

EWAG NEWS

Tickets are now available for the EWAG Annual Auction. Get them either at the Rockwood office or by credit card at the Erin office. The auction is on Saturday, December 7 and there are many opportunities for some great Christmas ideas. Enjoy the silent auction, dinner and live entertainment. Doors open at 6:00pm, with dinner served at 7:00pm. If you would like to make a donation to the auction please call Melissa at 833-0087.

The great Outerwear Sale continues into December at our thrift store! All winter outerwear is on for 1/2 price!! (Sale excludes new hand-knit items). We have had large amounts of donations come in so there is a great selection of items for you to choose from, especially in finding that special something for the Christmas season.

We need your help! We are looking for someone with a few hours every other Friday afternoon to work in our thrift store. The hours would be from 1:00 to 4:00pm working with another volunteer. If you are interested, please call Lynn at 856-2113.

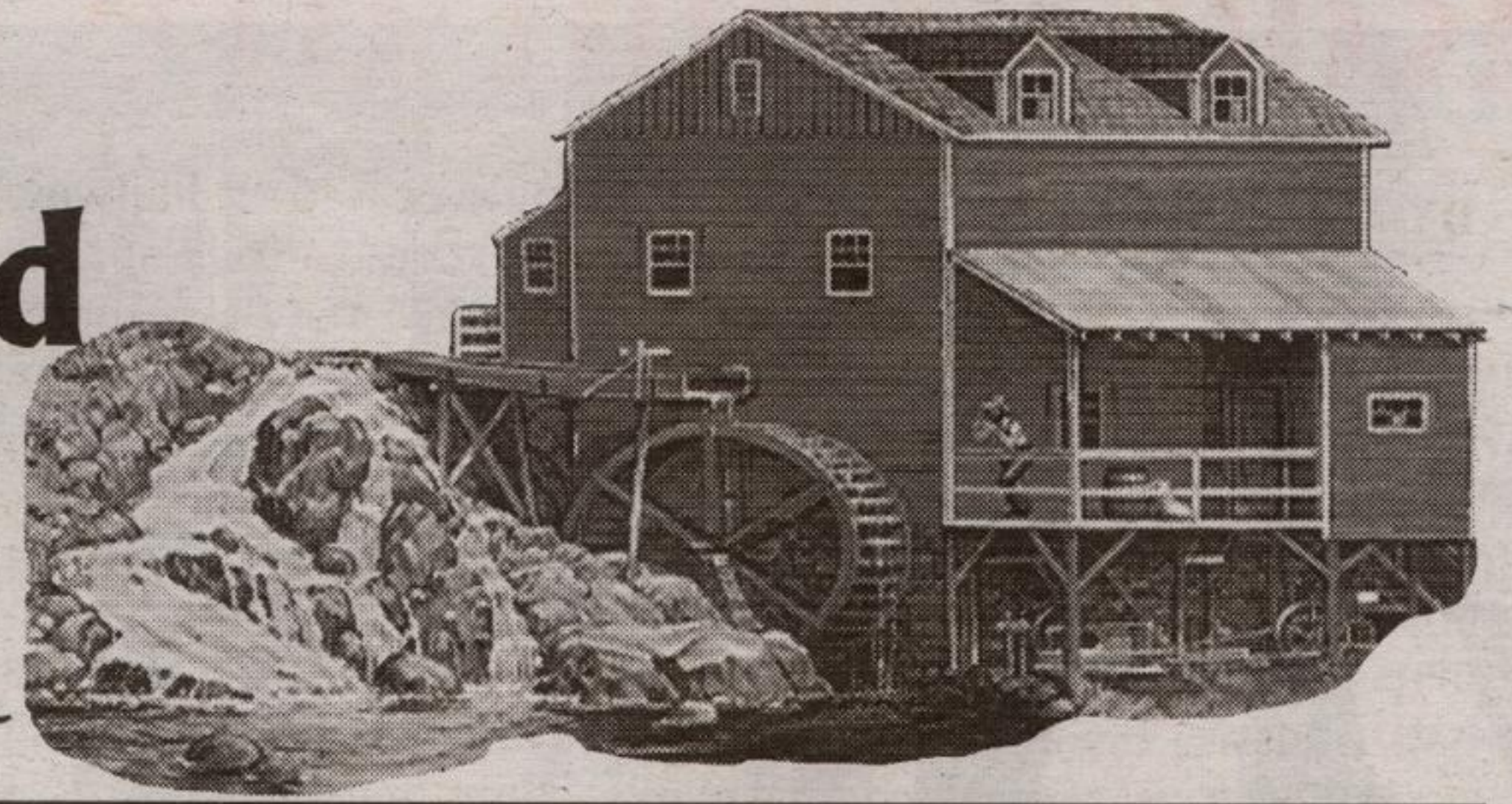
Join the Seniors every other Thursday afternoon at 1:00 at Rockwood Library. Enjoy Euchre, Crokinole, or Cribbage, coffee and goodies for just a dollar. All are welcome.

