

Rockwood Parade of Lights delights thousands



An estimated 10,000 people from all over Ontario were in Rockwood on Thursday, Dec. 11 for the 11th annual Farmers' Parade of lights. The event seems to get more spectacular each December. Local farmers converge on the village with festively lit farm equipment ablaze with tens of thousands of lights. The floats, some as wide as 20 feet, have 20 to 40 strings of lights on them. Farmers start to decorate their machinery as much as a month ahead. The parade is strictly for fun, says Murray Swanson, one of the original organizers. There's no advertising, fundraising or fees associated with the Parade of Lights. Not only can spectators see some visual confections on wheels they also have the opportunity to see some of big and antique farming equipment with Santa Claus and the Mrs. riding in style at the tail end of the parade on a massive combine. The parade started out 11 years ago when a number of farmers just got together and drove through Rockwood with no set route or legal considerations. Now an organizing committee ensures the parade is conducted in a safe and organized fashion with police escorts – and a permit. - Photos by Ted and Angela Tyler.

Community on back burner as coffee shop issue heats up

To the Editor;

I'd like to give "kudos" to M. Iutzi for her intuitive comments in her letter to the editor, "Meeting Stacked in Tim Hortons Favour" in the Acton Tanner and Wellington Advertiser regarding the "open house" that took place December 8 at the Rockmosa Centre.

She asks a question on many people's minds, "Why was the already formally communicated (i.e. Wellington Advertiser) "public meeting" changed?" Answer: At the request of Tim Hortons (one elected official admits). Interesting development wouldn't you say considering many

political platforms were not in favour of the coffee shop at all. M Iutzi further asks, "And why did Tim Hortons want the venue changed?" Answer: Well it wasn't because Maurice Luchnich, the Tim Hortons representative need worry about the "wrath" of the community turnout as there was more than a 2:1 ratio of present and past elected officials and Guelph Eramosa staff to community members. I counted more than 10 elected officials and staff. You do the math on how many community members were there.

It all adds up to a very empty hall except for what appeared to be Tim

Letters

Hortons selling their position to council rather than the public...did I just quote M. Iutzi again?

For those that didn't see or understand the minuscule column in the local paper announcing the change and didn't attend.. I did, and I would like to share with you some rather disturbing information that could have a very real negative impact on our entire community.

The proposed 24/7 drive-thru has the drive-thru lane bordering a seniors' apartment build-

ing. Asking Maurice Luchnich how his company could support potentially disturbing elderly peoples' sleep and maybe their health, he informed me that a line of cedars on that side would hide the site and "You wouldn't know we are there." How will trees mask exhaust fume odors and dampen the constantly idling engines?

The proposal calls for an exit/entrance onto Inkerman Street – an already busy road with Knechtels and the school

buses coming to and from the school on Guelph Street. Now add a 24/7 coffee shop with exiting cars using Guelph/Fall Street as an alternate exit and you have several potential accidents – a disturbing fact that involves the safety of our children.

Further, the proposal calls for using parking space behind the coffee shop that is currently used as extra parking for the medical center for coffee shop overflow business. Has the coffee "hit" become a matter of life or death? Would seem so to some.

So between the health and safety of our elders,

children, infirm and ill community members, I am not sure that another (what is it 7,8, or 9th) coffee shop is the best idea for Rockwood.

I echo M Iutzi, "The community came together the last time over this issue and public opinion prevailed. We need an opportunity to meet with our new Mayor and Council and discuss this as a community".

We were allowed to do this the last time. Call, e-mail, fax or talk to our Mayor and/or councillor and let's make sure that the "right" thing is done again.

Ann Habart
Rockwood