

No ifs, ands or butts

No smoking in any municipal buildings

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No ifs, ands or butts. All Cramahe Township buildings are now a no-smoking facility. A new township bylaw passed at Cramahe Township council Monday night makes it mandatory with no exceptions.

When council first considered its draft "no smoking" bylaw, the kitchenette on the third floor of the Colborne Municipal building was the only exemption. However, the proposed legislation came back for review when the municipal fire department, road department employees and Parks and Rec Committee raised concerns.

On October 1, a Parks and Rec delegation urged council to permit smoking on The Keeler Centre arena surface for specific age of majority events. Without the loosening of the no-smoking bylaw, attendance at fundraising events could be deleteriously affected, Parks and Rec Committee Chair Sandra Arthur said.

The Cramahe Roads Superintendent's office was also pegged for exemption in the bylaw.

But at the October 9 committee meeting, Cramahe council decided to back away altogether from any smoking anywhere in any municipal building.

"That we would even consider this when we know the affects of second hand smoke, residual smoke ... I have a real problem with this," Councillor Mike Johnston blasted. "If it's council's decision to support smoking, then I think we are at least entitled to bring in the Health Unit to make a presentation. I can't believe we're considering allowing smoking in a public facility."

A majority of people want to enter smoke-free facilities," Mr. Johnston said.

"I have to fully agree with Mike," Councillor Jane Boreham said. "After what I've been through the last two months, and I know a lot of it is self-inflicted ... I just don't know if we'll be losing revenue (at The Keeler Centre). Still, if it is a smoke-free atmosphere, it just might bring more people to an event."

"I respect what the folks from Parks and Rec said," Mr. Johnston continued, "But I don't think this is the way to go about it."

"There are people who smoke and they are people who pay taxes on it," Deputy reeve Lee Dekeyser said. "I was at the event at The Keeler Centre and I could not detect any smoke because of the air quality."

But Mr. Johnston was adamant: "We're not looking out for the health and welfare of the people. Why are we making this exception? They're smoking and exposing others to second hand smoke. I'm having problems. We're supposed to be enlightened, folks. Ask the Health Unit to come in and speak to us."

After an uncomfortable silence, Councillor Ray Kelly said, "I don't think we need the health unit to tell us. If we do this (enact a no smoking bylaw), then every area has to be smoke free - 100 per cent smoke free. Don't pick and choose which areas. The only bylaw I will go for is if all are totally smoke free. Then you have a bylaw that is totally fair to everyone, rather than in a half-passed way."

With that, council decided to approve a total smoking ban bylaw for all Cramahe Township municipal buildings.

"I suggest the Parks and Rec Committee be informed," Ms. Boreham added, "and all employees".

At the formal approval of the bylaw Monday night, Deputy reeve Lee Dekeyser was the lone dissenter. He requested his negative vote be recorded.



Savouring the Flavours!

Vanilla ice cream aficionado David O'Flynn, left, and strawberry ice cream fan Betty Chandler, right, could finally satisfy their taste buds, courtesy of Keith Olan of the Castleton General Store. It was a case of putting their money where the mouth is: Keith donated the ice cream and cones which were, in turn, sold as a fundraiser for The Keeler Centre during Grand Opening festivities last Saturday. The Castleton Store garnered considerable tongue-in-cheek criticism this past summer for lack of vanilla and strawberry-flavoured ice cream. Mr. O'Flynn was a vanilla proponent, Mrs. Chandler for strawberry.

PHOTO BY MANDY CHAPMAN

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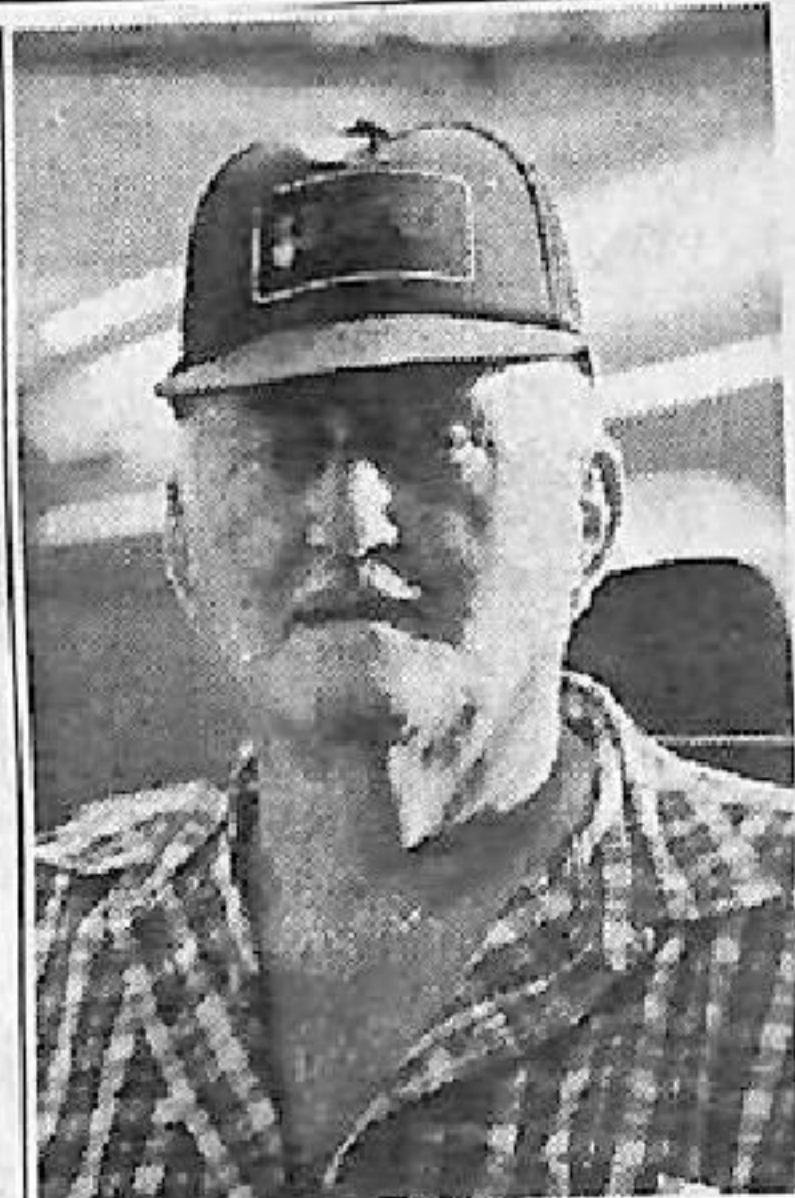
Oct. 20th

Gord & Ethel Hamden

Love

Brian & Sherry,
Bill & Keli, Wayne &
Holly, Wanda & Kevin,
Tamara & Kevin and
grandchildren

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"Les Huycke is Retiring"

The long time cattle de-horner of 35 years is calling it quits. Wishing him a happy retirement are wife children & grandchildren.

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