

The ROCKWOOD Miller

Township Digest

By Frances Niblock

Emergency response

A Township grader driver whose window was smashed by a rock this spring called the OPP, not 911 for help, so the call can not be traced by Wellington Emergency Management Co-ordinator Linda Dickson.

She was asked by Guelph/Eramosa Township councillors last week why police went to Third Line Erin instead of Third Line Eramosa for that call and a "couple" of similar responder mix-ups. On Friday, Dickson said without more information she can't investigate Councillor Doug Breen's contention that "...vehicles went to the wrong addresses" on a couple of nights. She said if

the calls were made to the County's 911 first point of answer in North Bay, a tape would be available.

Dickson said new technology – including enhanced 911 for wireless – is making it less "frustrating" to locate people who mistakenly believe 911 operators know where they are calling from. She recommends that if you have a choice, use a land line, not a cell phone, to make a 911 call.

Thespians wanted

The Century Church Theatre in Hillsburgh is looking for actors to audition for its 2011 Professional Summer Festival that will feature two comedies, one playing next July and another in August.

Contracts are for four

weeks and candidates must be available for daytime rehearsals and matinee performances.

Both plays will be cast before Christmas. For information call 519-855-4586 or visit www.centrychurch-theatre.com

Warnings removed

Caution all boaters – Grand River Conservation Area (GRCA) staff is removing warning buoys and booms this month in preparation for the winter.

The buoys and booms are installed in May to warn boaters about the danger of approaching various dams on GRCA waterways.

On October 21, the buoys and booms will be removed at the Rockwood Dam, Everton Dam and Guelph Dam.



FAMILY AFFAIR: The Najafova family from Toronto enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving weekend together at the Rockwood Conservation Area. Having a fun time in the October sun were relatives from left: Minara, Tony, Timothy and Elizabeth. - Denise Paulsen photo

Successful season at Rockwood Conservation Area

By: Denise Paulsen

Towering limestone cliffs, caves, a 15,000-year-old glacial pothole – one of the world's largest – secluded camp sites and a gently sloping beach all drew large crowds this season to the Rockwood Conservation Area, 79-hectares of natural and recreation land owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Fifty-thousand campers and day-trippers sought refuge from the hot and humid temperatures this summer, including July's first real heat wave in three years. "Once we start to get over 28 degrees, people come out to the park," Jack Griffin, Manager of Conservation Area Operations, said recently.

Swimming, canoeing/kayaking, paddle boating, picnicking, an 18-hole mini golf course and fishing are popular activities. The waters are stocked annually with Rainbow Trout, and Carp, Bullhead, Large and Smallmouth Bass are also found in the Eramosa River.

Overall, park revenues – admission fees, camping rates, boat/kayak rentals, pavilion bookings, and funds for miscellaneous purchases such as firewood – were down this season compared to last, although visitors to the facility were up by 10 to 15 per cent. A major film project last summer ac-

counted for the boost in revenues last year.

The conservation area offers several camping options, including 16 sites that are fully serviced with water/sewer and hydro for larger trailers at \$48.75 per night). Forty-five sites are serviced and 44 are natural. There are four ground camping areas for hardcore outdoor enthusiasts – those in tents. Camping costs jumped 13 per cent, including the new HST.

No tax dollars are used to run any of the Grand River Conservation Authority's watershed facilities, but rentals for film, TV and magazine ads shoots are a much-welcomed source of revenue – not only for the Grand River Conservation Authority – but also to bolster Rockwood's economy.

The site is popular with Guelph/Eramosa residents and also those in Guelph, Hamilton, Halton (Oakville/Milton/Burlington/Halton Hills), Mississauga, Brampton and residents of Toronto.

Alcohol bans imposed on the Victoria Day and Labour Day long weekends had little effect on camper turn out. "It (the ban) was generally well-received. It keeps the rowdiness factor down and steers those away from the park that aren't necessarily family oriented," said Brad Dickson, the conservation area's Assistant Manager "Our client base usually book far in

advance. It keeps down the last minute crowd." OPP regularly patrol the park during the camping season. Dickson said no major incidents were reported this year.

Restoration work is underway at the Harris Woollen Mill, built in 1867 in what is now the conservation area. Deemed unsafe for public access last year, the restoration work should be complete by the end of this year.

In an effort to make the beach cleaner including-getting rid of Geese and gulls that scavenge for food and foul the water and shoreline. Canadian Wildlife Services issued a Scare Permit allowing officials to discharge blanks from a firearm, or to use noisemakers to scare the birds away.

All of the serviced sites at the conservation area were booked for the Thanksgiving weekend as brilliant sunshine and dry weather conditions allowed campers and visitors to enjoy the amenities, except watercraft rentals which are closed for the season. The conservation area closes for the season on October 18.

"We love this park. We've been coming here for four years," said Minara Najafova of North York in Toronto, who came with her entire family for Thanksgiving weekend. "It's such a beautiful spot."



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
- 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

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