

LOCAL NEWS

Restoration hinges on money

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If the money can be raised, restoration of the Castleton Municipal Building will go ahead.

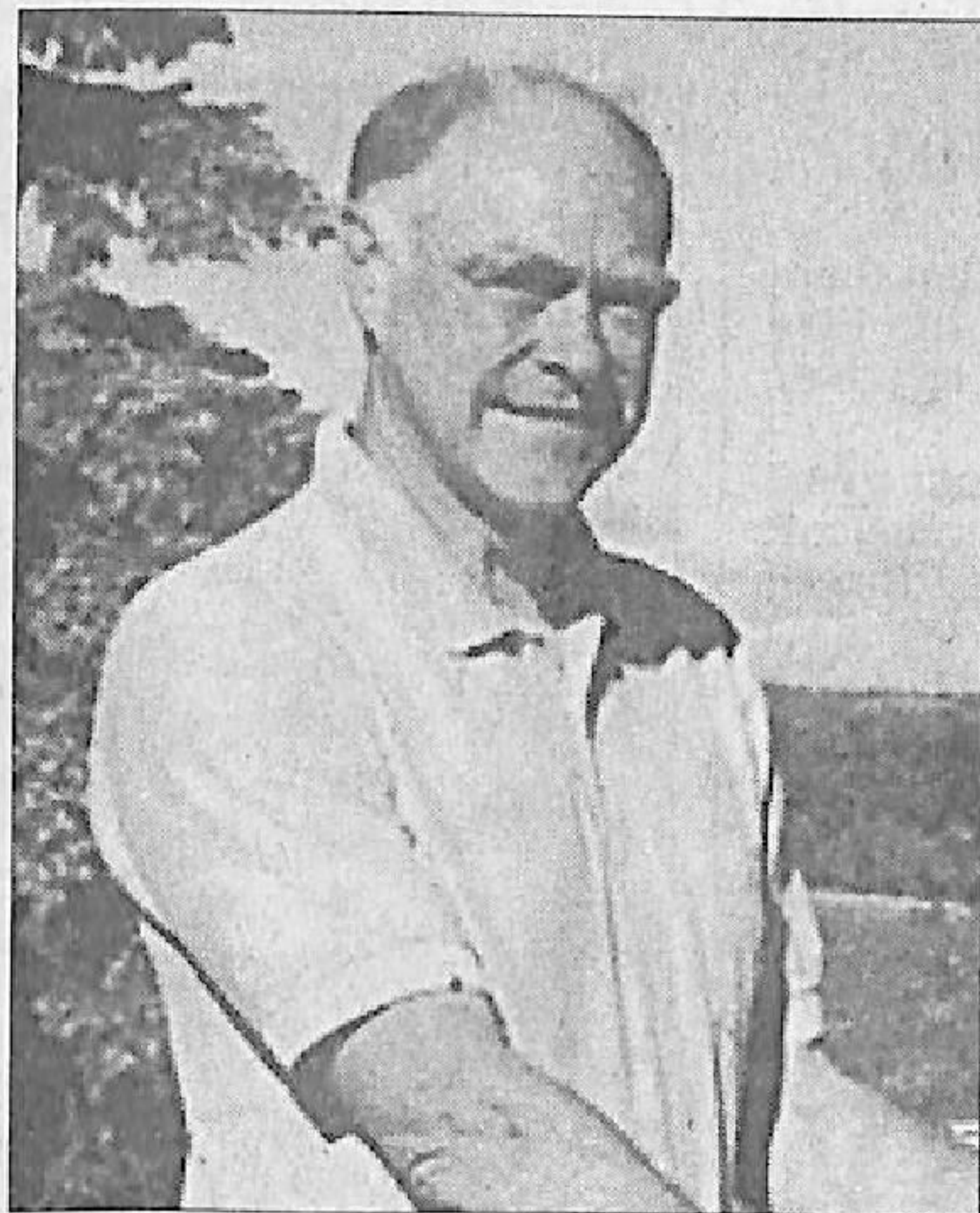
Colborne and Cramahe municipal council members approved formation of a six-person committee to investigate possibility of proceeding with the restoration at last Thursday's transition Board meeting. Three members will be appointed by the Cramahe Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC). Representing Cramahe Township will be Reeve Stu Oliver and Councillor Marc Coombs and from Colborne Councillor Jane Boreham.

