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Ratepayers group concerned about playground

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to Cramahe Township Mayor Lee Dekeyser copied to the newspaper.

The Cramahe Ratepayers' Association has followed the ongoing discussions about a new location for a children's playground, and considers the issue moot, noting that there is apparently no evidence that the old play equipment and location in Victoria Square were not quite satisfactory.

Apparently, the insurance company required some action be taken, to make the installation meet the requirements of a CSA standard and protect it from traffic. Is this the same standard that caused the Toronto Education Board to demolish dozens of playground installations almost overnight?

There, it became known that the standard was developed to apply to new installations only. Was the application of the standard by the insurance company challenged by the Township of Cramahe, and was the cost of compliance estimated and compared with the cost of a new installation?

We are assured by long-time residents that there have been no accidents at the old playground.

Is this correct?

If so we remind you and the insurance company that the lack of a sidewalk on part of Percy Street, on a narrow, curving hill, used by children in all weather conditions, presents a liability risk of such magnitude that, if you were to apply the insurance company's logic, this part of Percy Street would be closed to traffic except for local access, and a new road constructed! There is a similar concern about sidewalks on part of King Street East. Should this part of County Road 2 be closed also?

The Cramahe Ratepayers' Association also notes that the old location of the playground was very popular, and it was a focal point in Victoria Square, helping to present Colborne as a vibrant community. This small but significant contribution has been lost. Putting a playground in a less central location does not restore this loss.

The Cramahe Ratepayers' Association is concerned that this matter has been dealt with too hastily, and expects that council will reconsider the issue and find a more viable solution.

**Alan M. Slater, Peng,
Secretary, Cramahe
Ratepayers' Association**

**Exercise
your
mind.**

Read
your
community
newspaper.

The Castleton regulars at work

COLBORNE CHRONICLE JAN. 27/05

Kleith of The Generous Store was checking his ad in the weekly newspaper the COLLATERAL CHRONICLE. It was in the Hobbies column. It read; Run your own general store for Fun & Profit. Never be at a loss for something to do seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. I've had my fun - now it's your turn. Send serious enquiries only to Box 696, Castleton Heights Post Office, Ontario.

"Whatcha doin'?"

Kleith recognised the voice of Alvin the Electrician.

"Checking my new ad for selling the store."

"And if ya sell it you'll move away won't cha?"

"When I sell the store we will be moving as it includes our home."

"Where ya goin' to live?"

Kleith sighed. "D'know. Haven't decided. Definitely not to where Malcolm relocated."

"Yeah, guess not." replied Alvin. "How come he moved to Sardinia?"

"As I understand it, it was supposed to be Sarnia but something got screwed up. Anyways, Malcolm's too proud to admit there was a mistake made. Claims that's where he wanted to go because it has a lot of really swell Italian restaurants."

"Jeez Klieth, it would be all Italian restaurants. It's an Italian island in the Mediterranean. What's he doin' for fish 'n chips eh?"

"...or hockey eh?"

Kleith saw the look of despair come over Alvin.

"Sorry." Kleith apologized.

Artful Art came up the counter to pay for the newspaper. He looked grim. Art always looked grim.

"Have you read what the government is thinking? It's grim."

"Grim?" asked Kleith.

"Very grim." Art responded.

Alvin asked "What very grim thing is it that the government is going to do and which government? We have three levels from which grim news can materialize."

"...and does, frequently." interjected Klieth.

"Yes, frequently. Quite frequently." Alvin agreed.

Both looked expectantly at Artful Art who was looking even more grim.

"The provincial government is reportedly considering selling off TVO."

Alvin and Kleith responded in kind.

"The swines."

Balling his fist Artful Art started tapping it on the counter to underline his dialogue.

"This country protects the

rights of visible minorities and rightly so, well, what about the rights of the minority who loath the so-called reality programs, fatuous celebrity bios and one-trick police stories. Where are we to get something even close to the quality of Studio Two?

Or insightful programs such as In Search of Shakespeare and the documentaries, the panels of experts, quality BBC programs, where?"

"On cable or satellite?"

Art's finger butted into Alvin's chest.

"Yes! Sure! You can buy that."

Art made the word 'buy' sound like a dirty word.

"You can get TVO's signal off the air, with an antenna. It is power to the people, not bucks to the Shaws, Bells and Rogers I say. Not everyone has forty, fifty dollars a month to spend on electronic estrogens. We have to protect TV Ontario and I have a plan...."

Alvin leaned forward in a conspiratorial manner while Kleith started to consider a harder sell advertisement. He was getting too old for the schemes, plots and adventures that the Castleton Regulars seem to get themselves into.

Next week, Artful Art outlines his Queen's Park trump play.

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CHANDLER'S CORNER



By George

Do you have an opinion on a local issue?

Send letters to the editor by email to chronice@bellnet.ca

Community Care Northumberland

Community Care Colborne would like to say "THANK YOU" to all of the people who helped support us through our latest letter campaign. Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated. Without your continued support, Community Care would have difficulty in providing services to seniors and those with disabilities living in our community. Our services include: Meals on Wheels Transportation, Diner's Club, Friendly Visiting, Home Help and Home Maintenance, Telephone Security Checks, and Respite. There is no referral necessary to receive these services.

Community Care is a non-profit, charitable organization, which relies on the dedication and commitment of our many volunteers who give tirelessly of their time. If you would like any further information regarding our agency or our services, please contact us:

In person at 18A Victoria Square, Colborne, ON or by phone at 905-355-2989.

Again on behalf of all the Volunteers, Clients and Staff "thank you all" very much.

Jody Townshend

Co-ordinator, Community Care Colborne

*"Assisting Seniors & Those with Disabilities
to Remain Independent in Their Own Homes and Communities"*