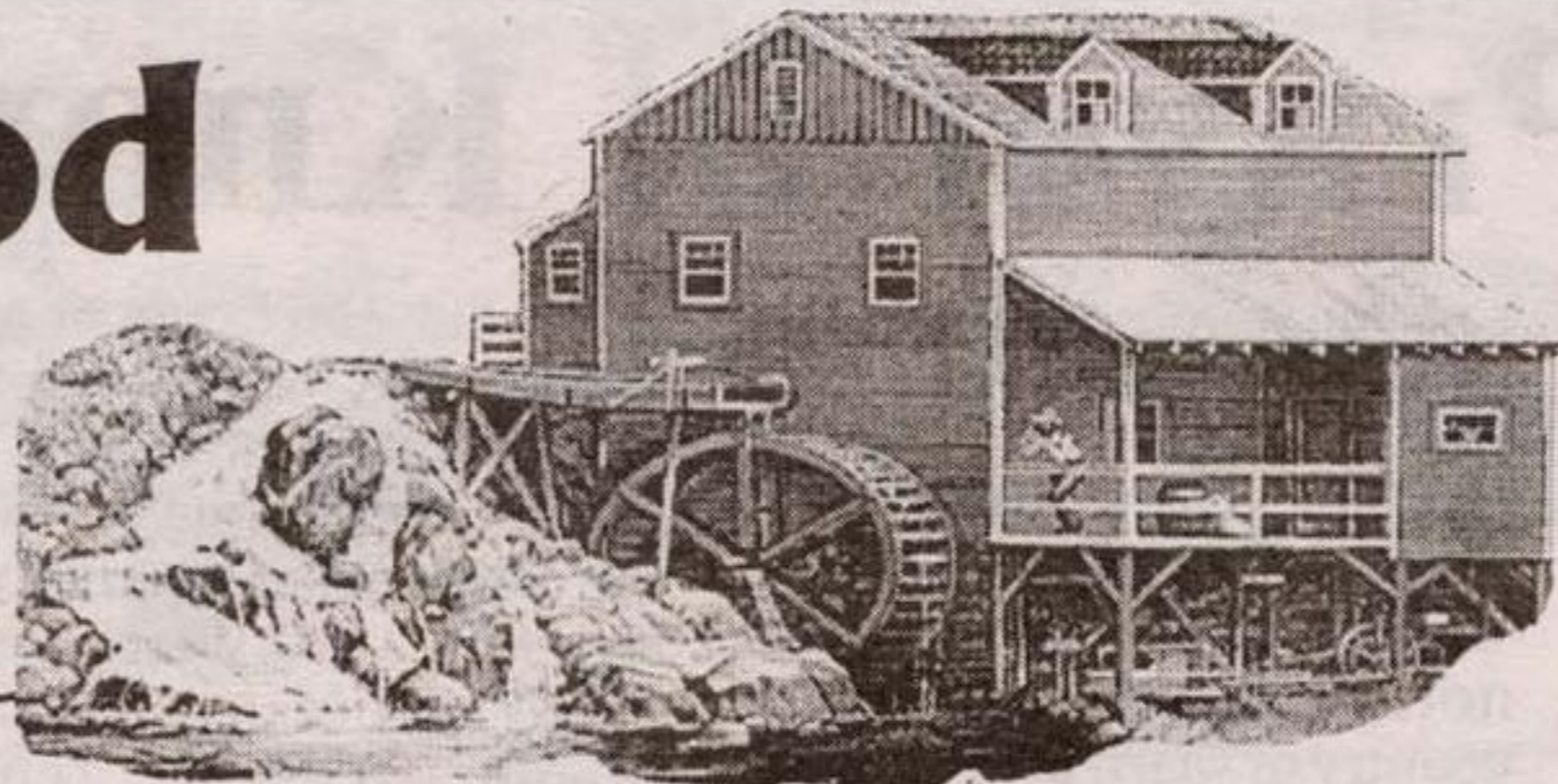


# The Rockwood MILLER



## \$5,000 fines levied on two involved with smuggling

BY MAGGIE  
PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

Two peripheral members of a Wellington booze smuggling ring were fined after pleading guilty to possession and distribution of liquor in a Kitchener Provincial Court Tuesday.

Robert Newton, 43, of Walkerton, was the ring's connection to markets in the Hanover, Walkerton, Owen Sound area, the court was told, while Roger Bruce, 48, of Cambridge was a customer of the group.

