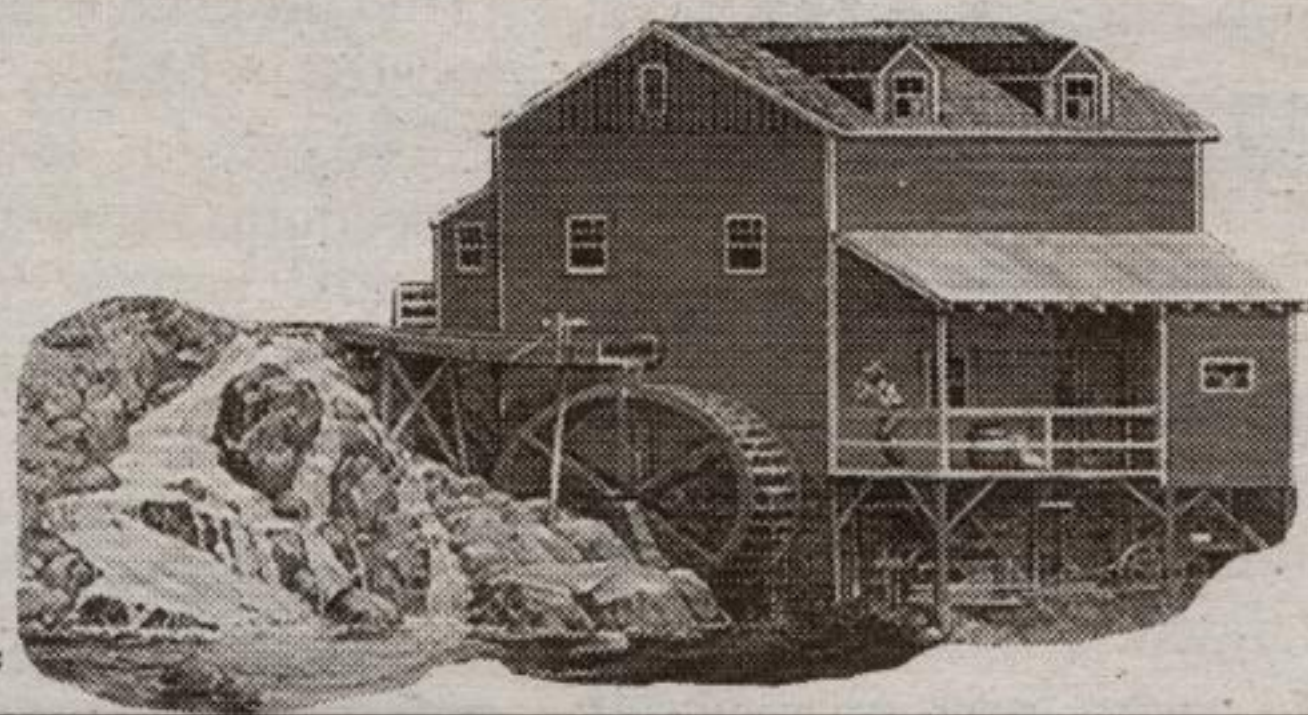


New fire hall site at corner of Gzowski, Rd. 27

The Rockwood MILLER



Hank Demolder closes store after 20 years in business

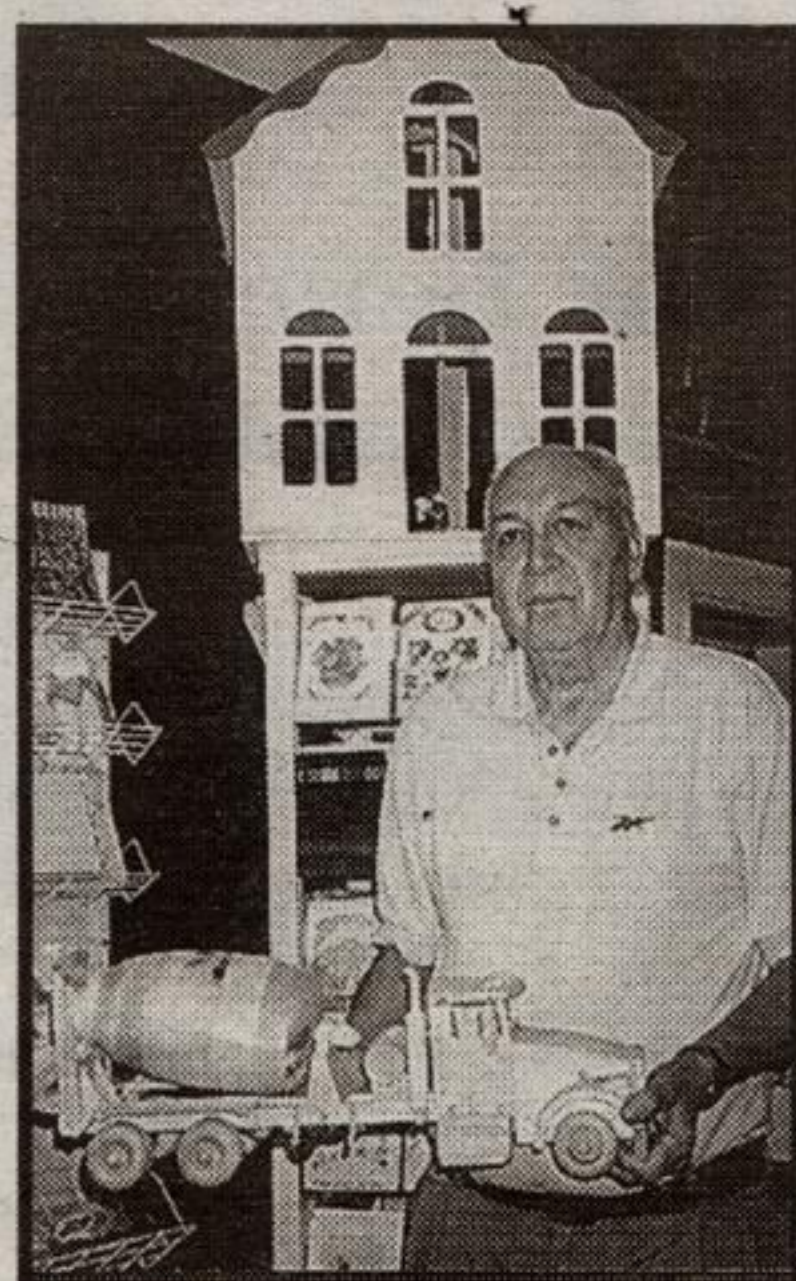
BY MAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

His own heart attack closely followed by the loss of his wife, Marilyn, to pancreatic cancer has knocked the stuffing out of Hank Demolder.

He hasn't been in his workshop in over a year and can't foresee his interest returning in Puff and Stuff and Pine, the store he operated with his wife on Rockwood's main street for almost 20 years. As a result he closed his store Sept. 30 and plans to move when the building sells.

The Demolders were hobby crafters living in Mississauga and already attending some craft shows when Mr. Demolder's job as warehouse manager for National Drapery disappeared in the demise of that business. Looking for work, he turned to friends who had always assured him he could work for them. But somehow they couldn't use him either in recessionary times so Mr. Demolder found himself unemployed and too old to fit the jobs that were available.

The couple decided to do what they knew best and turned their hobby into a business. They moved to Rockwood where they could find a property with space for both their store and his workshop in their home. Since no business can have two bosses, Mr. Demolder told his wife it would be her store and he would make the items she needed. It



ALL HAND MADE: Hank Demolder poses with a Barbie doll house and holds a cement truck. Both items he made were stocked in Puff and Stuff and Pine Shop which closed Sept. 30 after 20 years on Rockwood's Main Street. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

continued that way until her death.

