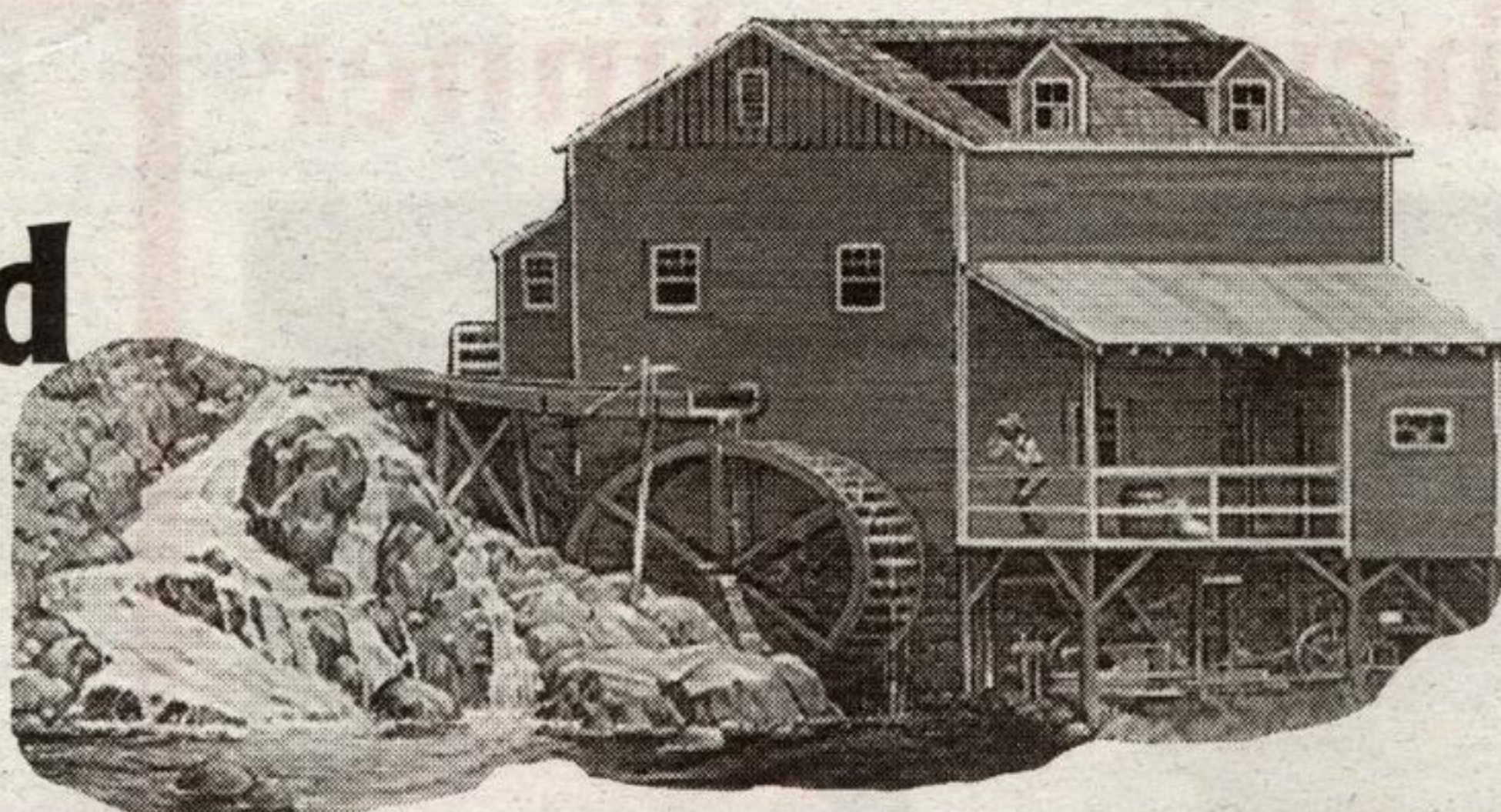


# The Rockwood MULLER



## Water main break on Valley Road

Rockwood residents were advised to boil their drinking water most of last week after a 10 inch water main broke on Valley Road early Tuesday morning.

Municipal works superintendent Larry Van Wyck said the break, which occurred shortly after 7 a.m., was in the highest pressure area in the system. He blamed the break on a combination of pressure, the brittleness of the plastic pipe and poor installation in 1976.

Age is not a factor, he said, since the pipe specifications call for it to last for 80 years and it is "nowhere near" the end of its life expectancy.

The municipality had neither the equipment nor the staff to handle the problem, he said, so Drexler Construction did the repair.

Van Wyck said the break left the system experiencing negative pressure so everyone was concerned about whether it could be sucking in groundwater or untreated well water from private sources. That was why the health unit issued the boil water advisory for the village.

They needed two con-

secutive clean readings on tests in the system before the advisory could be lifted, he said. There never was any contamination in the system, but no one was taking any chances.

The repair was completed by 3 p.m. but then the lines and hydrants had to be bled to get the air out of them. That was done Wednesday and Thursday and the health unit completed its final test after 6 p.m. Friday.

People may have been without water because of the low pressure Tuesday, Van Wyck said but pressure was back to normal by Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning after the water tower had refilled.