In a prepared statement Crown Attorney Gerald Taylor told the court the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were watching the group's activities through the spring of 1998 as the result of a Crimestoppers tip. They

observed an Ontario truck driver pick up 48 six-bottle cases of liquor from a store in New York state. The driver stopped enroute to the border and got rid of the cardboard boxes. The individual bottles were concealed in a secret compartment in the truck and brought into Canada without paying excise tax.

The Mounties obtained wiretaps on telephones including that of David Beerman, 54, of R.R. #2, Rockwood. It was through that wiretap that Newton's connection to the group was uncovered.

Police saw Newton load his car with liquor at the Beerman residence and followed him to Mildmay where he was arrested on July 2. He was charged with possession of unlawfully imported spirits when police found 145 40-ounce bottles of liquor in his

car. Newton's car was confiscated.

He was also charged with conspiracy to smuggle liquor without paying duties and conspiracy to distribute that liquor but those charges were dropped when he pleaded guilty.

Bruce was fined \$3,000 after pleading guilty to possession of illegal spirits. The Crown withdrew two conspiracy charges against Bruce as it did with Newton.

The court was told the group bought their bottles for \$15 Canadian each, and sold them at \$30 to \$35. Each bottle should have earned \$33 in various taxes so the smugglers were defrauding the government of \$9,500 per load of liquor brought back across the border.

Daniel Fraser, 54, of R.R. #2, Acton, the driver of the truck used for the smuggling

operation, plead guilty to conspiracy to smuggle liquor in Kitchener in January. He is to be sentenced in April.

Sharon Harris, 66, of Erin Township, was fined \$5,000 for her part in converting money with which the group made purchases and for receiving occasional telephone calls concerning the delivery truck's arrival time. She pleaded guilty in January.

Harris' husband, William Preston, 62, will be back in court March 23 along with his daughters Linda Bradley, 36, of Eramosa Township and Sandra Preston, of Erin Township. Also scheduled to appear in connection with the case are Paul Jones, 46, of R.R. #1, Puslinch, Arthur Basaraba, 34, of St. Catharines, David Beerman and his wife, Georgina, 49.

## EWAG News

Spring is in the air and maybe you are feeling the need to get out. Then head on down to EWAG Community Services and see what we have happening!

Check our "Happy Returns" our thrift shop during the month of March. All green items are just \$1. On March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) we will be having an Irish Customer appreciation day with coffee and goodies and maybe a lucky draw or two. Happy Returns is open Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We gratefully accept any donation of good, clean clothing.

Feeling warm and not sure why? It could be the early stages of Menopause. EWAG is hosting a series of workshops on Menopause, March 2, 9, and 16 at the Rockwood library from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you're concerned about menopause and how it affects you, bring your questions and share them with other women at this series of workshops. Only \$10 for three weeks and pre-registration is required.

Starting in March, Lia Falzon will be offering reflexology at the EWAG office. Reflexology is a natural healing therapy based on the principle that there are reflexes in our hands and feet related to other parts of our body. By applying pressure on these reflexes, a person may experience relaxation, improved circulation and a sense of well-being. Cost is \$5 for a 50 minute session on Thursday mornings. Please book ahead.

Laugh your stress away by joining us for the video, "Humour Your Stress" at the Rockwood library on March 11 at 1:30 p.m. Discussion to follow. All welcome to come and enjoy.

Join us for "Fun Folk Art" for three weeks starting Tuesday, March 23 from 10 to 12 at Rockwood library. In the three week period you will be completing a heart shelf and a large bunny, just in time for Easter! Everything included for just \$35. Must pre-register and space is limited.

If you've always wanted to put your life experiences into words, now you have the opportunity. Starting Friday, April 9, at 1:30 we will be offering "Memoir Writing" at the Rockwood library at a cost of only \$25. You must pre-register and there is a limit of 10 people. Join us and preserve your memories for your grandchildren.

Remember to bring your pre-schooler to Tot-time, 9:30 to 12, Tuesday and Thursday. Cost is only \$15 annually. A great social and fun time for your child.

Our senior folks of the community meet for Euchre and Bingo Thursday afternoons. Always a good time with refreshments and goodies provided for just a loonie. Come out for some fun.

A seniors' potluck luncheon is planned for April 1 followed by Euchre, so whip up your favourite dish and join us at noon that day.

If we can be of service to you, please let us know. EWAG is your Community Services. Our phone number is 856-2113 or fax us at 856-1498.

## More Rockwood homes by fall

Site preparations are well under way at two Rockwood locations in hopes new residents will be able to move into the community before year end says the sales and marketing director of a local building firm.

Dick Marvin of Charleston Homes, says the firm plans 52 bungalow townhomes at River Walk and 39 single detached homes in the second phase of Mill Run at Rockwood.

