



**EYE CATCHING:** The Purple Pig joined Purple Pig owner Sandy Smith (in the pumpkin suit) during the Rockwood pizzeria's customer appreciation day. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

# The Rockwood MILLER



## Residents questioned their candidates

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

There can be no guarantees that taxes won't increase in 2001. That at least, mayoralty candidates for Guelph/Eramosa agree upon.

In an all candidates meeting at Eden Mills Community Hall last Thursday, attended by about 40 voters, both incumbent Mayor Dave Adsett and contender Teresa Gibson Smye agreed provincial downloading of many services has left the municipality with little room to manoeuvre.

Gibson Smye said without "access to more information" she couldn't say exactly what to expect but warned the questioner to "think increase" in planning for next year.

Adsett said the amalgamation of Guelph and Eramosa Townships in January 2000 allowed the new municipality a zero increase this year. Since Guelph Township has a sizeable amount of commercial assessment sharing that money prevented any tax hikes for Eramosa. But this year he suggested, there may need to be a "two or three per cent increase."

Since "things are not as easy and booming as the newspapers claim" he said, it's "very important to have experienced people dealing with the province" in order to maximize whatever funding opportunities do become available.

On other issues, however, the candidates seemed to be at opposite extremes.

Gibson Smye said her door-knocking was producing a lot of comment about how the township was discouraging volunteers from sitting on committees. She questioned, for instance, why the municipality already had its 10-year plan in place for Parks, Recreation and Culture before approaching the community for input.

Adsett corrected her, saying the consultant had drawn up the outline but the plan was not in any way approved and the public input begins in the New Year with the new council.

Incumbent Ward 3 councillor Doug Breen likened the consultant's work to laying the foundation and setting up the frame of a building. With that done, it's time to decide on the interior decor to the walls. And that's where the public comes in. Now the framework is in place, the public needs to tell council what to put in that framework to meet the community's needs.

Ward 3 candidate Gilbert Lavallee questioned why Breen was now supporting the "reinstatement of advisory committees" when they should never have been dropped in the first place.

Breen explained that Guelph Township did not use

advisory committees in any capacity and Eramosa shut down theirs as a compromise to start off the new municipality.

"And I'm not sure Guelph was wrong in wanting to walk for the first two years," he said. "But now we're ready to run."

The question of keeping voters informed also raised some hackles as members of the audience asked incumbents how they would improve the existing situation. The wording of the questions made it obvious residents were not pleased with the status quo.

Breen said he "never turns down an invitation" if residents want him to come and give them an update on a situation, then added later that he's more than willing to listen as well as talk.

Adsett explained the municipality expects to go on-line by next spring and council agendas and minutes will be available there. Residents who do not have computers themselves will be able to access information through the library as well as through their friends or family members who are on-line.

He denied that council doesn't listen to residents.

"We have heard the different concerns you raised," he told one audience member. "We might not act as you wanted us to, but we did hear

you."

Lavallee suggested council meetings could be rotated through the municipality to make it easier for voters to attend to follow an issue if they wanted to.

Breen also pointed out that while council may be accused of secrecy in some of its dealings, sometimes the matter is confidential (such as the sale of Rockwood Hydro) and there really is no way of keeping voters informed as work progresses until the deal is actually closed. He attended many meetings on the fate of the village utility and residents knew that discussions on change were taking place. However, exactly who was involved in proposals and what specifics were contained in the proposals could not be made public without jeopardising those proposals. And that would not be in the best interest of taxpayers.

In their personal presentations contenders Gibson Smye and Lavallee stressed the suitability of their educational and experience backgrounds and their desire to offer voters a choice from the present council whom they said voters complained were ignoring or discouraging their input.

Incumbents Adsett and Breen stressed the importance of retaining experienced representative to finish the work begun by the present council.

## Legge named president of international group

The head of a Rockwood-based food service and hospitality consulting firm has been elected president of the Foodservice Consultants Society International (FCSI). Scott D. Legge, of Legge and Associates, is the first Canadian president of FCSI which is based in Kentucky.