People may have experienced some lingering signs of the disturbance to the system for a couple of days after the break was fixed, he said, because flushing the system does disturb things in the pipes.

Between Tuesday afternoon and Thursday, area firefighters helped the municipality to distribute 1100 cases of bottled water out of Rockmosa to Rockwood homes. The water was donated by Aberfoyle Springs, Van Wyck said.



**ARTISTS' WEEKEND:** A group of local artists held an Open House at Greenscape last weekend to raise funds for the Guelph Humane Society. Participating artists were from the left: Sandra Lagace, Jan Pinnery, Dale MacLeod, Carole Black, Shelly Boa and Emma Martin. The group offered pottery, paintings, stained glass, photography, wirework sculptures and mixed media collectibles for sale to the public. — Maggie Petrushevsky photo.

## History of Rockwood subject for author

BY MAGGIE  
PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

Copies of Rockwood, a Mosaic of Memory, are selling well, says author Deb Quail.

The book's timing coincides with a number of anniversaries including the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of Rockwood as a police village, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Rockwood Post Office and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publishing of Frank Day's book, Here and There in Eramosa.

Quail began interviewing area seniors about 1.5 years ago and has included a lot of period photos borrowed from local residents as well as some pencil sketches by Susan Strachan Johnson of Everton.



Deb Quail

The book actually begins with some prehistory of the area, she says, and follows Eramosa's first settlers, the three Ramsey Brothers from Ireland, on their arrival from New York State in 1819. Rockwood's first settler, John Harris, arrived in 1821. It was his sons who later built Rockwood's first mills.

Quail included material on some of the village's more

## Straw house on tour

A home in Eden Mills will be one of over 20 homes participating in the 1st annual Ontario Straw Bale Open House being organized by the newly founded Ontario Straw Bale Building Coalition (OSBBC). The tour will take place this Saturday.

Straw-bale building has grown from complete obscurity to public prominence in the past half-decade. Captivated with the idea of strong, durable, super-insulated and beautiful homes that cost no more than conventional construction and which offer remarkable environmental benefits, over 100 home-owners have chosen to build bale homes in the province in the last five years.

This tour is the perfect opportunity to step right inside some straw bale buildings, see what they are like, and get honest feedback from the owners about all aspects of their buildings.

On the Open House Tour, bale buildings of all sizes and shapes will be "open to the public" and will give community members an opportunity to see inside some of these unique and often curious structures.

"When a bale building goes up in a community it generates a lot of interest" says Julie Bowen, a straw bale home owner and one of the organizers of the tour, "this will give people the opportunity to step inside these homes and see how they really work." Many of the homes feature other "green" technologies as

well, including active and passive solar, wind power, unique waste-treatment systems and innovative materials.

The tour, which stretches across the province from Ottawa to London, will run from 10 a.m. - 6p.m. on Nov. 29. The cost of the tour is \$20, which gains you admission to as many houses as you wish, and also includes a one year membership in the OSBBC. This coalition of straw-bale homeowners, builders and enthusiasts was founded to provide information for people with an interest in building and/or owning a straw bale home and to initiate and support efforts to further the base of knowledge about straw buildings.

The OSBBC believes in the need for a movement towards a more environmentally responsible built environment. Chris Magwood, author and bale activist remarks that, "for the same costs as typical homes and buildings, it is possible right now to create similar spaces from environmentally sound materials and to lower energy consumption dramatically."

This tour is the perfect opportunity to see how homeowners from across the province are making these ideas a reality.

The home in Eden Mills will be open from 12-4 p.m. All the details regarding the tour, and directions to the house are available at [www.strawbalebuilding.ca](http://www.strawbalebuilding.ca) or contact Glenn Little at 856-1573.

### R.I.D.E. starts Friday

Wellington OPP will participate in the 2003 OPP Festive R.I.D.E. initiative, which starts tomorrow, Friday, November 28 and runs until Friday, January 2, 2004.

Officers will be setting up spot checks throughout the County and there will be zero tolerance for drinking and driving offences. During the 2002 Festive R.I.D.E. initiative, there were a total of 50 fatal motor vehicle collisions, which claimed the lives of 62 people.

In 2002, officers throughout Ontario checked 567,552 drivers for sobriety, charging 458 persons with drinking and driving offences, issuing 90 day Administrative Drivers License Suspensions to 449 and 12-hour suspensions to 1072 motorists.

important characters, some of its buildings and businesses and some of its ghost folklore too. Then she added some bits about specific modern village events such as Pioneer Days and the uniquely Rockwood Farmers' Parade of Lights at Christmas.

Quail self-published her book through Wordbird Press and did a limited edition of 1000 hand-numbered copies. Copies are available through Wetherby's, Rose Garden, Rockwood Pharmacy, Pamper Me Pets Foods and Eden Place.

On Dec. 1 she will be autographing copies of the book at the special anniversary marking Rockwood Post Office's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and she will be speaking to the Esquesing Historical Society about the book in the spring.

## NEW YEARS EVE DINNER & DANCE

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Wednesday, December 31, 2003

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Dinner: 7:00 pm

Dancing: 9:00 to 1:00

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