

EPWA Commends Erin Councillor

To the Editor,

Members of the Eramosa Watershed Protection Association attended the first meeting of Wellington County Solid Waste Services Committee on January 13, 2004. The new Chair, the member from Erin, Councillor Lou Maieron, is keeping true to pledges made in his election campaign. In particular to review the proposed Ospringe Waste Transfer Station and to provide more environmentally friendly and economical alternatives for solid waste services in Erin and Guelph-Eramosa. Councillor Maieron started the process by providing members of the committee with a questionnaire and discussion working paper.

We are all well aware that this was an election issue and the E.W.P.A. believes that there are neither the financial nor environmental benefits of building a transfer site in Ospringe without further review of the alternatives. The E.W.P.A. also believes that this is a project that the vast majority of the people in the Towns of Erin/Guelph-Eramosa do not want, and are being forced into a situation of paying tax increases and getting less service.

Recent cost estimates by the county about transfer station cost vs. rural collection indicated marginal long-term savings to a transfer site. This could be easily questioned by a different set of numbers by

private contractors who could quote on the project of rural collections. Private contractors could give us a fixed cost for services not a \$2.3 million and rising transfer station cost.

The cost comparison is also flawed in that it lacks consideration of the fact that we are not comparing apples with apples. Curbside pickup includes an increased level of service without the hidden environmental risks of locating a transfer site beside the Eramosa River.

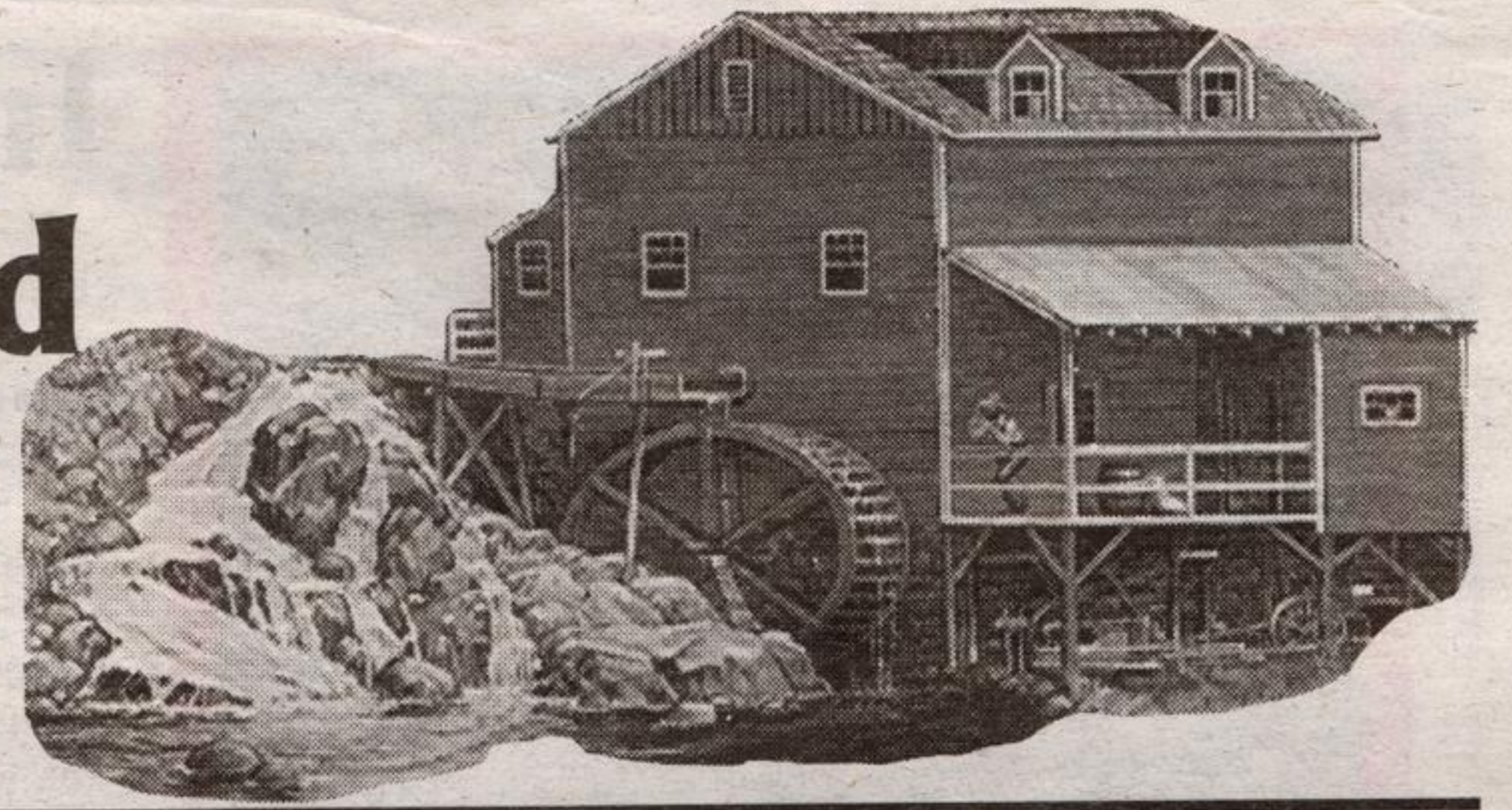
The E.W.P.A. believes there is an opportunity to change the direction of solid waste planning in Wellington. The solid waste committee has several new faces that are willing to look at positive change in order to achieve our needs as garbage producers while maintaining some sensible level of cost and environmental safety.

