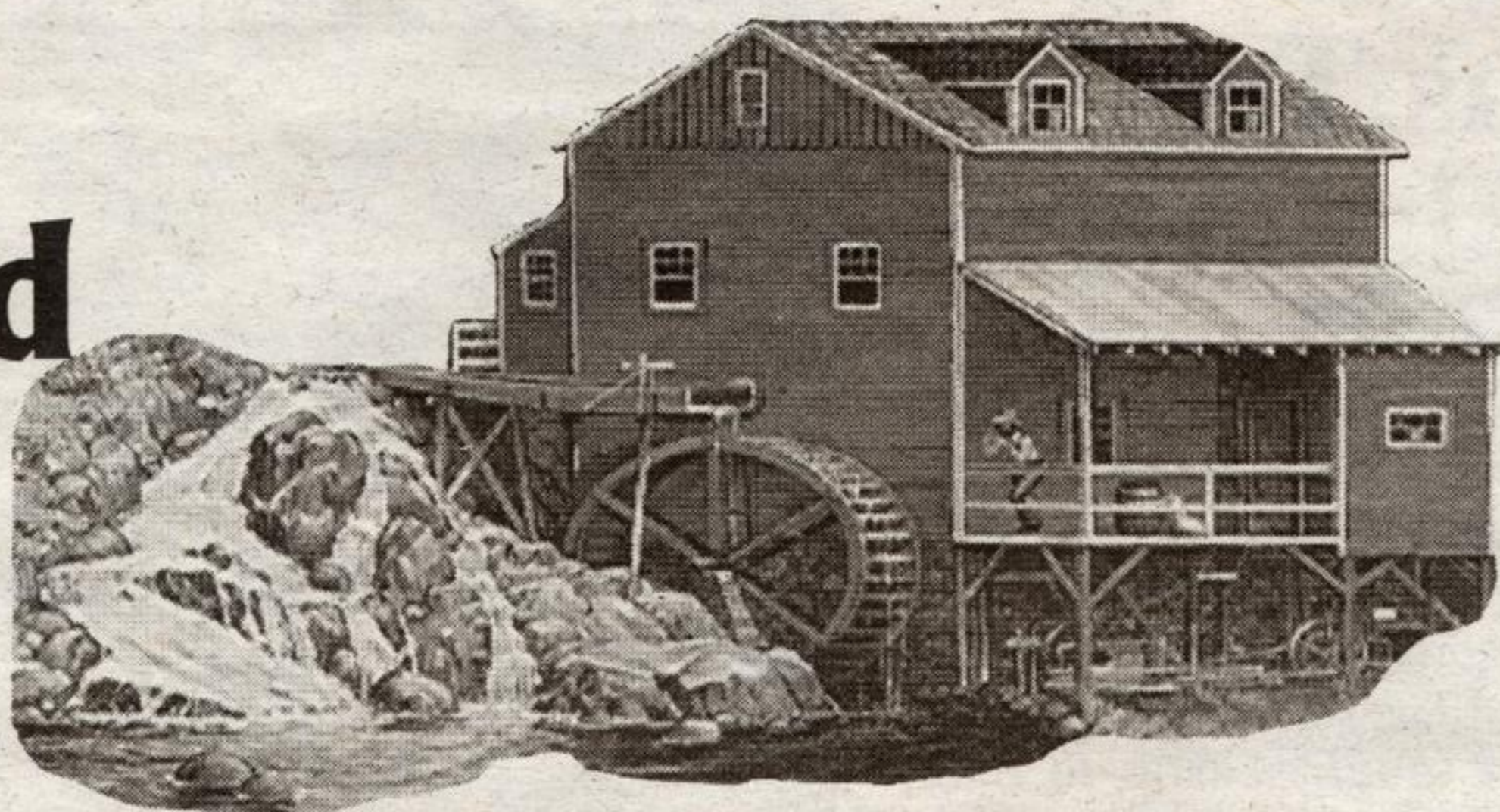


The Rockwood MULLER



Driving too fast for road conditions

BY KEITH ROBB
Media Relations Officer Wellington
OPP

Monday, January 12, 2004 was a typical winter day in Wellington County. We experienced snow flurries overnight and depending on what part of the county you lived in, accumulations from 10-15 centimeters.

The snow flurries continued throughout the day and into the following night. Officers responded to reports of numerous collisions and cars in the ditch.