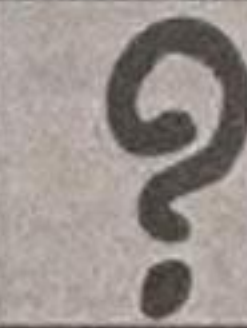
Legge's career began in Waterloo at 14 and continued through every aspect of foodservice and hospitality from dishwashing to banquet management. A University of Guelph graduate in

Hotel and Food Administration, his employment included managing beer sales at Toronto's Exhibition Stadium, being an assistant manager with Kelsey's Restaurants and Foodservices Director at the University of Toronto's Erindale Campus.

His consulting clients included the Guelph General Hospital, Thunder Bay Regional Hospital, Alcatel Canada, Brantford Charity Casino, Rideau-Carleton Raceway and Casino Windsor.

## GUELPH/ERAMOSIA candidates answer questions

(For mayoralty candidates only)  
**How do you envisage your role on Wellington County Council?**



**David ADSETT**  
Mayor

When a Mayor sits on County Council, that person is expected to perform his/her duties with the interests of residents throughout Wellington County at heart. I have successfully worked with County Council and staff developing relationships where local issues that I bring forward are considered and acted upon. For example, road resurfacing, traffic light installations and a new library branch in Marden to benefit those residents on the west side of our new township are items I have personally achieved at County Council.



**Teresa GIBSON SMYE** - Mayor

As the representative for the Township I see my job as reflecting the views of the residents in terms of decision making on matters which are the jurisdiction of the County. For example maintenance of county roads and library systems. In short, being a participant in the planning process for the County as a whole.

I also see the mayor's council as an excellent resource, in terms of sharing problems and experience and perhaps preventative maintenance. As a united voice the municipalities can band together to deal with problems created outside our jurisdiction.

## EWAG says thanks for donations to Food Pantry at Thanksgiving

I must express a huge thank you to all the churches, service groups and individuals who donated the many items to our Food Pantry here at EWAG Community Services, over the Thanksgiving holiday. We sincerely appreciate all the support that we receive from the community.

Please help us in our fundraising efforts by donating gently used clothing to our second hand thrift store Happy Returns. The profits from clothes sold in the store goes towards our other programs with all the money staying in the community.

With the cold weather just around the corner come in and check out our special for November. Half price on all of our sweaters! Lots of other great items as well. If you would like a new decoration for Christmas, then come to the Rockwood library on Nov. 17 for Make a Christmas Wreath. The class runs from 1 to 3 p.m. with goodies and refreshments included. Cost is \$5. If you are interested, please call Lynn at the EWAG office in Rockwood at 856-2113.

We are looking for a person who would be interested in doing some light house-keeping as part of our EWAG

services. This person would receive \$10/hr. with referrals from our office. For more information on this position, call Lynn at the Rockwood office.

If you have a sweet tooth, then check out our booth at the Lioness Christmas Bazaar on Nov. 27, where we will be selling Almond Roca. Truly food for the Gods!

Remember that we have Bingo and Euchre on a drop-in basis on Thursdays from 1 till it is time for coffee and goodies. Lots of fun for just a loonie.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for our newsletter, please call Lynn at the EWAG office and leave your name and address. The newsletter is published every two months. Don't forget that we also have free public internet

access. The Job Bank is located here as well.

Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Happy Returns is also open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Food Pantry day is Wednesdays by appointment. Our phone number is 856-2113.

## Teen charged for assaulting his father

A 16-year-old male was arrested and charged with assault and possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace following an incident in an Eramosa residence on Nov. 3. Police were called when the youth attacked his father with a lamp and a knife.



### RE-ELECT

#### Dave Adsett for Mayor

of Guelph-Eramosa Township

*"Proven leadership for a bright future."*  
**519 856-0354** or work **843-3181**  
Authorized by the CFO for the Dave Adsett Election Campaign