

LOCAL NEWS

Fatal explosion that killed four caused by propane



PHOTO BY PETE FISHER

DEVASTATION: Firefighters work to extinguish the fiery remnants of a house that exploded on Victoria Beach Road in Colborne early October 2, 2001. Four people died and two were seriously burned in the incident.

The explosion and fire that killed four people in Cramahe Township early October 2, 2001 resulted from a propane leak, a coroner's report released Tuesday states.

Dr. Peter Clark, Regional Supervising Coroner for North East Ontario, made the announcement yesterday (Wednesday).

An extensive joint investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police, the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority's Fuels Safety Division, and the Office of the Chief Coroner

determined the cause of the explosion and fire.

"As there are no outstanding issues that would impact public safety, Dr. Clark has ruled that an inquest will not be ordered," the Ministry of Public Safety and Security statement reads.

Killed in the October 2, 2001 Victoria Beach Road explosion and fire were: Catharine McLennan, 44; Erin Lee McLennan, 19; Jason James, 20; and Mandy Lee Smith, 18.

Two people survived, Gary McLennan and his son, Dean.

No more money for Lower Trent

A request from the Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority to Cramahe Council for additional money was denied last week.

In explaining the request, CAO Merlin Dewing commented that the \$1,209 the LTC wanted wasn't in their original request for funds from Cramahe. He added later that Cramahe paid the conservation authority in good faith when they originally asked for funds. If Cramahe paid the added amount it would have to come from contingency funds as the budget has already been set for this year.

Deputy Mayor Lee Dekeyser who sits on the LTC Board explained that the money was part of \$30 thousand spent on a photograph of the whole region. The province paid for half of it last year. This year the municipalities were to pay half. On a motion at the June 12 meeting of the LTC, Mr. Dekeyser moved that each municipality be invoiced for its share of the cost.

Councillor Tim Post was unhappy that the conservation authority should have anticipated such a major expense. He supports the authority but not the unplanned expense.

A motion not to pay by Councillor Ray Kelly and Mike Johnston was passed with the support of Councillor Post.

- BOB OWEN

COLBORNE CHAPMAN, LLOYD JULY 17/03
Peacefully at the Northumberland Health Care Centre, Cobourg on Sunday, July 6th, 2003 in his 87th year. Beloved husband of Phyllis Mann. Loving father of Clare (Linda), Elaine Churchill (Charles), David (Brenda) and Janice Johnston (Dana) all of Colborne and Rick (Suzanne) of Brighton. Dear Poppi of Jason, Sarah, Marcie, Tiffany, Kristi, Katie, Tyler, Jocelyn, Hayley, Justin and Dawson and great Poppi of Elizabeth and Gabrielle. Brother of Carl Chapman, Bill Chapman, Doreen Lackey, Hazel Waite and Dorothy Brown and predeceased by Ray, Jack, Lyal, Ron, Ruth, Lawrence, Bernice, Thelma, Vera, Adele and Lola. Friends called at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, 11 King St. W., Colborne on Monday from 2-4 and 7-9pm. A funeral service will be held in Colborne United Church on Tuesday, July 8th at 2pm. Interment in Salem Cemetery. If desired donations may be made to the Colborne United Church Building Fund or the Northumberland Health Care Centre. Condolences received at www.maccoubrey.com