Today, I checked our daily occurrences, which is my usual routine each morning, and I saw a report of an officer charging a motorist for excessive speed. It was 8:10pm on Monday, January 12th, and the officer was conducting speed enforcement, which you would think was unnecessary in ad-

verse weather conditions. Surely someone wouldn't drive fast when the roads are snow covered, icy and visibility is reduced due to on-going snow flurries and the darkness of nightfall.

Yet, the officer observes a 1991 GMC pick-up travelling at a high rate of speed westbound on Wellington County Road 8 in Peel Township. The officer activates his moving radar and the vehicle registers a speed of 135-km/h in a posted 80-km/h zone.

Well, the officer charged him. He'll have to attend court in Guelph on March 10th, 2004 and face the Speeding charge. The officer was nice, he could have charged the driver with Dangerous Driving given all of the circumstances involved, the weather conditions, the road conditions and the decreased visibility.

Maybe the fine will hit home and make this driver slow down. Maybe the fact that

he could face a 30-day suspension of his drivers' licence will help slow him down. Or maybe the fact that he will face increased car insurance costs.

I don't think people think about the danger they put themselves in as well as other motorists. So often, people lose control of their vehicles and end up in the ditch or crash into another motorist.

It is so easy to blame the road and weather conditions. The road was too slippery, the snow was blowing so hard that I couldn't see, the guy in front slammed on his brakes. These are all common excuses that the Police hear.

But the truth is, they are driving too fast for the road and weather conditions. So slow down, drive safely and live longer.

EWAG NEWS

Songs, Lullabies and Rhymes for Baby and You! The Moon Is Round is an eight week program based on the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. Come and join other parents with children aged birth to 18 months and enjoy an hour of songs, rhymes, fingerplays and storytelling. The program will run every Friday, beginning February 6 (until March 26) from 10-11a.m. at the Rockwood Library. For more information or to register, please call Sue at 856-2113.

The Seniors Day Program is in need of a volunteer. This is a very special program that used to operate the second and fourth Friday of the month in Rockwood, but will now run on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The volunteer would be responsible for assisting with crafts, helping with lunch time set-up and clean up and assist staff with whatever may be required while at the program. For more information, please call Heather at 833-0087 or Lynn at 856-2113.

All the folks in the community are welcome to our Diners Club, held at Squires Lodge at 160 Guelph St. in Rockwood. This is a hot meal prepared by our volunteer, Melissa Hillier and she is a wonderful cook. The cost is \$6 per person and we ask that you please bring your own dishes. If you would like more information about this program, please call Lynn at the EWAG office. The sale in our Thrift Store this month is all clothing items on for half

price. You can stock up on all your winter needs for a great price! Come on into the store and check out some great bargains. The hours for our Thrift Store have now been extended to Fridays again. We will be open Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Fridays from 12 to 4 p.m. Our office is open from 10 to 4 Monday to Thursday.

Please remember our Food Pantry is Tuesdays by appointment only. You need to call ahead if you need this service. Appointments can be made for between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

We are located at 126 Main St. S. in Rockwood. Our phone number is 856-2113. Our e-mail address is ewag2@sentex.net. Please remember that we offer fax, laminating and photocopying services for a small fee for those needing any of those services. We also carry government forms such as Social Insurance, OHIP and Canada Pension.

Apology to Teresa Smye

Apologies to Guelph/Eramosa Councillor Teresa Gibson-Smye for both misspelling her name under the photo, and her profession, in last week's New Tanner. Somehow in the wireless transmission to the printer the corrections were not made.

Gibson-Smye, of course, is not a message therapist, but a massage therapist. Obviously the editor could have used the former.

Concerned staff held in low regard

To the editor,

It shocked me to read that Mayor Clint Martin and Councillor Teresa Gibson Smye demanded after-hours access to municipal offices to search files without staff present and the Mayor attacked the township clerk for doing her job:

tabling a report in response to a Council request.

The men and women who run for public office deserve

Letters

our gratitude and support because it takes a great deal of sacrifice and dedication. As voters, we must believe that they put the public interest above all else. We must trust in their motives and judgment. We must know they respect each of their constituents.

What possibly could be the reason for them to demand access to files when no staff would be around? These are files that township staff, no doubt, would gladly get for them during office hours. The staff had demonstrated this over many years with the previ-

ous councils. What public interest is served by nighttime file searches?