While Mr. Demolder did woodwork, his wife did the painting as well as making Raggedy Anne and upside down dolls, quilts, teach me snakes, and other stuffed toys. She also did a lot of knitting both for children and adults and her sweaters were a drawing card at many craft shows. Over the years their stock became quite diversified. They were known for quality workmanship. All their clothes trees, for instance, were hand painted and air-dried. Their fabric crafts were done with top quality materials.

"She was an all round

gifted lady," Mr. Demolder says, "and mostly self taught."

The name Puff came for a doll Mrs. Demolder made. Stuff was for all the "stuff" they sold in their shop and pine was for Mr. Demolder's pine creations, toys, tables, chairs, rocking hoses, easels, and clothes trees. The trees were about four feet high with an upright dowel for a body, a cross dowel to hold hangers or clothing, and round circles for a base and for a painted clown face. They were designed for a child's size and apparently became family treasures as he still hears from people who passed them down to their grandchildren.

The clothes trees were the mainstay of the business. He estimates making more than 20,000 of them over the years. They were supplying 30 stores and attending about 30 craft shows annually at the height of their business. Kay Bala of Elora was their first buyer for the trees and she continued to order from them until she closed her shop.

Demolder says the shows were what made the difference for them. The store managed but they "needed the shows to sustain" them. Their favourite was at Balls Falls for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority held annually on Thanksgiving weekend. They attended that for 25 years and considered it a holiday because of the atmosphere there.

