

**YOUNG CAGERS:** Kenny McQuinn, 8, a Gr. 4 pupil at Rockwood Centennial School, practices throwing baskets as some classmates look on. - Ted Tyler photo

## Gun expert supports new youth gun bill

When it comes to teaching youngsters to handle guns the earlier the better according to Acton area gun expert Art Hawes, who is a certified firearms safety instructor and long-time hunter.

While animal rights groups and other critics are up in arms, hunters and gun enthusiasts are happy with new provincial legislation that allows children as young as 12 to legally hunt, if they take a safety course and are supervised by a licenced hunter.

"How do you maintain your heritage if you're not allowed to teach your kids your heritage - and for a lot

of Canadians hunting is their heritage," Hawes, said recently.

"When I was 12-years-old the game I shot was a good part of our diet and that doesn't happen around here very much, but there's still areas in the north where the use of firearms by young people is a very important part of family life."

The new regulations in the Game and Fish Act create the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program. It allows 12-year-olds to hunt with a gun provided they complete an education program and are under direct and immediate supervision of a person over 18 with a valid hunting licence.

## EWAG News

The weather is quickly cooling but EWAG Community Service in Rockwood is "warming" up to a great fall season.

Our thrift store, "Happy Returns", has received some excellent clothing in the past few weeks, especially for children. We also have a great selection of clothing for Halloween, so come in and use your imagination for dressing up! It's fun and cheaper to do your own costumes.

If you need any information or any other resources, we are here to help you.

Drop-in for Seniors Euchre every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. Enjoy coffee

and goodies afterward, all for just a loonie!

If you like Bingo come to the Parish Hall in Rockwood on Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. All welcome.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers we are currently looking for help in "Happy Returns." Make new friends and share your talents.

EWAG's other programs include Child Care Connection, Toy-lending library, Tot-time and for those in need, Foodshare, available on Wednesday by appointment only, please.

Please stop by. We'd love to see you! Our address is 126 Min St., Rockwood, or give us a call at 856-2113.

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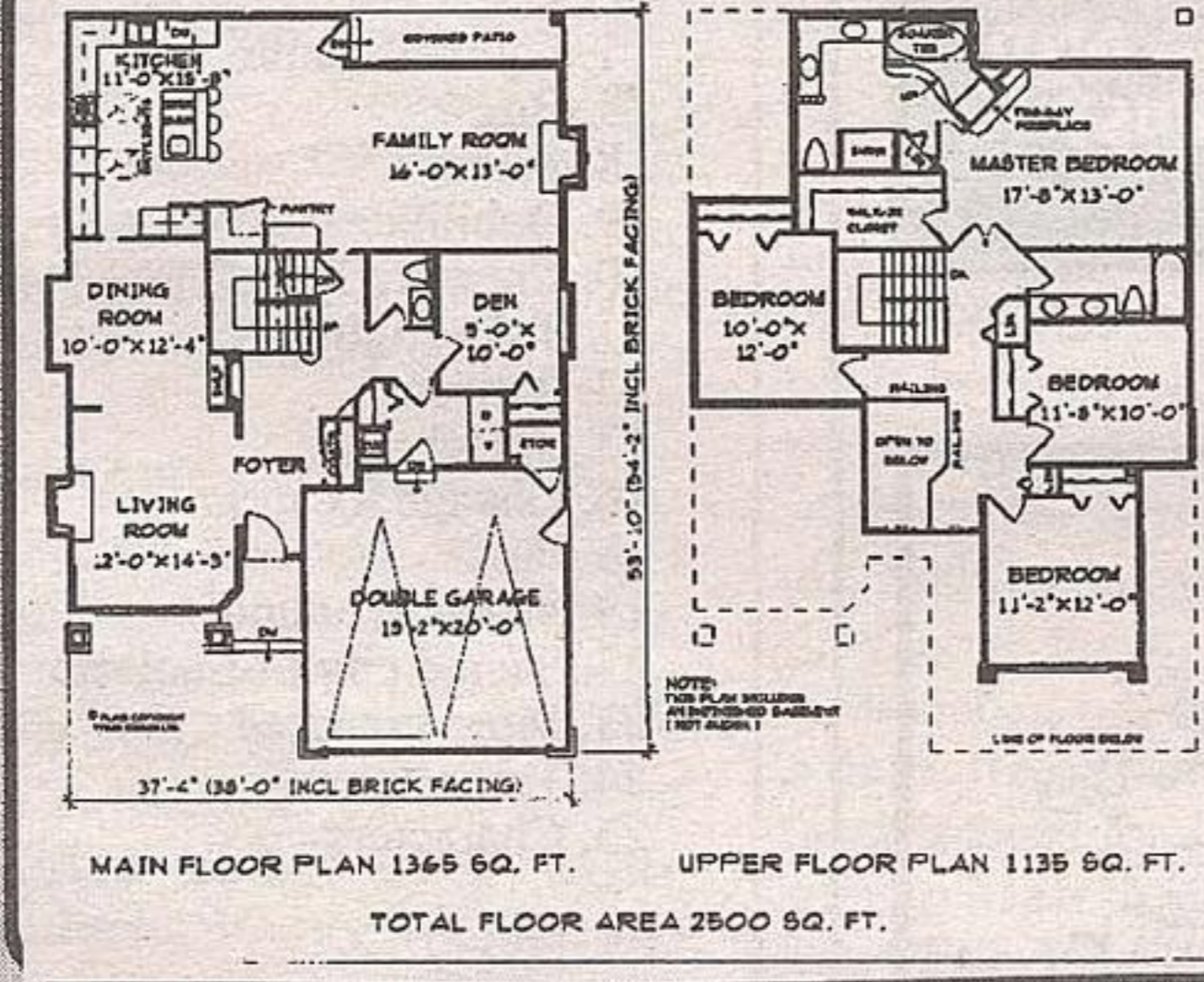
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