



TROUBLED BRIDGE: Last Friday, three levels of government announced that Guelph/Eramosa will receive \$457,500 through COMRIF to replace the deteriorating bridge in Eden Mills. Pictured from left are MP Mike Chong, Mayor Clint Martin, MPP Liz Sandals, Engineer Steve Reilly, and Councillor Chris White. - Photo by Rebecca Ring

COMRIF grant for replacement of decaying Eden Mills bridge

By Rebecca Ring
The Rockwood Miller

Representatives from all three levels of government gathered at the bridge on York St. in Eden Mills on Friday to announce funding for its replacement. The bridge is becoming unsafe as the concrete is crumbling and the retaining walls are disintegrating. Currently, there is a load restriction on the bridge that must be obeyed to ensure safety.

MP Mike Chong, MPP Liz Sandals, Mayor Clint Martin and Councillor Chris White represented the governments involved. The grant is through COMRIF, Canada-Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Fund, which assists municipalities with health and safety projects, like the bridge replacement. Each level of government is contributing \$152,000 to the project, which totals \$457,500.

Ms. Sandals stated that the COMRIF agency received applications totaling \$2-billion, with total grant money of \$345-million available. To choose which municipalities received grants, an independent engineering firm assessed each project and ranked them according to imminent need. Sandals stated that "Safe, reliable infrastructure is essential to the quality of life of every community. Today's investment shows our commitment to bring real, positive change that will make Ontario strong, healthy and prosperous."

Mr. Martin said "Replacing the Eden Mills Bridge will prevent future bridge closures and therefore avoid any inconveniences for residences or safety issues for emergency vehicles. We are very pleased that this funding has become available to us." He added that this confirms that good things come in threes, referring to the OSTAR and fire fighting grants received recently.

Mr. Chong said "It is good

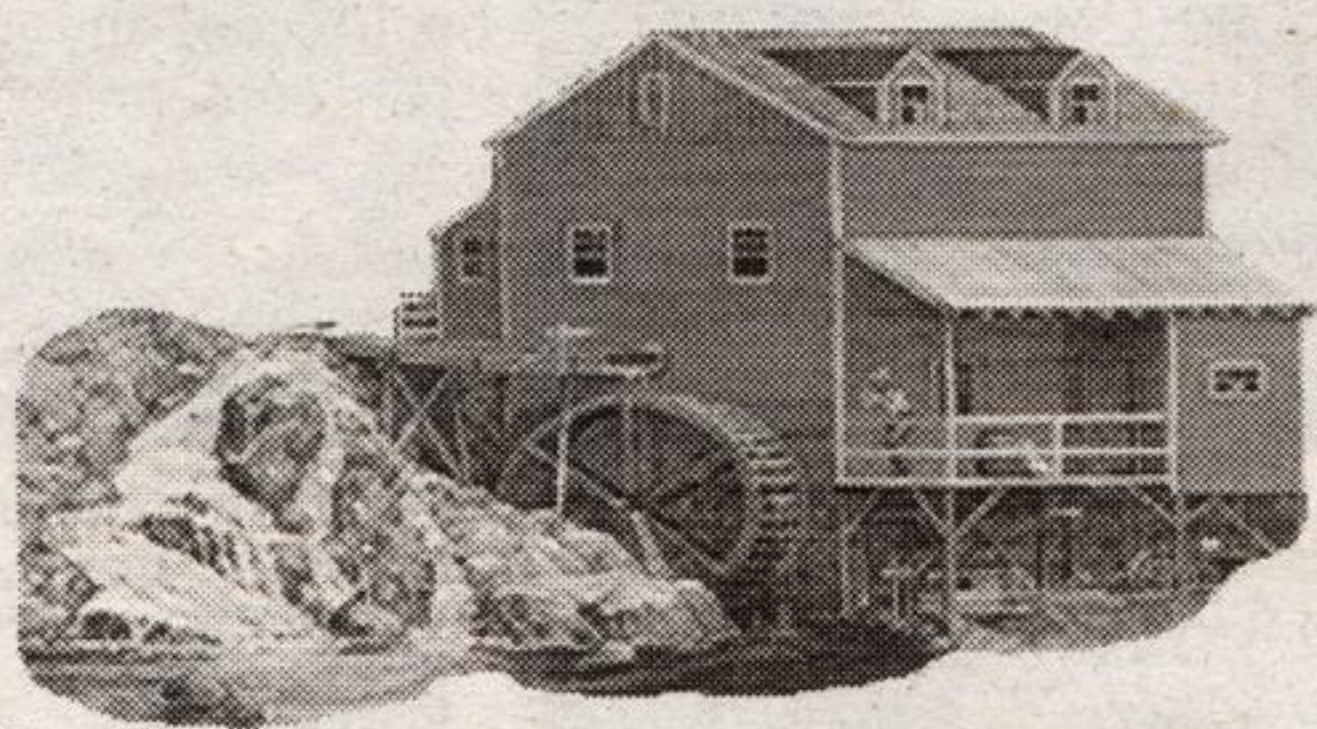
to see the federal government as a partner at the table in these infrastructure projects. For years the federal government has been absent in helping municipalities fund roads and bridges." He claims that it was his party's idea to use the federal gas tax to fund municipal infrastructure. He added that he raised the issue in the House six times in the last ten months.

