

# \$338,000 amalgamation funding grant

COLBORNE CHRONICLE  
APR 22/99

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A \$338,000 cheque is in the mail from the provincial government to offset amalgamation costs for Colborne Village and Cramahe Township.

On March 19, the Transition Board comprised all council members of both Colborne and Cramahe had submitted an application for \$465,000 - their estimate of the costs eligible under the provincial Municipal Restructuring Fund grant program - to unite the two municipalities at the Township of Cramahe effective January 1, 2001. Under the application, the maximum allowable for grant monies was 75 per cent of the total application cost.

"We received 96 per cent of the 75 per cent eligible," Transition Board co-chairs Pat Westrope of Colborne and Jim Williams of Cramahe Township announced last Thursday evening.

The local application was by far the most successful of 11 applications in eastern Ontario.

"The next highest was 66 per cent of the eligible amount," Mr. Williams reported. "We don't know the dollar amounts of the other municipalities, but we have been told the percentage of grant acceptance."

Municipal staff who prepared the grant application are being credited with the success.

"It is in large part due to the work of staff of the village of Colborne and the Township of Cramahe," Mr. Williams emphasized.

"They did a tremendous amount of work in supporting every aspect of the application," Ms. Westrope noted, "and within a very short timeframe - one week."

On March 12, the provincial government announced \$10-million in grant money was available to municipalities undergoing restructuring. But, and it was a big but, the applications for the funding had to be made within seven days' time. Colborne and Cramahe councils had an emergency meeting March 16, following the regular Cramahe Township council meeting, to put together a funding application.

ing the money out before the actual projects are undertaken, rather than after as has been past practice.

This week, 80 per cent of the \$338,000 being received should be arriving by cheque for the Transition Board to bank and utilize to defray amalgamation costs. The remaining 20 per cent of the \$338,000 grant will be given following a cost audit of what the municipalities stated would actually be spent.

"The funds are to cover costs the year prior to amalgamation and the two years after amalgamation," Ms. Westrope said.

With official amalgamation set for January 1, 2001, the grant monies will apply to the years 2000, 2001, and 2002. Starting January 1, 2000, both municipal councils will meet together as one body for the year with all 10 elected representatives (five from each municipality). Following amalgamation, the total number of elected representatives drops to five people - a Reeve, Deputy reeve and three councillors to cover the geographic area that is now both Colborne Village and the Township of Cramahe.

Throughout Ontario, the seven-day window of opportunity in March garnered 22 applications, 10 from eastern Ontario (the Colborne-Cramahe application, and nine from Renfrew County).

The \$338,000 in grant money will be allocated amongst 12 areas including:

- office and facilities consolidation;
- moving expenses;
- labour adjustments (uniform wages);
- information and technical integration
- communication systems integration;
- communication to the public;
- planning document consolidation;
- bylaw and file consolidation;
- legal auditing fees; and
- new signage and stationery.

The next meeting of the Colborne-Cramahe Transition Board is scheduled for May 3. Prior to that meeting, the administration subcommittee met April 22, and the operations subcommittee April 15.

To add weight to their request for \$465,000 requested, the councils allocated an estimated \$350,000 for the renovation of the Colborne Municipal building. (The largest balance of the funding remaining to go to installation of a new accounting/computer system capable of handling municipal books - and Colborne water billing). The March 16 Transition Board meeting had tense moments. In the end, a 7-3 vote supported the Colborne Municipal Building for funding.

At the March 23, Transition Board meeting, Bob Maddocks, eastern Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, praised the application submitted for funding, citing it as one of the top five he had ever seen. He had high praise for the municipal staff who worked on the grant submission.

The province has stated it is giv-

## Wage increases for Cramahe Twp. staff

A five per cent wage increase in hourly wages was approved for Cramahe Township Public Works employees at Monday's township council meeting. The new salary settlement includes a payment of overtime after working a regular 40-hour week, and permission to accumulate an additional week in lieu time for overtime.

Township administrative staff were granted a 3.5 per cent salary increases.

All increases are retroactive to January 1, 1999.

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**MCKINLAY, REGINALD CLARKE**  
At the Northumberland Health Care Centre, Cobourg, on Monday April 19, 1999, in his 79th year. Reg McKinlay beloved husband of Alice (nee Rowland). Loving father of Dorenda and her husband Ray Turk of Baltimore, Robert and his wife Nancy of Grafton, Diane Cane of Baltimore, Brian and his wife Sue of Peterborough. Dear grandfather of Mark, Kim, Brian, Matthew, Jason, Hilary, Tyler, Tim and Kate. Great grandfather of Nathan, Andrew, Jordan, Brittany, Brooke and Chase. Brother of Doreen Buttar, Ron, Marian Davidson, Margaret Cameron and Paul. Funeral service will be held at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home 30 King St. E. Cobourg, on Thursday April 22 at 2:00pm. Interment Plainville Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Wednesday from 7-9pm and Thursday from 1pm until time of service. In lieu of flowers, donations by cheque to the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the McKinlay family.

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**HASTIE, JOSEPH ANDREW**  
At the Northumberland Health Care Centre, Cobourg on Thursday, April 15, 1999. Joseph Andrew Hastie of Colborne was the beloved husband of Mary Donella Hastie (nee Giles). Dear father of Kevin Hastie of Kingston, Donald Hastie of Woodstock and Cheryl and her husband Adam Hofmann of Innerkip. Grandfather of Ryan, Laura, Jesse and Mellisa. Brother of Eleanor and her husband Stan Triemestra of Woodstock and Mildred and Glen McComb of Bancroft. A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 18, 1999 at 4pm. at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King St. W., Colborne. Interment was held at the Oxford Memorial Park, Woodstock, Ontario. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations by cheque to the Canadian Diabetes Society or the Canadian Cancer Society, would be appreciated by the family.