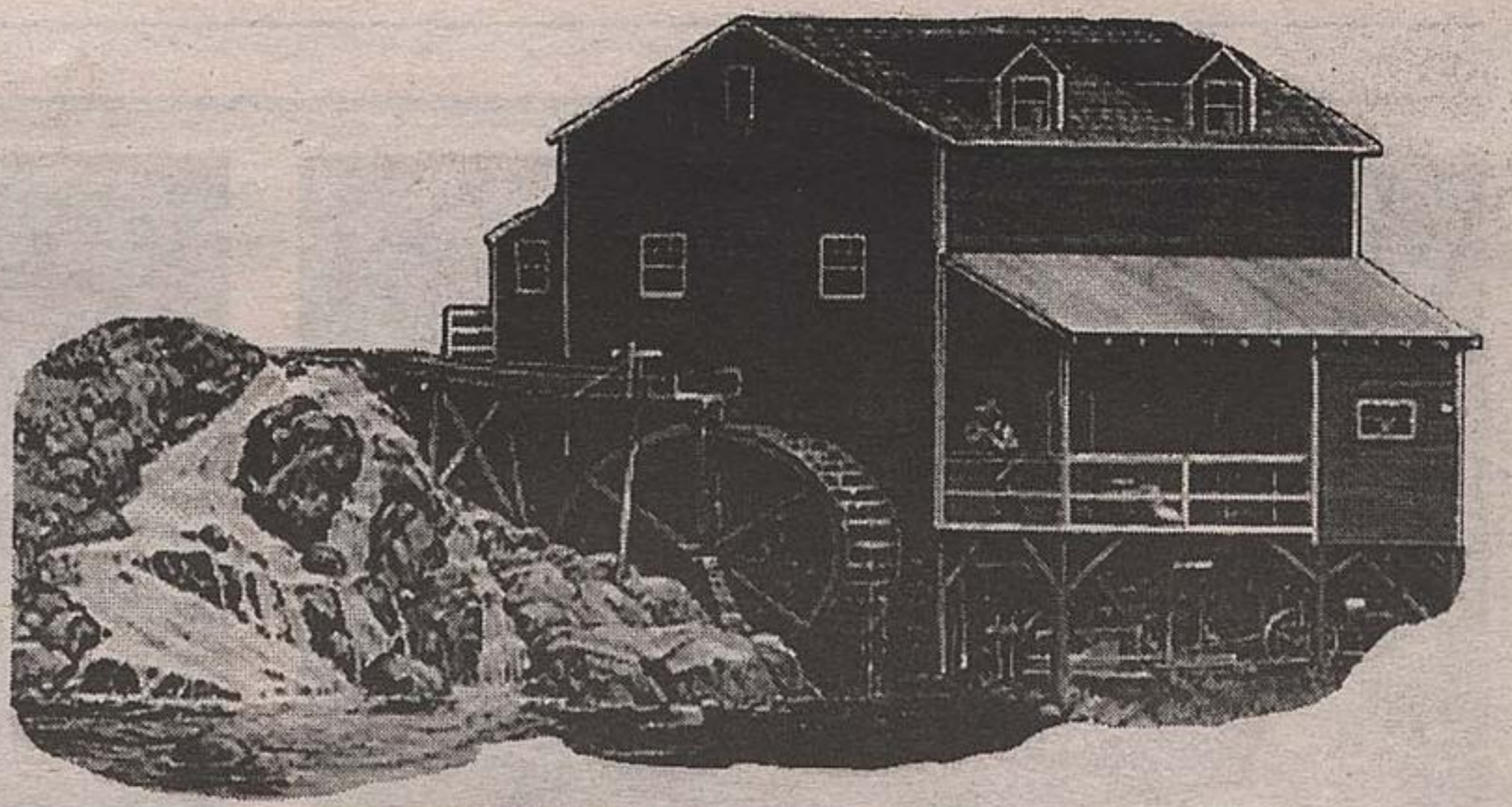


The Rockwood MILLER



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1998

THE ROCKWOOD MILLER

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WEDDING CEREMONY: Above, grooms from Eramosa Township were united with brides from Guelph Township in a symbolic ceremony at Sunday's Spirit Valley Experience at the ruins of the old mill in the Rockwood Conservation Area. Participating couples were from the left: Andrea Archer and Rick Hughes, Carol Mills and Tim Peloso, Karen Robson and Mark Thomsen, and Karin Goda and Denis Wilde. Below, accompaniment for the ceremony was provided by the Stone (hand) Bell Choir. Members are, from left: Aynsley Anderson, Kristan Wahlstron, director Liz Guthrie, Christine Poschung, Gavin Anderson, Robin Baker and Steve Thomson. The community play, *All Over the Map*, will be performed again Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24 and 25. - *Maggie Petrushevsky photos*



Rockwood Native Company wows kids at Fall Fair

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The Rockwood Miller

Interpretive naturalists at NEST Nature Education Programming in Rockwood like to go for the "wow factor" when they present programming for students and seniors alike.

