

Turk Road pit access approved

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
By BOB OWEN NOV 25/09
chronicle@bellnet.ca

After months of discussion and meetings, Cramahe Council quickly approved the use of Turk Rd. as the access to Shelter Valley Aggregates pit in Alnwick/Haldimand Township.

The motion was passed with hardly a comment, and Mayor Lee Dekeyser out of the room because of conflict of interest.

The motion requires

that Turk Rd., which is now an unopened road allowance, be upgraded to full rural hardtop standards and fully maintained for the life of the pit by the aggregate company. It also demands that the entrance off Turk Rd. to County Rd. #25 be brought to standards required by the County of Northumberland.

When the pit is closed the aggregate company must upgrade the road to "as new" condition.

continued on page 2

Ratepayer's patron

continued from page 1

Even for a worldly flyer, the experience was memorable. At her table sat the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, and Joni Mitchell, who was there to receive her award. With them was Daniel Gauthier, one of the co-founders of Cirque du Soleil.

Ms. Warren found the trip to Ottawa a grand adventure, obviously savouring the rich experience and the opportunity to talk to so many interesting people.

In some ways it's difficult to imagine this charming woman with impeccable manners and wonderful wit climbing into a Spitfire. But once she's launched into a discussion of her passion, it's easy to see how she was one of Canada's first female pilots and a role model for generations of young women.

Recreation Master Plan ac Ball organization contin

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

By BOB OWEN NOV 25/09
chronicle@bellnet.ca

Cramahe Township council has approved the Parks and Recreation Master Plan titled Moving Forward. After accepting the report Nov. 2, council decided in a recorded vote Nov. 16 to approve the plan, despite objections presented by Colborne resident Curly Rutherford.

In his presentation to council, the member of the Colborne Men's Fastball League commended the committee that wrote the report for its efforts. But Mr. Rutherford said he could not support the changes proposed for Memorial Park in Colborne.

The changes would turn the park from primarily a ball park to a family recreation area and children's playground, he observed

Mr Rutherford recounted the history of the park, noting it is largely the result of the volunteer efforts of community members.

He stressed that a children's playground

and water park were a good idea, but there are better locations. He worried that, if the lights were pulled down, the bull pens and other structures couldn't be re-used.

He has been waiting to apply for Trillium grants until the Parks and Rec. report was done and asked Council to delay its decision to give the committee a chance to work with his group.

He suggested that, in the meantime, Council could operate an outdoor skating rink on Little Lake to see if it would attract people to the area.

Tim Post was the first member of Council to speak. Lauding the committee for its report, and stating his agreement with 99.9 per cent of it, he asserted that he could not support the report because of the changes proposed for Memorial Park.

Mr. Post's family has a long association with the ball diamond. He and his father played on it at one time. He asked the committee to reconsider that portion of the report.

That drew a response from fellow Councillor, Marc Coombs.

He explained to Mr. Post that he had met with the fastball group and others recently, and understood the many hours that have been contributed to the park. The committee that wrote the report met on November 13. The members came out of that session feeling strongly that the Township should move ahead, understanding that some people will be upset. Mr. Coombs added (keeping the ball diamond) doesn't make sense. There are currently three diamonds owned by the Township, two by the Castleton Sports Club and three on school playgrounds in the Township.

Councillor Ed Van Egmond agreed. He recalled his years coaching hardball on the Memorial Park diamond, adding, "It was a tough decision to let it go."

Perhaps to reinforce his point, Councillor Van Egmond asked Mr. Rutherford how often that diamond was used in 2004.

Mr. Rutherford replied that it had been used twice a week for doubleheaders and that kids used it for practise.

Referring to the suggestion that there were other suitable places, Mr. Van Egmond asserted that the Keeler Centre was too far from the centre of the village for a playground. It was a lot of work to maintain a ball diamond for two doubleheaders a week.

Committee member, Dave Impey joined the dialogue, observing that there is very little green space in the village. In 50 years Memorial Park would be a 'real jewel'.

Mayor Lee Dekeyser threw his support behind Mr. Rutherford's proposal. He worried about traffic from the firehall and ambulance station across Victoria St. The Mayor favours using one of the Twin Diamonds behind the former Colborne Cramahe Arena as an enclosed playground.

Deciding to end the discussion, the Mayor called for a vote, but discussion continued amongst Councillors, members of the committee and Mr. Rutherford.

When Deputy-Mayor Ray Kelly wondered why the men's

fastball league hadn't used the Twin Diamond, Mr. Rutherford responded that the diamonds had been in use when his group needed a diamond. Since then all kids' ball has been moved to Castleton and now the Colborne diamonds are underused.

Parks and Recreation Director, Ken Wood, was at the meeting, but was not asked to comment. In an interview last Thursday he refuted Mr. Rutherford's claim that kids' ball had been moved.

In 2003, the Rev. Isaac Flagg supervised children's baseball in Colborne. There were three divisions. Because of a lack of numbers, some of the teams were mixed, with kids from Colborne and Castleton on them.

But the Rev. Flagg moved from Colborne and the volunteer base disappeared. Castleton Sports Club held a ball registration for everyone, supported by the municipality. There were not enough registrations to run any teams.

Having the Sports Club
run ball is no different than
Colborne Cramahe Minor
Hockey running
the winter sport.

— Ken Wood