

Missing hunter found frosty but alive

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A 64-year-old hunter has been found safe and sound after going missing for more than a day from County Road 24 in the Alnwick area.

He left his residence on a recent Monday to go hunting in his vehicle but he told no one where he was going.

He was reported missing at 4 p.m. Tuesday and just 30 minutes later the man was located by a friend five kilome-

tres north of Colborne.

He was suffering from frostbite to his feet but was conscious.

"He was lucky because of the cold temperatures we've had the last couple of days," said Sgt. Doug Keene of the Campbellford office of Northumberland OPP. The man was taken to Cobourg hospital by ambulance and he is

reported in stable condition.

Keene said the man's identity would not be released to the media.

Sgt. Keene reminds people who venture out in winter conditions that "they should always tell someone where they are going and their expected return time in case of accident or misadventure in the winter weather."

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LOCAL NEWS

Library and township administration at odds

By BOB OWEN
STAFF WRITER

An ongoing disagreement about the management of a \$12,669 provincial Ministry of Culture grant has left some library employees wondering if they will receive their next paycheques on December 24.

We won't hold back pay cheques although the library board has made known Mixed affair.

"They have a view they have to have their own account. That view is supported by wording in the Library Act," Cramahe Township CAO Merlin Dewing outlined Tuesday. "Our view here is that through the Transition Board that set out the amalgamation (of the former Village of Colborne and Cramahe Township in 200), that bank accountant is to

be in the name the township. We (the township office) pay all their accounting, invoices and manage their payroll.

"So, in exercising their views, they (the Library Board) put their grant money into own account in their name. I don't believe it complies with conditions of the Transition Board. In doing so, the township doesn't have the monies to cover their payroll.

"From my perspective, they're going out of their way to try and prove a point. I'm just focussing on trying to conduct business as efficiently as possible," Mr. Dewing says.

At a September 18 meeting of the Cramahe Township Library Board, it was recorded township's CAO Merlin Dewing wished to have all board finances flow through the township accounts.

Board vice chair Jim Osborne

confirmed last weekend the library board's CEO Sue LaBerge and another board member have checked with the ministry. Apparently, ministry library policy and program advisor Gartly Wagner advised the Cramahe board they must have their own accounts. So, the \$12,669 was deposited in a Library Board account where it now sits. Branch librarians were also apparently advised not to make any more deposits to the Cramahe Township municipal account. Subsequent checks with the ministry have confirmed the board could lose its grant money if it does not comply with the requirement to have its own account.

The Library Board receives most of its operating funds from the township and the ministry. Last year, the board received

\$61,500 from the township. This money was transferred to the board. It then passed the administration and salary portion back to the township where pay cheques are cut under a service contract. The remainder of the library funds are spent on books and other library expenses.

Part of the ministry money would also go toward paying expenses and will ultimately be forwarded to the township's accounts when this is sorted out.

Mr. Osborne and Mrs. LaBerge both state they don't want to make a big issue of the situation. Mr. Osborne sees it as a residual problem that has resulted from amalgamation of Colborne and Cramahe. He just wants the board to protect itself.

Six library staff members are employees of the Library Board.

Asked what the next step will

be, CAO Dewing says, "I don't know. I do know the township will continue to manage finances according to the directions of Transition Board. And I just hope we will have enough money in our coffers to cover their pay cheques."

Technically, the library board could issue their own paycheques drawn on their newly-opened bank account. However, what then results is the requirement for two cosigners and two reconciliations.

The Library Board stall "doesn't seem to be driven by business efficiency," Mr. Dewing notes.

"It is not an insurmountable issue. The library is a very important service, but, as an issue, this is right at the bottom of the scale of importance in the municipality," Mr. Dewing says.