

Rockwood business boomed at Christmas time

By Rebecca Ring

Rockwood business owners say that 2007 sales were great, especially over the holiday season. "I had an amazing year, even more so at Christmas," says Jewel Stumpf of All in a Basket. "I need to restock my shelves, which were jam packed. I even had to expand the store into the office area." She sells custom

designed or pre-made gift baskets, giftware, and gourmet snacks, and just finished her second year in Rockwood. One niche market she serves is the real estate industry, for which she designs gift baskets as closing gifts.

Pharmacist Mary Murrell of Rockwood Pharmacy says sales were up this past year, with a strong Christmas season. "There was no holding back this year," she says, "The

cold, snowy weather put people in the mood for Christmas shopping." To give back to the community, she donated ten per cent of sales one Saturday in December to EWAG. "I was really pleased with the support from the community," she says, "Together we raised \$450."

Don Wilson of Rockwood True Value says Christmas sales were up compared to 2006. He agrees that the weather probably played a role. "Last year we didn't sell any driveway salt until January," he says, "We're definitely selling more shovels this winter!"

Bruce Pinder, of Jim's Repair Shop, also benefited from a good blast of wintry weather. "Business is up with all the snow," he says, "We're having a good season, way better than last year. We already sold over 100 new snowblowers. It's a good job we had the snow because summer sales weren't, great because of the dry weather and its effect on the lawns."

Community support

Carolyn Wingate of Rockwood TV says Christmas business started earlier than last year and continued strong throughout the season. "The most popular items were the high definition receivers to go with new LCD and plasma HD TVs," she says, "Sales were great all year round. Rob Grey (owner) and I really appreciate the support from the community."

Two giftware and décor businesses celebrated their first Christmas in Rockwood. Sonia Harding of Swank Interiors says busi-

ness has been very good. "I've received a warm welcome," she says, "There has been a lot of interest and good feedback. People say they like to see this kind of store in Rockwood, and I really want to thank the community for its support."

Jane Rivers of Rivers says her Christmas sales were great, "even better than I had hoped. People tell me they are grateful to have this shop here. Everybody has been so nice."

Kass Weideman of The Village Beauty Boutique says this Christmas was wonderful, "with lots of presents, and lots of hugs and kisses." She was very busy with hairstyling and esthetics for the glamorous season, and sold lots of gift certificates and beauty products.

Jennifer MacDonald of Strandz Hairstyling also had a very busy season. "We were a lot busier than last year," she says, "Especially with the addition of our full-time esthetician, who started just before Christmas."

Brenda Pettitt of Saunders Bakery says Christmas sales were great; "We had a really good year. We're always very busy at Christmas with Christmas cakes, puddings, shortbread, gingerbread men and of course, bread and rolls."

Some restaurants have also done well. Philip Castle, owner of Teaberry Café says the season was very good; "We were completely booked for New Year's Eve well in advance."

The Rockwood MILLER



Police warn of fraud scheme through County

Wellington OPP are receiving complaints of an apparent fraud scheme surfacing in Wellington County.

Police said the victim responds to an ad in a newspaper about working from home. The advert maintains all you need to do is collect cheques for the company, deposit them and then send the money to the company address. Your pay is taken from the cheques you deposit. Unfortunately, police say these cheques turn out to be fraudulent and the victim is out of money.

This scheme is a variation of a typical "Overpayment Scheme," police say. Criminals will send the payment to you, usually by a fraudulent cheque. The sender will normally request that you send back the surplus funds.

Victims send the surplus by using their chequing account or by other payment means. By the time they realize their cheque is fraudulent, they are out the money you sent them.

What happens if you are a victim of a scam?

In both these examples, you

become a party to the offence by depositing the fraudulent cheque in your account. The bank will hold you responsible for the fraudulent amount that was deposited. It puts you in an awkward position to explain your actions.

To report fraud, police suggest victims contact their local police service, contact their credit bureau, and contact Phonebusters National Call Centre toll free 1-888-495-8501 or report Economic Crime Online at the RECOL website.



LIGHT DUTY EQUIPMENT: Looking like Rudolph, complete with antlers, eyes, and a red nose, this ground bound tractor took some time off to delight in Rockwood's Parade of Lights in December past. - Rebecca Ring Photo



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Retirement Open House

for

Bob Jestin

A Retirement Open House will be held for Bob Jestin on:

Date: Friday, January 25, 2008

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Rockmosa Community Centre

A Retirement Open House for Public Works Foreman Bob Jestin will be held on Friday, January 25, 2008 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Rockmosa Community Centre, located at 74 Christie Street in Rockwood.

On December 29, 2007 – after 37 years of dedicated service to this community – Bob began his retirement. In addition to spending time with his wife, Kathy, daughters and grandchildren, Bob plans to devote more time to his woodcutting business, maple syrup venture and volunteer activities. He may even have time for trout fishing or catching a few Storms and Royals games.

The public are invited to attend this Retirement Open House and thank Bob for his years of dedicated service.



**The Corporation of the
Township of Guelph/Eramosa**