

Bikers make it shady for the elderly

By JEAN JONES
Staff Writer

MAURICE RIVER TWP — Bikers have left their mark on Maurice River Township again, but this time the signs of their work was welcomed.

Members of the Tri-County Sportsmen Motorcycle Club were back at the Senior Center in Port Elizabeth to plant three large Canadian red leaf shade trees. The trees will shade some of the five wood and metal benches the group installed a week ago. The trees were donated by member Jack Lafferty and the benches by other members of the group.

"The seniors are already using them," observed Mayor John Feltes, gesturing toward the benches.

It was Tri-County Sportsmen Motorcycle Club members who painted the local library, a historic building located across the street from the Senior Center, last year.

"We're mostly local people who ride motorcycles in a controlled environment," said Eldin Polhamus, as mulch was being spread around the newly planted trees. "We're enduro riders. We're all licensed and we're sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association. We're also part of the East Coast Enduro Association. We put on an enduro once a year to raise money for stuff like this."

Polhamus said the enduro wouldn't be possible without the permission of the property owners, many of them sand mining companies, like Morie Company, WHIBCO and Pettinos, and the sanction of the Township.

For this year's enduro, on March 31, the Township had parts of Hunter's Mill and Weatherby Roads closed, to make the event safer. Polhamus said the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department also helped, turning away literally hundreds of bikers from out of the area who come here on weekends and trespass on posted properties.

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Staff Photo by JACK SOUDER

Tri-County Sportsmen Motorcycle Club members Eldin Polhamus, left, and Jack Lafferty, center, with Maurice River Township Mayor Jack Feltes. The club planted trees at Senior Center in Port Elizabeth to shade benches.