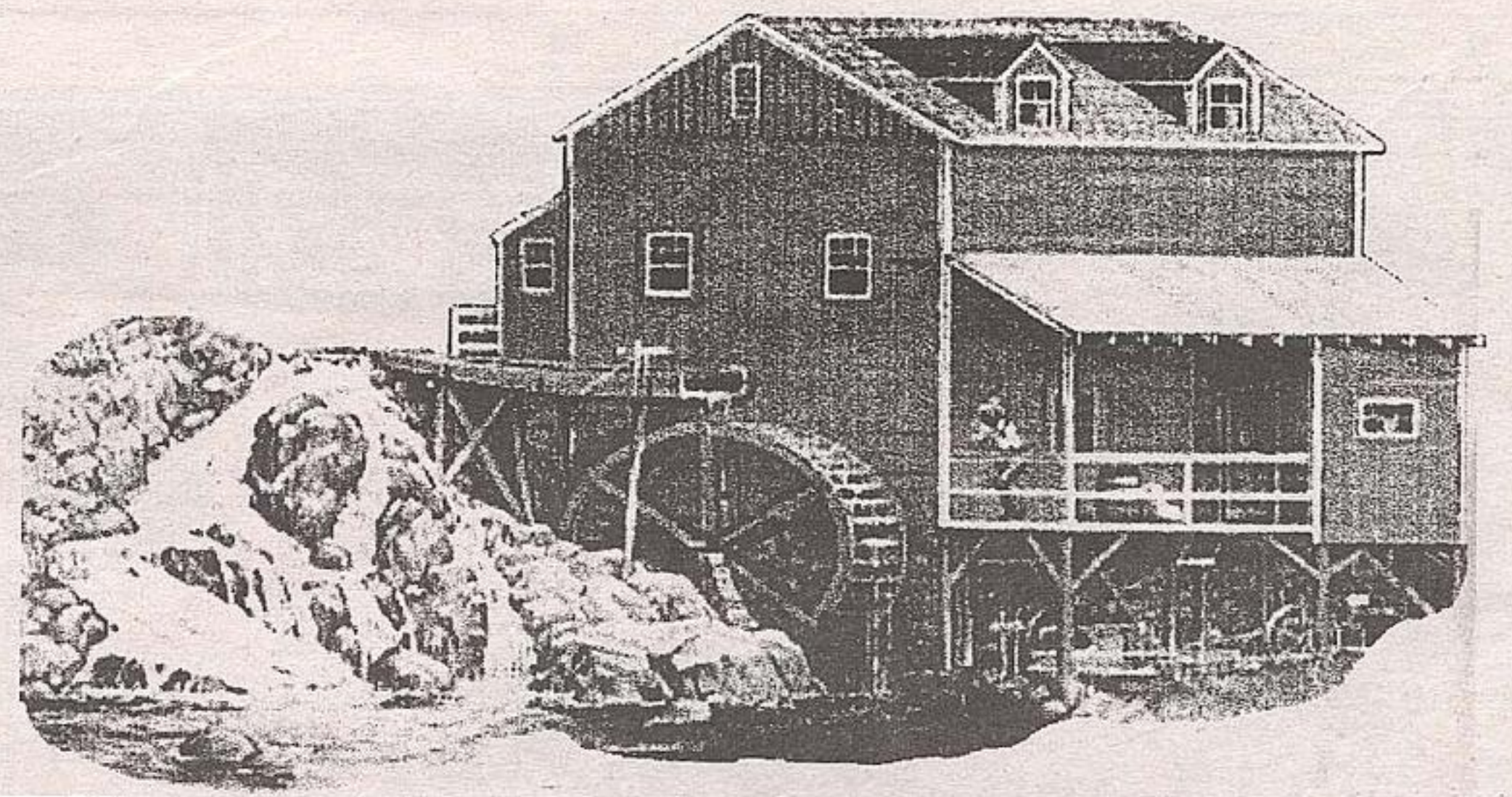


The Rockwood MILLER



BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER: Local officials gathered in Eden Mills on Friday for the official opening of the new Bowstring bridge. At the ribbon cutting ceremony were, left to right: Wellington Country Warden Murray Langdon, Eramosa Councillors Gary Martin, Doug Breen, and Gord Tosh, Eramosa Reeve Dave Adsett, Wellington MPP Ted Arnott, Guelph MPP Brenda Elliott and Eramosa Councillor Bruce McDougall - Frances Niblock photo

Bridge is officially open

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The Rockwood Miller

The lone protester at Friday's official opening of the controversial replacement Bowstring bridge in Eden Mills shook his fist as he drove past officials who gathered on the span over the Eramosa River. Other save-the-bridge proponents said they'd have been there, if they'd been notified.

While the provincial, county and township officials on hand said they hoped bad feelings over the project were fading, their handling of the

official ribbon cutting has at least one village resident more upset than ever.

Michael Keefer, a village resident who fought to save the old bridge, said the lack of a usual public announcement about the ceremony and reception afterward at the Eden Mills Community Centre "added insult to injury."

During the ceremony, which was paused several times to allow lines of cars to pass, Wellington MPP Ted Arnott noted that the bridge replacement had been an emotional issue.

"It has been a very diffi-

cult issue and emotions have run high," Arnott said. His comments were echoed by Eramosa Councillor Gord Tosh, who said the project had been a "long hard road" but he hoped the new bridge would benefit the entire community.

Eramosa Reeve Dave Adsett said that the opening demonstrated the success that the council had working as a team. After the ceremony, Adsett said he would have liked to have had a "less vigorous battle" to replace the bridge but now he wants to move on together.

The total cost of the concrete bridge, designed to look like the historic bridge it replaced, was approximately \$500,000.

In an interview on Monday, Eramosa deputy-clerk Kerri O'Kane said invitations were issued to provincial and county dignitaries and employees of the contractor that built the bridge but that "invitations to the public at large were not issued because it isn't common practice to do so."

O'Kane didn't know who paid for the reception that followed the ribbon cutting.

Youths charged in vandalism spree

Guelph OPP have charged three youths with 18 counts of mischief under \$5,000 following investigation of a vandalism spree in Rockwood earlier this month.

During the incident graffiti and obscenities were spray painted on a sign at Gilbert MacIntyre Funeral Home, the travelled portion of Guelph Street, B. Root Con-

struction equipment, the Rockwood post office, Pro Hardware, the Shell Service station, Rockwood Centennial school and some of its portables. A window at the school was also broken.

No damage estimate is available yet.

Two of the youths are from Eramosa Township and the third is from Guelph.



SMITTEN WITH MITTENS: Principal Deborah Steplock of Rockwood Centennial Public School was thrilled with the response from staff and students during their mitten and food drive collection for the Rockwood Lionesses Christmas Food Hampers.



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TEA TODDLER: Rockwood Centennial Public School student Geordie Kennedy, 5, was busy during 'afternoon tea' on Tuesday. Geordie took great pleasure introducing his great-grandmother, Mrs. Edith Jennings, 87, to his teacher Mrs. Nichol. - Ted Tyler photo

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