

Thursday, August 19, 1999

COLBORNE

CHRONICLE

Cramahe road super loses her post

Cramahe Township Road Superintendent Michelle Hendry returned from holiday August 9 to termination papers.

"Her employment has been terminated," Cramahe Township Reeve Stu Oliver confirmed August 11. "It was a decision of council. I cannot say more than that."

Asked if the "dismissal" had anything to do with the upcoming amalgamation of Colborne Village and Cramahe Township and the meshing of two municipal staffs into one, Reeve Oliver said, "Oh, no. It had nothing at all to do with that."

Ms. Hendry, hired as the township Road Superintendent two years ago, had been on two weeks' vacation when she returned to work August 9. She was called to a meeting at 9 a.m. where she received her notice of termination.

Ms. Hendry was given a short period of time to clear out her office. The township changed the locks on the doors after her departure.

Cramahe council had held an in-camera "special" meeting to discuss Ms. Hendry's employment on August 4. The meeting lasted 45 minutes. (The regular council meeting for August was scheduled for Monday, August 16).

Asked how the Road Superintendent's duties were being covered in the interim, Reeve Oliver said Mr. Williams is Acting Superintendent. Asked if the position would be advertised, Reeve Oliver said "I don't know. Council will decide."

- Mandy Martin



Early morning treasures

"I'm having a lot of fun!" Doreen Clark at 42A Toronto Road reported just before 9 a.m. Saturday morning. "The first people started coming before 7 a.m. I've sold a lot already."

Colborne's second annual Trash 'N Treasures community-wide yard sale attracted thousands of visitors.

PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

Cramahe opts for NHCC fund

Township objects to a levy on taxpayers for new hospital

By MANDY MARTIN
Staff Writer

Putting the *carte* before the *blanche*, Cramahe Township council is setting aside \$250,000 for a new hospital at Cobourg.

The move side-steps any action by the Northumberland county level of government to place an annual per household levy for the next five years to raise an estimated \$6-million for the new hospital at Cobourg.

Cramahe Township will take \$250,000 from its existing \$1.3-million in current reserves.

The money will be placed in a separate account and forwarded only on request once construction of a new hospital begins.

"One aspect of doing it this way that appeals to me versus a levy is that we're controlling the money,"

Cramahe Township Deputy Reeve Jim Williams said Monday night. "If we had a levy, and they needed more in the future, then they (the county) could have an annual (household) levy for longer than five years."

Three representatives of Northumberland Health Care Corporation (Jim vanCamp, Brian Hart and Don Morrison) attended the Monday night council meeting soliciting support for a county-level financial contribution. A levy of \$50 per household for each of five years was given as an example.

With an estimated 1,400 households, that levy represented \$350,000 from Cramahe taxpayers. However, township residents use three hospitals: Cobourg, Trenton or Campbellford, council members noted.

"I am really against a levy," Deputy Reeve Williams told the NHCC delegation. "I have a concern about a municipal levy for what is a legislated federal/provincial responsibility." Recreation is a municipal responsibility. If we turn around in six months or less to contribute for

that particular project - and this is a probability - I have no problem with that because recreation is the legislated responsibility of the municipality to provide those services. The municipality levies taxes and pays."

If the township assumes federal and provincial responsibilities, "all these add-ons" to the municipal tax levy are for projects the municipality "has no control over", a trend Deputy Reeve Williams does not support.

"I'm concerned we will have to make up a deficit if Port Hope or Hope Township do not support the hospital at all," Councillor Jennifer Scott Tinney said.

"I don't want to see a levy on a tax bill either," Councillor Marc Coombs stated. "Nor do I want it on all households because not all our residents support Cobourg hospital."

But, sighed Councillor Ernie Stoneman, the area does need a hospital.

Two hours after the NHCC delegation had departed, Cramahe council opted for a two-thirds household calculation (\$231,000) and rounded the figure up to \$250,000. With the funds pulled from existing reserves to be paid when construction begins on a new hospital, the council avoids having an annual county-driven levy on municipal taxpayers, avoids having to absorb any levy shortfall, and retains control of the funds remitted.

To date, the town of Cobourg, Alwicks Township and Colborne Village are on record supporting the NHCC's proposed \$6-million from county coffers for a new Cobourg hospital.

Hamilton Township is expected to make a decision at its September 7 meeting. Haldimand Township is also expected to make a decision in September.

The Town of Port Hope and Hope Township have yet to make, or indicate when, a hospital funding decision will be made.