The reprimand of staff in front of others, at a public meeting, is simply appalling and inappropriate. If the mayor believed that the clerk had done something wrong, he should have dealt with it in private. From all accounts, the clerk has been doing her job competently.

Did the mayor exercise good judgment when he attacked her in a public forum? It concerns me that these two may hold the municipal staff in such low regard as to search their offices and files after business hours or reprimand them in public.

If they treat their staff this way, what respect can they have for the members of the community?

Thank you,
Gillian Riseborough
EWAG Food Bank
Manager

D. Heuman
RR2, Rockwood

Rockwood amazes manager

To the Editor,

I have had the pleasure of managing the EWAG food bank for a year now, and I am constantly amazed by the wonderful giving community that we live in. This has been proven to me time after time, but never more than during this holiday season, when our community really showed how much it cares.

There are so many people to thank, that I am afraid of missing someone, however my pile of thank you cards grows daily. I want to express my gratitude to all the great business owners in our town, who donated throughout the year, either in products we use on a constant basis, or, during the holiday season. They did everything from donating products to add to the hampers, to collecting toys, or providing a gift wrapping service for cash donations. You have all been a tremendous help and I thank you for your support.

Then we have all the schools and churches in our

area that have held food drives for me all during the year, and collected an amazing amount of food which we need so much. A Grade 7 student collected enough money from corporate sponsors to purchase 15 winter coats for the food bank. A little boy had his friends bring a food donation to his 11th birthday party, for the food bank. These are just a couple of the donations that come to mind, there are so many more.

Thanks to the families who donated toys with their children to teach them that there are others who are less fortunate than themselves.

ALL the food and cash donations we received are so important to keep going into the New Year. We are very lucky to be able to provide such an important service, to our community.

Of course, none of this would be possible without all the help from my great volunteers who give so much of their time to EWAG and the support of our community. So thank you, one and all

for everything you have done to help. We were able to provide for all our clients needs over the holidays. I look forward to another year at the food bank and the chance to work with, and meet more of the caring people in our community.

