

Merger madness making sense

COLBORNE CHRONICLE June 17/99

BY MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The domino relocation of municipal services is on. Colborne and Cramahe councils are now agreed: the Colborne Municipal Building will be the administrative centre for the newly-amalgamated municipality of the Township of Cramahe.

That one move results in two others. The new administrative offices will bump the Colborne Library to the present Colborne fire hall. That move results in the relocation of the Colborne operations of the Colborne-Cramahe Fire Department to the existing Public Utilities Building on Victoria Street in Colborne.

The scenario, originally proposed by Colborne municipal council two months ago, was stalled until the two municipalities of Colborne and Cramahe came to agreement. Now, having crunched costs of various relocation and renovation options, the cause-and-effect sequence results in the original proposals.

"The Transition Board met two weeks ago and we talked about renovations to the town hall," Colborne Reeve George Boycott says. "We had a cost estimate of

around \$280,000 to renovate the first floor, and we agreed we should proceed with that option. The plans include an elevator on the building."

A \$338,000 provincial government Municipal Restructuring Fund grant is specifically allocated for amalgamation costs. Municipal Office renovations will be funded by the grant money.

The cost estimates for options also included an additional \$120,000 estimate to renovate the top floor of the Municipal Building to house the Colborne Library, or another \$220,000 to relocate the library to the basement.

"Both those options (for the library) were no-goes," Reeve Boycott reports. The Transition Board also rejected putting the library in a proposed Seniors building at the corner of Victoria and Arthur Streets.

The decision was reached: relocate the library to the present firehall, next door to the Municipal Building.

"There was some

discussion about relocating the fire hall to a new building, but that was too expensive," notes Reeve Boycott. "We have other things that need fixing up, like the arena and other projects."

The eventual decision was to relocate the Colborne fire department to the PUC building on Victoria Street.

"What we're hoping to do is close the library in August for a month and do up the fire hall in August and move the firehall in mid-July," Reeve Boycott says. "The PUC thinks it can be out of the back part of their building by mid-July. The front part of the

building will remain for water and hydro."

Detailed drawings are now being prepared for the projects. The Municipal Building renovations will go to tender once the specifications are completed.

The Transition Board members are the 10 elected Colborne Village and Cramahe Township council members. The board has been meeting regularly to hammer out details pre-amalgamation January 1, 2001.

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— George Boycott

LOCAL

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A leader in fibre optics

Christopher Eoll was a senior scientist in research, development and engineering

Christopher Kenneth Eoll, 58, of Hickory, North Carolina, died in hospital May 22, 1999 after a six-month battle with cancer.

Born August 2, 1940, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, he was the son of George Kenneth Eoll and the late Daphne Marshall Eoll of Colborne (formerly of Thunder Bay and Atikokan, Ontario).

He was a graduate of the Fort William Collegiate Institute. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in physics in 1962, a Master of Science degree in theoretical physics in 1964 from Queen's University, Kingston, and a Ph.D. in mathematical physics in 1967 from the University of Toronto, fol-

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lowed by a post-doctoral fellowship for two years split between the University of Sussex in Falmer, England, and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.

From 1964 to 1977, he was employed by Canada Wire and Cable Ltd., Toronto, where his final position was Product Development Manager for the Communication Products Division. In 1977, he moved to Hickory and joined Superior Cable Corporation as Technical Director. When Superior was taken over by Sietcor, a joint venture of Siemens of Germany and Corning

Glass, New York state, he joined the new firm. At the time of his death, he was the Senior Scientist in Research, Development and Engineering. Over the years, Mr. Eoll played a significant role in the development and use of fibre optics in telecommunications in North America and elsewhere.

Christopher is survived by his wife Caroline Eoll of Hickory, by his father George Kenneth Eoll of Colborne, by two daughters Deborah Christine Diplock of Thunder Bay and Catherine Ana Smith

of Brampton, Ontario, and a son George Christopher Eoll of Toronto.

Also surviving are sister Penelope Daphne Numbers of Dorion, Ontario, and foster-brother Mathew James Sullivan of Hamilton, Ontario, five grandsons and one granddaughter.

Christopher Eoll was the grandson of the late George E. Eoll, former long-time Fort William alderman, and his wife the late Nellie Eoll.

A memorial service for Christopher was held in Hickory on May 26, 1999.

Make it a truly Happy

Public elementary teachers say yes to new contract

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS June 15/99

Elementary school teachers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday night to adopt a contract offered by the local public school board, much to their union president's relief.

Gayle Miller had expected members to support the contract she and her team negotiated in March, but 58 per cent of those who voted on that deal said no thanks.

More than 800 teachers attended the briefing session at the Rock Haven Convention Centre before this week's vote, Ms. Miller says. Some of them left without casting a ballot, confident their co-workers would pass it, she adds.

Ms. Miller didn't raise her hopes until all 796 ballots were counted - 736 yes votes, 60 no votes.

"After the last time, I was not

going to make any guesses on what the members would choose, she says.

Teachers liked the changes made to the previous tentative contract, Ms. Miller says.

She can't make those details public unless school board trustees also vote to accept the contract Thursday night.

"I feel very positive

today...now we can get on with life and pulling this board together as one board," Ms. Miller says.

The local Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario brings together four former unions from both the Peterborough and Northumberland-Clarington boards that merged Jan. 1, 1998.

The union represents 1,475 teachers.