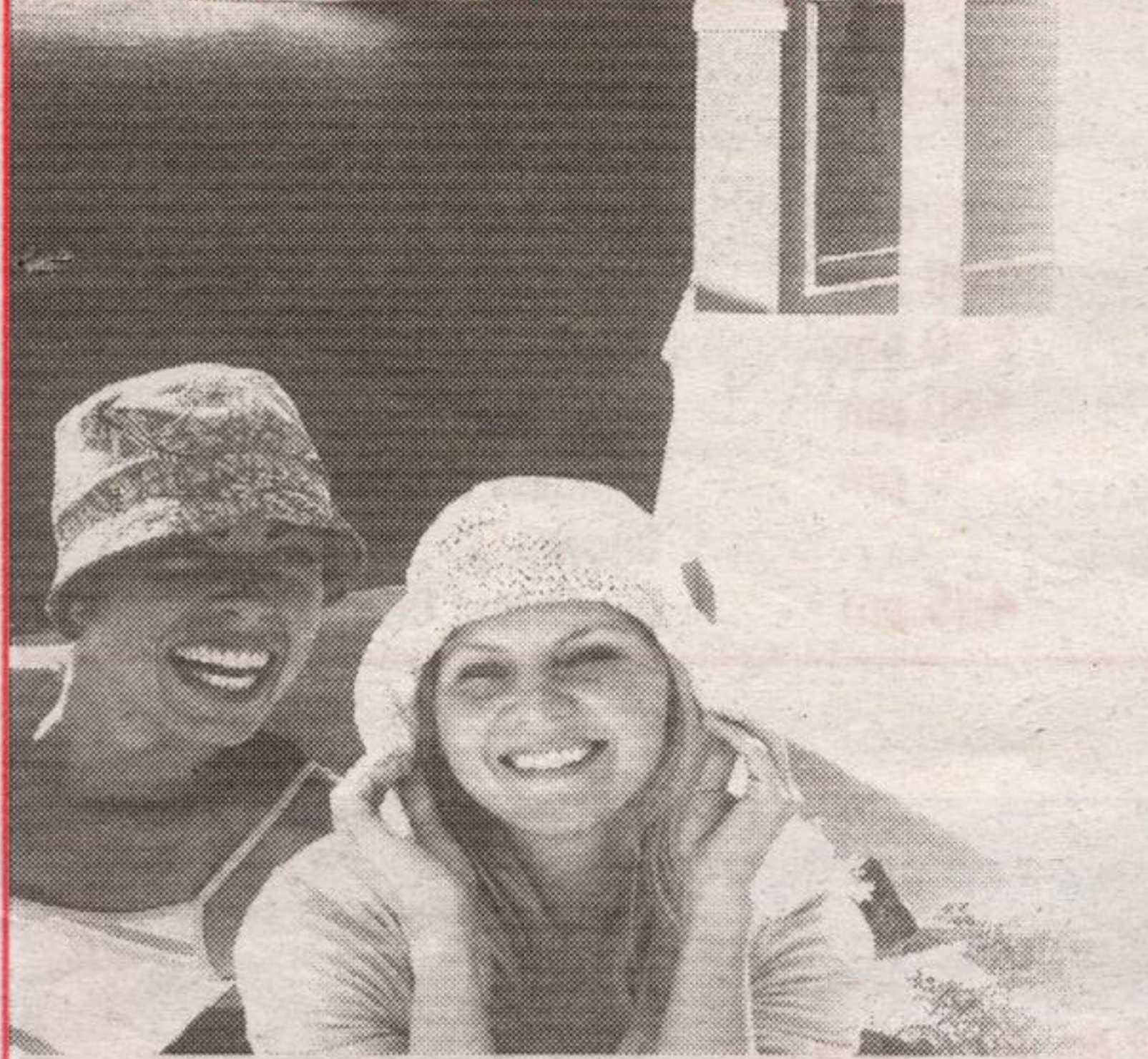


Glorious Greece & Italia Bella



BRIGHT EYES: Becky Kaye (left), shows off her brand new-specs which she has won in a draw held by Acton Optical recently. Owner/optician Nancy Wilkes (right), had the "complete eye make-over" draw as a part of her grand opening specials. - Danielle McIsaac photo

Dies from bee sting

Acton's John Zenga, an avid gardener and ironworker, died Tuesday of anaphylactic shock after being stung by a bee while vacationing with his wife, Carmela, and grandson Jordan, at a family cottage in Wasaga Beach.

