

NEWS

Northumberland Music Festival cancelled

Spring competition had been held in county since 1940's

by STEVEN WARBURTON
The Independent

The Northumberland Music Festival will not hold its annual Spring competition this year. Ruth Harcourt, President of the NMF, says the board was lacking sufficient personnel to organize this year's festival.

"I have been trying for three years to fill the positions on the board of directors," Harcourt told *The Independent*. "We need a whole bunch of people to make it work."

Harcourt says at least one dozen volunteers were needed. The board has a treasurer, secretary, and a syllabus chairperson. It still needs two vice-presidents, at least six more chairs for various committees, and volunteer co-ordinators.

"We put a few stories in the Cobourg Star asking people to come out," says Harcourt. "We asked everyone we could think of to help out."

Unfortunately, Harcourt says, most people are just too busy to sit on the NMF's board of committees.

"Every organization is having the same problem though," Harcourt admits. "I grant that a lot of people are very busy. They have families, they are trying to hold down a full-time job,

and they are taking their children to various activities at night. Asking them to sit on a committee like this is a big commitment for them."

The Northumberland Music Festival has been in the county for 60 years. This Spring will be the first year the competition hasn't been held since World War II.

"There are over 100 classes in the competition," says Harcourt, a 20-year veteran of the organization. "There are school choirs, community choirs, church choirs, pianists, vocalists, strings. We even started a jazz and composing category."

Harcourt says the competition is open to people all across the county and that many private teachers enter their students in it.

"It is partly due to this festival that so many good musicians have come out of Northumberland," Harcourt claims, citing the likes of Brian Finley, Donna Bennett, and opera singer Nancy Hermiston.

Though she's saddened that the festival had to be cancelled this year, she doesn't know whether the outlook for next year is grim or optimistic. "Once again, it depends completely on if we can find people," she says.

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Office on hold

Council waiting on presentation from volunteers

COLBORNE CHRONICLE JAN 25/01

BY MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

A main street office location for Colborne Cramahe Community Policing is on hold. Before ruling on the volunteer organization's proposal to rent office space at 21 King Street East in Colborne, council asked the policing committee volunteers to make a presentation at the January 15 regular meeting of council.

"I calculated the rent would be \$7,800 a year, plus phone," Councillor Jane Boreham reported to the general committee meeting of council January 9.

"We're looking at \$10,000 a year," Councillor Ray Kelly estimated if the policing committee volunteers relocate from the Colborne Municipal Building.

Last November, the Colborne Cramahe Community Policing volunteer committee wrote to the Transition Board of Colborne Village and Cramahe Township to propose the office relocation. The Community Policing office had been in the former Masonic building at 41 King Street East before it was destroyed when the roof collapsed last June 25. Since then, the office has been in the Colborne Municipal Building at no cost.

The policing volunteers maintain the municipal building office "is not adequate for our needs" with limited storage space.

To rent space at 21 King Street East, where dentist Dr. To Vu Luong and dentist Fred Williams relocated after the Masonic building roof collapse, would require \$550 per

month rent plus GST, \$40-50 per month is gas heat, and \$50-60 per month for electricity, plus phone. Liability insurance for all volunteers would be included as a rider in the municipal policy.

"I think they would like to be on the main street, but this (the municipal building) is pretty central," Councillor Boreham noted.

"It's up to us to make the decision," Councillor Lee Dekeyser said. "We're the ones who pay the bill"

"Or they do," Councillor Boreham commented. Reeve Jim Williams asked staff what community policing costs were in the past year.

"It was a 50-50 general split on all costs previously," Treasurer Administrator Gerry Morrison explained. "It was no greater than \$2,500 for Cramahe last year. Total costs would not have exceeded \$5,000 last year.

"So we're talking double," Councillor Kelly said of the latest office relocation proposal.

"I think we should take a look and see if there is anything cheaper available in town," Councillor Dekeyser recommended.

"There's nothing cheaper than where they are now," Councillor Kelly noted.

"We need a little more feedback before we just discount this," Councillor Mike Johnston said. "I'd like some feedback with regard to the location. I'm not sure the program needs a walk-in or main street location. I do honestly believe it is somewhat buried in the the bowels of the municipal building here, but I'm not sure what the trade-offs are. Let's not discard this out of hand."

"We have time," Reeve Williams noted, to invite community policing representatives to outline their proposal and concerns. The council has not yet begun to prepare its' 2001 municipal budget.

Community Policing

There's nothing cheaper than where they are now.
— Councillor Ray Kelly