

## Wellington O.P.P. Report



### DRINKING, DRIVING

A 49-year-old Guelph woman was arrested and faces a drinking and driving charge when her 1997 Chevrolet was stopped by an officer on Wellington Rd. 29 in West Garafraxa.

The officers gave the woman a roadside screening test which she failed.

### ERIN COLLISIONS

A 47-year-old Puslinch Twp. woman was arrested and faces an impaired driving charge following a vehicle collision on Wellington Rd. 124 in Erin Twp. on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 12:41a.m.

Officers responding to a report located a 2003 Hyundai Santa Fe in the ditch and found the driver had been drinking. The woman failed a roadside test and is to appear in Guelph Court on Feb. 19.

Another single vehicle collision occurred the next day, Saturday, Jan. 14 on Side Road 17 in Erin Twp. Police found a 1998 Pontiac in the ditch about 7:34p.m. and charged the driver, a 49-year-old Orton man, with impaired care or control.

### DISQUALIFIED DRIVER

A 31-year-old Erin man was arrested and faces charges of driving while disqualified,

and with possession of marijuana, on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 9:47p.m. His vehicle, a 1993 Oldsmobile was also impounded for 45 days.

Officers "investigated" the driver on Wellington Rd. 109 in Luther Twp. and discovered he was disqualified from driving.

### DRINKING, DRIVING

A 48-year-old Parry Sound man faces impaired driving and refusing to provide breath sample charges from an investigation on Wellington Rd. 12 in Eramosa on Thursday, Jan. 11. Officers stopped the 2000 Ford E350 truck at 11:42p.m. and found the driver had been drinking.

### SPEEDER OF THE WEEK

On Friday, January 12 at 8:51a.m., Constable Trevor Taylor of the Palmerston Office of Wellington O.P.P. was conducting speed enforcement on Highway 23 in Minto Township. The officer observed a 2002 Honda Accord travelling at a high rate of speed northbound on Highway 23. He activated his moving radar and the vehicle entered the beam and recorded a speed of 150-km/h in a posted 80-km/h zone.

A 61-year-old Listowel man faces a charge of Speeding.



**HAUNTED BRIDGE?** The bridge across the Eramosa River on Indian Trail is scheduled for replacement. Local folklore has it that Indian Trail and the bridge is travelled by spirits from another world. - Rebecca Ring Photo

# Indian Trail bridge centre of mystical Spirit Valley

Replacement of two bridges in Guelph/Eramosa Township has been made possible by funding from the federal and provincial governments who each have invested \$415,000 under the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) while the township will contribute the balance of the cost of up to \$1,245,000.

The federal government's contribution is contingent on the successful completion of an environmental assessment of the two projects, one of which is the scenic Indian Trail bridge near the village of Eden Mills.

The bridge is located on the Indian Trail which runs

off the Guelph Line (Wellington Rd. 44) to Wellington Rd. 29, often referred to as the Eden Mills road. A road allowance for the Indian Trail also runs through to the Jones Base Line but has never been developed.

Many people are struck by the natural beauty of the Indian Trail as it proceeds through what is known locally as Spirit Valley. The bridge spans the Eramosa River, upstream from Eden Mills, where it is contained in a pond before it cascades down a dam on its way to join the Speed River in Guelph, close to the corner of Gordon and Wellington Sts.

Both bridges over the

Eramosa in Eden Mills have been replaced by new structures, the one in the heart of the village just completed last year. Replacement of the Indian Trail bridge, which is showing its age (last repaired in 1913) will cement the bridge triad in the area and hopefully maintain the beauty of the valley.

Longtime residents of the area will remember the controversy which erupted before the first bridge in Eden Mills was replaced. The original bridge was one of the few "bow" bridges left in Ontario. Some residents felt a replacement would not measure up to the historical and scenic values of the original.

However, the Indian Trail bridge, shrouded by cedars and spanning the river where it plays a plaintive melody as it skips over rocks and islets, was well known as a trysting place. One person, familiar with its appeal, quipped, "you almost need a parking ticket there on Saturday nights."

Nearby residents used to insist the valley and the bridge were haunted by the spirits of the aboriginal peoples who hunted and fished in the river and its surroundings. The Gopsill family who lived on the Indian Trail in a substantial stone home told this reporter some years ago they frequently saw the spirits of what appeared to them as figures resembling coureur de bois, French or Metis fur traders, at the entrance to the bridge or along the bank of the river.

Some residents credited the sightings as due to overactive imaginations but it didn't shake the Gopsills who seemed to accept the apparitions or manifestations as a natural part of living in Spirit Valley. Further up the river other residents with psychic natures confirmed the presence of "spirits" along the stretch of the river from Rockwood Conservation Area to Eden Mills.

In any event the old bridge with its many memories, the centrepiece in a beautiful natural tableau, is soon to be replaced. We would hope along with residents of the area that construction does not displace the natural ambience of the valley and its surroundings.

-Hartley Coles

## EWAG Volunteer Board Members Wanted

The East Wellington Advisory Group is a community based, non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life through the provision of a multi-service centre, support of individuals in need, co-ordination of information on available services, liaison with related organizations, initiation of new programs and encouragement of community development.

EWAG has positions available on their Volunteer Board of Directors for the term beginning February 2007.

Would you like to:

- Contribute to your community as a volunteer?
- Participate in the planning of EWAG's future direction?
- Provide input on programs, services, and fundraising?
- Network and meet new people in the community?
- Build your own skills, knowledge and resume?

The Board is looking for candidates that have skills in areas of fund-raising, finance, human resources, social services, business administration, leadership, strategic planning, policy, volunteer management, marketing and health care.

**If you are interested in this unique volunteer opportunity.....** Contact an EWAG office to pick up an information/application package. Visit our website at [www.e-wag.on.ca](http://www.e-wag.on.ca) for more information on EWAG. If you have any questions please contact Ken Dardano, Executive Director.

**Deadline for application submission is January 19, 2007.**

Erin: 45 Main Street (519-833-9696)  
Rockwood: 106 Church Street (519-856-2113)



### TOWNSHIP OF GUELPH/ERAMOSIA INDIAN TRAIL BRIDGE

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

The Township of Guelph / Eramosa will be holding a public information session concerning improvements to the site of Indian Trail Bridge located on Indian Trail over the Eramosa River north of the community of Eden Mills.

All interested individuals and parties are invited to attend. The information session will be held:

DATE: Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
TIME: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
LOCATION: Council Chambers  
Guelph/Eramosa Township Office  
8348 Wellington Road 124 (at Bruce Dale)

For further information concerning this project, information session or to inspect a copy of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document, please contact:

Township of Guelph/Eramosa  
Mr. Ken Gagnon  
8348 Wellington Road 124  
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Rockwood, Ontario N0B 2K0  
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## RINK'S READY

The outdoor rink at Lloyd Dyer park is ready and waiting for sports enthusiasts. The New Tanner was informed Wednesday A.M.