

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Compromise deal in gun club dispute

By: Denise Paulsen

A "considerable compromise" ended a long-running dispute over hours of operation and noise between the Guelph Rod and Gun Club and the Eden Mills Steering Committee.

When Township Council formally approved a revised discharge of firearms bylaw on February 16, Bylaw Enforcement Officer Mathew Williamson said the compromise led to changes in the hours of operation at the Club, located just outside the village of Eden Mills.

Shooting is now allowed indoors on Sundays, with longer shooting hours indoors until 10 p.m., increased from one-half hour after sunset. The outdoor range lost some shooting time as members previously could shoot outdoors on Friday evenings. Outdoor shooting is allowed at the club year round.

The current by-law

includes the following rules:

- indoor shooting from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days a year
- no shooting indoors after 6 p.m. on Fridays
- still no shooting outdoors on Sundays
- from Monday through Thursday and Saturday, shooting outdoors to cease one-half hour after sunset or 9 p.m., whichever occurs first
- no shooting outdoors on Christmas Day, Good Friday or on the Saturday of the annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival.

Controversy over the Club heated up in December, when Club representative Frank McFarquhar asked Township Council to allow shooting at the indoor range daily, until 11 p.m.

That request raised issues with members of the Steering Committee and its representative, Tim Laing, who said the committee's main concern is

with noise from the Club's seven outdoor ranges, not primarily with the indoor shooting range.

Following a visit to the Club last month, all parties agreed the level of noise inside was hardly audible from the village. However, there are still concerns with noise from shooting at the outdoor ranges.

"A compromise means that we aren't completely happy. We are looking forward to the matter being reviewed in September," Laing said. The Township agreed to revisit the issue in seven months.

"I am relatively happy about the outcome. We have a general interest in our Eden Mills neighbours. We're all part of the community," McFarquhar said.

The GRGC has been in operation since 1948, and currently has between 300 - 400 members. Provincial legislation governs gun Club operations in Ontario, but a Township by-law controls excessive noise levels on the property.

Township Digest

By Frances Niblock

Mower tender

The Township needs spring delivery of a new grass mower, so Guelph Eramosa Township Council voted to jump the budget process and issue a tender for a new tractor-powered front deck mower, estimated at \$27,500.

At a recent meeting, Robin Milne, Manager of Parks and Recreation told councillors that two existing mowers are "both on borrowed time" and they can't wait for the usual equipment lifecycle replacement schedule. He also said they need the new unit prior to summer staff training for this cutting season.

Instead of repairing one mower - Milne said the bill would be one-quarter of the original \$16,000 price tag - the Township will replace it now. The second unit is scheduled for replacement next year. Funding will come from an equipment reserve.

Fee changes

It will cost \$350 to rent the Marden Field House Hall and \$29 for minor ball associations to rent an unlit diamond under a new fee schedule approved recently by Guelph Eramosa Township Council.

The Township's Manager of Parks and Recreation Robin Milne detailed the new charges at Marden and the revised fee schedule for other Township properties. He noted that the fee bylaw now includes a premium rate for New Year's Eve rentals and the damage

deposit for Township halls has doubled to \$500.

The rates change every March 1 is based on the reported cost of living increase, approximately two per cent per year - just "cents" for sports field rentals, Milne said, and only several dollars more for hall rental fees.

Tree cost

Council will spend \$2,000, this year, and the same amount potentially every year, to buy trees to help reach a target of 30 per cent tree coverage in Guelph Eramosa Township.

At a recent meeting, councillors approved the annual expenditure to help buy one acre of new trees in the Guelph Rotary Forest project at the Guelph Nature Centre. With help from the Rotary Club and Grand River Conservation Foundation, the goal is to plant 65,000 trees over the next 23 years.

Everton Mill

Guelph Eramosa Township Council will work with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCS) as it investigates preservation strategies and possible future uses for the Everton Mill - one of the last wooden mills left in Ontario.

The mill, built in the early 1800s, is on GRCA land in the floodplain, which restricts future uses. The building is deteriorating - rain is coming through the roof - and there are concerns that if nothing is done, the mill could burn down, as have most of the other wooden mills in Ontario.

At a recent council meeting, Mayor Chris White said they want the GRCA to investigate all possible future uses and report back. White said because of the flood plain location the old mill could not be turned into a residence or office, but possibly it could be moved to another location and be preserved.

Name recognition

For his many years of hard work restoring the Rockwood Academy, the late Yosef Drenters, a major Canadian sculptor, artist and preservationist, will be honoured by having a street named after him in Charleston's Homes Harris housing development in Rockwood.

Originally a log cabin, a three-storey stone building and annex were built in 1853 as the Rockwood Academy's reputation for academic excellence spread. After the school closed, the buildings deteriorated until 1960 when Drenters purchased the property and began restorations. He bequeathed the property to the Ontario Heritage Foundation with the condition that his family continued to live there. Drenters' died in 1983.

The Township's street naming policy requires that half of the street names in a new subdivision honour war dead, while 25 per cent are named in honour of area pioneers and 25 per cent are chosen by the developer. Drenters is considered a pioneer.



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Meet

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Host of HGTV's "House of Bryan" and "Disaster DIY"
Learn the process of renovation, proper planning and executing and how to avoid the pitfalls.

Sunday, March 14th at 2p.m.

Rockwood United Church

Harris St., Rockwood

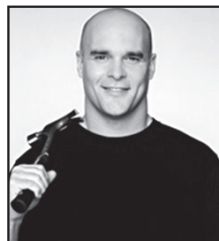
Tickets: \$5.00

Childcare available.

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or pay at the door.

Refreshments will follow.



Wellington O.P.P.
Report



Erin B&E

Two televisions, two laptop computers, a camera and jewellery were stolen during a break-in at an Erin Township residence between 11 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. last Tuesday.

The suspect(s) had fled

when Wellington OPP arrived and found that the front door at the 10th Line residence had been kicked in.

Anyone with information is asked to call 1-800-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-4877.

