

Eden Mills store, post office closing

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Eden Place owner Wendy Evans has sold her store after more than three years of operating it as a stained glass and gift shop on the main street of Eden Mills.

When Evans purchased the store it was a pottery shop with a postal outlet in one part where customers could buy stamps and money orders and mail parcels. Evans closed the postal outlet on Tuesday, August 31.

The gift section will remain open until after the Eden Mills Writers' Festival on September 12, she said.

Since there is no other store in the village, there was no place to which the outlet could be moved, she said. The post office had been removed and switched to group mail boxes near the community centre before Evans came to the village.

Barb Marshall, whose grandfather operated the general store and post office in

the village from more than 40 years, says records show the first post office was established up the hill from the mill on July 6, 1851 with Adam Argo as its first postmaster. Argo called the village Eden but added Mills at the insistence of postal authorities.

A few years later the post office was moved to the three storey general store located on Barden Street and it was still in that location when Norm Marshall purchased the store in 1925. He continued as postmaster until 1966 when he was forced to retire because of age regulations. Then his wife assumed the title and continued the service for a few more years, Marshall says.

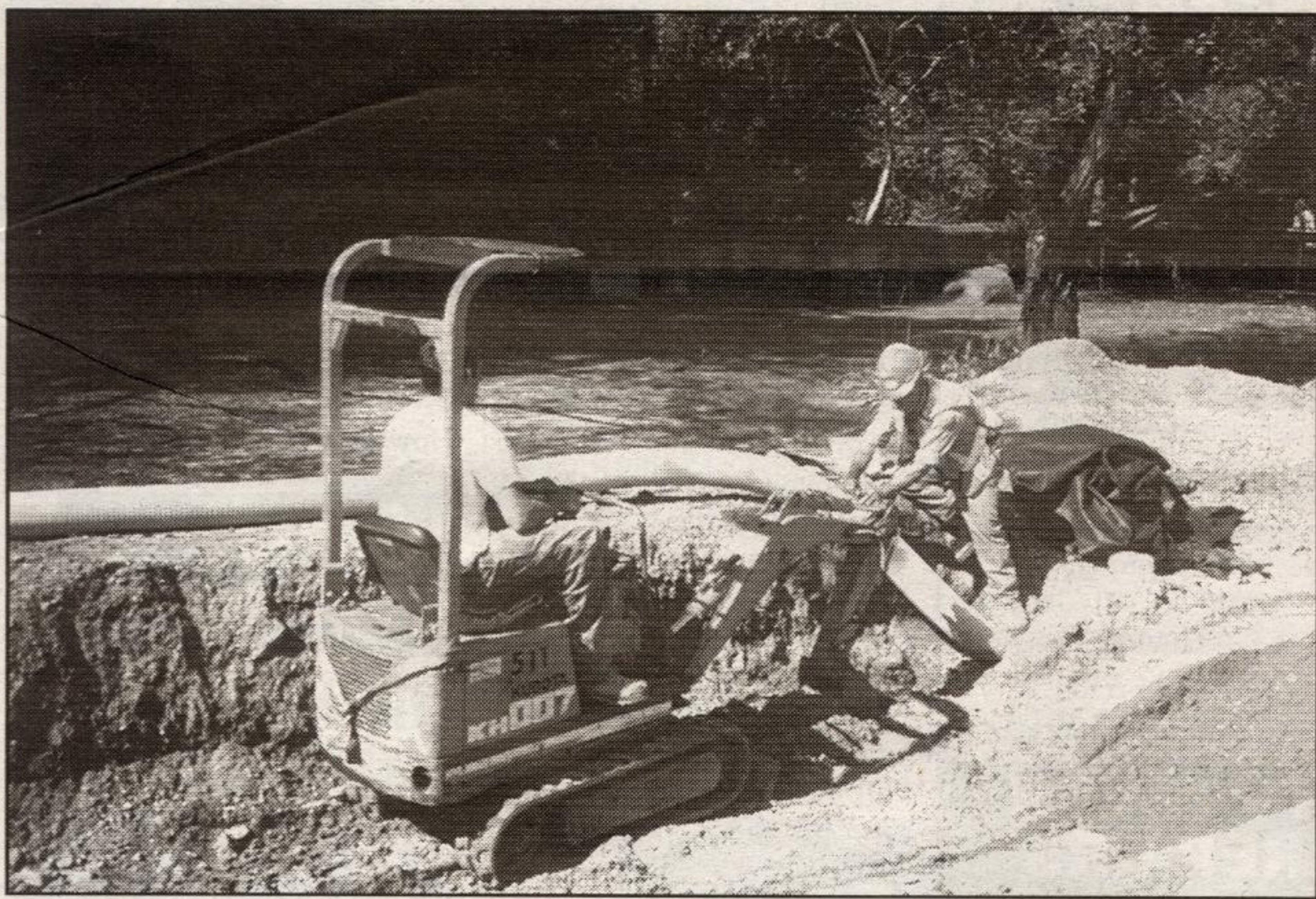
Evans says she stamped a fist full of envelopes for stamp collectors Tuesday looking for the last cancellation from the Eden Mills postal outlet.

