

'This old horse is dead' — arena to be razed

By **BOB OWEN**
owen@eagle.ca

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
AUG 10/06

A motion made by Councillor Marc Coombs to have the former Colborne Cramahe Arena demolished was passed at the August 8 meeting of Cramahe Council.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Tim Post and supported by Deputy Mayor Ray Kelly and Councillor Ed Van Egmond in a 4-1 recorded vote. Mayor Lee Dekeyser was the sole opponent.

Mr. Coombs summarized his rationale for moving to demolition in the preamble of the approved motion, which is included below:

"Whereas, the recommendation of the Greer Galloway Structural Adequacy Report in April 1999 was that 'the roof should be replaced'.

"And whereas, the May 14th, 1999 Greer Galloway report to Cramahe and Colborne councils and the Colborne/Cramahe Arena Board states that "the wooden roof truss system is nearing the end of its service life..." and suggested that roof repair would cost \$400,000 and that roof repair with an upgraded ice plant would cost \$1,250,000,

"And whereas, both councils (Cramahe and Colborne) and the Arena Board agreed that it was more financially responsible to invest in a new facility in a new location,

"And whereas, the Greer Galloway "Arena Annual Inspection" report of April, 2001 found that the trusses over the main arena building 'have reached the end of their service life' and that the trusses over the dressing rooms and west corridor 'have reached the end of their service life' and that 'a conservative cost estimate to revitalize the building is \$300,000' and that 'the recommended option is the demolition of the entire building'

"And whereas, the findings of the 'Old Arena Committee' in February 2002 were 'attempting to extend the life of the Arena or upgrade it for other uses is not economic', 'the most cost effective (and practical) interim option is demolish the main structure and keep the northwest washroom' and that 'a decision on the preferred option should not be deferred beyond autumn 2002',

"And whereas, requests for proposals for the redevelopment and use of the Centennial Arena were invited by the township from July, 2002 until September 30, 2002 and none were received,

"And whereas, the Parks and Recreation Masterplan Committee recommended in their Moving Forward master plan document in October 2004 that 'the old arena should be torn down, except for the existing washrooms, canteen, ice pad and storage areas' and the report was approved by council in November 2004,

"And whereas, council asked for quotes on demolition and received a low tender of \$25,368 from J&B Excavating of Castleton,

"And whereas, the Mayor was given until the end of November 2005 to present a fully costed option to council and none has been received,

"And whereas, a public meeting was held on Jan. 25, 2006 and the consensus of that meeting was that the building should be razed and the property kept recreational,

"And whereas, at a special meeting of council called by the Mayor Monday, January 30, council defeated a motion to request quotes for further engineering reports,

And whereas, council decided to accept proposals for sale of the building and to date, no satisfactory offer has been made

And whereas, council at their June 20, 2006 meeting chose once again to not request quotes for further engineering reports

And whereas, the building continues to deteriorate and has now been placed off limits to staff, and is fast becoming an eyesore and derelict building."

In supporting the motion, Councillor Van Egmond commented, "This old horse is dead." Perhaps the biggest surprise in the debate came when Deputy Mayor Kelly sided with the motion. The deputy mayor has consistently sided with the mayor in previous attempts to forestall demolition. A crowd of about 30 highly vocal Cramahe residents clearly supported the motion for demolition, at one point yelling down resident George Gray as he attempted to extend discussion of the issue. In calling for a vote on the motion, Mayor Dekeyser said he hoped that council wouldn't regret this decision.

Cramahe manhunt ends successfully



Police converged on a Cramahe Township residence for just over three and a half hours Thursday morning.

At 10 a.m., officers from Quinte West OPP and Northumberland OPP were at a residence north of Highway 401 off County Road 25 to execute an arrest warrant for assault, mischief and breach of probation.

When 21-year-old Mathew Fitzgerald saw police, he fled into a cornfield northeast of the residence.

A containment area was set up by police, utilizing OPP officers from Quinte West, Northumberland OPP, the Emergency Response Team, a K-9 unit and a helicopter to search for the suspect.

The search ended successfully at 1:45 p.m. when the male was arrested at County Road 25 and Telephone Road.

PHOTO BY LESLEY OWEN
9-1-1
Mathew Fitzgerald is taken into custody by OPP officers at County Road 25 and Telephone Road in Cramahe Township at 1:45 p.m. Thursday.

Trash 'N Treasures Sat.

The ninth annual community-wide Trash 'N Treasures weekend is upon us this Saturday, August 12. It's a yard sale bonanza in Cramahe Township. Up and down the streets and roads, laneways and public spaces in Castleton, Colborne and points in between, residents will be hauling superfluous goods to the edge of their properties in preparation for the hundreds of visitors who flock to scoop up bargains and treasures.

While the official hours of the sale are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., the experienced sellers know the vendors are out and visitors are prowling the territory well before that time.

Table rentals, for those who want to bring their goods into Colborne, are available in Victoria Square Park (call 905 355 2821, ext. 355 5479, or Trinity Anglican Church (call 905 355 1643).

Dope discovered during manhunt

While searching for a male suspect who fled from the police in the County Road 25 and Telephone Road area of Cramahe Township last Thursday, police made an unexpected discovery.

Officers flying in a helicopter overhead spotted three (small) separate marijuana grows, at three different sites. The grows were located within a five-kilometre area north of Highway 401 near Telephone Road and County Road 25 north of Colborne.

Seized were 85 plants of various sizes with an estimated street value of \$85,000. Northumberland OPP report no charges pending. It is unknown who is responsible for the cultivation of the marijuana. The plants will be destroyed.