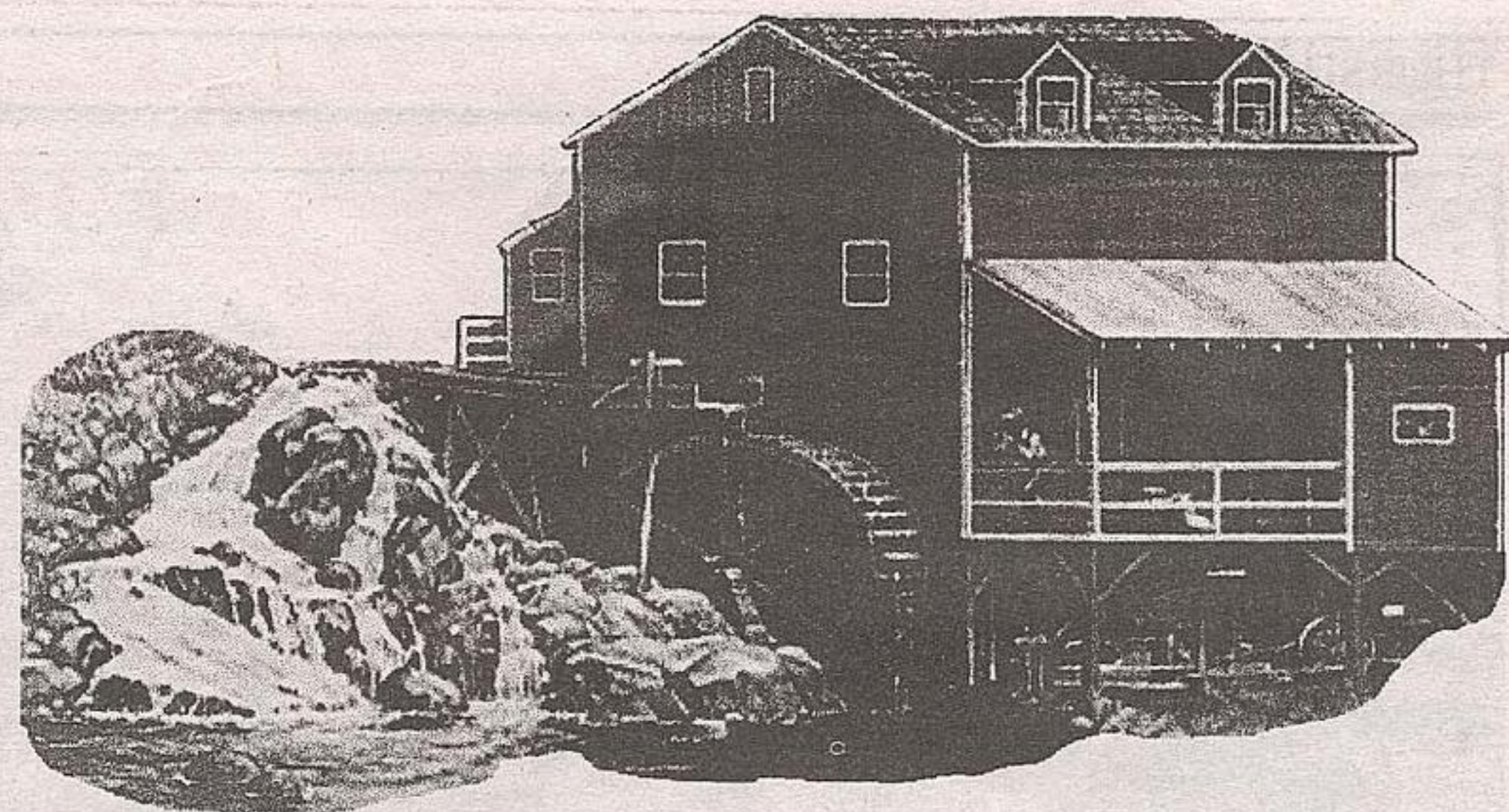


# The Rockwood MILLER



## Police, politicians worried over Rockwood vandalism

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The Rockwood Miller

Eramosa Township officials, concerned with on-going and escalating incidents of vandalism in Rockwood, are searching for ways to curb complaints and costly repairs.

Much of the vandalism, rowdiness, noise and fire setting have occurred at Lloyd Dyer Park where skateboarders built ramps and congregated all summer long. Township officials cleared ramps and other flammable materials from the park two weeks ago after several fires were set. Township works crews and the OPP have beefed up checks of the park and members of the Parks, Recreation and Culture committee will discuss the problem at their next meeting.

Committee chair, Councillor Doug Breen, said he was "fairly surprised" about the amount of vandalism that has occurred over the past six to eight months.