BY MAGGIE
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Rockwood's new fire hall will be built on the site the fire hall committee deemed to be its preferred choice: on the village's northern border on County Road 27 where it intersects with Gzowski Street. A third entrance will open onto McKenzie Street.

Details of the location and a proposed site plan were unveiled Monday at an open house in council chambers to present the public with their first glimpse of the proposal. Exactly what the new hall will look like remains to be seen, said Coun. Doug Breen. Nor can anyone estimate its cost at this time.

A sub committee, consisting of members of the former fire hall committee and "lots of firefighters", will be putting together a design to take to an architect. Breen couldn't say when that might be ready and no deadlines have been established for calling tenders.

Coun. Les Foote said the project should be completed "in 2003." Mayor David Adsett said the municipality paid \$205,000 for the four acre property.

The municipality purchased four acres "on purpose", Breen said, to ensure there would be sufficient space available "down the road" as the community and its fire service grows.

"I'm sure when the present hall was built in 1972 they didn't envisage outgrowing the site," he said. "And two acres would have been enough for the next 15 years, (which is council's planned service life for the new hall) but with this we have room to solve problems for the next 30 years."

Rough sketches of the proposed building call for an eight-bay drive-through hall at one side of the building and a multi-use meeting room of some sort on the other.

Adsett and Breen both said existing community meeting facilities, like the community room at the library and Rockmosa, are well used and additional space is likely to also be useful.

A multi-purpose room could serve firefighters' needs for training space some of the time and community groups at other times. Using the room that way would allow the municipality to use some of the funds in its parks and recreation development fund to help with construction costs.

Since the site is outside Rockwood's boundaries, the municipality will have to extend services to it, probably along McKenzie Street so the County Road won't need to be ripped up, Breen said.

Whether space will be included for an ambulance bay remains to be seen. Breen said the municipality would be

open to that if arrangements were made before a design was finalized.

Adsett said Guelph administers ambulance service for Wellington County and Fire Chief Shawn Armstrong is studying locations for ambulance bases throughout the County.

Since the ambulance communication centre dispatches the nearest ambulance, there is a need to closely watch boundaries, Adsett said. Right now fringe areas of Guelph/Eramosa quite often receive ambulance service from Acton, he said, and that is likely to continue. But, because municipalities now pay for their own service, it's important to use that service whenever possible to limit the amount of money paid to neighbouring services.

Adsett said the OPP are satisfied with their existing arrangements with the municipality and "as of last fall" they were prepared to move to the new hall with the fire department when the new building is ready. There have been no recent discussion on the subject.

Council will have to decide the fate of the village's existing fire hall, he said. It may be deemed surplus and sold, or council may decide to reinvest in it and make it another community asset, possibly to house some social services for the municipality. Public input will be welcome.

Rockwood man charged with robbery, assault

A 40-year-old Rockwood man is charged with Break and Enter, three assault charges, trespassing and theft following a robbery at Rockwood Convenience Store at 2:22am on Monday, Sept 30.

Wellington OPP responded to an alarm to discover entry to the store had already been made and they located a suspect in the wooded area behind.

Police said they approached the suspect attempting to take him into custody when he struck one of the officers on the forehead with a set of bolt cutters. He then jumped the officer and attempted to

choke him before other officers came to his aid and took the suspect into custody.

Constable Richard Fluit of the OPP's Guelph detachment was treated at Guelph General Hospital for abrasions and received several stitches to close a wound on his left eyebrow.

Kenneth Ray Hayward of Rockwood is charged with Break and Enter, Assault Causing Bodily Harm, Assault with Intent to Resist Arrest, Assault with a Weapon, Trespass by Night, Theft Under \$500.00 and Possession of Property Obtained by Crime.

Beware suspicious packages

Wellington OPP is warning residents of the county to be wary of suspicious-looking packages following discovery of an explosive device at the south end of Sideroad 10, near Whitelaw Rd. W. in Guelph.

A retired OPP officer walking his dog located a box with several wires and a clock attached to it in the above area. It was sealed off by members of the OPP Explosives Disposal Unit who were called in to investigate. The device was determined to be an "actual explosive device" and it was defused.

Investigation is continuing but meanwhile, although the police believe it to be an isolated incident, they are warning the public that if they find a suspicious package such as the one identified they should keep their distance, not touch the package and immediately notify police.

Anyone who has any information that might assist the Police is asked to contact the Guelph Detachment of the County of Wellington OPP at (519) 822-7250 or Wellington County Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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