We should all keep in mind that funds spent on old technology (transfer station) will not be available for new advances in garbage handling in the future, as this money will be allocated for a 20-year minimum period. Rural pickup or other alternatives could provide an increased level of service with the big advantage of no large up front capital cost of \$2.3 to \$5 million. A pay-for-use service could enable changes at any time to improved technology, perhaps saving taxpayers plenty of dollars with far less environmental risk.

In closing we would like to compliment Mr. Maieron on his professional manner in handling the first working meeting of the solid waste committee. This feeling was reflected by several committee members at the end of this first meeting, and that there was much optimism in the group that these important issues could be addressed in an environmental and financially responsible manner.

Sincerely,
E.W.P.A.

The Rockwood MILLER



Thumbs down on Horton's proposal

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Despite attempts to soften the message, Rockwood area residents made their opinion plain Monday at a public meeting seeking input on a proposal to rent the former Rockwood fire hall to Tim Hortons.

The franchise may be a good corporate citizen and serve good food, but residents really want it down the road or out of town.

Several speakers suggested the chain should establish itself at the vacant Cheffields' location on Highway 7 a few miles further west of the village since that would allow the municipality to collect the same taxes as it would from renting out the fire hall. But it would take all the undesirable aspects out of the village.

Speakers discounted the budgetary importance of rent council would receive from leasing the hall to the chain on a longterm basis.

Over and over, residents criticized council's proposal to rent the hall to the chain, citing concerns about safety, noise and nuisance factors.

The site is too close to Rockwood's Centennial school, they said, so senior pupils will undoubtedly visit the restaurant for lunches. They predicted it would become a hangout for teenagers

pointing to problems for neighbors of the franchise's locations in Acton and Georgetown.

They fear traffic congestion from big rigs parking on Alma Street while the drivers run in

to get their order.

The village's non-profit seniors residence Squires Lodge is adjacent to the site and light pollution, litter, noise from garbage compactors and traffic will all be 24-hour a day problems for the seniors, various speakers said.

Former councillor Doug Breen warned residents this is a watershed for the village. Residents will either accept the proposal and accept the revenue it will generate. Or they will reject it and push council to take a more altruistic approach to uses for the site by doing things like expanding Squires Lodge or expanding the adjacent medical centre to make room for a second doctor.

But if they reject the additional funds, Breen warned them, they should quit complaining about the way their taxes are increasing because renting the hall is one way of controlling spending.

Guelph/Eramosa clerk Janice Sheppard told the meeting council has not been soliciting other uses for the building.

Council will debate the plan to lease the hall at its March 1 meeting.

EWAG NEWS

It's Tax Time! EWAG will be hosting a Tax Clinic on Tuesday, March 9 at Rockwood library. The clinic is a free service for those that qualify. To qualify, your household income needs to be less than \$15,000 without dependents or less than \$22,500 with dependents. You will need: last year's completed income tax return and Notice of Assessment, a T1 General Form, social insurance number as well as all receipts of income and all receipts for expenses. If you would like to book an appointment, please call Lynn at the EWAG office.

Need a new passport? Save yourself a trip into downtown Guelph and pop into our office. We have the application forms for you to apply for a new passport.

Relocating! Many folks have been asking when we are moving into our new accommodations. We do not have an exact date yet, but hope to be in there some time in the spring. We are looking forward to the new location and the Township of Guelph/Eramosa has been wonderful in helping us get things going. There are many factors involved in this move so it is very difficult to place an exact date for a move at the time., but look for our official "Grand Opening" in the next few months.

During the month of February, EWAG is having its famous "Stuff It" Sale at our thrift store. Stuff a bag for just \$6. We are extending this sale into the beginning of March, as there is still a great selection of clothing, and we are not sure at this time where our clothes will be. We may get our string selection out before we relocate.

