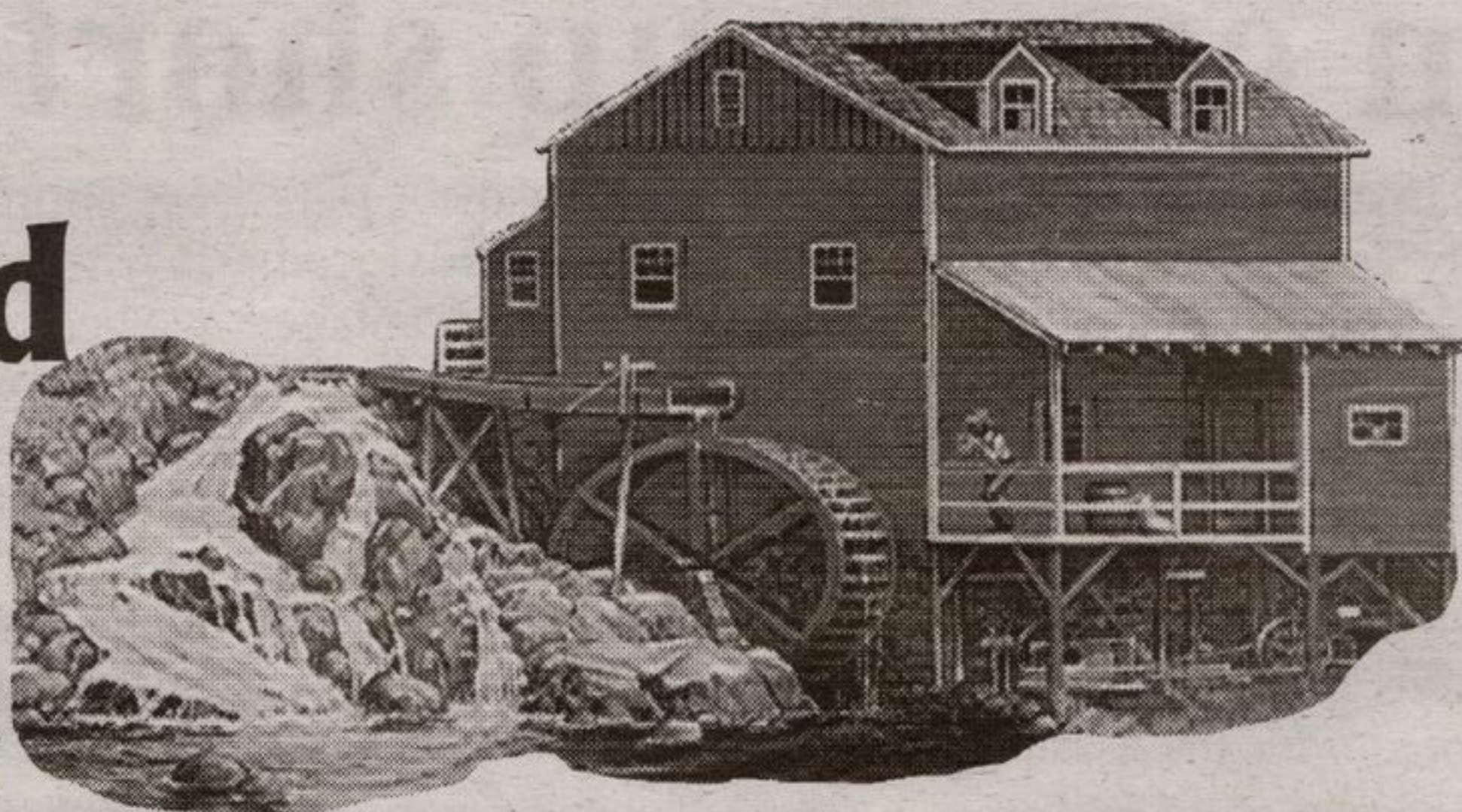
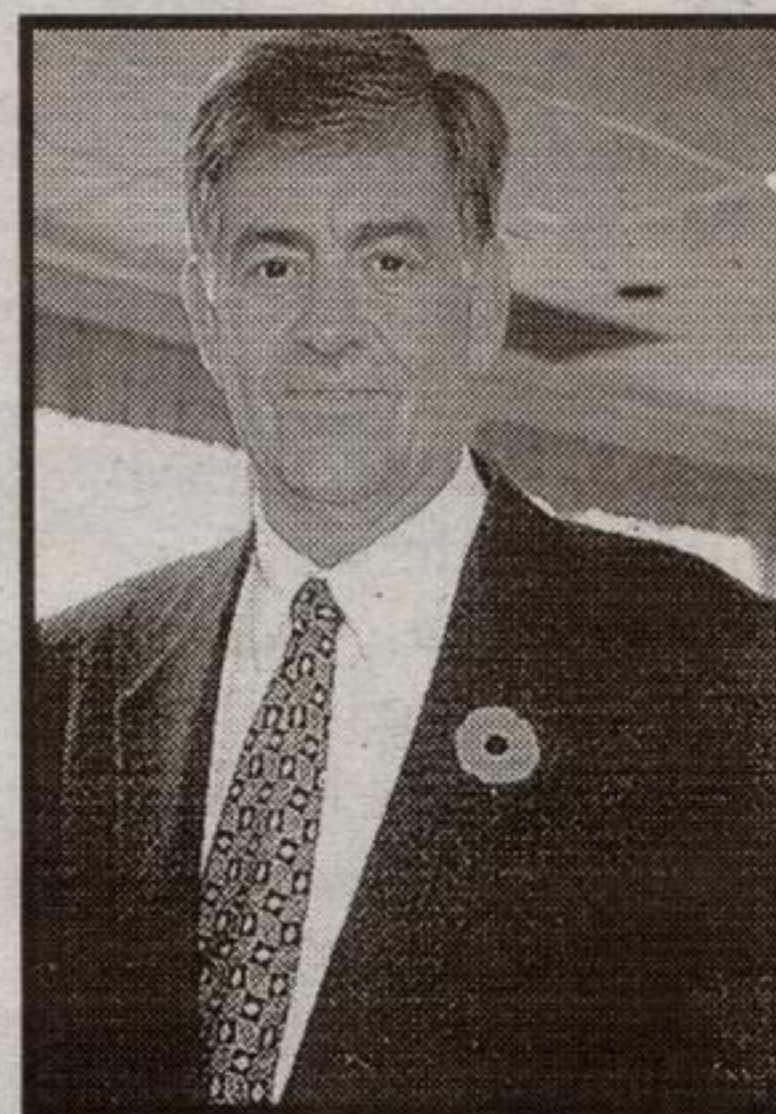