Zenga, 67, was stung on the lip, and when initial treatment with a commercial bug bite product was fruitless, he asked his family to call 911. He was taken to Collingwood Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Zengas own the Mill Street building that houses Starlight Café, and live in an upstairs suite. More than 10

years ago, Carmela Zenga ran a bakery in the store, and the building is currently on the market.

Zenga was a metalworker and his artistic side is evident in the café's intricate wrought iron chairs, table bases and decorations in the café.

His love of flowers is evident in the lush gardens in the building's backyard, gardens that a friend who was watering the plants while the Zengas were at the beach, found full of bees the day after his death.

Zenga is survived by his wife, son, and grandson.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday in Mississauga.

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A TASTE OF LEBANON: There were long lineups of people wanting to try the tasty food served up by Acton's Raja Alrawdah and daughter Tanaya at the World Café at Harbour Front recently. The Alrawdahs own Piccadilly Pizza in Acton, and their Lebanese food went over so well at Harbour Front, that they were invited back for next year. - Submitted photo

Guelph/ Eramosa Council Chips

by Maggie Petrushevsky

Extend calling area?

If Guelph/Eramosa wants to extend its local calling area, it will have to follow the procedures laid out by Bell.

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Mike Chong told council some constituents had complained to him because they can call Orangeville and Acton for free, but it's long distance to call Fergus and Elora. Chong said he had contacted Bell and received information on how the municipality can change its local calling area. But any change would have to be initiated by the municipality.

Council decided they would investigate the procedure because more residents probably have a community of interest with Fergus and Elora than with Orangeville. Dropping free calling to Orangeville in favour of having Fergus and Elora as local calls would probably be a preferred option.

No more rural-residential

Wellington County is changing its Official Plan to remove country residential and lifestyle community development from the list of permitted uses on recreational lands.

Also termed estate residential, these developments can be put on golf courses and similar recreational sites according to the County's present Official Plan, said planning consultant Bernie Hermsen. Since the County wants new housing development directed to hamlets and existing rural clusters, the plan is being changed to eliminate the opportunity for unwanted housing.

Existing rural developments will not be affected by this change, Hermsen said.

Rockwood Ridge land swap

Guelph/Eramosa Council will return a sliver of land it received from Rockwood Ridge developers in order to round out lots in a section of townhouses

Planning consultant Bernie Hermsen told council only .19 acres of land is involved in the change and it will not impact the municipality's recreation and trail systems in the subdivision. Developers only need to give a municipality five per cent of the land they are developing. Rockwood Ridge's developers have donated 18 per cent for open space and recreation.

Six more school portables

No one has heard of any plans to expand Rockwood Centennial Public school. There will however, be six portables added to the Pasmore Street site and four old ones removed, council was told Tuesday.

Conservatives would share gas tax

A Conservative government would continue to share the gas tax with municipalities, Wellington-Halton Hills MP Mike Chong told Guelph/Eramosa council Tuesday.

Chong assured council the recent federal agreement to share gas tax revenue with provincial and municipal governments is good, but there's no guarantee it will be permanent. That makes it an issue for some municipalities who are seeking stability for funding.

Over the five years of the agreement, Guelph/Eramosa will receive \$907,700 with Wellington County receiving an equal amount for use on infrastructure. The funds are allotted on a per capita basis given Guelph/Eramosa's 2001 census of 11,174 residents. Forty per cent of the money will come in the fifth year of the deal, he said, when the money in the fund has had time to build up.

Chong said a Conservative government would make the fund permanent and reduce the restrictions on where larger municipalities could use it. At present, large centres can only use their share of the funding for environmentally sustainable projects and roads don't fall into that category.

Increase in development charge?

Guelph/Eramosa council wants to know more about a proposal to add a non-residential development charge to Wellington County's list of costs for new developments before it supports the proposal.

While councillors were against the idea at first glance, Coun. David McCrae said there might be benefits to such a charge if the money raised went to hire a development officer for the county or provide some similar improvement.

"If it's just another way to increase taxes, I don't want any part of it," said Coun. Les Foote.

Increasing development costs decreases the area's attractiveness to industrial developers, McCrae said, and that's not in the best interests of Guelph/Eramosa. Increased development costs could drive prospective industries to settle in Dufferin or Halton instead of in Guelph/Eramosa.

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