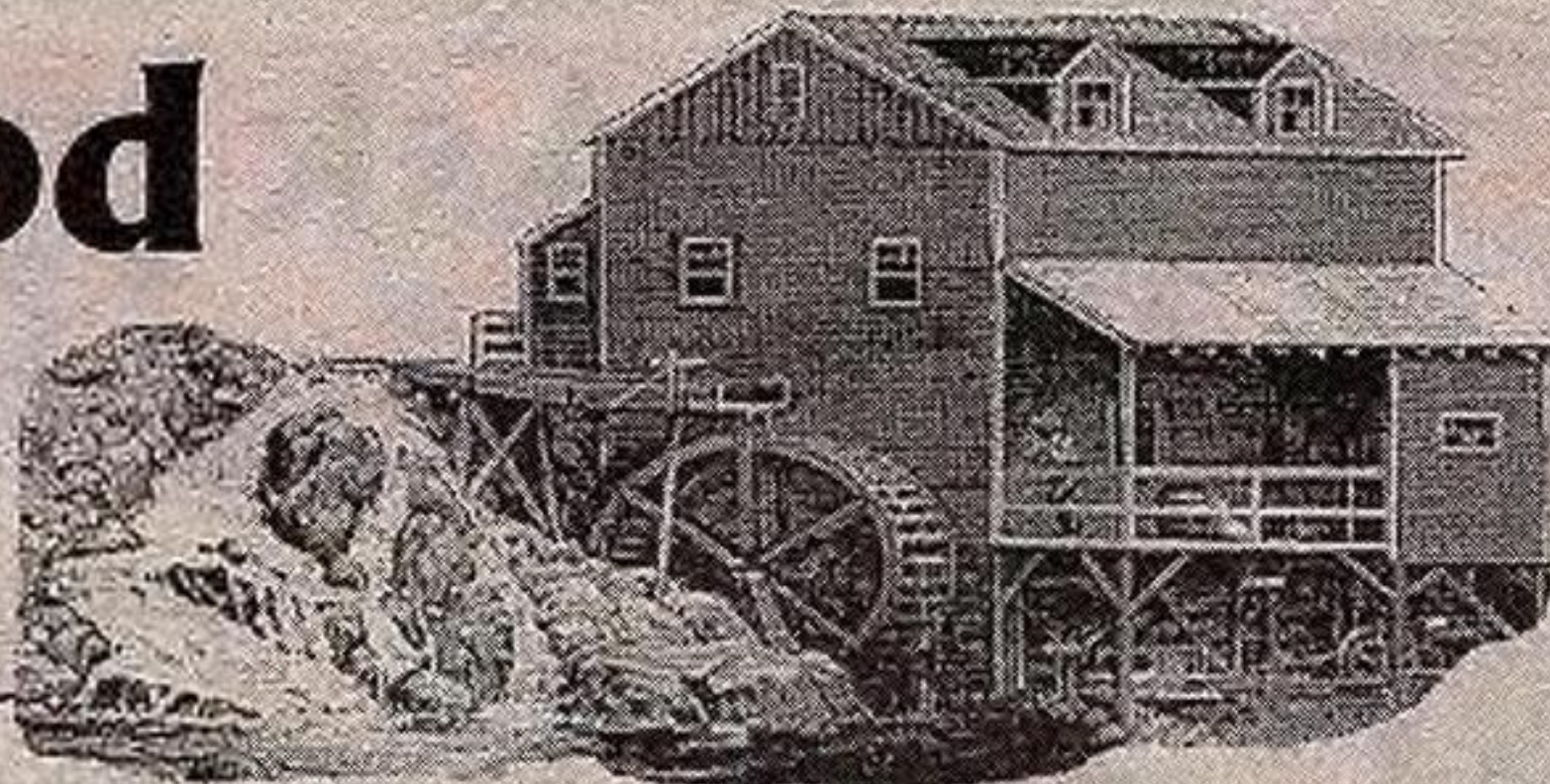


# The Rockwood MILLER



## Community rallies to Macfarlane's aid

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

There's an old saying about you "never know who your friends are until you need them."

Brad and Anita Macfarlane of Eramosa Township are discovering the truth of the saying since Brad was injured in an accident on his father's farm on June 25 of last year.

Eramosa and Guelph Township residents will hold a benefit dance for the couple at Rockmosa Hall on Jan. 30 starting at 7 p.m. Information about the event is available from Earl at 856-4052 or Lynn at 856-9131.

When a bale elevator being moved by hand caught on the barn and collapsed on him, Brad broke his back,

his ribs, his right knee, both ankles and his jaw as well as compressing his spine and puncturing a lung. A tractor was used to raise the wreckage enough to relieve the pressure on his body before ambulance attendants arrived. He was taken to Guelph General Hospital, then transferred immediately to the trauma unit of Hamilton General Hospital where he underwent 12 hours of surgery. After several weeks he was transferred to Chedoke-McMaster for rehabilitation. Although he has been home much of the time since November, he still goes to Chedoke several times a week for physiotherapy.

While the spinal injury left him paraplegic, he considers himself lucky not to be quadriplegic.

"I'm lucky that mine was a clean injury. My arms are fine. The guys with head injuries are the ones that are a real mess. One arm works but not the other or they can't think straight any more. You saw them all the time at Chedoke."

His broken ribs were the most painful part of his injuries, Brad says. It wasn't until a couple of weeks after the surgery, when doctors were trying to get him eating on his own again, that it was discovered his jaw was broken in two places. Then it was wired in place for six weeks.

His feet shattered under the impact and required considerable pinning to reconstruct. Four months later despite their efforts, infection in the right foot was so severe it had to be amputated.

Born and raised on a farm on the Guelph-Eramosa Town

Line, Brad has always been involved in the community to some extent, most recently playing baseball, coaching T-ball and attending Stone United Church with his wife Anita and children, Amanda, 9, Mariah, 7, and Graham, 5.

At the same time the couple liked to be self-sufficient and find it difficult now to reach out for help.

"Partly it's pride," Anita says. "We've always done for ourselves. It's hard to ask for help. But partly we don't know what to ask for either."

They know they'll need another vehicle. They don't yet know, however, when or if Brad will be able to return to driving.

There is also the question of what to do about their future employment. At one point they planned to raise Golden Retrievers and



**RECOVERING:** Brad Macfarlane, seen with his wife Anita, is recovering from a serious farm accident in June which left him a paraplegic. The Eramosa couple will benefit from a fundraising dance organized by friends and neighbours at Rockmosa Community Centre on Jan. 30. Donations to the effort may also be made at the Rockwood branch of the Royal Bank. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Clydesdales. They'd like to go ahead but again, will Brad regain sufficient stamina to do that?

"It's slow," Brad says. "I'm regaining my strength but you'd be amazed at how much of a toll this takes on your body."

Unlike victims of vehicle or

work injuries, there is no insurance coverage on Brad's accident. While he has received some government aid for equipment, so far the couple has not looked for or found any government programs to help them. Brad's

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