

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Township Digest

Guelph/Eramosa race

Less than a month until nominations for October's municipal election must be filed, there is now a candidate running in each ward, although the mayor remains unchallenged, and two incumbent Guelph/Eramosa Township councillors – Ward one Councillor Rita Moyer and Ward two Councillor Roger Knapp – have not yet signalled their political plans.

In Ward one, newcomer David Wolk filed his papers two weeks ago, and in Ward two, newcomer Nicholas Dalton, a custom home builder and farmer, wants Councillor Knapp's seat.

So far, no one is challenging Ward three Councillor Doug Breen, and in Ward four, incumbent John Scott faces a challenge from Steven Liebig.

For the Ward seven seat on County Council, incumbent Barb McKay is not running, but her husband Don McKay is running against Bill Cloutis. In the Ward eight County Council race, incumbent Councillor Gord Tosh was unchallenged at press time.

So far, neither Upper Grand District School Board trustee Ralph Edwards nor Wellington Catholic District School Board trustee Steve Redmond face challengers.

Nominations will be accepted until September 9 at 2 p.m. The election is October 25.

No 'lame duck' council

There will be no 'lame duck' council as far as Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White is concerned – lame duck indicating that it is the old council until December when the new councillors, elected on October 25, officially take office.

White said following the election he expects Council to just deal with "house keeping" issues like paying bills.

"Everyone knew this election was coming for four years so there shouldn't be any issue that blows up at the last minute," White, who is unchallenged at this point, said on Friday.

"It's been a pretty quiet summer and a lot of the stuff that we set out to do, we've done and there's nothing controversial that must be done before the election – we'll just have

to keep the lights on."

Rockwood paving approved

A proliferation of pot holes on Dennis Street and Queen Street prompted Guelph/Eramosa Township Council to approve spending an additional \$30,039 to resurface the roads even though they are not in the 2010 Road Management Plan.

At a recent council meeting staff recommended that because of the poor condition of both roads and sufficient traffic, both roads be moved onto this year's work list. During budget debates councillors approved a \$5.4-million, 10-year plan to update 16 sections of road totalling 16.7-kilometres. Other Rockwood roads on the 10-year list include Passmore, Balaclava, Inkerman, Clair, George, Water and Pine Streets.

Staff said in the past year they have done 24 cold patch pot hole repairs on the sections of Dennis and Queen Street between Main and Jackson Street, but after a hole was repaired, another opened up right beside it, so the resurfacing should be done now, and not as scheduled in 2012.



TREMENDOUS BUILDERS: Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White (back right) judged the 17 tree houses built by Rockwood area kids as part of a Wellington County library summer contest. With White was Kriisten Stevens (centre) and Anika Berringer. Front, from left: Christian and Abby Dyksterhuis, and Justin Barry. – Frances Niblock photo

Tree house winners

Using twigs, string, cardboard, tinfoil, popsicle sticks and a host of other recycled/used items, 17 Rockwood area kids built tree houses as part of a summer contest at all Wellington County libraries.

At the Rockwood branch summer reading program wrap-up on Friday, the tree houses were judged by Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White who seemed surprised at the intricate detail and some of the tree houses and delighted with some of the whimsical touches.

White selected first place tree houses in three

age categories and then presented books to all of the kids who participated in the contest.

Kiirstin Maki, the library's assistant branch supervisor, was pleased with the contest.

"We've been absolutely blown away by the creativity and happy that we had so many kids join in the "Destination Jungle" summer reading program," Maki said, adding participation in the reading club – where kids logged the number of books they read over the summer – is up by 10 per cent over last summer.

"The tree house contest and the reading program

are important to the community because anyone can participate, from toddlers to teens. We've had families turn the tree house contest into a family thing and it's all free," Maki said.

Come September, the library will offer a parent/child book club on the second Tuesday of each month, and a book club for kids aged nine-to-12 on the fourth Tuesday of the month. As well, the library will offer PD Day programming, and weekly storytime programming for three-to-five year olds and also weekly storytime for toddlers.

Online gambling is a bad bet MPP says

The McGuinty Liberal government should not be rolling the dice on online gambling, said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

Given the go-ahead by Ontario's Minister of Finance, Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG), a Crown corporation, is now planning to introduce online gaming to the province.

"This latest expansion of gambling in Ontario is not in the public interest," Arnott said. "For many years, I've maintained that too many people are addicted to gambling. They're losing their shirts, and we're not doing enough to help them," he added.

Arnott has been a long-time opponent of the expansion of gambling in Ontario.

"Some are claiming new gambling will increase

government revenues," Arnott said. "But that won't address the Liberals' real problem: their addiction to runaway spending."

Critics also contend that McGuinty government cannot be trusted to competently operate new gambling facilities.

"Who is going to trust Dalton McGuinty to run an online casino?" asked Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak, who noted recent scandals at OLG and the fact that the organization has gone through five CEOs.

"They can't run the existing casinos let alone internet gambling," he said.

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