The company's innovative hands-on style to nature was evident from the rapt attention and excitement shown by Halton students on Friday as they attended a NEST demonstration during Education Day at the Acton Fall Fair.

As curious kids crowded around NEST employee, interpretive naturalist Melanie Byl, used two pop bottles joined neck to neck and filled with water to explain how tornadoes are formed. Byl also created new hairstyles for some students using static electricity created by rubbing on their head.

"I had a blast with the kids," Byl said after the dem-

onstrations. "The kids are my favourite clients because they are so attentive to all that happens around them and have so many questions. Their excitement gives me excitement, and although it might be exhausting, it's a lot of fun."

NEST is owned by Rockwood's Sue Alexander who operates the seven-year-old business from her home, surrounded by shelves of mammal skulls used during presentations. Alexander, who studied biology at the University of Guelph, began offering interpretive programming seven years ago after doing some nature work with the Scouts. NEST runs the school programming at the Arboretum at the University of Guelph, the interpretive programming and gift shop at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area and takes its program to local schools and other groups.

"I've done programming at the Ontario Science Cen-

tre and we've done a lot of work at museums but the mainstay of the company are the outdoor education programs that I take into schools," Alexander said in an interview on Sunday. "We provide a way for people to learn in a fun and interesting way and about 90 per cent of kids start out not too impressed and walk out saying 'wow,' and that's a really rewarding part of the job."

With a hands-on approach NEST offers programs for pre-schoolers to seniors.

"It's the seniors who said, 'Oh, yuck - I'm not going to touch that,' when I did an insect presentation last week. The little kids were willing to touch everything and we tailor the information to each group."

Alexander, who said she's now spends more time developing programming than actually teaching, has one full-time and 10 part-time employees. To reach NEST call 856-2714.

ROCKWOOD DIGEST

REMBA wrap-up

Lucky Trentt Copeland, 9, of Eden Mills, picked up two Toronto Blue Jays tickets as a prize during the Rockwood - Eramosa Minor Baseball Association (REMBA) fun day on Sunday at Lloyd Dyer Park.

The day featured carnival games, skills competitions, a ball game for everyone and an awards ceremony. Approximately 230 Rockwood area kids played organized ball this summer - some of them played very well including the Peeewe girls who won the All Ontario championship and the Peeewe hardball team that won their Zone championship.

Zero tolerance

The OPP and Eramosa's fire chief are investigating a minor arson fire at Lloyd Dyer Park on Sunday following the minor ball fun day. Around 6 p.m. neighbours spotted four-foot-high flames

in the bleachers and called 911. Garbage had been placed under the wooden benches and set on fire causing minor damage. On Saturday night several garbage cans were set on fire.

Fire Chief Dave Sherratt said they've adopted a zero tolerance policy in the park after a summer plagued with littering, noise and vandalism. The skateboarding ramps have been removed from the park and works crews will increase their checks of the park.

"You can't have fire trucks running around with crews just because some kid thinks it's great fun to set fires," Sherratt said, adding that he and OPP Constable Dan McDonald questioned students at Rockwood Centennial School on Monday.

Space available

Although registrations have already been held it's not too late to join Rockwood's Scouting and

Guiding groups. Girls in the rural area have the option of joining Beavers, Cubs and Scouts but can also enroll in Sparks, Brownies or Guides. For information about Rockwood Beavers call Wayne Young at 856-1119. Cubs meet Tuesdays at Rockwood Centennial school at 6:30 p.m. For information about Scouts call Gary Martin at 856-4208.

Sparks meet at the United Church on Wednesdays, Brownies meet at the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Guides meet at the Town Hall on Thursdays. For information about those groups call Mary Zaborowski at 856-4972.

Last time to cruise

Saturday will be the last Cruise Night for the season in Rockwood.

Sponsored by Rockwood Motor Products, cruise night participants gather on Alma Street near the Rockwood Conservation Area between 7 and 9 p.m.

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