

Pioneer Days another outstanding success

Rockwood's Pioneer Day celebrations were a huge success last Saturday. The fun started with the annual Rubber Duckie Race at the Lions' Waterside Park. Six hundred rubber duckies floated to the finish line on the Eramosa River. This event raised \$1513 for the Guelph Wish Fund for Children, who sponsored Pioneer Day and donated prizes and award plaques.

The next special event at Waterside Park was the unveiling of a bronze plaque commemorating the founders of Rockwood, donated by the Rockwood and District Lions Club. The inscription provides a concise history of Rockwood, from its' first settler in 1821, John Harris, to its' incorporation as a police village in 1903.

Lion Grant McCrae presented the plaque with a speech describing how it came about. Lion Fred T. Hawkins pointed out that most communities have plaques commemorating their founders and suggested that the Lions create and erect such a plaque in Rockwood's Waterside Park. Unfortunately, Mr. Hawkins met with a fatal accident and never saw his vision realized. His family asked Fred to be remembered by donating to the Rockwood and District Lions Club. These donations were earmarked for the development of his idea. Another Lion, Jim Nellis, succumbed to a fatal illness, and his wife Grace and family requested donations be made to the Lions. Mr. Len McDougall did the same in memory of his wife Edna. Together, the generous donations to this memorial fund allowed Fred's dream to become reality. Lions Bruce Hunter, Don Martin, Cam Mullen and Grant McCrae formed a committee to create and erect the plaque, which was presented to the community.

Meanwhile, at the old fire

hall, Rockwood Centennial Public School grades 7 and 8 students held a car wash and garage sale. The students initiated this fundraiser with the help of their bus driver, Denise Fisher. The students raised over \$1,000 for the improvement of their playground, which currently has no play structure and will soon have no swings.

The next event was the Pioneer Day Parade, which started at Rockmosa Community Centre and ended at Lloyd Dyer Park. It was led by the Acton Citizens' Band. They were followed by a colourful array of floats, decorated bicycles, classic and antique cars and tractors, and a Swiss carnival band.

First prize for best float went to Lisa Logan and



Honourable Mention: This Lil' Ol' Lady won most unique entry. She is a Pioneer Day institution, mysteriously appearing in the parade each year. - Rebecca Ring photo

friends for their "Pirates of the Caribbean" entry, featuring Jack Sparrow and other swashbucklers on their pirate ship. Second prize went to the Rockwood Centennial Public School grade 3 students for their historical hay wagon entry. The children, dressed in pioneer's clothing, rode on a hay wagon pulled by an antique tractor and decorated with old photographs depicting Rockwood's pioneering past. Third prize went to Rob Leighton for his pony-drawn cart. Honourable Mention

for most unique entry went to the "Little ol' Lady," whose identity is fiercely guarded.

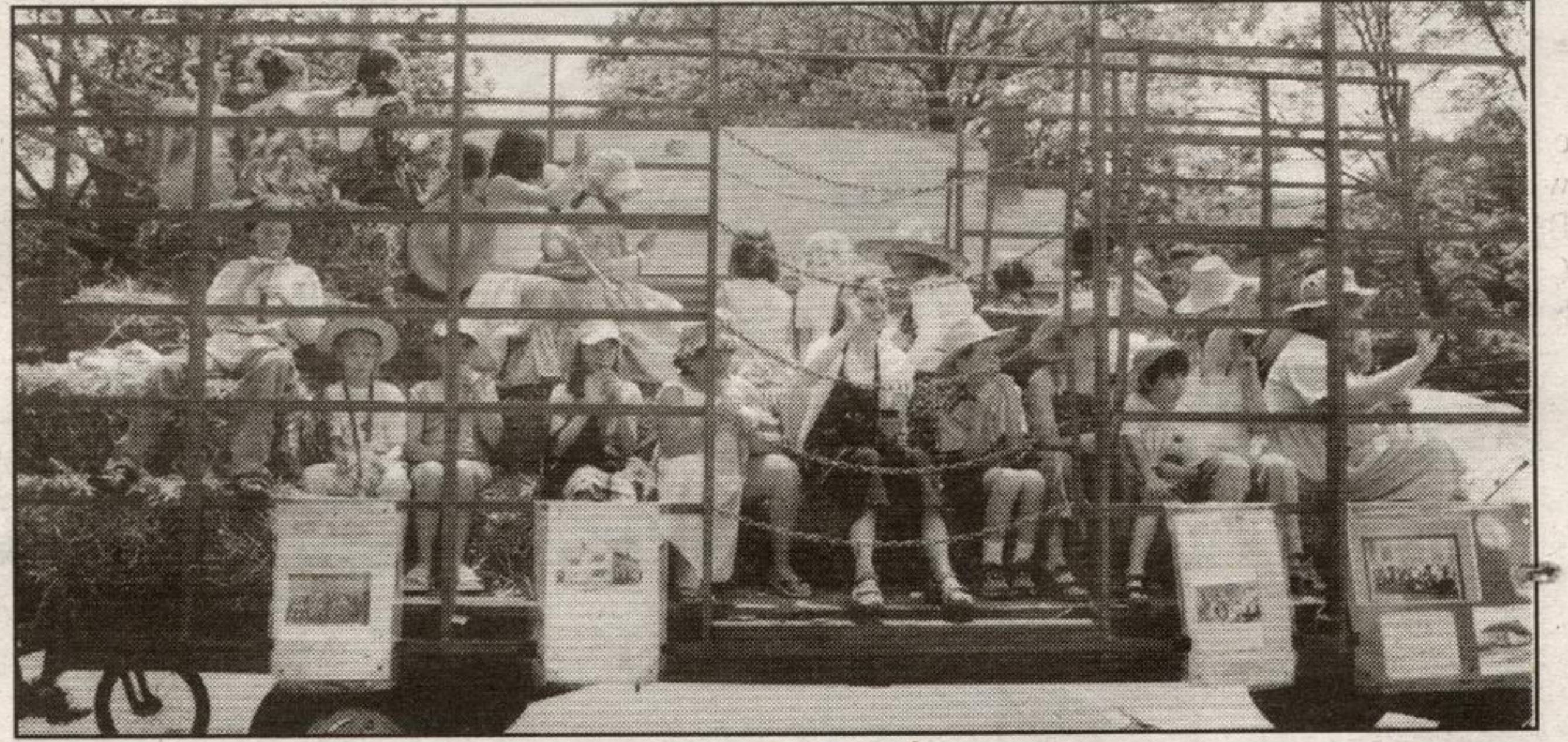
Local children decorated their bikes providing a brilliant display of colour and creativity. Each received a medallion. First, second and third prizes went to Tosh Wilson, David Duffield and Emma Stiles.

