

Speaking their mind at Legion contest

Young people have interesting and entertaining things to say and stories to relate. Recognizing that, the Colborne Legion, Branch 187, is providing the forum - and incentive for elementary school students in this area.

The annual Legion Public Speaking/Story Telling Contest will be held at the Colborne Legion Sunday, February 14, starting at 1 p.m.

All three area schools, Colborne, Castleton and South Cramahe, send speakers to compete in three divisions: Story

Telling for Grades 1, 2, and 3 students; Public Speaking for Grades 4, 5, and 6; and Public Speaking for Grades 7 and 8.

The winners at the Branch 187 level will go on to compete at the Zone level on February 28, at Brighton Branch 100.

Interested members of the community are welcome to attend the event. It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



The jewel in the crown of Colborne architecture is the Keeler homestead at 9 Church Street West. Marian Carter has asked the home be designated to ensure the historical and architectural heritage of the home she and her husband, the late Nick Carter, treasured is preserved for future generations. See story on page 2.

Photo by Mandy Martin

Fund-raising for the future of Victoria Square Park trees

Colborne's "hidden forest" in Victoria Square Park requires ongoing attention.

Following the report of a professional tree care specialist in 1997, the village learned many of the trees in the village's central park were in dire need of fertilization, pruning, aeration - or replacement.

"During 1998, Colborne Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee volunteers received some donations and raised monies to care for your designated Victoria Square," LACAC Chair Greg McMahon reported to village council.

The work undertaken, including the planting of a new chestnut tree, totalled \$1,015 in 1998. The funds came from fund-raising ventures.

"This year, we are moving to phase two of the work in Victoria Square that will entail pruning of the larger trees, cabling two, and more fertilizing," notes Mr. McMahon. "This work alone will cost about \$700.

"We would like to plant another new tree this year and it could vary, depending on the size and species

selected, anywhere from \$300 to \$500 plus taxes."

Many of the existing trees in the park are weak. The soft woods, like the sugar maples, do not weather well as they age. To that end, new plantings will be hard woods.

Last year, funds were raised, in part, through a book raffle. Author Jane Urquhart generously contributed signed copies of her hardcover books. This year, a raffle for a dinner for four at the Mill restaurant in Cobourg is underway to offset costs of Victoria Square Park tree maintenance.

In addition, the Colborne LACAC is inviting those who love the village landmark, enjoy its history and aesthetic, to make a donation to ensure its beauty is preserved for future generations.

"Every little bit helps," notes Mr. McMahon.

Cheques can be made out to "Colborne LACAC", and dropped off at the Colborne Municipal Offices during regular business hours, or mailed to Box 32, Colborne, ON K0K 1S0.

- Mandy Martin

On the "fringe"? Development stays restricted

A 1.5-kilometre wide "fringe" of land separating the Village of Colborne and Cramahe Township boundaries is expected to remain intact as a no-go for development after adoption of a new Pine Ridge Municipal Planning Agency Official Plan, and after the proposed amalgamation of the two municipalities January 1, 2001.

The "Urban/Rural Fringe" is included in the existing Official Plans (the documents which outline land use) of both municipalities. The area was established to prevent undue urban pressure for village services from outlying rural areas surrounding the village.

When the provincial government downloaded services, formerly administered by the government, to municipalities, planning was included, along with roads, social services, policing, fire, ambulance and other items. The village of Colborne, and Cramahe

Township, banded together with six other Northumberland County municipalities to form a senior level of planning authority and approval to finalize zoning and Official Plan amendments - and develop a comprehensive overall land use plan for their territory. All municipal land use activities - including land severance's and rezonings- must comply not only with the local, individual municipal Official Plans, but also the larger Official Plan of the Pine Ridge Municipal Planning Agency (PRMPA).

Andrew McNeely, planner/secretary-treasurer of the PRMPA, explained the draft Official Plan, if approved by the eight member municipalities, will be forwarded to the province for final approval. Once received, the agency will then have the final say on land use matters.

"You could roll your Official Plan into the PRMPA Official Plan as a "secondary" plan," Mr. McNeely explained. In doing so, existing village land use policies and aims would be continued.

"There are some issues," Colborne Councillor Tim Post noted. "The Peter Hughes proposed development falls within the fringe on the north and south (of the present village boundary), as does the industrial park to the north. There may be sewage demands from that area, and land owners to the south and west."

- Mandy Martin

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