

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Township wins grant to build Marden Field House

By Rebecca Ring

Guelph/Eramosa will soon be home to a brand new state-of-the-art indoor field sports facility at Marden Park, thanks to a more than \$4 million grant from the Building Canada Fund. The federal and provincial governments will each contribute one-third of the project funding, while the remaining one-third, or just over \$2 million, will be contributed by the Township. The total construction budget is \$6.2 million.

According to Mayor Chris White, this will be done at no cost to the property taxpayer. The Township will borrow its portion, then repay it with user fees. The plan is based on 80% usage, however, White expects the facility to be booked 100% of the time and eventually earn revenue for Parks and Recreation.

The 50,000 square foot steel field house will feature a full size artificial turf playing surface and an indoor track around the perimeter. The field can be used for soccer, football, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, etc. and can be divided into several simultaneous playing areas. White says the track

will help to make the facility "multi-generational", appealing to all ages and abilities for walking or running.

The building will be constructed using the latest energy saving technologies, including geo-thermal heating and cooling. There will be a connected "amenity" structure with classroom/meeting space, office space, and maintenance storage. Outside, there will be a fully lighted outdoor regulation sized sports field.

Marden Park was the chosen location because of its size and central location in the region. Both Centre Wellington and the City of Guelph councils passed resolutions supporting the project. The field house will be used as a regional facility, drawing users from these and other municipalities. White says the Guelph and area population base is large enough to support the facility, allowing the loan to be repaid and revenue earned for the Township.

In order to apply for the Building Canada Fund, Rockwood was ruled out as a location because the Township does not currently own a suitable property there and it could

have been forced to use the Rockwood Hydro Fund, which has so far been used for water and sewage.

"We know that the core soccer use is in Rockwood with over 600 kids playing," says White, "We do intend to expand sports facilities there and will announce the plans when they are finalized." He adds that passing up the opportunity for this grant would have been irresponsible, as it would take years to save the \$4.2 million in reserves with the Township taking in \$3.7 million in taxes annually. "Without these grants, this project would be way beyond our financial capability."

Guelph/Eramosa was granted the highest amount from the fund in Wellington County. White attributes its success to the hard work of Parks and Recreation staff and manager Robin Milne. Construction for the project will begin this summer, and completion is expected in spring 2010.

World Day of Prayer

By Rebecca Ring

St. John's Anglican Church on Main St. will be hosting World Day of Prayer in Rockwood on Friday, March 6 at 2 p.m., with refreshments to follow. All are invited to join in.

The worldwide ecumenical movement began in the 19th century, initiated by Christian women so that people of many traditions could come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

The motto is, "Informed prayer and prayerful action" and the philosophy is that through participation in the World Day of Prayer, people affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.



SIGN OF GRATITUDE: At their Open House, the Rockwood and District Lions Club showed its appreciation to the Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department for all their help and support by donating six signs that will alert drivers to give the right-of-way to vehicles with a flashing green light, which means a volunteer firefighter is en route to an emergency. Shown, from left, are president Lion Ken McNab, firefighter Steve Liebig, and Lion Darryl Nichol. - Rebecca Ring Photo

MPP Ted Arnott charms crowd at Open House

By Rebecca Ring

The Rockwood and District Lions Club hosted an open house last week, with MPP Ted Arnott as guest speaker and local club president Ken McNabb as MC. Over 70 people attended the event and enjoyed a roast beef dinner, prepared and served by the Rockwood and District Lioness Club.

Lion and Mayor Chris White introduced Arnott, saying he has been in government or opposition since 1990, focusing on local health, manufacturing jobs, public safety and infrastructure. He added that Arnott received a commendation for saving a drowning man at the Rockwood Conservation Area when he was only 15 years old.

Arnott talked about the beauty of Rockwood, how it has grown and changed, yet maintained its community spirit, saying, "Your Lions Club is a big part of this, and for years has been the heart of this community. I want to thank you all individually for your service in this fine organization, which has a local focus but a worldwide footprint, or this being the Lion's Club, maybe I should say, paw print."

He went on to talk about his experience in public office and his observations on leadership. He quoted David Gergen's seven conclusions about the essence



MPP Ted Arnott

of leadership:

"The first is that "leadership starts from within... if you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.

The second is that you need a central, compelling purpose, that's clearly defined, understandable, and rooted in core values. And it only works if your followers understand it and embrace it.

Third, leaders must have a capacity to persuade, but they also need to pick their spots.

Fourth, a leader needs to be able to work within the system. In an increasingly egalitarian society, where power centres are constantly shifting and no one individual or institution is all-powerful, you have to build alliances to achieve success.

Number five, for newly appointed leaders, you can't beat having a quick, sure start out of the blocks, and 'hit the ground running.'

Number six, every leader needs strong, prudent advisors - and that includes your spouse. And finally, a leader

must know how to inspire others to carry on the mission, creating an army of followers who will march forward - even after the leader departs the scene.

And to Gergen's seven rules of leadership, I would add 'Arnott's eighth': In time of crisis, people need to work together - leaders, and those they lead."

Lion Darryl Nichol spoke about the history of the annual event for showing the club's appreciation to the community. Originally, the community was made up almost exclusively of farmers, so it was called "Farmer's Night," then as the village began to grow and diversify, it became "Community Appreciation Night," and now, to be even more inclusive, it is called the "Lions Open House."

Nichol introduced special guests, presenting them with certificates of appreciation. Rebecca Ring of the New Tanner, and Dave Hannah and Neill Clemens of CJOY radio station, were recognized for bringing public awareness to the Lions' community events and projects with press coverage.

Vicki Hafner was recognized for all her work on behalf of the Guelph/Eramosa Parks and Recreation Department. The department was also recognized for all it does to facilitate community events and projects. The Lions donated 100 coffee cups

Continued on Page 13



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