

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Wellington O.P.P. Report



A 22-year-old Orangeville man was charged with driving and liquor-related offences and a passenger was charged with obstructing police and failing to comply with a recognizance after Rockwood OPP stopped a speeding van in Rockwood on Saturday morning.

Police said the van, with a passenger hanging out of the open window and yelling, was stopped on Alma Street at 9:40 a.m. They determined that the driver had been drinking, and charged him with impaired driving, having over 80-milligrams of alcohol in 100-millilitres of

blood, driving with open liquor and fail to surrender a drivers licence.

The 22-year-old passenger was also charged with not wearing a seat-belt and held for a bail hearing.

The driver was released with a June 12 court date in Guelph.

Around ROCKWOOD



Remembrance service
The annual Summer Service of Remembrance is slated for June 16 at the Hanna Chapel at Rockwood Cemetery. All are invited to the service, held to comfort families who have experienced loss in their lives, noting those who have died in the past year.

Light refreshments and a social time follow the brief service at the unique chapel, which was a gift to the community from the late Gladys Hanna.

Brochures will be available for those who want to wander through the adjacent cemetery after the

service, which begins at 7 p.m.

Eden Mills remembrance

A Service of Remembrance is slated for June 6 at 2 p.m. at the Eden Mills Community Cemetery, which is beside the Presbyterian Church.

The semi-annual service is to memorialize those who have passed in the past two years.

If it rains, the service will be held in the Eden Mills Presbyterian Church. For details call Maisie Lasby at 519-856-4436.

Art in Eden

This weekend, the

ninth annual Eden Mills Arts Festival will feature an eclectic mix of the work of 18 village artists which will be showcased in studios throughout the village.

Along with the art, the event will feature music, dance, theatre and a host of other artistic genres from the visual artists, authors and artisans who live in the village.

A Welcome Centre in the community hall will include examples of the artists' work, directions to each studio, and a cafe.

For details check the website www.guelpharts.ca/edenmillsartsfestival.

Cops urge grads to party safely

The County of Wellington OPP is reminding upcoming high school

graduates and their parents to celebrate graduations safely, and without

damaging any public or private property.

Some past years have seen some "grad pranks" that involved damage to school properties. In some of these instances, parents may have been aware of what was going on.

While Wellington OPP support our youth and celebrate the achievements of this year's graduating students, any grad "pranks" that constitute a criminal offence will be investigated, and any possible charges may be laid for those responsible. Damaging any



RAZED TO THE GROUND: Ruins are all that's left of a home on Ash Street in the village of Eden Mills. Eighty-nine year old Bill Ritchie lost his life in the tragic fire. — Denise Paulsen photo

Eden Mills man loses life in fire

Investigators with the Ontario Fire Marshalls Office have completed their on scene investigation of a house fire on Friday afternoon in Eden Mills that claimed the life of an elderly man.

Although officials have not released the victim's name — the body has not been positively identified — neighbours said it was 89-year-old Bill Ritchie of Ash Street. His wife, Ivy Ritchie,

said her husband was working in the attached garage when he ran upstairs to tell her that there was a fire and to get out.

She went outside and waited in vain for her husband as flames fully engulfed the house. Ritchie's body was not recovered from the basement until the next day. Although a post mortem conducted at Hamilton General Hospital on Monday, officials have not released the cause of death.

On Tuesday, Mike Potvan of the Fire Marshalls Office updated the investigation.

"We have seized several exhibits from the house and the scene has been released to the family," Potvan said, adding it could take weeks to determine the cause of the fire. He would not say what exhibits had been seized at the scene, which now is just a pile of charred rubble.

The Ritchie's had been married for 65 years and were closely affiliated with the local seniors' group.

Three firefighters were treated at the scene for minor injuries they suffered fighting the devastating fire at the bungalow that now is nothing more than a charred foundation.

Eden Mills resident Janet Isbrucker, who comforted Mrs. Ritchie as the fire raged, said Ritchie was a farmer who always had chemicals in his garbage. Insbrucker and Rob Bresnahan, a 17-year-old neighbour, comforted Mrs. Ritchie who kept asking when her husband was coming out.

Coroner Dr. Dirk Huyer said it could be months before they know what caused the fatal fire.

Visitation for Ritchie will be on Monday, June 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m., at Wall Custance Funeral Home in Guelph. The funeral will be Tuesday at 2 p.m., at St. John's Anglican Church in Rockwood, followed by interment at the Rockwood Cemetery. A reception will follow at Rockmosa Community Centre.

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