

The Rockwood MILLER



Parade of Lights Dec. 14

BYMAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

For the eighth consecutive year the farmers of the March Blahs Committee will produce the Rockwood Parade of Lights. This year the parade begins at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Murray Swanston, one of the founding organizers, says one of their faithful exhibitors has dropped out but two new

New police unit set to crack down on speeders

Motorists in both Rockwood and Eden Mills can look for increased police enforcement of speed regulations in the near future.

During a discussion on letters from village residents complaining about speeding, Guelph-Eramosa Mayor David Adsett said a special traffic unit will be added to the Wellington County OPP next year.

Addsett said he has recently discussed speeding problems in several areas of the community with the County's police services board. That was when he was told about the new unit in the board's budget for 2001.

members have joined. "So I guess we're up one float," he joked.

A press release from the group estimates 22 to 25 farms are involved in creating the floats from "new, used, well used or antique" pieces of farm machinery. Each float uses 20 to 45 strings of lights and carries its own generator for electrical power.

As usual police and firefighters will be blocking roads into the village from about 6:45. However there will be parking in farm fields along

the Fourth Line near where the parade will end.

"We always figure that's the best view anyway," he says, "because there are no street lights out there to interfere with the lights on the floats."

The parade starts at the top of Main Street, comes south to Alma, then turns west to the Fourth Line.

The group has its own web site, www.blahs.on.ca where further details and pictures from previous parades are posted.



NEW COUNCIL: Guelph-Eramosa Township councillors took their oath of office Monday for the new term of council. Council members are front left, Mayor David Adsett and Coun. Les Foote. Back row from the left, David Hindley, Doug Breen and David McCrae. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Township Council recites oath of office Monday

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Better communication topped the list of tasks for Guelph-Eramosa Township's new council when Mayor Dave Adsett made his inaugural address Monday.

After the Township's lawyer, Robin Lee Norris, took the oath of office from each member, all five representatives offered a few words to the small gallery gathered to attend the meeting.

Adsett pointed out that a

new Township sign has been installed in front of the municipal office using money from the Millennium fund. He complimented the staff on their dedication and honesty in providing good service to residents and stressed the need to continue bringing residents together from the two townships united by amalgamation in 1998.

Coun. Les Foote predicted with an increase in assessment and expenses, it will be very difficult to hold the line on taxes. The result will require "a lot of serious thought" from councillors

about what will be done. Coun. David Hindley, said as the "new kid on the block" he is "very approachable" and residents should feel free to call him at any time.

Coun. Doug Breen said he heard a lot during his campaigning and now looks forward to finishing off a number of projects which council has already begun.

Coun. David McCrae, a former Guelph Township councillor, said he was glad to be back in the municipal arena and looks forward to working with other members of this council.

Report ordered on agendas from council

Guelph-Eramosa Township council has asked staff for a report on the cost and timing of producing agendas for the public.

The request followed a

presentation by Rockwood resident Doris Bozzelli concerning the need for public copies of council agendas to keep residents informed.

Bozzelli said an informal survey of neighbouring municipalities showed the \$300 fee for a year's worth of Guelph-Eramosa agendas was higher than that charged by any of six municipalities she contacted.

She said the cost could be prohibitive and discourage people from taking an interest in council business.

She also asked if agendas could be released to the public on Friday so people had time to read them over the weekend in preparation for Monday night meetings. It would be less daunting to follow events at a meeting if you understood the content of the agenda and could just listen to the discussion as it unfolded.

Bozzelli said agendas go to the library for the public on Monday but because the library is closed Mondays that's no help to the public. She questioned whether they could be made available Friday night so people could view them at the library on Saturdays.

Clerk Janice Sheppard said

agendas were frequently produced Friday afternoons and it has been policy to ensure council members got their copies at least a day before the public. That's why public agendas were not released until Mondays.

While councillors had no objections to rolling back preparation time on agendas, they acknowledged potential problems for staff with preparing account reports and payments under new deadlines.

Coun. David McCrae said he was not concerned about the timing of agenda release to council, but asked that council get it a day before the public so he would be ready with answers when people called about things.

"I just want to have it at least the night before so I can read it and be prepared when people call with questions. If I don't read it and they catch me flat-footed, that's my look out," he said. "But I want that chance at least."

Several councillors agreed that changing preparation time would not affect them but since it could create problems for staff a report was requested in order to provide the whole picture before considering changes.



NEAT FIT: Peggy Johnson tries an apron from the EWAG booth on her daughter at the Rockwood Nursery School Christmas Craft sale. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

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Application made for new tree farm

The Township of Guelph-Eramosa has asked its planning consultants for a report on an application to build a woodworking shop, a family home and establish a tree farm on 11.2 acres adjacent to the township office.

Astrid Clos, planner for the Mr. and Mrs. Frank Meyer, said a zoning amendment has been sought to permit the construction of a 6,000 square foot shop in an agricultural zone.

Lots of barns and implement sheds are larger than Meyer's proposed shop, and can be built in an agricultural zone without any changes. However, since Meyer will have three or four employees, that puts the shop outside the definition for a rural home occupation in an accessory building.

Meyer told council he builds kitchen cabinets.

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