



Playground - Craig Bennett shows the Kindergarten and Grade 1 and 2 classes a photo of his children, Jenna and Aidan. Craig, his wife Yvonne and Aidan officially opened Jenna's Playground at Rockwood Centennial Public School on Oct. 6. Photo by Olivia Rutt

## Fate of quarry hearing remains uncertain

By Jaime Myslik

BRUCEDALE - It remains unclear whether the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing about a Rockwood quarry will proceed - or be dismissed before testimony really begins.

The hearing was scheduled to take place over several weeks, starting on Sept. 27.

James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL) has applied for rezoning and licensing approval for a "hidden quarry" at Highway 7 and 6th Line in Guelph-Eramosa, just east of Rockwood and west of Acton.

Also taking part in the hearing are opponents the Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), Region of Halton and Town of Halton Hills.

On day one of the proceedings CRC lawyer Chris Barnett brought it to OMB vice chair Steve Stefanko's attention that the JDCL bylaw amendment application was actually for a bylaw that no longer exists.

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## Rockwood playground opened in memory of former student

By Olivia Rutt

ROCKWOOD - The Kindergarten and Grade 1 and 2 students from Rockwood Centennial Public School gathered on Oct. 6 to officially open a playground in memory of former student Jenna Bennett.

Jenna's father Craig said she loved to enjoy playgrounds, laugh and run.

In 2014, Jenna was diagnosed with MLD (Metachromatic Leukodystrophy), a genetic disease that attacks cognition and peripheral function, such as the ability to walk, talk and eat.

In May, just one week shy of her 7th birthday, Jenna passed away.

"She was an energetic, vivacious, spontaneous, very independent girl and she loved to swim, she loved to bicycle, she loved to play

on playgrounds," said Craig.

"We decided that we would like to build a playground in her honour."

Craig, Jenna's mother Yvonne and Jenna's brother Aidan, with the help of community members, raised \$20,000 for a new playground.

Craig explained to the students what he was thankful for this Thanksgiving.

"When I think about the past year, the past couple of years, I just remember coming into school so many times and all of you who were in Grade 2 and Grade 1 or in SK, you were in this playground and you were rolling in the leaves and running around and I just remember Jenna laughing and having so much fun with all of you," he said.

"So I am thankful for that, for all of you being such good friends."

He added, "I'm also thankful to your parents and to Rockwood and to the surrounding area because all of those people helped make this playground possible."

"Every time I come here now and I see you guys running up and down and playing on the playground, I'm going to think about how much fun you're having and I'm going to think about Jenna too, because it will remind me of Jenna in my heart."

Jenna's brother Aidan, who's in Grade 6 at Rockwood Centennial, also spoke at the ceremony.

"A few days after Jenna died ... one of my friends asked me, 'Do you ever miss Jenna? Is it ever lonely around the house?' And to this day I still feel lonely," he said.

"And then a few months later at school someone asked me, 'Do you

ever feel lonely at school?' And I said, 'How could I? I have the Grade 1s, the Grade 2s, the kindergarteners.'"

Aidan spent \$100 on toys for the sandbox after seeing many of the current toys were in rough shape.

Yvonne explained Aidan spends a lot of time with the kindergarteners, in memory of Jenna.

Principal Lisa Doering thanked the family and said, "Jenna's playground will be a place of friendship, learning and loving for the Rockwood Centennial community."

"This place will serve as an ongoing tribute to a very special young girl named Jenna Bennett."

Tracey Darling, kindergarten teacher at Rockwood Centennial, said staff and students will remember Jenna "for years and years and years to come."

## Elsie Dandy receives Governor General's Sovereign Medal

By Patrick Raftis

FERGUS - Local veteran Elsie Dandy received the Governor General's Sovereign Medal for Volunteers at Fergus Legion Branch 275 on Oct. 8.

The honour was presented to Dandy by Wellington Halton-Hills MP Michael Chong, just one day after her 99th birthday.

Dandy, a nurse during the Second World War, was stationed at Basingstoke Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital for the Canadian Army in London, England.

She joined the Legion 17 years ago and one of the reasons she

offers for joining was the support the Royal Canadian Legion gives to school-aged children.

Though she is proud of other work the Legion does, she said, "I'm more interested in what they're doing for the school children because I think that's terribly important."

Dandy continues to volunteer at Grove's Memorial Community Hospital and J.D. Hogarth Elementary School in Fergus and attends every general meeting at the Fergus Legion.

At the ceremony, attended by about 50 people including Legion members, family, friends and local

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Helping hand - Wellington Halton-Hills MP Michael Chong holds the microphone as Fergus resident Elsie Dandy, 99, addresses the crowd gathered to see her receive the Governor General's Sovereign Medal for Volunteers at Fergus Legion Branch 275 on Oct. 8. Photo by Patrick Raftis

## Community gets first look at bridge designs

By Mike Robinson

ELORA - A good crowd came out last week to check on the progress of the bridge situation here.

On Oct. 4 Centre Wellington and Wellington County hosted a public information centre regarding proposals for the Badley (Metcalfe) bridge as well as the Victoria Street pedestrian bridge.

### Victoria Street bridge

Based in New York City, Jeffrey Grob, a senior associate with Stantec, is a landscape architect specializing in bridge design.

Grob explained that at the last public meeting, numerous alternatives were presented to members of the public.

Winnowing this down, he said the technical advisory committee created evaluation criteria, including heritage, aesthetics, costs, structural issues and maintenance. From that, the top three were worked on further.

"All the top rated designs included see-through parapets," said Grob.

"However the people coming up to me thought it was a really cool idea ... but asked if it was timeless ... and wondered how those see-through panels would look in 2050."

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