

## Guelph/ Eramosa

# Council Chips

by Rebecca Ring

### Funds transferred for new accounting system

Manager of Finance, Linda Cheyne, asked council to transfer \$30,000 in unexpended capital from the 2007 budget to the 2008 budget to complete financial reporting changes mandated by the Municipal Act. It requires all municipalities in Ontario prepare their annual financial statements according to Public Sector Accounting Board standards. The changes are effective in 2009, with 2008 as a comparison year. Annual statements include tangible capital assets.

Council agreed to transfer the funds so staff can implement these changes. Tasks

include preparing an inventory of all capital assets, assigning a value, determining depreciation rates, and managing capital asset changes. Expenses may include software costs, professional fees and audit costs.

### Investigator appointment final

Council finalized the appointment of Norm Gamble as its closed meeting investigator, which is required under the Municipal Act by Jan. 1, 2008. Gamble accepted the appointment with the County of Wellington and any interested member municipalities. The county will invoice any participants for costs incurred, which will be \$350 per day plus expenses when investigations are conducted.

### Municipal Act policies approved

Council passed five policies to meet requirements of Bill 130, the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006. The policies address accountability and transparency, delegation of authority, the procurement

of goods and services by local boards, hiring employees by local boards, and sale or disposition of land by local boards. They are required to be established by Jan. 1, 2008.

### Fire response agreement with Ctr. Wellington

Council passed a formal agreement with Centre Wellington regarding "fire automatic aid." Previously, Centre Wellington has responded to fire calls within Guelph/Eramosa boundaries and invoiced the township. Fire departments in both municipalities created the formal agreement, which outlines the geographic areas for response and respective responsibilities. The cost is \$350 hourly per apparatus and \$175 for every half hour thereafter for cost recovery purposes.

Councillor John Scott commended the fire department for being on the frontline in any emergency and pointed out that about 60% of all calls responded to in 2007 were medical emergencies.

# Looking back at 2007

By Rebecca Ring

### January

Newly elected Guelph/Eramosa council got down to business, with Mayor Chris White and Councillors Reta Moyer, Roger Knapp, Doug Breen and John Scott. They got off to a rocky start as Moyer refused to pass accounts until she received information from the Finance Department that she and Knapp requested.

Council supports EWAG's concept for a Family Health Team in Rockwood and Erin, serving the surrounding areas.

### February

Eden Mills' Ice Rink volunteers bucked new volunteer policy.

Community celebrates Grace Day's 90th birthday.

### March

Tragedy struck Eramosa and Rockwood when five-year-old Ashlynn Jamie Rayner lost her life in a school bus accident.

Paul Morin Gallery opened and author Deb Quaille's Eramosa Anecdotes was released.

### April

Upper Grand District School Board changed boundaries for Rockwood Centennial and Eramosa Public School students, resulting in 50 students moving from the former to the latter.

Councillor John Scott was charged with assaulting Councillor Reta Moyer.

### May

The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington honoured Jim Milne with a posthumous award for his contributions to the community.

### June

Anonymous hero awoke Jack and Dorothy Bergman, allowing them to safely escape a fire that destroyed their home and vehicles on Christie St.

### July

The upper dam in the Rockwood Conservation Area was decommissioned to "re-naturalize" the river, to reduce bacteria levels and improve cold-water fish populations.

Rockwood replaced its water tower at a cost of \$2.1 million.

### August

A summer drought nega-

tively affected most crop yields and forced level 2 restrictions on outside water use.

### September

Despite drizzly weather, about 1300 people attended the Eden Mills 19th Annual Writers Festival to hear authors read from their latest works.

Crystal Nova Boarder was charged with manslaughter after her husband Tony Boarder was found dead at their property. In 1987, he was convicted of strangling to death 19-year old Susan Porter.

### October

Wellington County council agreed to continue the rural waste collection pilot program for another year, with bi-weekly pick-up.

Three new flags were raised at the Rockwood Cenotaph: the former Canadian Red Ensign, the Royal Union flag, and the Canadian Forces Ensign.

### November

Eden Mills launched its "Going Carbon Neutral" community-wide project to help slow climate change, the first North American community to do so.

Rockwood held its Remembrance service, featuring the stories of two fallen soldiers named on the cenotaph; James Alfred and Thomas Lenton Edwards, as told by their descendant Robert Edwards.

### December

Folks jammed the streets of Rockwood for the 15th Annual Rockwood's Farmer's Santa Claus Parade of Lights.

REBA's Third Annual Christmas Tree Lighting included honoured visitors: Santa Claus and the Snow Queen with Invasor III, a white Andalusian stallion.



AND THE WINNER IS: St. John's Anglican Church held its biggest ever Christmas in the Village bazaar last Saturday. Pam and Ben Ferguson (front), Amelia DeGroot and Sarah Cargill (back) are shown here drawing tickets for the Penny Table. - Rebecca Ring Photo

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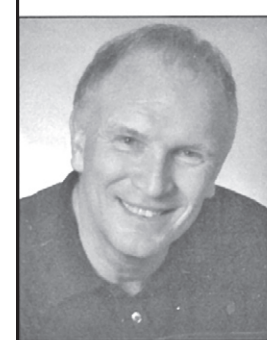
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"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."  
St. John 4:23 KJV

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