

Families victimized by fire are safe

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
JAN. 13/05

Northumberland Youth for Christ has issued a press release to inform the community that the Coleman and McPherson/Gmeiner families have found suitable accommodation following pre-Christmas fires in their homes.

The press release, written by Sarah Stanford, states that "public response has been tremendous. Both families are in suitable accommodations. Most immediate furniture and basic living supplies have been provided." Some financial assistance was also given.

Executive Director of Northumberland Youth for Christ, Daryl Stogryn added, "The level of support offered to not only these two local families, but to others also, including the relief efforts for Southeast Asia, demonstrate that we live in a remarkable community."

Northumberland Youth for Christ and the two families took time in the release to thank the people of Northumberland, the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Cobourg Canadian Tire and the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families.

Garnet McPherson commented, "Dozens of friends, neighbours and complete strangers have expressed the true meaning of Christmas by helping us in whatever way they can. It is heartwarming and inspiring to see the level of concern that is in our community for people who have survived a disaster. The night before Christmas Eve my family was standing barefoot in the snow watching the remains of our home go up in smoke. And thanks to this community, today they have a roof over their heads, clothes on their backs, and food on the table. These acts of kindness are making a huge difference in our physical, emotional, and spiritual ability to transform our personal disaster into a promising future. My heart is full of gratitude to all who have lent a helping hand."

\$169,568.85 to terminate former CAO

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It cost Cramahe Township taxpayers \$169,568.85 to terminate former Chief Administrative Officer Merlin Dewing. That cost includes legal fees incurred for the September 4, 2004 dismissal.

Hired in 2002, Mr. Dewing retired at the end of 2002, but was retained by the municipality on a contract basis to continue in the post of CAO.

Asked for details of the settlement, the *Colborne Chronicle* was issued a press release last week by Cramahe Township Mayor Lee Dekeyser.

The Dewing settlement costs are contained in the final statement of the release. Mayor Dekeyser maintains a township staff member attempted to "subvert the chain of command" in the township.

Mayor Dekeyser also lays the responsibility for Mr. Dewing's dismissal at the feet of three current council members: Deputy mayor Ray Kelly, Councillors Marc Coombs and Ed Van Egmond.

The text of the mayor's statement reads as follows:

"2004 has been a challenging year for Cramahe council and staff. There have been many changes which directly affect our community and our ratepayers. More about this at a later date.

"A situation which has altered the way our township does business is the firing of our CAO, Merlin Dewing.

"Merlin was hired in 2002 in an effort to modernize and streamline our municipal organization.

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Merlin Dewing



DEER CULL UNDERWAY

Presqu'ile Provincial Park Park Warden Rob Raposo mans a temporary gate at the main entrance to the Brighton park after the annual deer cull got under way Monday morning. Under a contract with the nearby Mohawk Tyendinaga Territory band at Deseronto, the park plans on cull the deer population by about 50 to around 35, deemed to be a sustainable number.

For a week to 10 days, the park remains closed to all public access by vehicle or foot as a safety precaution. Permanent residents and people with legitimate business to serve the residential area beyond the park boundary are allowed entry after they have registered.

PHOTO BY JACK EVANS