Three Castleton Municipal Hall restoration scenarios, ranging from \$94,577 to \$164,107, were presented to the Colborne-Cramahe Transition Board for consideration. The Transition Board heard the details at its October 7 meeting in the very hall under discussion last Thursday evening.

"We suggest the amalgamation "Transition Committee, with the support of both Cramahe Township and Colborne councils, appoint a committee responsible to the amalgamation Transition Committee to coordinate the Cramahe Millennium Project of the restoration of the Castleton Town Hall," the Cramahe Township LACAC committee recommended.

Keith Emery attended last Thursday's meeting to discuss the findings and proposals for the hall.

Proposed as a Cramahe Township Millennium project, the township municipal building is slated to be dropped as a municipal administration centre with the amalgamation of Colborne Village and Cramahe Township January 1, 2001. Rather than have the 1983 building fall from grace, the Cramahe Township Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee is urg-



Keith Emery

ing the community as a whole get behind the restoration of the hall. The building contains a stage, balcony (now enclosed and not used for public functions) on its top floor. On the lower level, where the township administration offices and Cramahe Public Library currently share space, there is also the original jail cell plus a bank vault with door.

In consultation with Keiffer Homes Ltd., a local experienced restoration contractor, Cramahe LACAC undertook an extensive survey of the building, including mechanical, structural and architectural components.

The good news is the structural integrity of the building appears to be sound. The slate roof is in excellent condition.

Attributes of the building currently hidden include the original 8-10-inch wide planks of the original floor, now covered

over with a hardwood floor. There is one false ceiling plus an additional tiled ceiling over the original ceiling.

If the downstairs municipal offices go, expand the library to cover most of the ground floor area of the building, the LACAC committee suggests. It would mean the Cramahe Public Library would double, m even triple, in size. A partition wall along the west downstairs would place the old jail cell, vault and new apart from the library, accessible from new, ramped entrance way from the west end of the building.

A second ramp access to the upper floor with its stage and balcony would make the entire building handicapped-accessible.

The \$94,577 proposal includes:

- demolition and removal of rubbish (\$8,000-\$12,000);
- repair and refinish original pine floors (\$7,900);
- handicap access ramp (\$7,400);
- wall repair (\$14,000);
- storm windows (\$5,972);
- new wiring (\$6,875);
- new plumbing (\$4,200) - might not be required;
- attic insulation (\$3,500);
- carpentry: stage repair, new entry stairs, new understage stairs, new oval windows, reinstalling of original doors, balcony and all trim repair (\$19,700);
- painting interior (\$7,700-10,000);
- new doors to basement level (\$3,380) and exterior front (\$4,050); and
- new basement wall (\$1,900).

The \$109,477 proposal includes:

- all features of the \$94,577 proposal;
- exterior brick repair (\$4,200);
- aluminum eaves troughs (\$1,700); and
- removal of aluminum soffits, repair exterior trim, paint exterior trim, etc. (\$9,000).

The \$164,107 proposal includes:

- all options of the first and second, plus:
- plaster walls (\$27,000);
- stripping trim and windows (\$11,000-14,000);
- air conditioning (\$8,250) - might be part of the expanded library budget;
- new ductwork and furnace (\$11,200) - might be part of the expanded library budget; and
- copper eaves troughs (\$4,280).

Original hall cost \$3,900 in 1898

The Castleton Town Hall was built in 1893 at a cost of \$3,900, reputedly by a contractor or architect names Crowe.

The original Crown Patent was issued to the Canada Company on May 30, 1830. There was a need for a township hall, so in 1892, part of village Lot 25 was purchased. Jane Gaffield sold this part of the lot to the Corporation of the Township of Cramahe for \$150.

The township purchased the area south of the hall in 1966 from Willett and Rhoda Peebles for the sum of \$2,000. This part of Lot 25 is now used as lawn.

In the early 1970s, a fire that started in the "jail" almost gutted the basement. The single holding cell was being used to store township records. A large portion of the upper floor in front of the stage was burned. Most of the existing renovations occurred after the fire.

In 1983, the area used as the parking lot was purchased for the sum of \$3,000. The grantors were Donald and Emily May.

The north half of the slate roof was installed in 1989, the south half in 1990.

1993
not
1983