

# The Wellington Advertiser

Vol 46 Issue 38



25th anniversary parade - Town crier Kit Bresnahan and Robin Aggus lead the way through this year's parade. *photo by Mike Robinson*

## **Eden Mills Writers' Festival marks 25th anniversary**

*by Mike Robinson*

**EDEN MILLS** - Twenty five years after the first writers festival on the steps of the General Store here, residents celebrated the festival roots and founder Leon Rooke.

On the steps of that same store, town crier Kit Bresnahan welcomed authors, visitors and villagers alike.

"Twenty five years ago Leon Rooke welcomed 300 of his closest friends to the village to share readings with some of his favourite authors," said Bresnahan. "They read from the steps of this general store - and a great Canadian literary tradition began."

Bresnahan added, "We are truly blessed to have so many creative authors, illustrators and publishers sharing their talents with us here today - to help us celebrate this special anniversary."

He said everyone was looking forward to an exciting afternoon on the banks of the Eramosa River.

After each reading, authors would be at book signings at Jenny's Place across from the community hall.

"The Eden Mills Writers' Festival could not take place without the illustrious and gracious sponsors that help us out," Bresnahan said.

He added, "Eden Mills is working to become the first village in North America to go carbon neutral. We support them with this endeavour by using reusable dishes and no plastic water bottle sales."

He noted the festival is proud to be part of the Fab Five Festivals promoting dance, film, jazz, Canadian writing and the Hillside Festival.

"To all of you, a warm welcome and thank you for gracing us with your presence and enjoy the day."

Guelph-Eramosa Mayor Chris White brought greetings from both the township and the County of Wellington.

"Who would have thought 25 years ago as these folks stood on these stairs, that we would be here 25 years later?" White asked.

He called the event both an incredible and strong vision that has worked very well for the community.

White said as both Guelph-Eramosa mayor and Wellington County warden, he sees a lot of the small rural communities.

"But this one stands out by itself. It is absolutely unique."

White called Eden Mills "very much a grassroots community which is moving forward. This festival is an example of that. I want to congratulate you for all the hard work you do."

*September 20, 2013*

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