September 16 the new owner will take possession and turn the building into a private residence.



IT'S GONE: Eden Mills has lost its last store and its postal outlet. Eden Place craft store will close after the Writers' Festival on Sept. 12 and become a private residence. The postal outlet closed Aug. 31. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

The Rockwood MILLER



LAYING PIPE: Drexler Construction crews were busy laying the last of the water piping along Main Street by the cemetery earlier this week. Paving was to begin Wednesday. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Road carnage last holiday

OPP clamping down on unruly drivers

Labour Day weekend has proven to be one of the deadliest holidays of the year, on roads Wellington O.P.P. point.

Last year, the O.P.P. investigated eight fatal incidents where 11 people were killed. Six (6) motor vehicle collisions, one (1) all terrain vehicle collision and one (1) marine incident.

In 2002, there were eight (8) fatal motor vehicle collisions throughout the Province of Ontario and

eight people died unnecessarily. Five of those collisions occurred in Western Region. There was one person killed in a marine incident.

Wellington O.P.P. will conduct extensive patrols throughout the County this coming long weekend with its efforts concentrated on traffic safety.

Officers will be out in full force conducting R.I.D.E. spot checks, speed enforcement, as well as looking for

unsafe driving maneuvers and unsafe vehicles because of their potential for serious consequences. These are drivers who demonstrate a lack of regard for those fundamental "rules of the road", compromising their safety as well as others that use our main highways.

OPP officers will be using both education and enforcement to promote good driving habits on highways 89, 6, 7, 9 and the Hanlon Expressway.

Eden Mills Writers' Festival has stellar authors' line-up

A stellar line-up of authors including many award winners will be at the Eden Mills Writers' Festival on Sunday, September 12 at nearby Eden Mills.

Nalo Hopkinson, author of Salt Roads, and Patricia Pearson, whose latest book is Playing House, will be among those at the festival, the fame of which grows each year. Michael Enright of CBC Radio will also be there to interview authors.

Highlights of the day will include readings by Anne-Marie MacDonald, author of The Way the Crow Flies and Fall on

Your Knees; Miriam Toews whose book, A Complicated Kindness, tops the Bestseller List for Canadian fiction, and John Benrose who has just been long-listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize.

Canada's first Parliamentary Poet Laureate, George Bowering will be there as will the founder and artistic director of the festival, Leon Rooke.

A complete list of authors attending is on the website at www.edenmillswritersfestival.ca. It includes aboriginal authors Joseph Bruchac, Drew Hayden Taylor and

Eden Robinson and children's authors Andrea Beck, Jean Little and Karen Little.

A new wrinkle this year is the appearance of French authors Ying Chen, Monique Proulx and Elise Turcotte reading at The Cottage at 2:30 p.m. Special guests include representatives of the Barbados Writers' Festival, an international "twin" of the Eden Mills event.

Tickets for the Eden Mills festival are available at select Ontario bookstores, by calling 519-826-0876 or by emailing jhastings@golden.net.

27 trucks taken off road in two Wellington blitzes

A truck inspection blitz on Wellington Road 124 (Hwy 24) in rural Erin saw 12 vehicles taken out of service, a failure rate of almost 36 per cent from 34 vehicles inspected.

Wellington OPP traffic management unit conducted the blitz in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation on Thursday, Aug. 26. Thirty-one charges were laid and one warning was given.

A similar blitz the next day (Friday, Aug. 27) in Puslinch Township inspected 31 trucks. Police said there was a failure rate of 48 per cent and 15 vehicles were taken out of service and 44 charges were laid.

Two trucks from a Cambridge gravel company

were stopped during the blitz and both failed. The company sent out a mechanic and repair truck to get them back on the road at the scene.

The repair truck was inspected and taken out of service and the mechanic charged with not having a proper class of licence to drive the vehicle.

Break and Enter

On Wednesday August 25, 2004 between 11am and 12:45am an unknown person entered a residence on Watson Road South. The person gained entry through a rear patio door and stole electronic equipment and a leather jacket, Wellington OPP reported.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call the Guelph Detachment of the OPP at 519-822-7250 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

The same day between 1pm and 4:30pm an unknown person entered a residence on the 3rd Line, Eramosa. The person gained entry through a rear window and stole electronic equipment, a laptop computer, jewellery and video games.

If you have any information about this crime you are asked to call the Guelph Detachment of the OPP at 519-8227250 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.