

# One dead following Cramahe fire

Colborne Chronicle  
Jan 3/02 BY PETE FISHER  
STAFF WRITER

One person is dead following a structure fire in Cramahe Township on Saturday morning, December 29.

The one-room shack was believed used by snowmobilers and was located just off Pogue Road near Dingman Road in Cramahe Township.

When Colborne Cramahe firefighters arrived shortly before 7 a.m. the 10' X 14' structure was engulfed in flames.

Initially firefighters were informed by a nearby resident at least one person may have been trapped in the fire. But firefighters feared there was the possibility more than one person perished because there was a snowmobile and at least one vehicle near the scene.

Fire Chief Gary Cammack said the fire was hard to access as it was several hundred feet off the roadway.

"It was way back in the woods. We had to drag hose through trees, down through a creek to the scene."

A van parked beside the shack was also destroyed in the blaze. After the fire was under control, firefighters searched the charred remains and found one body.

Lakeshore Paramedics were called for standby, but were released once the body was found. OPP cordoned off the area and the Fire Marshal was called in to determine the exact cause of the fire.

At press time police have not determined the identity of the victim.

This has been the worst year for fire fatalities in Colborne/Cramahe Township and Chief Cammack said it's taking a toll on the firefighters: "It's quit emotional for the firefighters. They realize it is part of their job, but some of them it does bother them, but that's human nature."



PHOTO BY PETE FISHER  
**BODY FOUND:**

A Colborne/Cramahe firefighter sifts through what's left of a single-room cottage north of Colborne on Saturday morning. A body was found in the cottage.

LEFT, Colborne Cramahe Firefighter Trevor Mackie, sifts through debris.

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THE INDEPENDENT

POLICE

## Cramahe man arrested after joint police operation

by NANCY POWERS  
The Independent

A Cramahe man faces several charges after he was arrested following a joint police operation during the early morning hours of January 3.

John Knapman, 35, along with Jim Ferguson, 42, of Cobourg, were both arrested for a break and enter at a Quinte West convenience store shortly before midnight on January 2.

After the robbery, Quinte West Police requested the Northumberland OPP officers to keep observation for the suspect vehicle, a white Ford Taurus wagon.

Just before 2 a.m., an officer on patrol in Cramahe Township near the Cramahe/Brighton border observed the suspect vehicle being operated westbound on County Road 2. The occupants of the vehicle fit the description given by the Quinte West police.

The officer followed the suspect vehicle through a series of secondary roads and eventually onto Highway 401 westbound from Colborne. Additional OPP units joined the pursuit. Assistance was also provided by the Cobourg and Port Hope police in the deployment of spike belts further west.

As the vehicle neared the location of the first set of spike belts, the OPP cruisers successfully executed a rolling block technique, and brought the vehicle to a stop on the shoulder.

Both occupants were arrested at that point. Knapman was further charged with impaired driving, driving while disqualified, and refusing to provide a breath sample. The accused were taken to the Quinte West Police station prior to a bail hearing.

According to OPP

Constable Chris Watkins, the techniques used by those involved effectively prevented what could have turned into a dangerous situation.

"By preparing the means to end a pursuit before it began, public safety was ensured," said Watkins. "The assistance of both Cobourg and Port Hope was instrumental in accomplishing this."