



RIDING FOR SIGHT: Rockwood's Meghan Vanderyt (left) raised \$10,500 for Ride for Sight 2009. She is shown in Collingwood with Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion and Dale Turner, who is the first Canadian to have some sight restored with a new gene therapy. *Submitted Photo*

Rockwood girl, 14, raises \$10,500 for Ride for Sight

By Rebecca Ring

Rockwood's Meghan Vanderyt is a fundraising phenom. The 14-year old raised \$10,550 for the Ride for Sight 2009, bringing her total to \$18,000 in her fight against blindness.

At the age of 11, Vanderyt was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative genetic eye disease. She is basically night blind and has never seen the stars. She is slowly losing her peripheral vision and will never be able to drive. She sometimes has a hard time navigating her

way and bumps into things. None of this slows her down though. Along with friends and family, she is making a huge impact in creating awareness and raising funds for the Foundation Fighting Blindness Canada (FFB).

The FFB, which organizes the annual Ride for Sight fundraising event, has grown to become Canada's leading private supporter of retina research, with over \$16 million donated to groundbreaking eye research at universities and hospitals across the country. Their vision is to restore the gift of sight to people

living with genetic forms of blindness.

Ride for Sight is a national event, with 100% of the donations going towards research. Motorcycle enthusiasts from all over participate. Meghan takes part in the Central Ontario Ride for Sight, which was hosted by the City of Collingwood this year. Unfortunately, the weather was not ideal, with heavy rain, but many dedicated riders and their families came out to show their support. Dale Turner was there, who is the first Canadian to have undergone a new gene therapy that has restored some of his vision. Meghan's mother, Katie, says it was very exciting to see that gains are being made in research and treatment for disease related blindness. Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga was Master of Services and sent the Riders off on their remarkable ride in the rain.

"Meghan's outgoing, free spirit and love of life really shows what a teen can accomplish when given a disability they did not ask for," says Katie, "She has met her challenges head on, and she truly is amazing. Her vision loss has not stopped her in anyway." Meghan is looking forward to entering grade nine this fall at John F. Ross CVI Secondary School in Guelph.

Fundraising and creating awareness of retinal diseases is very important to the Vanderyt family. They are confident a treatment or even a cure will be found in Meghan's lifetime. Their work helps them become a part of that excitement. They are already thinking of ways to raise money for next year and are looking forward to Ride for Sight 2010.

revealed that the suspect assaulted his wife and two children. The suspect fled the scene and was later apprehended by Chatham-Kent Police.

A 42-year-old male from Dresden, ON was arrested and faces charges of Assault (3 counts). He was held in custody and appeared in Guelph Court on July 6 for a bail hearing.

Speeder of the Week

Constable Kevin Driscoll of the OPP Highway Safety Division was conducting speed enforcement on Highway 6 in Mapleton on Friday, July 3 when he observed a Ford Mustang travelling at a high rate of speed. He activated his radar and the vehicle entered the beam and recorded a speed of 140 km/h in a 80 km/h zone.

A 25-year-old Ferguson woman faces a charge of Racing a Motor Vehicle. She is scheduled to appear in Guelph Court on September 2, 2009.

Wellington O.P.P. Report

4th Line break-in

Sometime between 12:45pm and 3:55pm on Monday, June 6, unknown suspect(s) broke into a residence on the Fourth Line of Guelph-Eramosa Township. The suspect(s) gained entry by forcing open the front door and, once inside, removed a 52" flat screen television and a quantity of jewellery. The suspect(s) then fled.

Anyone who may have any information that might assist the Police in solving this crime is asked to contact the Rockwood office of the County of Wellington OPP at 519-856-1506 or if you wish to remain anonymous, please call crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip on-line at www.crimestoppers-wellington.com.

Domestic violence

Last Saturday, July 4 at 11:51am, officers from Wellington OPP responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a campground in Rockwood. Investigation

Ring Around ROCKWOOD with Rebecca Ring



GRCA Family Fishing

No fishing license? No problem. The GRCA invites everyone to Family Fishing Day from July 10 to 12 at several conservation areas, including Rockwood, where you can fish for trout (stocked each spring) and native populations of bass, bullhead and carp without a licence. Also at the park this weekend, on July 11 at 10 a.m., hang out with creepy creatures. Meet the park naturalists by the trailer behind the mini-putt to cuddle a rat, hold a snake, and wear a cockroach broach.

On Saturday, July 25 at 10 a.m., meet the park naturalists by the Mill ruins for a Swamp Tromp. Explore the water world of Rockwood. Dip-net with a naturalist and look for frogs, fish, and invertebrates near the Harris Mill ruins. Be prepared to get your feet wet. On Thursday, July 30 at 8 p.m., meet at the trailer behind the mini-putt for a night hike. Check out the nighttime creatures that live in the park, such as bats and owls.

Help Mackenzie

Treat yourself and the family to Gold Metal Ribbon ice cream at the Village Sweet Shop and help Mackenzie Queen get to the Team SickKids World Transplant Games in Australia. Mackenzie received a precious gift last year – she received a new heart and a bright future. The 17-year old wants to represent her donor family, her family, Guelph and Canada at the Team SickKids World Transplant Games in Australia from August 22 to 30. The purpose of the games is to create awareness about organ donation and show the benefits of successful transplantation. Leah Youngblut, owner of The Village Sweet

Shop, was so touched by Mackenzie's story that she decided to help out. For the month of July, she is donating all proceeds from the sale of Gold Metal Ribbon ice cream to help Mackenzie and her family get to the games, so treat yourself and feel even better about it.

Market on the Green

St. John's Anglican Church is helping the buy-local movement with its Market-on-the-Green every other Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. all summer long. Come out this Saturday, July 11, to buy fresh and local produce, art and handmade crafts by local artisans. Call (519) 856-9211 for more information.



Rockwood Denture Clinic

G.T. Trenton DD
"The Denture Specialist"

519-856-1334





161 Main Street South, Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

Castle's Teaberry Café

We're Moving Home To Nova Scotia!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support over the past nine years!

Last Day - Saturday, July 11

If you're ever in New Glasgow, N.S., stop by our new restaurant - West Side Bistro.

We would love to see you!

Phil & Darlene Castle