Final approvals are ex-

pected soon for the townhome project along the edge of the Eramosa River behind the Strange House. Topography in the area will be changed a little and construction is expected to begin on River Walk this spring, Marvin says. The freehold homes are designed in groups of four.

The Mill Run homes will be set on 49 and 65-foot lots, he says. This makes them wider than most lots in new developments today.

The company hopes to have the first homes ready in both locations by late August or early September. Their sales centre and general office is in Strange House, the historic stone house built by Henry Strange at Highway 7 and the Eramosa River.

Right now the firm is completing work on homes it built in Fergus, Marvin says. It is also finishing off Forest Creek, an 18-lot estate residential subdivision north of Highway 7 on the Fourth Line east of Acton. There are only three lots available there.

The company is also starting up a 14-lot estate residential development at Crewson's Corners which it will market this summer, a 13-lot estate subdivision in Erin and a 30-lot estate subdivision in Glen Williams which is planned for later.

Marvin says he joined Charleston Homes president Charlie Kuiken, both of Puslinch Township, when the firm started in 1991. The company offers "one-stop shopping" for those who want a custom-built home, as well as developing their own communities to market to the public.

The firm deals with the same group of local people

in construction trades time after time, Marvin says, because these people know the quality of work Charleston expects from them.

## Fighting bureaucracy

Cont. from Pg. 4

Margaret was even accused of discrimination because she referred to herself as the "older person" during a discussion of her difficulties with the office manager.

"I worked in the fashion industry," she chuckles. "I worked with gays, Jews, blacks, Orientals, reds, unions, apprentices. You name it. They were there. I never even notice a person's skin colour, religion, political attitude, age or sexual orientation. You couldn't in my business. For me to be called prejudiced would be funny if it weren't so sad. I'm 58 years old, for goodness sake. I'm ready to retire in a couple of years. I don't need their job. It was just something to do. But I can't let them away with this. The next person they try it on may not be able to stand up for herself and she may need their money. They just don't understand what democracy really means. They take it for granted because they have never known anything else. That's why they don't understand when they breach its principles."

Now Margaret has been offered a settlement. A lawyer has told her she could probably sue the organization and win, but her case would take several years even to

reach court. Is the fight worth it? Her blood pressure is up. Her husband is getting irritable with her fretting over it. Even discussing the situation with me (we've known each other more than 20 years) makes her nervous. The organization is more than willing to provide her with a settlement if she waives her right to sue them or their employees and agrees never to tell anyone what happened.

It's too late. I already know. I also know the organization's management is using money to cover up their employees' hunger for power and corporate success.

While these organizations may not be able to pay the same big bucks as businesses, they are a training ground for career-oriented management types. For some, power compensates for a lack of financial reward.

The trouble lies in who suffers from the exercising of that power. Often wrangling between managers only results in mangling services.

"I've seen them use hours like the missionaries used to bribe natives with beads," Margaret says. "The 'good' client gets his hours when he wants them or perhaps even some extra hours while the disgruntled client who speaks up finds cutbacks reduce his hours or schedule them when he can't use them."

Probably the most disgusting part of this is my certainty that all these helping or charity type organizations have more than their share or power-hungry management types in their hierarchy. It was strictly coincidence my friends wound up working for the same organization. I suspect their stories would differ little had they worked in three separate groups.

## Eden Mills celebrates History Day Sunday

They're going to turn back the hands of time in Eden Mills and area this Sunday as they celebrate a History Day from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the village hall. It's a day to celebrate the heritage of the village and district, once a prosperous and busy hive of activity.

"There's a lot of great history in Eden Mills and area and the Eden Mills and District Community Club thought it would be a good idea if we had to celebrate it," says Barb Marshall who was appointed by the club to arrange a day.

"We've invited different people to come and display artifacts and photos from the early days of the village," she says. The United and Presbyterian churches are having a display, the archivist from Camp Edgewood will be there and there'll be a display of photos from photographer Tony Vos who used to live in the village. Wilda MacDougall, who was the

village correspondent for newspapers for years, will be there with her reminiscences.

Former mill owner Ted Barden will be there with photos of the mill when it was part of the industrious village with stores and cottage industries.

Barb, whose grandfather owned and operated Marshall's general store in the heart of the village, says she hopes the younger generation will come out to see the rare photographs, the artifacts and historical documents which trace the history of the village an district from its beginnings. Refreshments will be available for a small cost in the hall.

Any family, church or organization which would like to set up a table in the hall is welcome to do so, Barb Marshall says. All history, including family photos, are welcomed and so are suggestions for the event. Call Barb at 856-4463 for further information.

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