

Colborne and Cramahe amalgamation

County approval will cement union agreement

By MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

Colborne Village and Cramahe Township moved one step closer to formalizing their amalgamation August 11. With both municipal councils endorsing the move to form one municipality to take effect January 1, 2001, their intention now moves to Northumberland County council for endorsement.

"If the motion is endorsed by a simple majority of county council

representing over 50 per cent of the electors, the proposal moves forward to the (provincial) ministry (of Municipal Affairs and Housing)," ministry official Bob Maddocks explained to the joint meeting of both Colborne and Cramahe councils.

"If county council approves the proposal, the Minister has no capacity to refuse to accept it. He must issue an order," Mr. Maddocks said.

With the two municipalities endorsing their amalgamation, the push is now on to have it go before Northumberland County council for approval. With county council scheduled to meet August 19 (Wednesday), there was to be an attempt to have the amalgamation proposal placed on the county council agenda.

If the proposal is accepted, Colborne and Cramahe councils will meet as one combined "transition team" for the year 2000 to deal with all municipal business in preparation for amalgamation. With all members of Col-

borne and Cramahe councils sitting on the board, 10 people will be handling local business.

"That means there could be a stalemate vote," noted Colborne Reeve George Boycott. "What happens if a vote cannot be resolved?"

In that case, said Mr. Maddocks, the transition team can move to mediation.

If that fails, then the joint councils would apply for provincial arbitration with the decision of the arbitrator being final.

To date, the Colborne Cramahe talks have determined the following highlights for amalgamation:

■ the new municipality is tentatively called the Township of Cramahe. That move avoids the cost of establishing new legal framework and

terminology. The village of Colborne proper will be dissolved. The new township name can be altered in 2001 if a request is made to the provincial Minister.

■ The first municipal election for the new municipality will be held in the year 2000. The new council will consist of five elected positions: one Reeve, one Deputy-reeve and three Councillors.

The new council members will be elected "at large" - there will be no ward systems of representation. The Reeve will continue to be the County Council representative.

■ the Colborne PUC will be dissolved and replaced with a new PUC that serves the customers presently served and with all costs involved for water, sewage

and electrical service levied to the users.

■ On January 1, 2001, the Colborne Public Library Board and the Cramahe Library Board are dissolved. Effective the same date, a new Cramahe Public Library Board will be established.

■ Other local boards to be dissolved and replaced are: the Colborne Cramahe Community Centre Board of Management, the Colborne Cramahe Fire Department, the Colborne Cemetery Board, LACAC Committees, Museum Board, Colborne and Cramahe Recreation Committees, Committee of Adjustment and Property Standards Committee.

■ Reserve funds set aside now for specific municipal projects, e.g. County Road 2 maintenance, will remain

dedicated to those purposes.

Parkland reserves and reserve funds will become the reserves and reserve funds of the new municipality.

The surpluses of former municipalities, if there are any, will become the surpluses of the new township.

■ The name of the "transition board" of the two councils will officially be known as "the Cramahe Transition Board".

■ For the year 2000, the Cramahe Transition Board will review and approve all financial transactions of the former Cramahe and Colborne municipalities in excess of \$10,000 that have not been included in the approved Municipal Operating budgets for the year 2000.