

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Township Digest

Annual Spring Road Tour

Two roadwork issues were found during the County of Wellington's annual spring road tour – a bridge needs replacing and railroad tracks in Rockwood need repair. Department heads and Councillors from Wellington County and the Guelph/Eramosa Township were invited on a recent roads inspection.

According to County Councillor Gordon Tosh, who attended the tour, there are no major concerns with the Township's roads. However, the bridge at the Guelph/Eramosa Townline – located 1.8km south of Highway 124 – needs replacement. At present, the bridge, at Erin Townline can't sustain loads in excess of five-tonnes – well under the normal capacity. The bridge remains open for normal vehicular traffic.

In addition, a passing lane has been suggested for Highway 124 between Rockwood and Erin – that currently has only single lane traffic in either direction.

While federal gas tax rebates pay for road repairs and upgrades, Tosh suggested they apply for a federal grant to help offset the projected costs that are in the Township's five-year work plan.

No more stimulus funds

Guelph/Eramosa Township will miss the federal stimulus funding it has received from the federal government. The Township has received \$10-million dollars through the federal government's infrastructure stimulus funds, put in place to jump-start the economy three years ago, but the stimulus funding indications have ended.

Stimulus funds for local road, bridge and work at the Harris Woollen Mill ruins in Rockwood must be spent and projects completed by March 31, 2011. The federal government paid \$700,000 to cover costs associated with restoration of the Woollen Mill ruins. Guelph River Conservation Authority is contributing the remaining \$100,000.

Federal gas tax funds – \$400,000 this year – is now the only source of revenue from the Federal government to the municipality.

Flip the Switch

Inspired by the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral program, John Liss and Daria Love are set to Flip the Switch to Solar Power this Sunday, June 27, at 2 p.m. at their home on 15 Ash Street. This will be the first residential Eden Mills solar panels to feed electricity into the Ontario hydro grid.

Summer strawberries and costumes will be part of the family fun as Liss and Love participate in the Ontario Power Authority's MicroFit Program promoting renewable energy in the province.

Owners of these projects are paid a fixed price for the electricity they produce and the set prices allow owners to recover their start-up costs, and to earn a reasonable return on their initial investment. The government commits to a rate of 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour for twenty years. The village residents will recover their costs in 9.25 years, and earn a substantial income for the remaining 10.75 years.



ROCK BOTTOM: Water levels at the Millpond in Eden Mills are very low. Richard Ley, a member of the Millpond Association's Board of Directors will hold a meeting to discuss the apparent leaks, causes, solutions and fundraising tonight at 4949 Wellington Road 29, 7:00 p.m. – Denise Paulsen photo

Millpond in peril

Three young jazz musicians from Sapporo, Japan will play in advance of their performance the next day at the Toronto International Jazz Festival in a bid to support efforts of the local Millpond Association in Eden Mills. The renowned Kudo Takuto Trio will stage a concert on Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Eden Mills Community Hall.

Richard Ley, a member of the Millpond Association's Board of Directors, addressed fundraising issues last week with vol-

unteers interested in maintaining the pond's natural habitat for a variety of wildlife and water species, swimming and paddling in the summer, skating and cross-country skiing in the winter. The community group – formed in 1990 to control several dams and maintain the pond – is concentrating on raising money to purchase the Millpond property from the current owners who live next to the lands.

Water levels in the pond are down due to serious leaks; the cause and

solution are not yet known. The pond is more than 150 years old, and provided a controlled source of water for one of the village's early mill operations on the Eramosa River. Before 1848, water from the river flowed through the village, but has since collected to form the Millpond. Now that the levels are so low, the Board of Directors has contacted various government agencies to discuss how to proceed, and what permits have to be obtained. The cost is expected to be great.

Will kennel bylaw have enough teeth

By Denise Paulsen

Uninterrupted barking, for more than two hours during the day, and barking from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. is now prohibited with recent changes to Guelph/Eramosa Township by-law governing kennel operations.

Several neighbours in the Indian Trail area of Eden Mills asked for more teeth in the legislation to deal with the unabated barking of dogs in their area. Barking dogs at one kennel in particular, Cedar Ridge Kennels located on Indian Trail, sparked complaints.

Kennel neighbour Val Finlay said their major concern is unacceptable levels of noise with the barking that is consistent and upsets of quality of life.

Mayor Chris White acknowledged their concerns, but noted the kennel is an existing business – its been there for 36 years – and he predicted even with the bylaw changes, no one will be completely happy. White said the ken-

nel operators realise the animals should not be barking at night, but the question remains whether or not a continuous pattern of barking can be proven when a complaint is made with the Township.

Another area resident, Dolores Gaetan, asked how many hours of barking can occur before a kennel license is revoked.

The answer from Mathew Williamson, Guelph/Eramosa Township By-law Enforcement Officer, was vague as he could not clearly explain how repeated by-law infractions would effect the kennel operators' ability to run their respective businesses. A fine could be levied against kennel operators who contravene the terms of the new regulations.

The new rules make it legal to own two dogs, but if your property is zoned agricultural you are allowed to house four working dogs. Status reports will follow-up the dog kennel situation in December.

Wellington O.P.P. Report

Drinking driving and drugs

A 54-year-old Rockwood woman, who a citizen spotted driving erratically on Highway 7, was arrested by OPP for driving and drug charges just after 6 p.m. on Saturday.

When police pulled the 2001 Oldsmobile over on Alma Street, they determined that the driver had been drinking and a found a small quantity of marijuana. She was charged with driving with over 80-mgs of alcohol in 100-ml. of blood and possession of marijuana and appears in a Guelph court on July 26.

Erin B&E

The car that sped off when an Erin

woman returned to her Tenth Line residence last Tuesday carried off her large screen television, two MAC computers, a quantity of jewellery and a 12-gauge antique shotgun.

The thief broke in through a kitchen garden door and fled in a black Pontiac Sunfire with grey primer spots. The male driver is in his 30s and possibly was wearing a yellow shirt.

Anyone with information that might help police solve this crime can call 1-888-310-1122, or anonymously call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477) or submit a tip on-line at www.crimestoppers-wellington.com.