

New council inaugurated with ceremony

By MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

They stood on ceremony for the new Township of Cramahe inauguration Tuesday evening. It was well received by the 70-plus people in attendance, including county, provincial and federal government representatives.

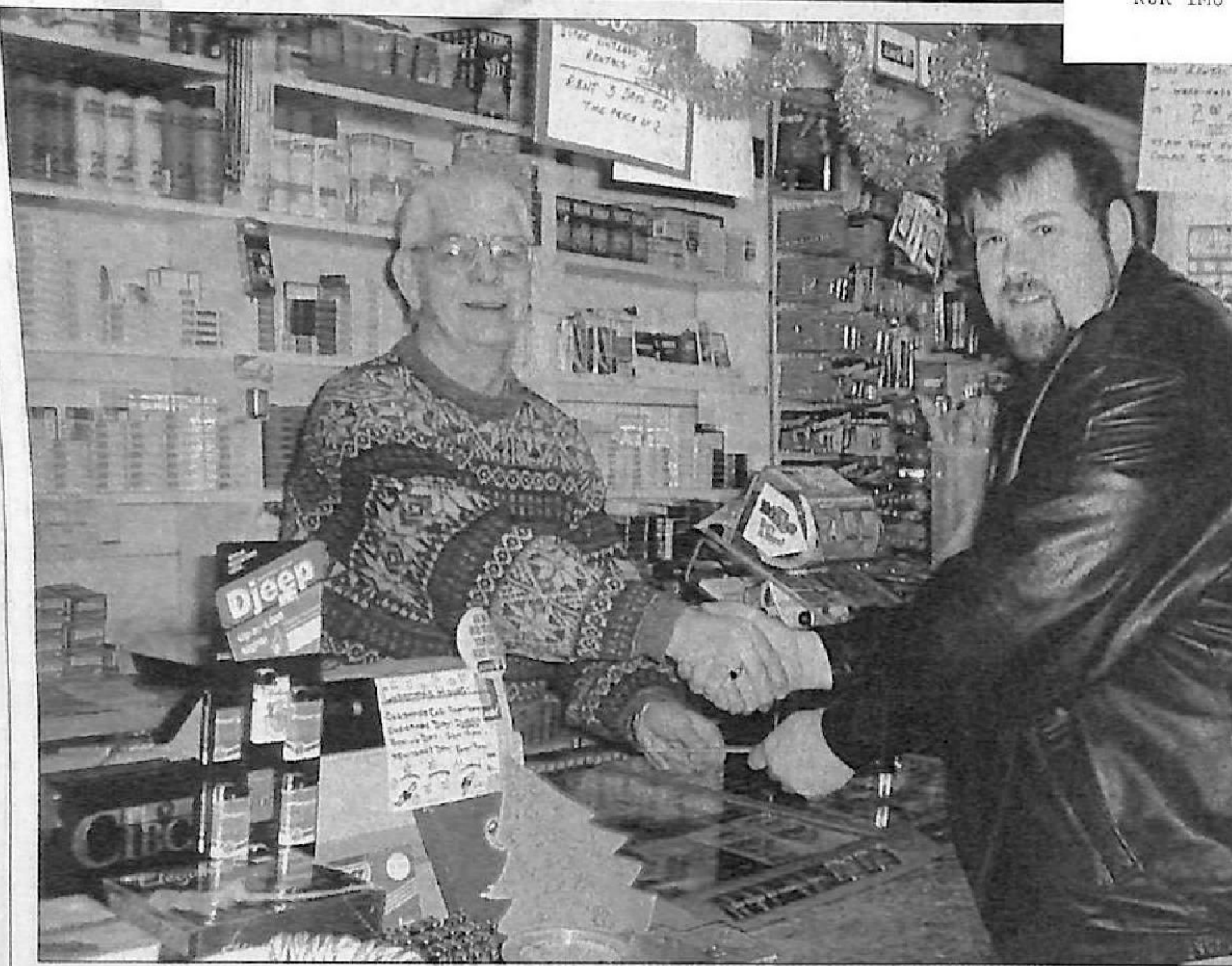
Reeve Jim Williams promised an open, accessible council committed to moving forward for the betterment of the community.