A unique entry was 13 year-old Addison Rayner driving his racing kart. He is currently running in the Hamilton Regional Kart Club in the World Formula Junior Class. He finished in the top 10 in all races so far this year, placing first in one and third in another. He finished second in last year's championships.

There was a great turnout to Lloyd Dyer Park, despite the stifling heat and humidity. There was lots of delicious food provided by local vendors and restaurateurs. There were also several interesting displays, including a "Birds of Prey" demonstration by Mountsberg Conservation Area. Volunteers Lara Butt and Kevin Bissessar introduced three birds to the crowd; Gwen, a barn owl; Takenya, a red-tailed hawk; and Calvin, an American kestrel. The Conservationists educated the audience on the behaviors and traits of each bird, as well as issues threatening their survival in the wild, such as loss of nesting sites for the barn owl. As metal barns replace wooden ones, and urbanization reduces agricultural land, the barn owl's numbers are declining. Volunteers erect nesting boxes for the owls to help counteract these problems.

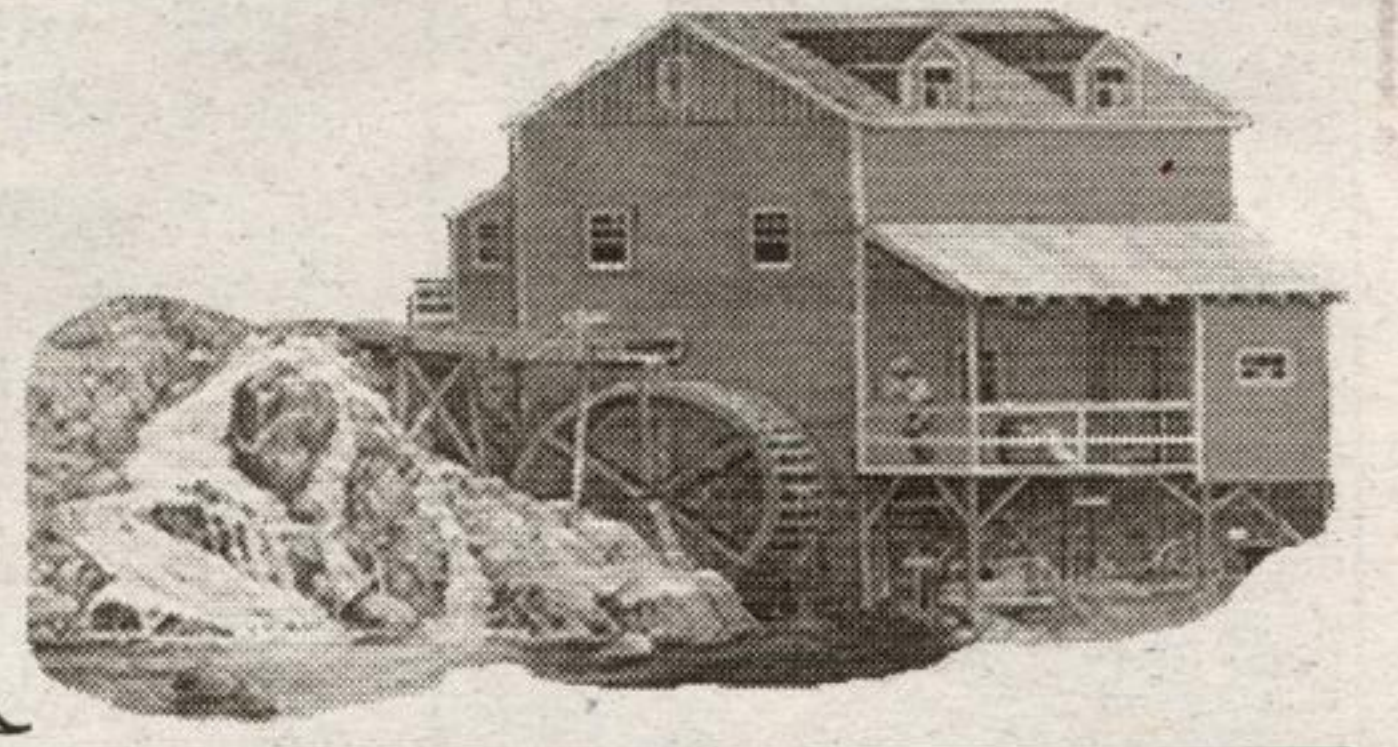
The kids enjoyed a hockey "rink" set up by the Toronto Maple Leafs. Unfortunately, there were no NHL players on hand.

