

Accepted by council

uses to disagree

Mr. Wood explained having the Sports Club run ball is no different than Colborne Cramahe Minor Hockey running the winter sport. A similar approach is taken in soccer and figure skating, with volunteer groups running the sports and the Municipality providing the facility. Mr. Wood asserted in the interview that all of the Colborne diamonds were available for children last summer. It was hoped at the time that the Sports Club would become the umbrella organization for softball in Cramahe. There was some feeling that doing this would help break down the competition between Colborne and the rest of the Township.

It is Mr. Wood's contention that adults who play ball and want ball to succeed for kids have to step up to the plate and help organize it.

Speaking about the Memorial Park, Mr. Wood observed the diamond is lighted for hardball and its infield is laid out for softball, two quite different sports.

That seemed to run counter to Mr. Rutherford's claim at Council that the Memorial Park was the best park in the community for fastball.

The Recreation Director also referred to Bea Smith's request in 1948 when she donated the land. It was to be used for general recreation and a playground. He wondered aloud if a ball diamond might not have been her intention.

At Councillor Post's request, Council had a recorded vote.

Mr. Kelly moved that the report be approved subject to change, as needed.

After taking the yes votes of Mr. Kelly and Mr. Van Egmond, and Mr. Post's no vote, discussion once more broke out, ending only when Councillor Coombs asked to have his vote recorded. His yes vote, and the Mayor's no, made it 3-2 in favour of the motion.

Little Lake residents ask Cramahe council for help

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COLBORNE
CHRONICLE
NOV 25/04

A change in the roads agreement covering Trenear Rd. McDonald Rd. and Reddick Rd. has Little Lake residents unhappy.

Some of the residents were at Cramahe Township council on November 16 asking Council to reverse a recent decision to charge them for gravel used on their roads.

Trenewar and McDonald Roads are both private and the status of Reddick Rd. will soon be before the Courts. For nearly 25 years the Township has provided them with gravel for the nominal sum of \$1.

In 2003 the residents negotiated an agreement with the Township that gives them \$1,000 per km and \$50 for each resident on the road. The grants are distributed semi-annually by the Township for maintenance and snow removal.

The residents assert that there was no mention of having to pay for gravel when the new agreement was negotiated. They have a statement from Lee Dekeyser given at a Feb. 3, 2003 meeting when the then Deputy Mayor gave the understanding that "gravel for these roads will be given at the request from Committee for one dollar from Council".

More than a year later, on June 9, 2004 the residents received a message on Donna DeLong's voicemail from Cramahe Township Public Works Director, Barry Thrasher. He stated that Council

had passed a resolution at its meeting on June 8, 2004 that gravel would no longer be supplied free-of-charge to the Little Lake roads, and that any prior agreement for gravel was negated with the implementation of the grant program.

Ms. DeLong confirmed the decision with Mayor Dekeyser and with Township Clerk, Trudy Merrill.

This surprised the residents, so they called former Rural Roads Superintendent, Brian Williams. He had never been advised of any change.

The presentation made to Council last Tuesday by resident, Jenny Witteveen, contains 2004 roads budgets for Reddick Rd. and McDonald Rd. Both refer to free gravel being provided by the Township.

An invoice for gravel sent to the residents by the Treasurer of the Township, Mora Chatterton on October 29, 2004 included a letter which informed them, "Once this grant program became available, this procedure (of free gravel) was no longer supposed to take place." It was particularly irksome to the residents that they were being billed for gravel delivered eight months prior to the June 8, 2004 change of policy.

In a release made later in the week, Ms. Chatterton stated that the cost of the gravel was approximately \$1,500 for about 50 loads of gravel and pit run. It was not all used on one road so the exact figures were not broken down yet.

The retroactive billing and cost of ongoing gravel has put the residents into a financial dilemma and they were at Council asking for three things:

- 1) Cancellation of the retroactive charge for gravel.
- 2) Continuation of the \$1 arrangement.

And if Council couldn't agree to the first two, the residents were asking to be allowed to complete some necessary road improvements before the gravel is subject to charges. As well, they hoped that, in future, they would get their gravel at a minimal cost from the Township.

Richard Saunders, President of the little Lake Ratepayers' Association followed Ms. Witteveen to the podium, surprising her with his suggestion to Council to defer any decision on November 16 and hold a meeting with representatives of the resident road committees. At that meeting, later this month, he hopes to make a common, informed decision with Council.

He also supported rescinding the current charges for gravel, due to the way that they were decided and communicated to the residents.

Council agreed to defer any decision pending a meeting with representatives of the three roads committees and Mr. Saunders.