

The ROCKWOOD Miller

What a year it was in Rockwood - a look back

By Rebecca Ring

January:

East Wellington Advisory Group, known as EWAG, changed its name to East Wellington Community Services to better depict the region it serves and the services it provides.

The Nasagieweya Historical Society released North of 15th: A Nassagaweya History, which includes the history of the rural areas in the south of Rockwood and Acton.

February:

A Building Canada Fund grant for over \$4-million was announced to build Marden Park, a 50,000 sq. ft field house and outdoor sports field. The Township pays the remaining one-third cost of about \$2 million.

Rockwood Centennial Public School held a read-a-thon and raised almost

\$10,000 for an outdoor communications board and technological equipment.

March:

Wellington County passed its 2009 budget, with a 2.4% tax hike, a \$157.1-million operating budget and a total tax levy of \$67.8-million.

GO Transit asks for public comment on its plans to expand service from Kitchener to Georgetown. Guelph/Eramosa Environmental Stewardship Committee made a case for a stop in Rockwood.

April:

Guelph/Eramosa passed its 2009 budget, with a 1.73% tax hike to raise a total of \$3,958,934, with expenditures and revenue balanced at \$16,991,457.

Earth Day is celebrated all over the world, including in Eden Mills where folks enjoyed planting trees, hiking, canoeing

and various green-themed workshops.

May:

Council approved payments totaling \$38,000 for donations and grants to 12 organizations, including \$10,000 for EWCS and \$25,000 for the East Wellington Family Health Team.

Rockwood Centennial Public School received the first ever Green Legacy Gold School Award from Wellington County, for "their outstanding commitment to the environment."

June:

Ground is broken to make way for construction of the new Guelph/Eramosa Medical Centre in Rockwood.

A tragic accident claims the life of 14-year old Rockwood girl, Isabel Warren, when a cinder-block wall collapsed at a Guelph park washroom.

July:

Council agreed to return to the traditional polling station method of voting

for the municipal election that will take place this fall. A vote-by-mail system that was used in 2006 was fraught with problems.

Rockwood's Kyle Dodd moved on from NCAA basketball to play professionally in Britain for the Essex Pirates.

August:

The Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department received a training grant for an on-line program; part of a one million dollar Canada-wide program.

Guelph/Eramosa received a \$25,514 Recreational Infrastructure Canada Funding (RinC) grant to replace a swing set and resurface the playground at Rockmosa Park. The Township pays \$12,757 (one-third the cost).

September:

The Jonas Brothers caused a huge stir as they film their new movie, *Camp Rock 2*, at the Rockwood Conservation Area.

New parking restrictions in Rockwood

By Rebecca Ring

Guelph/Eramosa Council agreed to designate Isaac Lane, a private laneway, as a fire route and prohibit parking there. Deputy Fire Chief Lyle Quan recommended the designation: "Fire Chief Dan Hitchcock and I believe that the laneway would be restricted if there were private vehicles parked along it. There is a possibility that we would not be able to maneuver one of our fire trucks around a parked vehicle." He adds that snow banks would further restrict access, making parking there an even bigger safety risk in the winter months.

Council then addressed parking on Joliffe Ave. in the same neighbourhood. Public Works staff was concerned with the west side downward slope and how parking along it poses a safety risk during snow plowing. Staff predicted that prohibiting parking on Isaac Lane could add to the number of vehicles parked on Joliffe. Council agreed to prohibit parking on the west side of Joliffe Ave. from the south entrance of Isaac Lane to Hampden Cr., from November 1 to March 31, and on either side of Joliffe between the north entrance of Isaac Lane to Hampden Cr., from November 1 to March 31.

The 21st Eden Mills Writers' Festival showcased about 50 authors, including John Ralston Saul and Gwynne Dyer.

October:

Wellington County's Solid Waste Services (SWS) held its first electronics recycling event at three locations, including Rockmosa Community Centre. About 150,000 lbs of electronic items were diverted from landfills.

Representatives of the Guelph/Eramosa Fire Department went door-to-door in Rockwood to check for working smoke alarms.

November:

Politicians from all levels of government celebrated ground breaking for Marden Park construction.

War veterans and war dead were honoured at a Remembrance Day ceremony, with Afghanistan veteran WO Tim Cooke delivering the key-note address.

December:

An early morning water main break caused traffic confusion on Hwy. 7.

Local churches celebrated Christmas with pageants, caroling, services and Mass.

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