The day ended with an evening dance at the park. Everyone had a good time. Dr. Clare Maine of the Rockwood Veterinary Clinic hosted the event and the proceeds went to Animals Homeward Bound, which helps homeless animals find families.



SECOND PRIZE FLOAT: Rockwood Centennial Public School's Grade 3 Class took second prize for their historic hay wagon. - Rebecca Ring photo

The Rockwood MILLER



Guelph/ Eramosa

Council Chips

by Rebecca Ring

Lions get Donation for Spring Fair

On behalf of the Rockwood and District Lions Club, Darryl Nichol spoke at the last meeting of Guelph/Eramosa township council to request help from the municipality. He requested direct donation or a substantial reduction in Rockmosa Community Centre rental fees. The Lions club wants to continue its causes, such as free diabetic information breakfast sessions, teen dances, school programs such as anti-bullying education, purchasing items for special needs students, and money for grad students to attend grad night who would not otherwise have the means, etc. Council voted to donate \$500 on the basis that Lions Club proceeds go to the community. Regarding Rockmosa fees, the Lions were previously granted rights of access because they built the hall. This is a long-standing agreement and council requested an updated copy before discussing fee waivers.

Two Area Schools Request Help for Playgrounds

Both Rockwood Centennial and Eramosa Public Schools need help raising funds for replacing play structures in their playgrounds. Old play structures were deemed unsafe by the government and either removed or soon to be removed.

Sandra Boyd and Mary Livingston spoke on behalf of the Rockwood Centennial School's playground improvement committee. They explained that no level of government or the school board is responsible for the cost. A group of parent volunteers is trying to raise \$50,000 and organize the refurbishing of the playground. All the council members were surprised and dismayed that there

is no government responsibility for these funds. Mayor Martin explained there is no place for a township donation in "the act". Councillor White suggested that they look into how council look into how they can help. All agreed that play structures are needed in the school playgrounds.

McCrae asked about the liability and ownership. Boyd explained that the school would own them but the Parent Council would be liable, but they have an option to buy insurance with the equipment. White added that this is a physical fitness issue and asked if the Trillium Foundation was approached. Committee member Debbie Drake said that the township could apply on the committee's behalf due to community need.

Elizabeth Lengyel and Ron Hawkins then spoke on behalf of Eramosa Public School's playground committee. Their situation is almost identical to Rockwood Centennial's.

Property and Leisure Services manager Brad Roelofson was asked to meet with the groups and develop a strategy. He recommended entering into joint ownership of the playgrounds. This would qualify them for different funds. White will take a sample draft agreement to the AMO to see what could be available.

McCrae voiced concerns that "what is good for the goose is good for the gander" and there are other schools in the township. He agreed that these two schools' needs are immediate.

Eden Mills Park Parking

Richard Lay spoke about parking at Eden Mills Park. Currently, drivers are instructed to park their cars on the grassy field beyond the playground. He suggested alternatives, but according to Brad Roelofson, each had problems. Lay is concerned that the grassy lot will be paved but Roelofson said there are no plans to do so because the community objected. The current parking set up is being tried out this year and will be reevaluated.

Taking Tenders for Bridge Construction

The township has received tenders from construction companies to build the Eden Mills bridge. Public Works Manager Ken Gagnon is recommending Marshall Filmore Construction as they submitted the lowest bid and Gagnon was satisfied with the company's history. He said construction should begin in the end of June or beginning of July. The bridge will be usable during the Writer's Festival.



First Prize Float: "Pirates of the Caribbean" won first prize in the Pioneer Day Parade. It was created by Lisa, Mary, and Crystal Logan, Carl Daymen (Jack Sparrow), Wade Buczek, Peter King, Adam Hunt and others. - Photo by Rebecca Ring

The Rockwood Karate Club



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