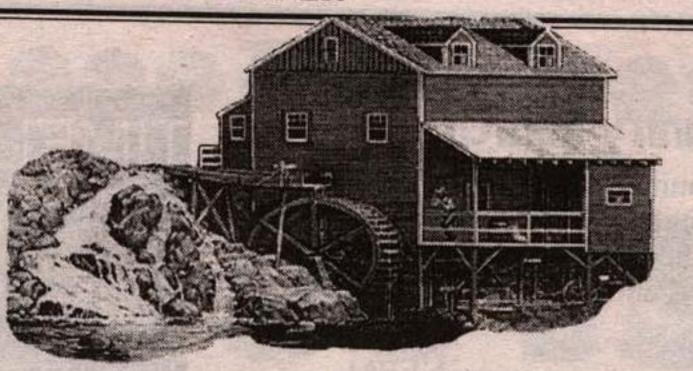
The Rockwood



Last call to save township office

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY The New Tanner

Area residents concerned about preserving the former Eramosa Township municipal office have until fall to find a tenant for the property and a means of funding its renovation.

The red brick building on Wellington Road 124 (formerly Highway 24) near Brucedale, was originally built in the early 1920s or 1930s as a one-room school to replace the original which burned, said former Township clerk Lloyd Hindley. Then, when schools were consolidated in the early 1960s, the municipality bought the building and opened it as a township office in the mid 1960s. It ceased to be used when the new municipal office opened in 1989.

At a public meeting Monday, Guelph-Eramosa Reeve Dave Adsett said municipal councils have faced the question of what to do with the structure ever since a new municipal office was erected next door 10 years ago.

No solutions were found and the issue remained untouched because no one really wanted to destroy the building. Now, however, space limitations are forcing council to deal with the mat-

While finding a tenant and use for the structure would be council's preference, the status quo is not an option. Unless a plan can be put together which offers council a financially sound way to retain the building,

demolition plans will be put in motion this fall, Adsett said.

Additional parking is needed at the municipal office as well as an alternate entry for getting heavy equipment in and out of the municipal works yard without

FOUR-LEGGED LAW: Dylan Lee, 2, of Cambridge gets to know Oscar, a former Standardbred racer who was donated to the OPP mounted unit, and Constable Karen Lyons during Thursday's police-community event at the Rockmosa Community Centre. - Frances Niblock photo

interfering with public access, he said. Removing the old school would solve both problems.

Demolition costs are estimated at around \$8,000 while it will take "\$80,000 to \$100,000 just to make the place usable," said Coun. Gary Martin. "And that's not including the cost to bring it up to fire codes and other requirements."

Martin said as a member of the township recreation committee he was involved with a couple of attempts to put the structure to use but whatever the suggested plan "no one ever followed through with the money."

"That's why we finally got to this," he said. The community is being given a final opportunity to preserve the building, which is the only remaining publicly-owned, one-room schoolhouse in the township. If no one steps forward, council will be forced to demolish it.

Adsett pointed out no one asked to speak to council at the public meeting so even knowing council's proposal, the community doesn't seem too interested in saving the structure.

Resident Earl Osborne suggested the structure could be saved if it were moved to another site, but could offer no estimates on the cost of such a move.

Council approved a motion to delay a final demolition decision until fall in order to let residents, many of whom may be vacationing at present, figure out a plan for

EWAGNews

Great summer deals at "Happy Returns" our thrift store at EWAG Community Services in Rockwood.

This month we offer our customers out popular "Stuff It" Sale. Fill a bag as packed as you can for only \$5. This sale is on for the month of

We are still looking for ideas for naming our seniors' newsletter. The next issue will be out in September, so call or send your ideas into us by the end of July.

We will be having Bingo and Euchre on the following dates during the summer at 1 p.m.:

Bingo: July 8, Aug. 5 Euchre: July 22. Aug. 19 In September we will resume our regular activities.

It's not too early to be thinking of the year 2000. You can pick up the Eramosa Twp. Historic calendar at our EWAG office. There is a lim-

ited supply so don't wait too long. Cost is \$10 and helps fund our program.

We are now carrying a good supply of tourist information so come on down and see what is happening in your area. Lots of information to browse through.

Food Bank is available to those that need it on Wednesdays. Please call for appointment. Our number is 856-2113.

Police

Guelph OPP investigated a domestic on the Fifth Line of Eramosa and former Highway 24 at 5 p.m. on June 27.

The female driver of a rented minivan told police she pulled to the side of the road for a break after arguing with a male friend during the drive. When she stopped the man took the van keys and ordered the woman

and her children out. He then sped off leaving them standing in the rain.

Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police located the stolen van and arrested the

saving the building. driver that evening. Dicenced under LLBO 8016 Hwy 7 Guelph

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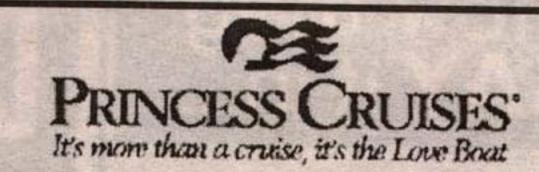
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