

# The ROCKWOOD Miller

## Emergency response concerns in Guelph Eramosa Township

A potential tragedy is just a phone call away because of a problem with emergency responders going to wrong addresses in Guelph/Eramosa and Erin Townships. When the outcome of a 911 call could hinge on how fast help arrives, any delay is a problem.

In one instance, OPP called to Third Line, Eramosa this summer when a rock was thrown through a Township grader window went to Third Line, Erin Township by mistake.

Ward four Councillor John Scott raised the issue on Monday when Wellington's Emergency Management Co-ordin-

ator, Linda Dickson made her annual emergency management report. Dickson, who was unaware of the problem, said she'd investigate after Councillor Doug Breen reported that on "a couple of very important nights, vehicles went to the wrong place." After the meeting, Breen would not provide any details of the calls, citing the privacy of the families involved.

"Anecdotally, what is happening is that sometimes the police and fire get there and the ambulance goes somewhere else, or sometimes the police and ambulance show up and the fire goes some-

where else," Breen said, adding there were reports of a similar problem approximately three years ago.

Dickson said when a 911 call is made, the County's first response agency in Thunder Bay provides emergency responders with a unique address including the address or property identifier number in rural areas, the street name and the municipality.

Township staff said they'd provide Dickson with the grader incident information so she can play the 911 call tape, and track the incident and the response.



**WHO WILL BE MAYOR?** Guelph/Eramosa Mayor Chris White (right) and his challenger, former mayor Clint Martin (left) listened intently as moderator, Rockwood lawyer Doug Black, explained the rules of an all candidates meeting last Wednesday at Rockmosa. — Frances Niblock photo

## Candidates debate

Education may be the "sleeper" issue in the October 25 municipal election according to Rockwood lawyer Doug Black who moderated an all candidates debate for the Rockwood Lion's Club last Wednesday night. He suggested to the approximately 75 people gathered at Rockmosa Community Centre that more than ever, education policies are "absolutely crucial to our own well-being."

Steve Redman, the acclaimed Wellington Catholic District School Board trustee for Guelph/Eramosa, Erin and Puslinch, had the best line of the night when asked by former trustee Wilma Tosh, wife of County Councillor Gord Tosh, "if you were Superman or God, what would you fix in our school system?"

"I'd try to get more babies in the province," Redman said and was drowned out by laughter, continuing that "declining enrolments" trigger issues like school closures and job loss.

Ralph Edwards, the incumbent Upper Grand District School Board trustee for Guelph Eramosa, said if he were Superman, he'd go back to prior to the Harris government when boards of education had the right to raise taxes to pay for programs.

"That's number one, Number two, I would start to restore or revamp many of the (technical) shops that have been closed in the last 20 years," Edwards said, adding industry is crying for apprentices, bricklayers, auto mechanics and electricians.

Kathryn Cooper, a Hillsburgh mother, parent council member, and Erin businesswoman who has two Masters degrees, including a Master of Education, said boards must be progressive, collaborative

and proactive, and, aside from having more babies, must step outside the box find a new way to teach.

"Our children are facing many a frightening and unprecedented challenges and we owe them the ability to deliver the skills, knowledge and ethic of citizenship that will help them to meet future courage and confidence," Cooper said.

Mayoral candidate Clint Martin, ousted by Incumbent Mayor Chris White in 2003, drew polite claps from the crowd when he called the current council "dysfunctional" and not a "happy" council, and promised to restructure Guelph/Eramosa, which he said was overstaffed and lacked leadership.

In his introduction, Mayor Chris White ticked off a list of past term accomplishments including construction of the Rockwood Medial Centre, taxes at or below inflation, new recreational facilities and safer roads. He promised to maintain taxes and expand the tax base.

The crowd wanted to know what specific candidates would do about liquid waste, transportation, the reconstruction of Highway 7 and how to avoid urban sprawl in Rockwood, where 150 homes will likely be built in the coming term of office on the 55-acre Harris Street land.

Mayor White said Guelph/Eramosa Council already said no to urban sprawl by rejecting County Council's request to expand the village boundaries to accommodate an additional 600 homes, beyond the 600 registered lots that will top the population at 5,000.

"We want to stay small, we want to stay rural...if somebody wants to live in Brampton its right down there," White said. Mayoralty candidate Martin said the issue is sewage cap-

acity and without it, "you won't be going anywhere for handouts."

Steve Liebig, a part-time firefighter and employee of his family-owned Rockwood Foodland, is challenging incumbent Councillor John Scott for his Ward four seat, said Rockwood had been "sold out for profit" — he did not say by whom — and that supporting infrastructure must be in place before any more homes are built to keep Rockwood as a jewel.

Councillor Scott said realistically, they might like to say no to development, but they don't control the Ontario Municipal Board, which has a history of overruling Township refusals to approve local development, since they do have the sewage capacity.

Both Clint Martin and Teresa Gibson Smye, a former councillor who is challenging incumbent Councillor Doug Breen for his Ward three seat, were questioned if they could represent voters because they don't live in the area they hope to represent. Martin said he recently moved to Guelph, but still owns property in Guelph/Eramosa, adding he "loves this Township." Gibson Syme, who lives in Bellwood, 20 minutes from the Township headquarters, said she owns a business in Rockwood, pays taxes and provides employment.

Pointing to a poor voter turnout record — 29 per cent in 2003 and 40 per cent in 2006, moderator Black urged voters to "put the arm" on their friends and family to encourage people to get out and vote.

In an informal exit poll, a handful of voters said nothing they heard during the debate would make them switch their vote from their candidate of choice, but in several instances good performances confirmed their



## Guelph/Eramosa Tree Planters

### Notice of Urban Native Tree \* Subsidy Program

Guelph/Eramosa Tree Planters is a volunteer group organized in 2001 with the specific mandate to increase tree plantings within the boundaries of Guelph/Eramosa Township. The current subsidy program is funded by the Township of Guelph/Eramosa and supports the Township's resolution to increase the urban tree canopy coverage of 40% within the next 50 years.

**The program:** Open to homeowners residing within the township's village and hamlet areas of: Rockwood, Eden Mills, Everton, Marden, Eramosa, Ariss and Oustic, Cross Creek Hamilton Drive, Hartfield, Walkerbrae, Blossom Hill & Brucedale, Beech St. Hamlet, Gazer/Mooney Hamlet, Crewsons Corners Hamlet, Skyway Dr./Hwy. #7/Jones Baseline Hamlet, Barrie Hill Hamlet, Lake Road Hamlet.

- Trees must be planted within the above village and hamlet areas on the homeowners property
- Subsidy applies only to native species trees \* with an approximate height between 6 and 8 feet.
- Trees must be purchased on or before October 31, 2010 from a recognized nursery within the Township of Guelph/Eramosa or City of Guelph
- Subsidy of 75% of the cost per tree (excluding HST) to a maximum of \$25.00 per tree and a maximum of 4 trees per property (\$100.00). One application per property.
- Applicants must apply for and obtain a subsidy approval number prior to purchase, Deadline for applications October 23, 2010
- Application forms are available from the Guelph/Eramosa Township website [www.get.on.ca](http://www.get.on.ca)
- Funds are limited and applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis
- Information on native tree species can be obtained by contacting [mikenagster@gmail.com](mailto:mikenagster@gmail.com)

**Guelph /Eramosa's Tree Canopy Cover Goal**  
**40% In 50 Years**