

Special Friends Day June 13 The Rockwood MILLER

Sunday, June 13, is the date of this year's Special Friends Day, the fifth annual event, sponsored by members of the Halton Regional Police and a variety of community partners, designed for young people with a physical or developmental handi-

cap and their families. The location will be the grounds of Appleby College at 540 Lakeshore Rd. W. in Oakville.

The concept was developed in 1993 by Grant Wilkinson, a sergeant with the Halton Regional Police. Grant has a daughter, Stephanie,

now 13 years old, who has Downs Syndrome. He had been searching for a way to give something back to the many individuals and community organizations who had given so much support to him and his family; Special Friends Day was the result.

This year, featured entertainers will be Oakville's Suzanne Brown and Roseanna Gautreau, as well as the Halton Police Pipe Band, the Police Colour guard, a magician, puppet show and more. There will be displays put on by the Halton Police Tactical and Rescue Unit, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Fire Department and ambulance service. There will also be a police helicopter for spectators to sit in, a hot air balloon, a dunk tank, games, baseball, basketball toss and a waterslide.

The day will start at 10 a.m. with registration beginning at 9:30 and will continue until 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend - there is no entrance fee and the only cost will be a modest fee for food and refreshments.



FACELIFT: The Squires Lodge, Rockwood's senior apartments, will receive new cladding, new windows, new doors and work on its balconies. The lodge board has received a provincial grant to cover the cost of the improvements.

Seniors' building gets facelift

BY MAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

The Squires Lodge in Rockwood is about to get a facelift thanks to a \$462,000 grant from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Emergency Capital Work fund.

Michelle Dawe, chair of the Eramosa Non-profit Housing Board which oversees the 16-unit building, said the money arrived a couple of weeks ago. Now the board begins the process of selecting an architect to oversee the improvements.

"We will put on new siding, new doors, new windows

and work on the balconies," she said. "Right now they are free-standing and we'd like to keep them if we can. But we'll have to see what it takes to get it all worked in with new sliding doors and siding."

The money was not given for aesthetics, but the board will look at changes while they are re-cladding, Dawe said. This time, she said the board hopes to choose a "little less colourful siding", considering all the controversy which surrounded the original material chosen by the architect 16 years ago.

"We have siding coming off and other problems," she said. "It's a shame. The building is only 16 years old. It

should have stood up better than that, you'd think."

Dawe said the board has a variety of ideas for the project but it will be more cost efficient to get things done all at one time. Although it will entail quite a bit of work, Dawe said the board is looking forward to tackling the project.

The building has a wonderful location, "right beside the post office, the doctor's office and the grocery store. It's close to everything. With this grant we'll be able to do something wonderful to it. It's a great opportunity for us," Dawe said.

The board applied for a grant several years ago but was unsuccessful. This time they received funding for everything except the roof.

"We'd like to put a truss roof on, but we didn't get the funding," she said. "However, we'll be keeping that in mind while the rest of the work is being done. That way we won't have to tear things all apart when we do get to change the roof."

Squires Lodge is one of six Wellington County projects the ministry chose to approve for funding.



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