



POLICE REPORT

OPP members along the Highway 401 corridor are regularly called upon to transport blood for surgery or organs for transplant. When overnight delivery isn't fast enough, doctors call on the OPP.

In an unusual request, OPP officers in Toronto, Whitby, Cobourg and Napanee were asked Friday night December 6 to transport a nurse and potentially life-saving drugs to the

Kingston area where an ambulance was waiting with a newborn baby too sick to travel without medication to Sick Kids in Toronto. The Northumberland County leg of the journey, 70 km from Wesleyville Road in the west to Glen Miller Road in Trenton to the east, was completed in about 25 minutes.

As of press time, OPP report nothing is known about the child transported from Kingston later that evening. The Hospital for Sick Children is unable to release any information due to patient confidentiality.

OPP remind motorists to make way for emergency vehicles. When police, fire or emergency medical vehicles turn on the lights and siren, seconds count. Lives may hang in the balance.

A Toronto man has been summoned to Brighton traffic court after being nabbed on Hwy. 401 for speeding overnight December 3.

A Northumberland OPP officer was monitoring traffic at 3:40 a.m. when he clocked a 2002 Chev Malibu at 162 kmh.

The vehicle was stopped and the officer found that the driver had his son in the rear seat laying down without being secured by a seat belt.

The driver faces speeding charges and also a charge of allowing a passenger under the age of 16 to not wear a seat belt.

A point project between Northumberland and Peterborough County OPP detachments has had some amazing results, OPP report.

In October 2002, two members from Northumberland and two from Peterborough County detachments joined to form two patrol units on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The members work opposite shifts so there were always two members on patrol. The patrols concentrated on the trails and back roads of both counties and the Ganaraska Forest area. The program will continue until snow cover when the unit will take up patrols on snow machines.

The Northumberland OPP detachment members are Kevin Convey and Jeff LaPorte.

Whenever possible, the Central Region SAVE units will also be on patrol in the counties. On November 24, the SAVE unit laid eight off road vehicle charges and one liquor charge while on patrol in the Ganaraska Forest.

The ATV patrol stats for October 13 through November 30 are as follows: 807 km travelled; 180 ATVs checked; 55 MSVs checked; 10 pedestrians checked; 120 hunters checked; 14 incidents investigated or assisted and 797 cottage checks completed.

For the same time period, a total 62 charges were laid: 2 impaireds; 1 over 80 mg; 1 dangerous drive; 6 12-hour suspensions; 1 blood alcohol above zero; 8 LLA seizures; 15 insurance; 3 drive no licence; 5 no plates; 3 no/improper helmet; 4 off road vehicle infractions; 12 other HTA.

LOCAL NEWS

Cramahe Twp. does not shoot the deputy down

By BOB OWEN
STAFF WRITER

It seemed like a simple procedure a few weeks ago when Cramahe Council agreed to retire the title of reeve and go to the more-commonly-used title of mayor for the head of township government.

The then reeve, and now mayor, Jim Williams brought it before council on Nov. 5. Two weeks later they decided to make the change to mayor. The decision gave staff time to make the necessary changes for the municipal elections in the fall of 2003.

At its Dec. 3 meeting it agreed to continue with the position of deputy mayor.

At one time most area municipalities had Reeves. Some also had mayors and deputy Reeves as well.

The decision to have a reeve or a mayor would seem to be almost irrelevant. But at one time only the reeve and deputy reeve sat at the County of Northumberland council meetings. That has changed and so have the titles of most municipal leaders. In fact Cramahe was the only municipality sending a reeve to the county.

Cramahe maintained the title of reeve when Cramahe and Colborne amalgamated because it was recommended by the Transition Board.

With the November 19 decision it seemed like all was settled.

But hold on a minute. The issue was back in front of council on Dec. 3 with a proposal by C.A.O. Merlin Dewing.

The C.A.O. suggested that council do away with the position of deputy mayor for the next election and elect four councillors to work with the mayor.

His rationale was that there are no operational or statutory duties for a deputy mayor.

At one time the head of the township and a deputy sat on Northumberland County Council. Since amalgamation the county allows only one representative from the municipality and no alternates. The deputy now has no duties within the township either.

Removal of the position would reduce the payroll of council.

By moving to a four-councillor format council could decide on a system where councillors are elected by ward or general vote or a combination of those two methods.

In Mr. Dewing's proposal the four councillors could rotate on a three-month basis if they were needed to chair meetings in place of the mayor.

The larger municipalities in Northumberland have mayors and deputies. Mayor Williams cited that Port Hope, Cobourg, Trent Hills and Haldimand Alnwick have them. Brighton has a mayor and six councillors.

The process to be followed if

the mayor left office in mid term did not hinge on the decision. That is governed by the Municipal Act and depends on several variables.

With councillor Mike Johnston absent, Councillor Jane Boreham moved that the vote be deferred. That was defeated by councillor Ray Kelly and deputy mayor Lee Dekeyser.

They combined as well to defeat the motion to eliminate the deputy mayor's position.

When nominations open for the 2003 election on January 1 prospective candidates can choose to run for mayor, deputy mayor and one of three council positions.