There will be a special Christmas Seniors Potluck on Thursday, December 12 at 12:00 noon. Bring your favourite dish to share with others and enjoy some Christmas fun. Call Lynn at the EWAG office for more information.

Jane Wahl with the Early Years Initiative has some wonderful programs coming up in the near future. "Lets do-it-dad" is for Dads, Grandfathers and tots (ages new-born to 5 years) starting November 2 from 9:30am to 11:30am. This program will run the first and third Saturday of every month until March. Jane is also offering a "Hand in Hand" program for parents and tots. Ages birth to five are welcome to attend Wednesdays beginning November 6 from 9:30-11:30am at Everton Community church, and Thursdays beginning November 7 from 9:30-11:30am at the Eden Mills Presbyterian Church. There is no charge for either one of these programs. For more information on either of these programs please contact Jane at 856-2113.

We are located at 126 Main St. S., Rockwood. Our phone number is 856-2113. Our office/store hours will be Monday to Thursday 10:00 to 4:00pm and Fridays the store will be open from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

The Rockwood MULLER



Province downloading roads again

Guelph/Eramosa councillors say the province is downloading again and their taxpayers will be picking up the tab.

Thanks to changes to the Municipal Act, council will no longer have any choice in how it maintains certain roads.

In the new act, the province has classified roads according to the number of vehicles travelling on them each day, and set out minimum standards for their care.

Public Works Manager Larry Van Wyck said most of the Class 1 roads in the municipality are arterial roads that should be looked after by the County but they aren't interested in taking them over so Guelph/Eramosa will be stuck with the increased care mandated by the new provincial rules.

Using Speedvale Avenue East as an example, Van Wyck said very few township residents live on the road but 12,000 to 15,000 commuters use it daily to get in or out of Guelph. That gives it top priority even though it serves the city rather than the township. The County won't contribute to the road's maintenance and neither will the city. Guelph/Eramosa taxpayers will foot the bill.

Van Wyck said it will be a problem shared by many rural municipalities bordering on cities.

Mayor David Adsett said the common sense approach municipalities used to be able to use with their road maintenance is no longer available to them.



BASKET OF BABIES: Colleen Johnston offers shoppers a basket of little puppies at the fundraising sale for Homeward Bound animals in St. John's Church hall on Saturday. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Council wants Province to create, standard software

Guelph/Eramosa council feels it's time the province created and supported standardized financial software to meet the requirements of municipalities reporting to the province.

Each municipality must now meet a set of performance measures mandated by the province but there is no standard computer program available to report that information.

Faced with questions about where to go to get a

new and updated software program to handle the necessary material, council found they had a problem. One firm was very expensive. Another could only offer an older version of the program and still other suppliers couldn't provide the support if the program developed glitches.

Having a computer programmer develop software for Guelph/Eramosa could well cost more than \$30,000, councillors were told and then it would re-

quire revising over time as the province changed its requirements. Imagine the cost when that is multiplied by all the municipalities in the province. Complicating that, is the fact that each municipality may have different ways of reporting its data so taxpayers trying to compare information from their municipality with that of a neighbouring municipality are comparing apples and oranges, they were told.

Amid mutterings from various members, council has called on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to develop the necessary software and provide the technical experts to help municipal staff when necessary.

The resolution will be forwarded to local municipalities, members of provincial parliament and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for support.

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