The new Township of Cramahe five elected council members each wore a fresh rose presented by municipal staff. Reeve Jim Williams, Deputy reeve Lee Dekeyser, and Councillors Michael Johnston, Ray Kelly and Jane Boreham individually swore the oath of office and then another oath of allegiance to the Queen before Justice of the Peace Patricia O'Henry.

Piper Glen McVeen of Lakeport escorted the five council members into the ceremony over 60 people waited to witness the event. Professional soloist Katie Chapman lead the singing of "O Canada". Dave McGlennon gave a recap of 200 years of history leading up to the formation of the new Township of Cramahe formed when the former Village of Colborne and Township of Cramahe merged January 1, 2001. Emcee Graham Norcutt kept order. The Rev. Vic Parsons gave the invocation.

"I would like to see as much effort as possible in each municipality in my riding go to creating employment," Northumberland MP Paul Macklin said, urging the council to make creating of jobs a priority. The MP, himself newly elected in the federal November 27 election, pledged to work with the council and praised "the knowledge and experience" the new council members bring to office.

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COMMUNITY CENTRAL

PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

In thanks for the community service provided by the Castleton General Store, proprietor Keith Olan, left, was presented with a gift certificate by the Steve Clarke of the Castleton Sports Club Inc.

COLBORNE CHRONICLE JAN 4/01

Sports club honors Keith Olan

The Castleton General Store serves as the unofficial community centre for the rural community in and around the Cramahe Township Village. It's the place people go to catch up on news of people and friends, read notices posted in the windows, note the latest fundraising drives and coming events. As "Communications Central", the general store is a vital link to the social fabric of the area.

"We're presenting Keith Olan of the Castleton General Store with a gift certificate - a token recognizing all he does for our community," Steve Clarke of the Castleton Sports Club explained as the 8 a.m. regulars streamed in to purchase newspapers, coffee and lottery tickets. "He does so much for this community and receives no payment for it. Yet, if he wasn't here, we wouldn't get our message out."

Volunteers themselves, the Castleton Sports Club executive appreciates the many acts of service and hours of volunteer support

the Castleton General Store owner and staff provide. Nevada ticket sales, posters, raffle tickets, special events postings and ticket sales - all are provided to the volunteer group at no cost by the Castleton General Store.

"Every year, Keith sells our Christmas tree ornaments here," Steve explains.

The "ornaments" are actually spaces on a paper Christmas tree. You buy a space on paper Christmas tree and the proceeds - sponsoring a lightbulb of the large Blue Spruce in front of the Castleton Town Hall.

Keith laughs at his first three years helping out with the Christmas tree project. "I'd actually go over and turn the lights on and then off later in the night," he laughs. "I thought I was saving money in electricity."

Finally, someone pointed out he was saving only a few cents each season, since the tree was hooked up to the municipal hall and bill anyway - and

Keith decided he could let the cents on that one slide.

"But the biggest thing," Steve Clarke says of the store's community support, "is the Nevada tickets. In 1995, I approached Keith about putting Nevada tickets for sale here. They support the Castleton Sports Club. To date, we have sold \$17,811 worth of tickets here."

The store is the hub of the community, Mr. Clarke notes. People drop in for supplies, newspapers, to read notices and hear what's up. As the community's "agent", Mr. Olan and his staff donate their time and effort for the benefit of all, the Sports Club says.

But Mr. Olan is adamant about where credit lies.

"These are the guys who are terrific," he says of the castleton Sports Club. "They're the ones picking up kids, doing the schedules, cleaning the ice, making the ice, coaching, refereeing. You name it and they have done it," Mr. Olan says of the community volunteers.



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

HEAVY HAMMER: A new gavel was presented to Township of Cramahe Reeve Jim Williams by Deputy clerk Trudy Merrill - and then tested at Tuesday's council inauguration.