Get your tickets soon for SMILE Theatre coming on Thursday, March 18 at Rockmosa Community Centre. The show starts at 1:30 p.m. and all are welcome.

Spots first robin in Rockwood

Cory Voss tells The New Tanner he spotted a robin in Rockwood last Friday, a portent that Spring may not be far away.

Although some robins do stick around all winter it's unlikely they could have survived in the bone-chilling sub-zero temperatures this winter has provided.

FISHERMAN'S LANDING

Rockwood

Phone: 856-4950

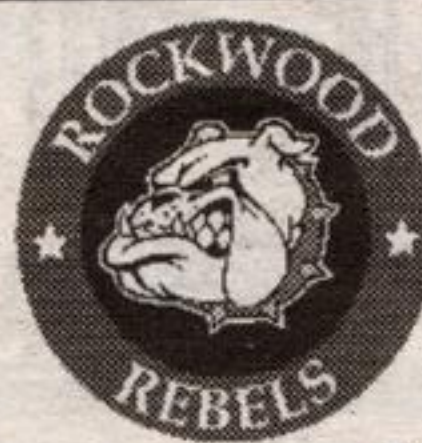


Happy Valentine's Day!

"The BEST Fish & Chips"

in Rockwood and all surrounding areas.

HOURS: Wed, Thurs. & Sat. 11:00 - 7:30 Fri. 11:00 - 8:30



Rockwood Eramosa Minor Ball Association

2004 Softball Registration

The "Rockwood Rebels" are looking for you! REMBA will be holding softball registration for the 2004 Summer Season in the Meeting Room at the Rockwood Library as follows:

Monday, February 16, 2004

From 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2004

From 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

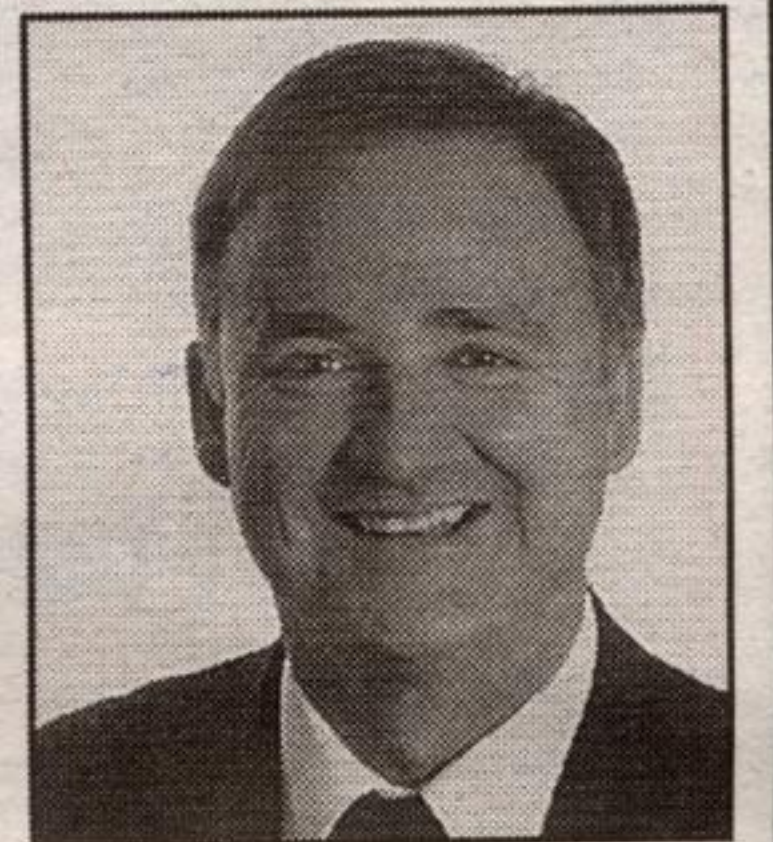
Visit the REMBA website at www.rkd.ca/remba for more detailed information or call Rhonda Fisher, REMBA Registrar at 856-9177

MEET

MARTY BURKE

Candidate Nominee
Conservative Party of Canada
Wellington- Halton Hills

ALL WELCOME!



-Military veteran
-Airline Pilot
-Your choice for Conservative Candidate!

Drop by for a snack and meet Marty and Trish and the Family!

Acton	Erin
Friday, February 13	Saturday, February 14
7-9 pm	2-4 pm
Acton Legion	Erin Legion
15 Wright Avenue	12 Dundas St. E

Contact Marty at www.martyburke.ca
519-763-4384