

# Cramahe expects "slight" tax drop

COLBORNE CHRONICLE June 10/99

It's going to be another year for delayed tax bills.

But, Cramahe Township taxpayers can expect decreases in their 1999 tax bill from 1998 township Administrator Treasurer Gerry Morrison informed council Monday night.

"It will probably not be until the beginning of August" until Cramahe Township final 1999 tax bills are sent out township, Mr. Morrison predicted.

And, as in 1998, the township is trying to sort out provincial government information. In 1998, Ontario municipalities could not send

out their final tax bills until well past the six-month mark of the year. A year ago, the municipalities were waiting for the provincial government to release its new education assessment figures.

In 1999, all 13 Northumberland County municipalities must sign off on a government-designed computer program for the commercial and industrial taxpayers. The program will calculate the government's order to "cap" taxes for those two assessment categories at 10 per cent in 1998, another five per cent for 1999 and a further five per cent in the year 2000.

"Until the county has all county municipalities sign off on the OPTA program as being accurate, the process is held up," Mr. Morrison told council.

What the township does know, however, is that commercial and industrial properties will have a 1999 tax rate that is equal to 15 per

cent of the 1997 tax rate.

"No classes (of taxes) will be sent off until they are all finalized," Mr. Morrison said.

There's a 1999 decrease in store for residential taxpayers, too.

"It is a small decrease, but it is a decrease of 2.6 per cent mainly because the education rate has dropped from .0046 (for \$1,000 of value) to .0041, and the county rate in 1999 has dropped drastically because of the government refunds for social services and land ambulance," Mr. Morrison calculated.

The township has faced increases in expenditures for 1999: \$50,000 more for police in 1999 over 1998, and an additional \$81,000 not being paid out by the provincial government this year in Community Restructuring Funding.

"We're looking at a 2.6 per cent reduction in taxes on a \$100,000 home, or another assessment base," Mr. Morrison reported.



PUMPS - PLUMBING  
TREATMENT

OUR WATER

541

## Lola the Llama is a Mom!



Photo by Mandy Martin

There's a new addition to the Llama family at Rutherford's Fruit Market in Colborne. After a year of pending parenthood, Larry and Lola (Llama) are pleased to announce the birth of Lollipop last Sunday morning. Weighing in at an estimated 25 pounds, cocoa-coloured Lollipop has charmed the market menagerie (except Gorgeous George the gander who resents the attention diverted from his new brood of 16 ducklings).

Larry, Lola and Lollipop wish to thank Dave and Paula for their care and sponsorship.

1