



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT ALL 'ROUND

The second annual Old St. Andrew's Colborne and Area House Tour June 10 was a very successful tour again," Eileen Rutherford of the Old St. Andrew's Women's Auxiliary (WA) reports. The WA is, in turn, sharing the spirit. Two cheques are going out for community projects: one for the new Cobourg hospital, the second \$300 cheque for the new Colborne Cramahe Arena.

"We were so pleased and grateful with the support of the community, and our hostesses," Orletta Kernaghan reports.

WA members, left to right, Eileen Rutherford, Orletta Kernaghan and Bev Denny gather on the steps of Old St. Andrew's in Colborne for a post-tour cheque presentation.

"The community supported us and we want to support the community," says Mrs. Denny.

# Ministry closes building site

COLBORNE CHRONICLE June 29/00

BY MANDY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

The Ontario Ministry of Labour has closed the Masonic Lodge site at 43 King Street east to human access.

"They felt there was some danger to workers around the portion of the walls standing and on the roof itself," Jim Grimshaw, Senior Warden of Colborne Lodge No 91 reported to Colborne Village council Monday night.

Mr. Grimshaw and his son Greg, Senior Warden of the Colborne Lodge No. 91, appeared as a delegation to outline the status of the Masonic building. At 5:55 a.m. Sunday, the rear second floor roof on the downtown Colborne building collapsed inward. The Masonic Lodge and a meeting room are located on the second floor of the building. The first floor is leased to the Town of Colborne which, in turn, leases the space to dentist Dr. Tovi Luong (and dentist Fred Williams) and the local Community Policing volunteers.

"We are now in the process of getting quotes from expert demolition companies to meet the Ministry of Labour specs. As a result of the ministry issuing a controlled demolition order, we have to have specialized equipment that can pickup bricks and pieces singly at a distance of 20 feet from any worker or equipment. There are no local companies who have this equipment, so we must get quotes from companies from as far away as Kingston and Toronto."

"We have no building insurance, no content insurance. The only insurance we have is liability," Jim Grimshaw informed Colborne Village.

At present, the Lodge is dealing with Shawn O'Connell of the Hamilton Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and James Doubt, a professional structural engineer to determine what insurance coverage there is.

"We are setting up several committee and trying to find a location from which to work, and an area to store regalia, furniture and books we were able to salvage from the building. We would like to keep it all in one spot."

On Sunday, June 25, in the hours

after the roof collapsed, the lodge was attempting to clear rubble from around the building and the roof to allow engineer James Doubt access to the building to determine its safety.

On Monday, utilizing Dekeyser Excavating, the Lodge was attempting to stabilize the east and west walls, which had folded outwards, and remove the second storey rear part of the roof, then shore up the front second-storey floor

and lower floor to determine if the building could be restored.

"Unfortunately, or fortunately, the Ministry of Labour appeared on the scene and closed down the site," Monday, Jim Grimshaw reported.

The Lodge is facing three alternatives for the building, he said. The first was the work that had been started Sunday and Monday before the site was closed down: stabilize what was left of the second floor, remove the rear collapsed second-floor roof, and stabilize the ground floor.

"But that alternative is now gone," Mr. Grimshaw reported.

The second alternative is to fully demolish the entire building. The third option is a partial demolition of the second floor and leave the ground floor for restoration. But, both the second and third options represent significant cost because of the Ministry of Labour's requirement for the specialized excavation equipment.



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

6:45 p.m., Sunday: A large utility pole is used in the jaws of a Dekeyser Excavating machine to reach the west wall.

pared to accept all assistance council can give us."

Whatever measure is taken with the building, the Ministry requires an emergency demolition plan and schedule, setting out how the work will be done step by step. That plan is to be prepared by the Lodge, incorporating the recommendations of its structural engineer Mr. Doubt and the specialized equipment to be brought in. That plan, is not expected to be completed before week's end, Mr. Grimshaw noted. Further, the plan will also have to be approved by the provincial Ministry of Labour before any work proceeds.

Who is policing, securing the site?, Reeve George Boycott asked.

With six "No Trespassing" signs posted, steel poles and fencing around the site, the ministry has deemed the site sufficiently posted for safety.

See next page