

# Alf Blything exhibit at gallery

The Colborne Art Gallery opens its newest solo exhibition this Saturday with Cobourg artist, Alf Blything's *Out of My Mind*.

Aptly put, the show will feature more than 25 works that have been generated by the lively and resourceful mind of the local artist. More than objects or art in the traditional sense, many of the pieces are interactive, forcing the observer to re-think the context of reality.

Mr. Blything describes his style as eclectic, and it is that. His primary media are acrylics and archival ink, but he's not hesitant to add other elements to enhance the effect. Most of his pieces reflect the upbeat, optimistic mindset that he carries with him.

One work does not. His 'Waiting for Tomorrow' is very dark. The sense of despair depicted in the eyes of an African child cannot be avoided.



PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Thought provoking and often humorous, the work of artist Alf Blything engages the viewer — here with "The Family that Sings Together" and "So, Who's Pulling Your Strings?"

Born in Cheshire, England in a family of seven children, Alf was the only one interested in art and the only one who emigrated. He moved to Canada in 1963. His stay was every nearly shortlived. He made arrangements with his young wife Edna that he would bring her over if he found a job within a month of his arrival. The Thursday before he was set to go back he found a position in Sault Ste. Marie.

During his career in human resources he had little time to spend on his craft. But a heart attack in 1982 slowed him down and at the suggestion of Edna, he began to take his painting more seriously. Instruction by Ed Watson, and later, Jim Pagett, taught him that there was a lot to learn.

Now, coupled with a fertile imagination and a sense of humour, he is applying his talent in works that are often provoking and sometimes humorous.

As Alf says, "I observe life and interpret it on paper". His topics in this, his first solo show, include racism, life goals, keeping up appearances and a medley of others.

His show runs from Jan. 17 to Feb. 22. The Colborne Art Gallery is located at 51 King St. East in the former Registry Office.

— BOB OWEN

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## CAO clarifies position

Cramahe Township CAO Merlin Dewing will work for the next two years under a professional services contract. He clarified his situation in a press release issued January 7.

The text of that statement is printed below:

After recent events in Cramahe Township and seeing how things can mushroom when left to speculation, I wish to present the facts on an emerging issue in an open fashion.

The issue is my status as Chief Administrative Officer with Cramahe Township. The pension plan that municipal employees participate in, (OMERS), provided a special opportunity to collect one's pension early if they met certain conditions. I met those conditions. If I didn't draw my pension by December 31, 2003 then I would be subject to double penalties for early withdrawal and/or have to wait a number of years to again be eligible for an early pension. If I didn't draw my pension now it would take until I was 82 years old before I made up the money I would have lost.

When I was hired in 2002, it was a condition of my accepting the position of Chief Administrative Officer (and written into my employment contract) that council acknowledged my intent to draw my pension in 2004. Provisions were made for a transition to a professional contract as of December 31, 2003 (which runs to December 31, 2005), and a one-month break in service to satisfy OMERS protocols. Council gave me leave to seek assignments under a project-specific basis with other municipalities which would have the effect of reduced costs for Cramahe.

All this was agreed to by council and with the understanding that the net cost impacts to Cramahe would be zero or possibly a reduced cost if other assignments elsewhere were completed.

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**BURRELL, DOROTHY CATHARINE**  
At the Maplewood Nursing Home, Brighton on Thursday, January 8, 2004 age 84 years. Dorothy (Seal), formerly of Hamilton, beloved wife of the late Charles Burrell. Loving mother of Pam and her husband Bob Trotman of Brighton. Dear grandmother of Craig and Katrina of British Columbia, Leigh-Anne and Dale of Brighton, Jody and Meghan of Colborne, Amanda and Scott of Colborne, Lindsay of Brighton and great grandson Dylan. Sadly missed by many other family and friends. Funeral service was held at Trinity St. Andrew's United Church, 58 Prince Edward Street, Brighton on Tuesday, January 13th at 11 o'clock. Cremation. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Alzheimer Society or the Canadian Diabetes Association, care of Box 96, Brighton, Ontario. KOK 1HO, would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements in care of the Walas Funeral Home, Brighton, (613) 475-2121.

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