COMRIF is a five-year, \$900-million program that involves the governments of Canada and Ontario working together with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Their goal is to provide clean, safe drinking water, better sewage systems, improved waste management processes, safer

local roads and bridges, and other health and safety priorities. COMRIF Intake Two will be announced in the coming weeks and municipalities with a population less than 250,000 can apply for project funding.

Construction will begin this summer, with a 9-week window for completion due to Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans regulations, as the waterway is fish habitat. During construction, traffic will be rerouted through community streets. A temporary pedestrian bridge will be put in place pending negotiations with the private landowner. The new bridge will incorporate a pedestrian walkway. The Eden Mills community will be involved in choosing a railing.

The Rockwood MILLER



May Waive fee for Habitat Rockwood home

Guelph/Eramosa council is considering waiving the development charges in support of the Habitat for Humanity Rockwood Build 2005. The non-profit organization uses volunteers, donated land and materials to build homes for low-income families who need adequate shelter. Habitat sells the homes to the families at no profit, through long-term, no-interest mortgages.

Habitat built 2 homes on Inkerman St. in 2001 with the help of local churches, the Rockwood and District Lions Club, and individuals. The township waived development charges for that build. Habitat owns the land adjacent to these two homes, which is the site of the new build. The community is once again supporting this endeavour, including the Rockwood and District Lions Club. They are holding a fund-raising raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Habitat needs to raise \$70,000 to buy materials for this build. In addition, the development charges will amount to \$30,000. The township portion is approximately \$23,000.

Councillor David McCrae stated that council has supported them in the past and he sees no reason why they cannot support them now. Mayor Clint Martin was concerned with the positioning of the driveways. He asked for a plan that will prevent interference with neighboring properties before any commitments are made. Council requested a detailed report on the development charges before agreeing to the waiver.

Guelph/Eramosa
Council Chips
by Rebecca Ring

More Campsites
Stantec Consulting Ltd. provided council with a report on the GRCA's request for additional water and sewage to support eight new campsites at the Rockwood Conservation Area. The report included a letter regarding past odour concerns, engineering drawings of the proposed sites, records of the park's water usage, and development charge assessments. Council members will meet with Guelph's city council in order to discuss the request for increased water and sewage, which Rockwood has contracted with the City of Guelph.

By-law Passed
Council passed a by-law that requires owners of private pools and hot tubs to erect fences and gates around them in a prescribed manner. For information, contact the township's by-law enforcement office.

Council Wants Pioneer Day Security Improved
The Pioneer Committee invited the Township to participate in this year's event on June 11. They are considering holding a dance again this year. They asked the township to provide fencing, and the pick up and drop off of tables. Council is willing to support this outdoor dance if security around the area is "beefed up". In previous years, there have been problems with vandalism and noise disturbances around the village, during and after the dance. Council wants to prevent this problem by having more security, not just at the dance but also around town.

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NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

Beginning the week of May 16th and continuing throughout the summer, the Halton Region Health Department will apply larvicide to standing water on public lands under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Bob Nosal.

Monitoring of standing water has indicated that mosquito larvae are present. Larvicide will be applied by a licensed applicator contracted by the Region. Larvicide will be used to control mosquito larvae in order to reduce the incidence of West Nile virus in Halton.

A granular formula of the larvicide Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), Aquabac 200G, registration number 26863, will be placed in affected standing water on public lands in urban areas in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. Signs will be posted at each location indicating when the larvicide was applied. For the locations and dates of treatment, please visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health. For more information about West Nile virus, please call the Halton Region Health Department.

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