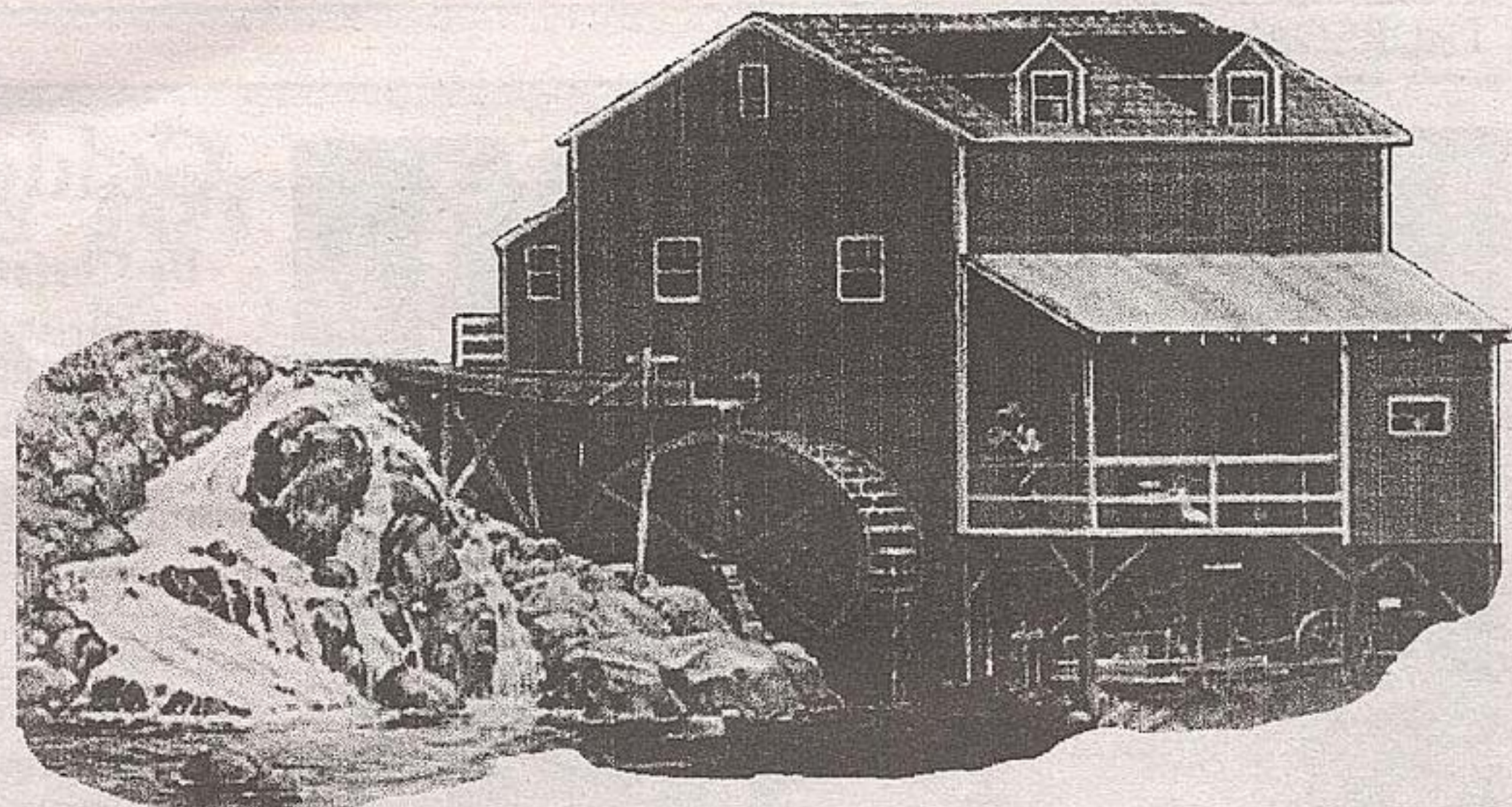


# The Rockwood MILLER



## Rockwood private school stresses academics

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The Rockwood Miller

With small classes, individual attention and a strong focus on academics Rockwood's Wellington Hall Academy continues to offer an alternative to parents who don't want their children educated in the public system.

"Our basic philosophy is to offer some small classes sizes with less than 12 students per teacher so that the students and teachers can work closely together," Wellington Hall Academy director Jette Anesen said in a recent interview. Anesen was

on the faculty at Connestoga College before opening the private school in leased facilities at 138 Main Street North. The school has 35 students and five instructors.