The Rockwood MULLER



John McCrae connection there but not inflated

BY MAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner



David McCrae

Col. John McCrae's poem, In Flanders Fields, has received international recognition. His involvement in World War I makes him both known and respected by residents in the Guelph area.

Growing up in a family with such an acclaimed member "has an affect on you," says his distant cousin, Guelph/Eramosa councillor David McCrae.

McCrae's great grandfather was a brother of the colonel's grandfather.

"We were always cognizant of him although no one made a big deal of it," he said Saturday following an interdenominational service held at Rockmosa as part of the municipality's annual Remembrance Day service.

"My uncle was there too," McCrae says. "But he got back."

Because he was running the family farm, McCrae's father was not called up in World War II. Nor was military service a part of his own life, McCrae says. But all the same there was a subconscious expectation in his family that

members would give back to their community.

His own contribution has been 18 years as a councillor for Guelph Township and now for the amalgamated municipality of Guelph/Eramosa.

"I think everyone should see what goes on in their community," he says. "It might make them a little more appreciative of what they have at the end of the day."

The McCraes have been in the area for well over a century with David and his wife still living on the farm his ancestors bought in 1878. Most of his cousins have stuck fairly close to home too, he says, with only a few of them heading further north.



REMEMBERING: Guelph/Eramosa mayor David Adsett, centre, stopped to chat with some of the World War II veterans following Saturday's Remembrance Day service at the Rockwood cenotaph. Veterans from the left are Jim Milne, army, Wally Graham, army, Adsett, Gordon Cox, army and Bob Leslie, air force. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Small crowd attends cenotaph service

Only a small crowd turned out for the annual Remembrance Day service in Rockwood Saturday.

World War II veteran Jim Milne, who has attended the services since 1947 and was a chief organizer in recent years, warned younger veterans their turn is coming to take over the organizing and handling of the ceremony.

As dignitaries and representatives of various community organizations placed wreaths at the cenotaph, Milne announced that this was the first time in 55 years, - perhaps the first time ever, that a wreath was laid in Rockwood on behalf of the federal government.

Although more than a dozen World War II veterans

are still living, many of them have left the community or are too ill to attend the ceremony, he told The New Tanner.

Heather Brown played The Last Post to begin the traditional two-minute silence and a member of the Guelph Pipe Band played a lament to end the period. Rev. Lynne Bandy conducted the prayer.

An interdenominational service was conducted at Rockmosa following the service at the cenotaph.



VETS REMEMBER: Rockwood veterans, some from the Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and others from the Guelph Branch, paraded to the Rockwood cenotaph Saturday for their annual Remembrance Day service. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

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