

Ring Around ROCKWOOD

with Rebecca Ring



Filming closes County Rd. 44

Filming of a big Hollywood production at the Rockwood Conservation Area is the reason Wellington County Rd. 44 (Guelph Line) is closed this week. During shooting, local traffic and school buses are permitted with the assistance of OPP traffic control. They stop the traffic for each shot, then let it pass until the next scene or take is ready to roll. Thru traffic is supposed to follow the detours. According to Toronto based production company Coin Flip, shooting will take place approximately 12 hours a day, from September 8 to 11, 14 to 18, 25 and 28. At end of each day of filming, signs will be set aside and the road will be open.

Annual dinner/auction for cats

Cats Anonymous Rescue and Adoptions is celebrating its tenth anniversary with its annual dinner and silent auction on Saturday, September 26, from 4 to 9 p.m. at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church Hall, College Ave. W. in Guelph. Catered by Maria Kalantzis of Delainey's and previously Café Greek Gardens, dinner includes appetizers, salad, BBQ ribs, lemon herb chicken, or veggie spanikopita, all the fixings, dessert, tea and coffee. There will be a wide variety of items up for bid and games of chance to play. For tickets or more information call Tish at (519) 855-6850, e-mail tish@catsanonymous.ca or visit www.catsanonymous.ca. Proceeds go to support the no-kill shelter in its rescue and adoption services for cats in need in Guelph/Eramosa, Erin, Halton Hills and beyond.

Great summer, fall at library

The Rockwood Branch of Wellington County Library wrapped up its very successful summer reading programs – the TD Summer Reading Club with Agent 009 for children up to age 12 and the Teen Summer Reading Challenge for ages 13 to 19. In the first group, 224 local children participated and read 4,315 books! The teens read 2,701 books for a total of 715,567 pages! Rockwood teen Brianne Gayfer won the grand prize draw for a Sony Cybershot digital camera.

Drop in for new weekly sessions of Storytime for children ages three to five beginning Tuesday, September 15 from 1 to 1:45 p.m. and Wednesday, September 16, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Register for after school "Crafternoon" for ages six to ten, which begins Tuesday, September 22 from 4 to 5 p.m. Register for the Red Cross Babysitting Course, ages 11 to 16, which takes place Monday, September 28 (PA day), from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Space is limited. To register or for more information, call (519) 856-4851 or visit www.wclib.ca.



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ROCKWOOD
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Saturday, September 26, 2009
10am - 4pm
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Everyone Welcome!
Come & Support the
Rockwood Lions Club



RESTORING THE RUINS: A \$755,000 federal grant was announced last week to help the GRCA restore the Harris Mill ruins in the Rockwood Conservation Area. From left are Councillor and Heritage Committee Chair Doug Breen, Mayor Chris White, Park Superintendent Brad Dixon and MP Michael Chong. - Submitted photo

\$755,000 federal grant to restore woollen mill ruins

By Rebecca Ring

The Harris Woollen Mill Ruins at the Rockwood Conservation Area is about to get a facelift, thanks to a \$755,000 grant from the federal government's Community Adjustment Fund. The 142-year old structure has been decaying over the years, due in part to water erosion, and has been deemed unsafe. The back area has been closed to the public all summer long.

The ruins are a unique and valuable asset to the park, attracting tourists, photographers, historians and artists, and is a popular spot for weddings and filming. It was used to portray bombed out ruins in Europe in an episode of CBC's "The Border." The

Grand River Conservation Area, which owns the park and the structure, did not fail to recognize its multi-faceted value and applied for the federal grant in June.

Local MP Mike Chong and his government also recognized its value to the community, so the money was granted. "This project will help with economic development in the area," said Chong. "It will help protect an historical treasure and tourist attraction, while at the same time creating local jobs - something I'm committed to doing."

The \$755,000 grant will cover the lion's share of the \$855,000 project. The balance will be split equally between the GRCA and the Grand River Conserv-

ation Foundation. The project is part of the \$102 million investment made through the Community Adjustment Fund for 2009-2010 by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (Fed-Dev Ontario).

The GRCA is sending out tenders to hire a construction crew to shore up the foundation, repoint the walls, cap the tops of the walls and do other work to preserve the ruins. The restoration work is scheduled to be finished by next spring. Dave Schultz, GRCA Manager of Communications, says it is too soon in the process to estimate how long the project will take. He hopes the work can be done over the winter, as CAF projects must be completed

by spring and having the structure open for the next busy summer season would benefit the park and its users.

The ruins are all that remain of the woollen mill that operated from 1867 to 1925. The building was gutted by a fire in 1967. Today, the ruins are a focal point and identifying feature of the conservation area and a significant tourism attraction in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa. In the course of normal maintenance routines, GRCA staff became aware of the increasing deterioration and consulted with an engineer, who determined that the structure was becoming unsound and restoration had to be done soon.

Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White

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