

Taxpayers face \$100 hike

By Maggie Petrushevsky
The New Tanner

Guelph/Eramosa has set its 2002 mill rates and area property owners can expect

Belwood woman 21 dies in traffic crash

A 21 year-old Belwood woman died as the result of a collision on Wellington Rd. 27, south of Sideroad 10, last Saturday, June 1 at 7am.

The collision occurred when a 1989 Plymouth Voyager van travelling southbound on Wellington Rd 27 struck a northbound 2002 Terra-Gator fertilizer spreader.

Paramedics and an air ambulance were called to the

their tax bills to arrive in the near future.

Municipal treasurer Laura Smith said this year's rate will see local residents facing increases of about \$100 on a

scene but despite their efforts the driver of the Voyager van, Jessica King, 21, of Belwood succumbed to her injuries. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the Terra-Gator spreader was not injured.

Technical Traffic Collision investigators were called in to assist with the investigation.

\$175,000 home. Other assessment categories are based on the residential rate.

With Wellington County Council approving a five per cent tax hike last week, and area school boards posting zero increases, the local municipality is now able to finalize its mill rate, Smith said.

Guelph/Eramosa council approved a two per cent increase earlier this year but could not complete its calculations until it received figures for the education and county portions of the tax bill.

Coun. Doug Breen congratulated staff on getting the budget together so early this year, noting that it was Labour Day before council could pass its 2001 budget.

The Rockwood MILLER



Historic St. Peter's Church in Oustic update the facilities

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Oustic's historic St. Peter's Roman Catholic church has gone modern.

Sunday, the 119 year-old, gothic-styled, stone church officially opened the addition of a well and a washroom which is completely accessible to the handicapped.

Despite an average weekly attendance of 132 parishioners, the church faced closure when its priest, Rev. Peter Watters retired due to ill health last year, says water planning committee chair Marcia Stevers. Basilian Father John Pinsonnault came to their rescue in January, but suggested the addition of new amenities in order to encourage growth in the congregation.

The water committee was established in early April and by Mothers' Day the washroom was ready for use. Stevers estimated the cost of the project at about \$18,000.

This is the second time the determined community has faced closure.

In 1973 the church was shut for a year and its worshippers directed to Sacred Heart in Rockwood with which it shares its priest. A year later its members managed to get the Hamilton diocese to re-open the church and restored artifacts, which had been stored or removed for safe keeping.

Although Jesuit Fathers began serving residents in Oustic and Rockwood when they came to Guelph in 1852, no actual building was erected at Oustic until 1883. Many Irish people settled into the area and names in the church cemetery south on Wellington Rd. 27 are familiar in this area.

It was linked as a mission

to St. Joseph's in Acton when that parish was established in 1893, while Sacred Heart, Rockwood remained attached to Sacred Heart Guelph.

In 1936 Rockwood and Oustic were linked with their own priest. When the church faced a shortage of priests to minister to growing urban parishes in 1956, they lost their own priest and again became attached to Sacred Heart, Guelph. Then in 1959

the two churches were linked to the Erin parish.

In 1974 the two churches were separated from Erin and reconstituted as an individual parish with a resident pastor.

St. Peter's Church at Oustic is considered to be one of the finest small churches in the Hamilton Diocese by connoisseurs of architecture. Its location on the hill at the corner of Wellington Rd 27 and 22 Sideroad gives it a commanding position.



LATEST ADDITION: Kathleen Kenny, left and her sister Mary, hold the ribbon which Irene Hawkins cut to officially open the new well and handicapped accessible washroom at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Oustic. Watching are water committee chair Marcia Stevers and St. Peter's parish priest Rev. John Pinsonnault. — Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Council puts rezoning application on hold

Guelph/Eramosa council has put further decisions on a Rockwood rezoning application on hold until the property's owner returns from vacation.

Irene Pries, owner of 159 and 161 Main Street has asked to have the zoning on 161 Main Street amended from commercial to residential. The building at 159 Main Street already contains only residential units and is a legal no-conforming property, said the municipality's planning advisor Bernie Hermesen.

The two buildings are in the village's Central Business District. According to Wellington County's Official plan such properties may have accessory apartments

above or behind a commercial establishment, but these are accessory units, and permitted only as additions to a commercial unit. Pries wants to remove the commercial unit and convert the building to strictly residential uses.

There are already two apartments upstairs at 161 Main Street. She wants to add two more on the main floor.

In presenting the application to council Hermesen offered two options. If Pries is prepared to leave the front of the main floor as commercial, she can add a third apartment behind the store without any rezoning being required. If she wants to remove the commercial element completely, she will need to seek an Official Plan amendment from

the County.

Chances of succeeding with such an application are probably "slim to none," he said, since it could set a precedent for zoning in the commercial core of other communities in the County.

Pries is out of the country on vacation and her former husband, who was acting as her agent, could make no decisions for her.

Council agreed to let the matter sit until she returns.

Mayor David Adsett asked the clerk to add the application to the agenda of the municipality's new economic advisory committee, however, since all matters related the area's economic growth will be of interest to the group.

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THE NEW Tanner

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