

Mayor, councillor at AMO meet Police ask for public's help in toddler's death

By Rebecca Ring

At the 2006 AMO Conference (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) in Ottawa on August 14, Premier Dalton McGuinty promised a joint provincial-municipal review of how municipal services are funded and delivered in Ontario. The report is planned for spring of 2008, after the fall 2007 provincial election. Mayor Clint Martin and Township Councillor Chris White both attended the conference.



Mayor Martin



Cr. Chris White

The Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review will focus on affordability for both levels of government, fairness for taxpayers, timeliness of infrastructure investments, efficacy of provincial and municipal services deliv-

ered throughout Ontario, and long term economic development and prosperity for Ontario and its communities.

The province previously downloaded over \$3 billion worth of its services to the municipalities. In general, this resulted in increases in property taxes to accommodate the added financial burden. Since then, the

province has begun to alleviate this pressure with grants to municipalities for infrastructure, etc...

As a result of provincial downloading of services and MPAC property assessment practices, homeowners have seen a dramatic rise in property taxes. This is especially problematic for those on a fixed or low income. The problem with higher property value assessments

has begun to be addressed. MPAC has frozen assessments for three years in response to the recent review by the Ombudsman.

Guelph/Eramosa reduced the tax rate last year to help slow the increases. Many services that were provincial responsibilities are now those of Wellington County, which has steadily increased property taxes.

Mayor Clint Martin attended the conference on behalf of Wellington County and Councillor Chris White attended on behalf of Guelph/Eramosa.

White said, "It will be great if the province uploads provincial responsibilities. These costs could then come off the property taxes and allow us to use them to provide municipal services and keep the rates down, especially at the county level." He added that the conference was a huge success with record-breaking attendance.

White also said representatives from all levels of government were on hand, probably due to the location being at the "hub of Canadian politics." He particularly enjoyed the political humour of Rick Mercer, who entertained the crowd.

Police ask for public's help in toddler's death

Wellington OPP are asking for the public's help in an investigation into the death of a 17-month-old Rockwood toddler on Thursday, August 5.

Police were called to the Esso service station in Rockwood on Saturday, August 19 where 17-month-old Hadyll El-Rifai was seriously injured. The injuries were determined to be suspicious in nature.

The young girl was taken to McMaster University Hospital in Hamilton where she died from her injuries the following Thursday, August 25. A post mortem to determine the cause of her death was held on Saturday, August 26 but the results were not released at press time.

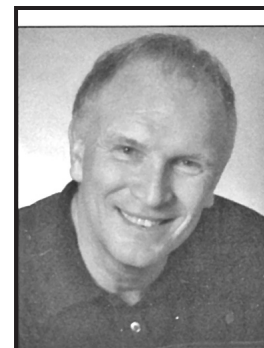
The OPP's Wellington County Crime Unit, under the direction of Detective Inspector Scott Naylor of the criminal investigation branch is conducting an investigation into the child's death. They are asking anyone who witnessed any activity in or around the Rockwood Esso Station on the morning of Saturday, August 19 to contact Wellington OPP at 1-800-310-1122 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Correction

An advertisement for the Rockwood Rockets Soccer Club in the August 24 edition mistakenly listed Michael Parker of Freedom 55 as a club sponsor. The correct name is Mike Dawkins of Freedom 55. The club regrets the error.



KARATE KIDS: Rockwood Karate Dojo held an open house last Sunday, followed by grading students for their next belt level. Seen here, going through their drills are Troy Cleghorn and Devon Tivendale. Sensei Donna Haskett said the day was a great success with a steady stream of people interested in Karate. Haskett has recently introduced a program for pre-schoolers called *Tiny Tots*. They learn about Karate, Japan, and play games, which enhance fitness, agility, memory and concentration. *Rebecca Ring Photo*



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2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTICE REVISIONS TO VOTERS LIST

Notice is hereby given that the Preliminary List of Electors will be on file with the Clerk on the 5th day of September, 2006, at the Township Office located at 8348 Wellington Road 124, within the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.

Electors may confirm with the Clerk's Office as to the accuracy of their names and other pertinent information on the voters' list. Pursuant to Section 24 of the Municipal Elections Act 1996, a person may make application during the period that begins on Tuesday, September 5th, 2006 and ends at the close of voting, November 13, 2006, to add or remove their name from the voters' list or amend related information. Pursuant to Section 25 of the Municipal Elections Act 1996, a person may make application during the period that begins on Tuesday, September 5th, 2006 and ends on Friday, September 29th, 2006, requesting that another person's name be removed from the voters' list.

Application for revisions to the voters' list must be made on the prescribed forms available at the Township Office at 8348 Wellington Road 124 in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa. Application may be made in person or by mail. Applications will be received by the Clerk or designated Election Official at the Township Office during normal business hours during the periods as set out above until November 13, 2006.

DATED THIS 31st DAY OF AUGUST, 2006.

Janice Sheppard
Clerk/CAO
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