

The ROCKWOOD Miller

with Frances Niblock

MTO willing to talk

A traffic light near the south end of Rockwood and more sidewalks continue to be the main requests of Rockwood area residents and Township Council as the province proceeds with plans to reconstruct Highway 7 through the village next year.

MTO officials briefed Council last Tuesday on the results of a mandatory public meeting earlier this summer. Over 200 people signed in at the meeting and the MTO's consultant received between 80 and 90 comment sheets from citizens with suggestions and questions about the multi-million project.

"They had an incredible turnout at that meeting and now we want to make sure that we can

improve safety along the highway," Mayor Chris White said on Monday, adding they must improve pedestrian safety.

Three options are being debated including running another sidewalk along Highway 7, putting a push button crossing signal on Highway 7 at either Ridge Road or McLennan Street, and the preferred option – installing a traffic light at either Ridge or McLennan.

"There aren't the warrants to put in a traffic light, but there could be 200 to 300 kids walking along the highway to get to school," White said. The Township pays to bus students to school because of the safety issues, but that deal is not permanent White said.

"We need to sit down with the MTO and our public works officials to bash out the numbers to see if there is enough traffic to warrant a stop light," White said, adding he also asked the MTO for another public meeting in November to review the proposed highway reconstruction project.

White said MTO officials "get" the Township's safety concerns and the Township understands the MTO funding issues, and everyone wants the best solution to the safety issues.

"We can't walk away from this without something resolved – people can't get on that highway – it's just too dangerous for us not to have some kind of solution."



EVERY BOYS' DREAM: Wesley learned the finer points of hose work from Rockwood firefighter Jeff when the East Wellington Community Services children's program visited the Rockwood fire hall last Wednesday. – Submitted photo

No Guelph/Eramosa cash for Erin foodbank

Guelph/Eramosa Township taxpayers will not help foot the bill for an over-budget expansion of the food bank in Erin, run by East Wellington Community Services (EWCS). Township Council turned down a recent request for cash but also stated their support for the safety net program.

The expansion of the Erin food bank at Centre 2000 in Erin is \$104,000 over budget – mainly due to new block construction requirements after a falling concrete wall killed a Rockwood girl a year ago in Guelph. That helped the food bank expansion budget skyrocket by 83 per cent to \$230,000.

EWCS officials and Erin Mayor Rod Finnie appeared cap in hand before Guelph/Eramosa Council last Tuesday asking for an unspecified amount of cash. But Council, faced with its own long list of unfunded projects and services, said no, but still offered to help.

EWCS provides seam-

less services to residents of both Erin and Guelph/Eramosa, and Township Mayor Chris White said the reality is that Guelph/Eramosa and Erin "do some things together, like the family health team," but cash for the food bank will not be one of them.

"From EWCS's view, there are really no municipal boundaries when it comes to social services, but the reality is that it is the municipality that is doing the expansion work, and it is difficult for us to give them money for bricks and mortar," White said on Monday.

White said EWCS and Erin officials accepted the no answer without argument because it is "reasonable." He said Guelph/Eramosa Township is jealous of Erin's expanded arena and seniors centre, things that Guelph/Eramosa would like, but can't afford.

"When you're talking about building bricks and mortar, you need to fund it locally because it would be difficult for us to jus-

tify funding for expansion and upgrades outside of our community," White said.

At the meeting, EWCS officials were unable to provide councillors with operating cost information, leaving unanswered questions about the food bank's business plan.

White said while they "absolutely appreciate the work of EWCS" as a safety net for those in need, and the Township gives it up to \$10,000 annually, but Guelph/Eramosa can't take local taxpayers' dollars and spend them in another community.

White said if the demand increases at the Erin food bank, which acts as a satellite to the Rockwood facility, and they can show that it helps Guelph/Eramosa residents, then they might be able to "enhance what we are giving them annually."

White said the Township wants more information from EWCS, and will meet with them and Erin officials to "see if there is any way we can help."

Township Digest

Election Workers Wanted

It will take a small army of Deputy Returning Officers, Revision Clerks and greeters to stage the October 25 municipal election and Guelph/Eramosa is now looking for workers to help with the vote.

Workers must have a

car, be available before and after the polls open and close, and return all election material to the Bruce Dale office after the vote.

Some staff will also work the Advance Polls on Thursday, October 14, and Saturday, October 16 and must count sealed bal-

lots on voting day.

To apply, visit the Township's website at www.get.on.ca. The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 10.

A Deputy Returning Officer will be paid \$175, Revision Officers will be paid \$150, and greeters will be paid \$125.

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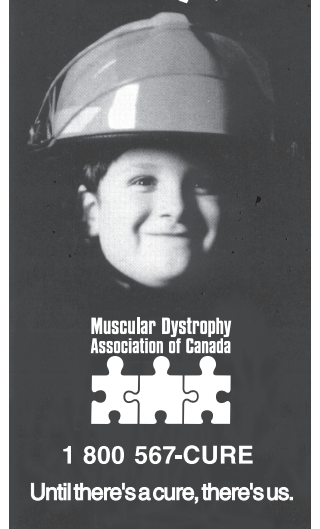
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