

Internet support delayed by council

By BOB OWEN
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COLBORNE
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A request for support to install an internet tower on Cramahe Township property has been postponed by council.

Project coordinator for Green House Enterprise Center (GHEC), Garnet McPherson, approached Cramahe council December 7, requesting his company be allowed to place a tower on township property adjacent to the new water tower. That tower would allow GHEC to expand its proposed service north into rural Cramahe.

In response to a question by Councillor Ed Van Egmond, Mr. McPherson expressed hope it could be located within the fenced area on the site to increase security.

Along with a spot to place the tower, Mr. McPherson asked for a letter of support from council.

The response from council on December 7 was skepticism.

Mayor Lee Dekeyser and Councillor Tim Post worried about township liability.

No one on council was aware of a verbal agreement GHEC had with former township CAO Merlin Dewing to place the transmission tower on top of the new water tower. That possibility was quickly discounted by

the Mayor, who later offered another possibility.

After gaining assurances from Public Works Director Barry Thrasher that there is enough room for the tower, the Mayor wondered if the tower could be located in an enclosed area within the water tower compound.

This proposal seemed to meet general approval as long as the transmission tower enclosure would be fenced off from the larger water tower fenced area.

If the service gets off the ground, it will be called Fast Net Wireless. The service will start off being available to greater Colborne and then it could be progressively expanded to the north, east and west as new towers are added.

After Deputy Mayor Ray Kelly's suggestion that insurance issues be checked, the Mayor promised Mr. McPherson he would have his answer about tower location on municipal property when Council met on December 21.

But Mr. McPherson's proposal was not on the agenda on December 21.

Mayor Dekeyser explained to Mr. McPherson that council wanted to hear from the original proponent of wireless internet for Cramahe before making any decisions.

Carl Jeptha approached the township earlier this year, and decided to wait until the water tower was built

before proceeding. His plans will be considered on January 18.

The Mayor added that the township's insurer has questions, too.

No amount of argument by Mr. McPherson would convince the Mayor to change his stance. Speaking on behalf of all of council, the Mayor stated council will make a decision about a tower on township property after speaking to Mr. Jeptha.

Given the opportunity to make a brief presentation, Mr. McPherson claimed to have letters from several businesses considering moving because of the lack of broadband service. He added that a delay to January 18 would jeopardize what has been done by his group.

When the Mayor suggested that he could go ahead with his project using private property, Mr. McPherson replied that would set him back. He continued that Mr. Dewing had promised his group could locate a water tower in the village and on the water tower. His group had done it work based on that promise.

To that the mayor responded, "In case you hadn't noticed, Mr. Dewing isn't here any more."

The Mayor went on to state council is now more reserved regarding private companies using public property.

Local donations to Red Cross top \$100,000

Donations continue to roll in for local Red Cross offices. The past weekend saw several milestones in each of the branches.

"What can I say but that I am truly in awe of the outpouring of support from everyone to the Asian relief efforts," district branch manager David Webster states.

Totals as of closing Sunday: Lindsay \$105,066; Northumberland \$102,959; Durham \$124,350; Peterborough \$358,254.

MOUNSTEVEN, Catherine Doris (nee Smith) - Passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at age 85. Predeceased by her beloved husband Earl and her daughter Cathy. Loving mother of Ross (Jackie), Grant (Kathy) and Alan (Jeanne). Cherished Nana to grandchildren Bud, Karen (Bruce Wallace), Kellieann (David Poron), David (Becky), Shari (Morasch), Tracy (Ian Romanowski), Shaun (Laura) and Robin, and great-grandchildren Curtis, Megan, Domenic, Luke, Kyle, Heather, Tanner and Adam. Dear sister to Mur (Ampleford) and Tommy Smith. Doris will be lovingly remembered by Cheryl, and all of her family and friends. Friends may call on Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the R.S. Kane Funeral Home (6150 Yonge Street, at Goulding, south of Steeles). A Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 11 a.m. Cremation. In lieu of flowers, donations to the C.N.I.B. or a charity of your choice, would be appreciated by the family.

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STAR

Fire department benefits from \$1,000 gift

By BOB OWEN
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A gift of \$1,000 from Enbridge Pipelines has found a quick use.

Cramahe Fire Department Chief Gary Cammack commented following the presentation last Thursday, that the department has taken on one more firefighter and needs a protective suit worth \$987.

That leaves the force short one fireman in Castleton and one in Colborne.

Enbridge Area Operations Supervisor, Steve Rankin presented the cheque to the Chief at the Colborne station.

Enbridge and its predecessor, Interprovincial Pipelines, has run a 30 inch crude oil pipeline through Cramahe since late 1975, transporting oil between Montreal and Sarnia.

The annual grant is part of Enbridge's

Community Investment Initiative. The program helps emergency response organizations in communities where Enbridge has pipelines. The company has never had an incident in this area, and maintains a vigorous pipeline assessment program using internal devices and helicopter flyovers.

The grant meets the Enbridge social vision statement which maintains the goal to "enhance the quality of life in our communities by supporting programs in health, education, social services and the environment."

Enbridge's community investment program supports not-for-profit organizations through financial contributions and human resources.

In 2003, this program donated more than \$3-million to charitable and non-profit organizations across Canada and the United States.



Cramahe Fire Chief, Gary Cammack accepts a cheque for \$1,000 from Enbridge Area Operations Supervisor, Steve Rankin last week. PHOTO BY BOB OWEN