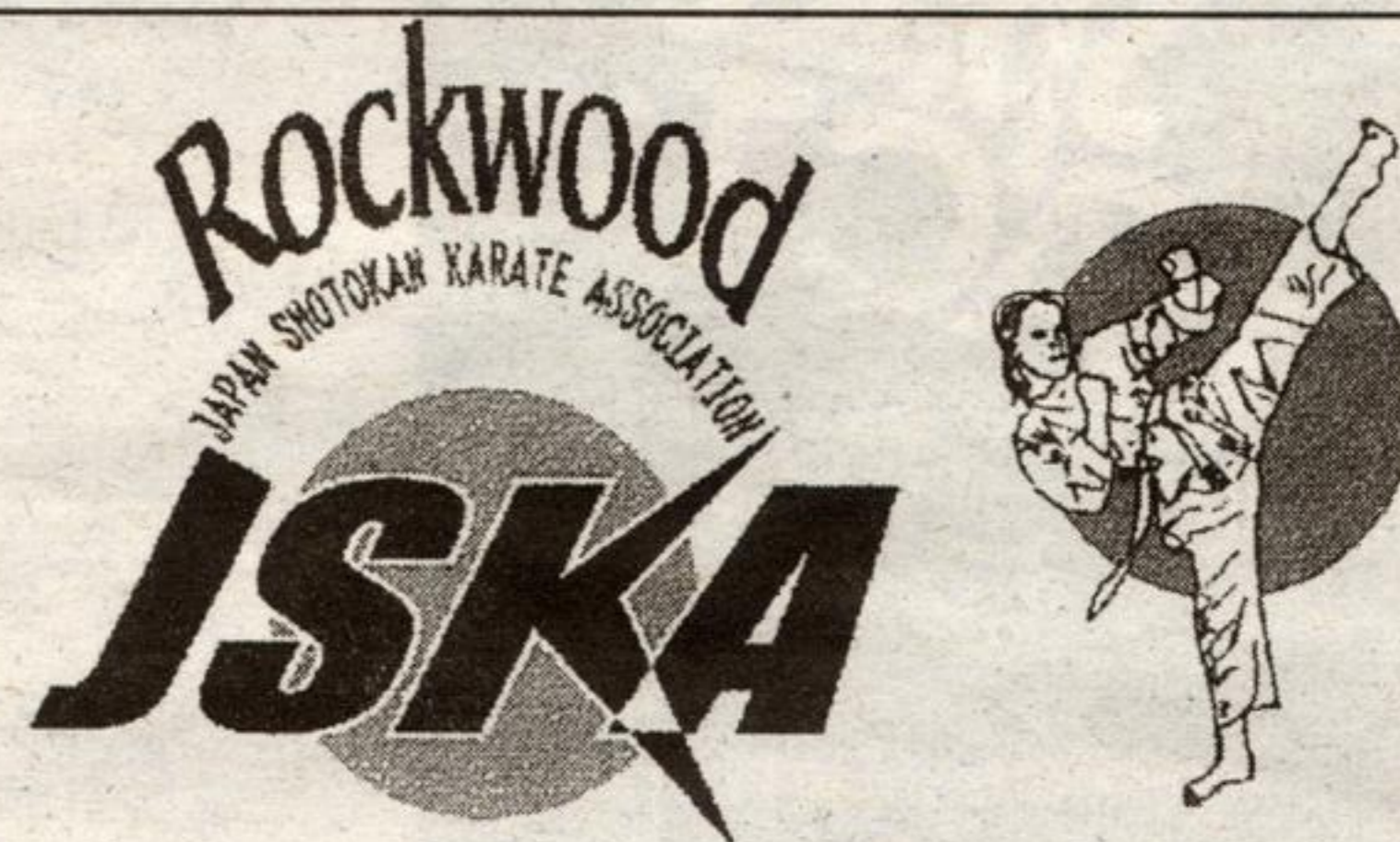
OPEN HOUSE

175 Ridge Road, Rockwood.
Saturday, January 16, 2004 2:00 - 4:00
Sunday, January 17, 2004 2:00 - 4:00



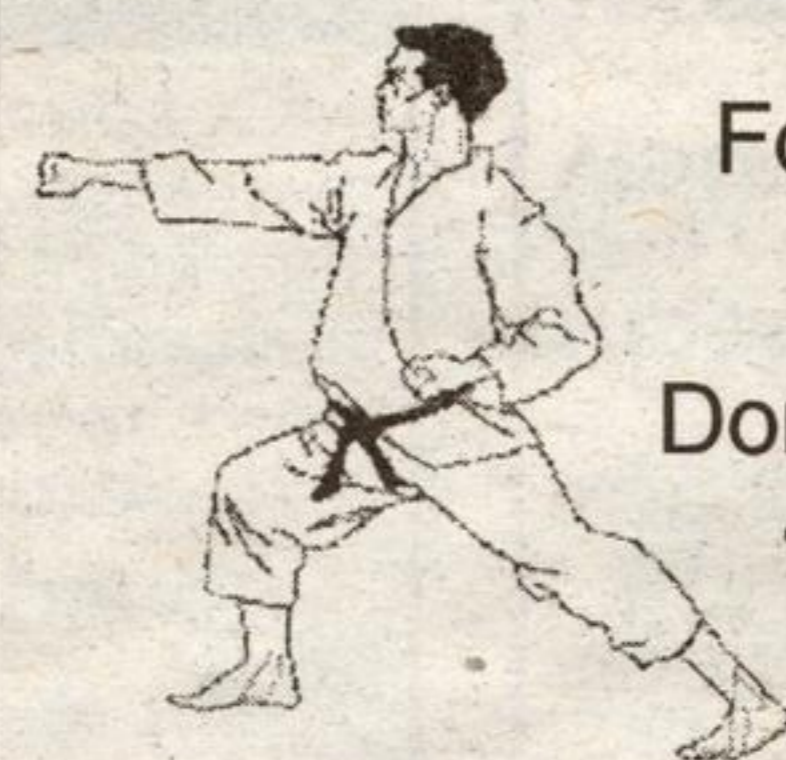
This home is understated elegance. Impressive marble tile entrance way welcomes you. Large trend setting living room. What homeowner could resist the maple kitchen with granite counter tops. Pillars, columns and cathedral ceilings. Complete granny flat. Come take a look and see quality at its best.

Peak Performance Realty Ltd. 519-787-5470



Internationally recognized, traditional Japanese Karate skills
Beginner classes are starting now

January Karate Open
House & Registration
Saturday January 10th 2-4pm
at the Rockmosa Library



For information call
Dojo Instructor
Donna MacDonald at:
Tel: 519-856-2058