

## Public meeting called to discuss Brucedale store

By Frances Niblock

A public meeting will be called to gather comments on a proposed rezoning to allow a convenience store with a drive-through at the existing gas station on the north west corner of Wellington Road 124 and 27 in Brucedale.

In an overview of the re-zoning application planner Bernie Hermsen said given the similarity of what is proposed to the existing permitted uses and function of development, as well as reverent planning policy, the addition of "convenience store" as a permitted use is appropriate.

"We think a convenience store has merit," Hermsen told Guelph/Eramosa Township Council on Tuesday, adding no negative comments have been made by agencies asked to comment on the proposal.

There is currently a gas bar, coffee shop and apartment on the site. The redevelopment would demolition of parts of the existing building and an addition.

The apartment would be relocated to a new second floor.

Traffic would access the site from two existing driveways onto Wellington Road 27 and one driveway onto Wellington Road 124.



**FIREFIGHTERS HONOURED:** Three volunteer Guelph/ Eramosa firefighters received long service awards from Deputy Fire Chief Lyle Quan (left) and Mayor Chris White (right) on Tuesday. The awardees include Deputy Chief Dan Hitchcock, Lieutenant Les Nelson and retired Lieutenant Bob Jestin. — Frances Niblock photo

## Rockwood firefighters are honoured for their long standing service

By Frances Niblock

Three veteran volunteer firefighters who have dedicated their lives to keeping Guelph/ Eramosa Township safe were honoured for their long-standing service at a Township council meeting on Tuesday.

Retired Lieutenant Bob Jestin received a 20-year long service Federal medal recognizing his loyal and exemplary service to public security, and a 30-year service award.

Lieutenant Les Nelson received his 20-year service medal, and Deputy Fire Chief Dan Hitchcock

received a 20-year medal for loyal and exemplary public service and a second medal for 25 years of service.

"These men have dedicated themselves to this community for decades and deserve our thanks for their hard work and loyalty," Deputy Chief Lyle Quan said before the awards ceremony.

Speaking as a citizen and a councillor, Doug Breen thanked the awardees and their colleagues who filled a row in the Brucedale council chambers for the personal sacrifices they make to keep the Township safe.

"There's lots of nights

when I'm crawling into bed, thinking about what a rough day I've had, and I'll see your lights go flying by my door again... (and) when I go out the next morning, sometimes you guys are still there," Breen said.

Councillor Breen said they also owe thanks to area employers who allow their staff to drop everything and answer emergency calls.

"Then to do it for 20, 25 and 30 years. Well done."

Currently there is a full complement of 32 volunteer firefighters who carry pagers to respond to calls within Eramosa, bolstered by a res-

cue truck, two pumper/fire trucks, a tanker truck and a specialty truck all based in Rockwood.

During the first six months of this year Guelph/Eramosa firefighters answered 149 calls, with more than half (80) classified as medical.

The second highest number of calls (16) was for motor vehicle collisions and third highest was eight false alarms.

From January to June, firefighters responded to seven illegal burns and answered six fire calls — four structural fires and two kitchen or stove fires.



### Daylight break-in

Wellington OPP officers responded to a report of a break-in at a home located on Wellington Road 50 in Erin on Monday Aug 13 at about 6pm.

The homeowner reported being away from the home between 3:30pm and 5:30pm at this time. When she arrived home found that the front door had been pried open.

Police said the home appeared to have been ransacked with a desktop computer and cash taken. Stolen property included a NCIX black desktop computer, and a 19" black NEC Viewsonic monitor with an estimated value of \$1,500.

Police are asking if anyone has information regarding this theft to contact Wellington OPP's Rockwood office at 519-856-1506 or they

could leave an anonymous tip with the Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (1-800-222-TIPS).

### Speeder of the week

At midnight on Tuesday, August 7, Constable Dave O'Leary of the Fergus office of Wellington O.P.P. was conducting speed enforcement on Highway 6 in Nichol Township when he observed a 1992 Toyota Corolla travelling at a high rate of speed southbound on Highway 6.

The officer activated his stationary radar and the Corolla entered the beam and recorded a speed of 138-km/h in a posted 80-km/h zone.

A 29-year-old Oakville man faces a charge of speeding and is scheduled to appear in Guelph P.O.A. Court on September 19.

## Flashing green light in vehicle means "Emergency; please pull over"

By Rebecca Ring

"The flashing green light in our vehicles means we are responding to an emergency, and we are asking people to safely move over and let us pass," says Captain Bernie Liebig, Assistant Fire Prevention Officer for Guelph/Eramosa.

Unlike their larger city counterparts, volunteer firefighters are not at the fire hall waiting to jump into the fire truck when an emergency is called in. Instead, they may be at home, work or play where they must drop everything, jump in their own vehicle, and head immediately to the fire hall, where they will then board the emergency vehicle and rush to the scene.

In some cases, the volunteer may need to proceed to the scene in his or her own car. This can add precious minutes to the emergency response time.

To help reduce that time,

the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states, "A firefighter... may carry on or in his or her vehicle a lamp that produces intermittent flashes of green light and may operate the light if the motor vehicle is proceeding to a fire or other emergency." The green light is a courtesy light. It gives the firefighters no special privileges when responding to an emergency. Its purpose is to ask other drivers to give up their right-of-way and allow the firefighter to get to the emergency unimpeded.

The fire chief allows or disallows use of the light.

In growing areas like Rockwood, many people move from larger urban areas and are unaware of the green light program. Without the light or awareness of it, drivers may not know that an emergency exists and unknowingly delay firefighters hurrying to the hall or the scene.

### Different styles

There are different styles of the light, including an LED or a rotating beacon. They may be attached to the visor, dashboard or grill of the vehicle. Liebig asks that drivers watch for the flashing green light when in traffic and doing mirror checks, adding,

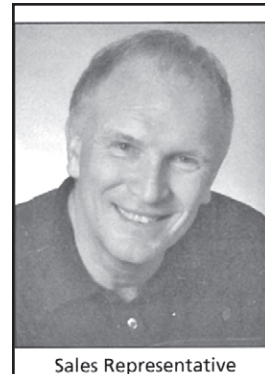
"If you see it, treat it like any other emergency vehicle and yield the right-of-way safely." Firefighter Scott

Hossie says, "Don't panic — stay calm, as with any other emergency vehicle."

"Most people do yield the right-of-way to the flashing green light, but others simply do not know what the light means," says Liebig, "Firefighters appreciate people pulling over safely. It will reduce our response time." In some cases, faster response time can mean the difference between life and death.



**EMERGENCY:** Flashing green lights on vehicles like the one pictured here on firefighter Scott Hossie's visor means "Please pull over safely, and let me pass." Rebecca Ring Photo



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