

Regional

Music festival starts on Sunday

County festival is the oldest in Ontario

by JOHN CHARLTON
The Independent

The 58th Northumberland Music Festival is about to begin. Over 700 entries have been registered in what is one of Ontario's oldest music festivals. The competition, first run in 1937, was originally restricted to Northumberland residents but has since become open to all.

The aim of the festival has remained the same since its inception; to provide a meaningful musical experience for all of the competitors and to showcase and encourage musical excellence.

This year's festival commences April 26 at 7:30 pm with the Festival of Hymns being held at Colborne United Church. A cross denominational choir of area churches will perform several popular numbers and a hymn sing will round out the evening of song and praise. A collection will be taken in lieu of a cover



Members of the Executive Committee (clockwise from back left) Ida Mae de Rose, Beverly Mathieson, Jacqui Manning-Albert, Cheryl Langford, Shirley McCracken, Wynn Platt, Ruth Bennett, Ruth Harcourt, and Mary Mitchell gather to put the final touches on this year's Northumberland Music Festival.

charge.

Competitions will run from Monday, April 27 to Saturday, May 2. All classes are scheduled to take place in Warkworth from 9am to 1 pm, at either St. Paul's United Church, the Free Methodist Church or St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Two exceptions are the vocal competitions which will be held during the evening at St. Andrews in Warkworth on April 30 and May 2, both at 7pm.

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the sessions for a nominal fee. Programs, available at a

variety of locals throughout the county, list dates, times and venues for all of the events. Categories include choirs, school bands, family groups, wind instruments, keyboards, strings and vocal work from varying age groups. It is simply amazing to hear and see the musical talent Northumberland has to offer.

Winners of the festival will perform at the Grand Concert, Sunday, May 10, 2pm at Trinity United Church in Cobourg. Scholarship awards promoting further studies in music

education will be handed out as part of the program.

As in the past, donations to the Margaret Guy Memorial Fund are being accepted to enable outstanding performers from the festival to attend and compete at the provincial level. Last year, Becky Fleming of Stirling and Judy O'Hara of Cobourg were sent to the provincial competition in Lakefield where both faired extremely well.

For more information regarding the Northumberland Music Festival call Ruth Harcourt at 905-372-2505.

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
Amalgamation plans April 23/98

Local level first,

BY MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

CASTLETON - Take small steps before sweeping strides when revamping municipal and county government in Northumberland County. That was the consensus at a one-day retreat of Northumberland County municipalities held Monday, according to Cramahe Township delegates.

"At the end of the day, we came up with the following four points," Cramahe Township Deputy reeve Jim Williams reported to his council Monday night:

n that there be a restructuring committee of all municipalities, not a county council committee, but a committee of municipalities to ensure amalgamation is driven from the local level up;

n each municipality would be represented by one delegate, with one alternate named, to participate on the new committee. Further, any municipalities undergoing restructuring moves report to the municipal-based committee which will, in turn, report to county council;

n all county municipal councils will receive a report of the April 20 retreat;

n each municipality is charged to find a partner or partners with whom to talk amalgamation.

Cramahe Reeve Stu Oliver said the majority of municipalities support "getting our own house in order - the municipalities - before we tackle the

county.

"It could be the municipalities get their act together by the year 2000 and then tackle the county."

"That was the consensus of the group," Cramahe Deputy reeve Jim Williams agreed.

There was not complete consent, the township delegates noted. Hope Township Reeve Ian Angus proposed dismantling county government immediately, and Colborne Reeve George Boycott wants county municipalities to establish a one-tier government at the outset.

Charged with finding dance partners for amalgamation, Cramahe Township maintains Colborne Village is still the first logical partner. However, already approached by Haldimand Township to the west and Alnwick Township to the northwest, all options should be put on the table, the municipal reps recommend. In addition, there is potential to talk with Brighton Town and

Brighton Township, both of which are pursuing amalgamation, but would consider extending boundaries to include talks with Cramahe Township and Colborne Village.

The push is on to get amalgamation plans on the table by June 30, 1998. Cramahe Township moved to invite Colborne to talk possible municipal amalgamation at a 6 p.m. May 4 meeting at Castleton - a first-choice opener before talking to other municipalities.