"There's been a lot more vandalism than I ever expected to see in a village of this size. When you get involved with repairing the stuff that gets burnt or willfully destroyed, it's kind of surprising how much there actually is. There's a large amount of vandalism - I won't sugar-coat that," Breen said in an interview on Sunday.

While Breen refused to detail the vandalism - "we don't want copycat incidents," he said, the Township was forced to put a steel roof on the food booth at Rockmosa Park because vandals were tearing shingles of

the roof and throwing them onto the ball diamond. One of the Township's food booths was also torched.

Breen said one solution might be to try to open a youth drop-in centre.

"That's the kind of thing that we'll look at. Maybe it could be done in co-operation with some of the existing organizations in town that have a great concern for youth," Breen said.

While there are a wide range of sports activities and youth activities offered by local groups and Rockwood's five churches the kids out late at night are the problem.

"The bottom line is that you can run events from 5 o'clock to 9 o'clock every night but if the kids are out on the street at midnight or 1 or 2 in the morning, then the problems will continue."



**HIGHWAY HELPERS:** Members of the Rockwood and District Lions and Lioness Club spent a good part of last Saturday picking up litter from ditches along Highway 7 from Crewson's Corners to Country Road 29. The Clubs have cleaned up the roadway for several years in an effort to beautify the community. Workers Jane Martin (left), Pat Kingdom, Jane Murison and Walter Swanston helped collect two pick-up trucks full of garbage. - Frances Niblock photo

## Rockwood Digest

### Phone filched

A cell phone/walkie-talkie belonging to a production company employee was stolen from the Rockwood Conservation Area on Sunday afternoon. The victim told OPP he noticed that the phone, worth \$350, was missing from his four-wheel drive vehicle after he stopped to talk to a group of youths.

Aviator Productions wraps up its three-week shoot of a cable television feature at Rockwood today (Thursday).

### Cat killed

OPP and Eramosa bylaw enforcement officials are investigating the death of a

Rockwood cat which was killed by a dog running loose at an Inkerman Street townhouse complex at 9:10 p.m. on Sunday.

Police report the Staffordshire Terrier - Rotweiler cross, owned by a resident of the complex, entered the cat owner's backyard, grabbed the cat and killed it with a shake. The horrified cat owner chased the dog, named Phelos, out of the yard and called police.

### Tractor accident

Former NHL player Lou Fontinato was not injured in a two vehicle accident at 1:45 p.m. on Sunday in Eramosa Township. The 66-year-old

rural Eden Mills, who played for the New York Rangers, was driving his 1997 John Deere tractor north bound on County Road 44 when he attempted to make a left-hand turn onto the Milton-Eramosa Line.

A 1986 Hyundai driven by 22-year-old Etobicoke resident Tomasz Kostyk was travelling northbound behind Fontinato and collided with the tractor when he tried to pass it as it turned. Kostyk was taken to hospital with minor injuries. Guelph OPP report no charges will be laid as each driver was "partially at fault."

## Locals make wishes come true

By ANGELA TYLER  
The New Tanner

For five years, a group of six volunteers from Rockwood and Guelph have been getting together at the

end of each month to host Rockwood's Cruise Night.

Started by Rockwood local, Lee Vickery because it was "something fun", cruise night has turned into a tradition for many.

The fourth Saturday of each month from May to September starting around dusk, 20 to 50 cars from years gone by fill the parking lot in front of DJ's Donuts. Here you can find people coming to Rockwood from as far away as Listowel or as close as Guelph, Cambridge, Fergus, Milton and locals from Rockwood and Acton.

Planning for the cruise night, which has just completed its 5th season, usually starts in March. Volunteers Lee, June and Chris Vickery, Lisa and Mary Logan, Ted Reynolds and Kim Leader organize flyers, donations from companies for door prizes, music and much more not for themselves, but for charity.

For the first two years, money raised with their 50/50 draw went to local charities. For the last three years,

the Guelph Make a Wish Foundation for terminally ill children have benefited from their hard work.

Lisa Logan, who is one of the volunteers, said they have been very fortunate with the support of local businesses for door prizes. Some of the local merchants participating are Rockwood Veterinary Clinic, Pro Hardware, DJ's Donuts, Rockwood Shell and some auto supply stores in Guelph.

Logan noted another local company, RMP (Rockwood Motor Products) matched the money they raised for the Make a Wish Fund. This year the cruise night alone raised \$565.50.

Although the cruise night is taking a break until spring, the group is already gearing up for next season. They are currently looking for a volunteer to help deejay. Logan said the group is hoping a deejay with his own equipment would help out next year.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Lisa Logan at (519) 856-9570



**CRUISING FROM CAMBRIDGE:** Jim and Sharon Hyslop from Cambridge joined the fun at the Rockwood Cruise Night on Saturday. They showed their 1956 Ford Fairlane at the last cruise for the season. - Angela Tyler photo