

# The ROCKWOOD Miller



**OATH OF OFFICE:** Mayor Chris White (centre), along with his colleagues, swore allegiance to the Queen, and made declarations of office at the Guelph/Eramosa Township inaugural ceremonies in Brucedale, on Monday. White welcomed two new members of council including David Wolk (seated left) and Corey Woods (standing right). Returning are Councillors John R. Scott (standing left) and Doug Breen. — Denise Paulsen photo

## Guelph/Eramosa Council sworn into office

Guelph/Eramosa Township Mayor Chris White swore allegiance to the Queen when he made his declaration of office on Monday night at the Brucedale headquarters, but he did not have to swear to put down any rebellion.

"They took that separate oath out of the Municipal Act two terms ago," White said on Friday, adding the historic oath of office dates back to the 19th century British Parliament.

In front of family, friends, staff and invited guests, the five-member Guelph Eramosa Council swore to "truly, and faithfully and impartially" exercise the office to the "best of their knowledge and ability" in oaths administered by Township lawyer Scott Galajda.

The councillors, including rookie newcomers Ward two's Corey Woods

and acclaimed Ward one Councillor David Wolk, swore they had not received any payment or reward or promise for the exercise of the office in a biased, corrupt or any other improper manner.

Prior to the ceremony, Mayor White said first on the new council's agenda is a strategic planning meeting to bring everyone up to speed on on-going work with the environment, heritage, trails, recreation and parks and economic development.

"We want to take a look at ourselves from an economic perspective overall and see where we are, tying that into the economic development I'm working on at the County level," White said.

As he looked ahead, White also looked back, noting councillors are "pretty pleased" with the

work that was done in the past term, including opening the medical centre in Rockwood, developing Marden Park and holding down tax increases.

"There's a couple of big things coming down the pike, one of course is the Highway 7 revitalization, and we've got a new subdivision going in on Harris Street in Rockwood, which is something we'll have to figure out," White said.

White said as head of council for the past terms he learned that everyone is just one vote and no one can "grab the reins" and run with something.

In related news, White faces his fourth election in as many months tomorrow (Friday) when he and Wellington County Councillor Gord Tosh vie for the position of County Warden in a County Council election.

## No closure planned for Highway 7

New technology has resolved one of the main concerns of many Rockwood residents and merchants that both lanes of Highway 7 would have to be closed during reconstruction, which is slated for spring/summer next year.

Rob Bakalarczyk, Min-

istry of Transportation senior project engineer, said they would reline, not replace a culvert under the highway at Richardson Creek, just south of Harris Street. That means that both lanes will not have to be closed at the same time during construction. He said they would also

construct a second culvert, as an overflow structure, but the road won't have to be closed for up to two weeks.

"It (the closure) was a substantial issue with the people, so we went back and had a hard look at it and came up with this alternative," Bakalarczyk said last Wednesday, adding the plan needs a little fine tuning, but he expects that Rockwood residents

and merchants would be pleased.

The reconstruction project includes repairing approximately 4.2-kilometres of pavement through Rockwood, from the Eden Mills cutoff to the Conservation area, as well as repairing the Eramosa River Bridge and existing storm sewers. Sidewalks, curbs and paved shoulders will also be replaced, or installed for the first time, where required.

Some merchants are concerned there won't be any parking for their customers in front of their stores during the day while work is underway. Bakalarczyk said they will try to "minimize the amount of disruption" and will keep the village well informed about what will happen, and when.

The project may help spell the end of The Village Sweet Shop where owner Leah Youngblut said a decline in business — let alone parking and construction hassles — may be a deciding fac-

tor in the decision to re-open in January after the holidays.

"If the road is going to be disrupted and I'm not going to have any parking allowed in front of the store, how am I supposed to survive?" Youngblut said last week, adding the "don't worry" attitude of local politicians is not comforting to businesses that are paying rent. She said the construction project will be difficult for those who own the buildings, but suspects they will be able to "weather the storm" better than renters.

### The Erin Clinic Is Moving!



On Wednesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be relocating to our new clinic at 6 Thompson Cresc., in Erin.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>, Erin doctors will be responding to urgent needs only.

Your patience is appreciated during this busy time.

For an urgent appointment on any of these days, please call our Rockwood Clinic at 519-856-4611. Watch our web site for updates. [www.ewfht.ca](http://www.ewfht.ca)

Looking forward to seeing you in our new digs!



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## Drunk driver arrested near Rockwood

A 50-year-old Puslinch woman was charged with having over 80-milligrams of alcohol in 100-millitres of blood after being stopped by Wellington OPP at 3:30 last Thursday afternoon.

Another motorist alerted police to a possibly impaired driver and police stopped a 2000 Chevy Silverado pickup truck on Highway 7, just west of Rockwood. The driver failed a roadside screening test. She appears in a Guelph court on January 11.