"Certainly the Ministry (of Education) has made some good comebacks in the new curriculum - one of the things that was very important to us when we opened was a strong academic program and when we opened we were quite a bit above the Wellington School Board in terms of teaching time for core subjects like language arts and mathematics," Anesen said.

Students have six 45-

minute math classes and four science classes a week.

Anesen, whose children attended a private school in Oakville before she opened the Academy, said she wanted a school where parental involvement meant more than just fund raising.

"In the past often working on a parent-school committee, and I'm not commenting on the new parent councils, a lot of it was fund raising and that type of participation as opposed to the academic and the kind of involvement that I would have liked to have seen for parents to make some change within the school setting," Anesen said.

Anesen said along with the smaller classes and individual instruction parents like the closer supervision and the availability of the teachers to their students. She admits that the lack of extra curricular activity is a drawback for some.

"We are involved presently in organizing and en-



**EAGER STUDENTS:** Parents of students at Rockwood's Wellington Hall Academy private school appreciate the focus on academics and small class sizes.- Submitted photo

quiring with other private schools in the area to form a group for sports events and other things like that. In a sense we do have some isolation but we're working towards arranging with other schools to pool some of these things like track and field."

Anesen said, adding that most of the students are involved with community and church groups.

Anesen said that they had intended to build a new school on a property across from their current rented location, but abandoned the

plan when negotiations with the Township of Eramosa, which wanted to build a new fire hall on the land, fell through.

"The Township (of Eramosa) was interested in trading the property for another parcel in Rockwood but we weren't able to negotiate that so we just put the property up for sale."

The annual tuition for the Wellington Hall Academy is \$6,500 per child with a reduction for the second child in a family.

### Rockwood Digest

#### New owners at R&M

Rockwood's Sandra Verhagen, owner of R & M Shopette, is calling it quits today (Thursday.) After a decade behind the counter Verhagen is handing over the keys to new owners, Bo and Kevin Kim of Mississauga.

"After 10 years of seven-days-a-week work I just thought it was time to do a lot more things other than this," Verhagen said, describing herself as semi-retired.

The deal includes the business, the store and an upstairs apartment.

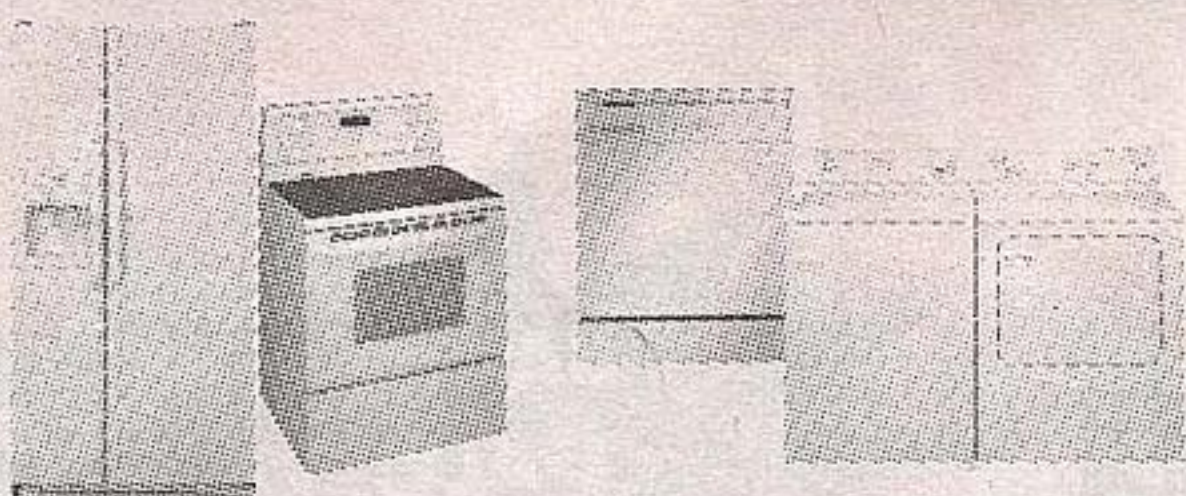
#### Rumour quelled

Widespread rumours in the village about financial woes at the Rockwood Ridge subdivision have been called "totally false" by Acton Scotiabank spokesperson Wendy Torres.

"Our Scotiabank sign fell down (at the site) at one point and never was put back up," Linda Torres said adding Scotiabank "downtown" was financing the project and the Acton branch was doing the financing for people buying homes and "as far as I know everything is fine."

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