

Castleton parents reassured about new school plans

Continued from page 1

At first meeting Jan. 7 at Castleton Public School, the committee will collect data and begin to put values on the schools based on their value to the students, the board and the community. Value to the students will have the greatest weight.

In the second meeting, to be held at South Cramahe, the committee will listen to the two communities as it begins to assess three location choices – the current site in Castleton, the current site at South Cramahe or a new greenfields site.

When pressed by one parent with the suggestion that a greenfields site had already been chosen by the board, Ms. Summersides was adamant.

“I drive the process. The board owns no other property between these two sites.”

Purchasing might further complicate the process as the provincial ministry of education may elect to pay for a new building. Costs for land purchase would have to come elsewhere.

The current school properties could be sold, but it is a lengthy process.

Any site to be considered would have to be serviced by water, septic or sewers, and hydro.

Further input will be given at a meeting three held in the Castleton community with the location based on anticipated attendance.

At its final meeting, the committee will present its thinking and ask for further input. Most of the board trustees will probably be at the fourth meeting. If they hear the report and feel the committee hasn't heard the community, they can ask the committee to come back again.

The report can be amended, even at the last meeting before it is put on the board website for 60 days and taken to the board for approval.

The earliest that will happen is June, 2008.

Ms. Summersides acknowledged the process is a stressful one and will cause anxiety, but the board needs to be ready to go forward when the ministry of education makes the funds available she said.

She told the crowd of parents filling much of the school library that this board deserves to get more new schools. Even if the ministry

approves the board's proposals for Howard Jordan School in Port Hope, these two schools, and Brighton and Spring Valley public schools, it will still have 12 prohibitive-to-repair schools on the books, more than any Ontario school board other than Halton which is much larger.

MPP Lou Rinaldi has been very supportive of the board's plans and is being kept up-to-date, parents were told.

If everything falls into place as hoped, there will be a new elementary school in Cramahe Township by 2010.

THE COLBORNE CHRONICLE — Thursday, December 6, 2007 —

Spring garden tour announced Benefit for Castleton Town Hall

The Friends of Castleton Town Hall are hosting a Spring Bulb and Heritage Houses Tour May 25, 2008 as a fundraiser.

They overcame a minor hurdle Nov. 6 when Cramahe Township council agreed to provide liability coverage for the tour.

The Friends have selected five properties in Castleton and another five in Colborne for the one-day event which will coincide with the Apple Blossom Tyme Festival held in Colborne. Touring participants will have lunch at the newly-renovated and expanded Castleton Town Hall which is now awaiting bids for construction expected to be completed early in the new year.

In the Castleton area, the guests will see the historic corner property of Graham and the late Carol Norcutt, the hilltop garden of Jim and Irene Osborne, the magnificent daffodil fields Art and Mary Jackson, the farm home of Marvin and Shirley McComb, and the lovely riverside gardens of John and Heather Stubbs.

The Colborne properties include some of Colborne's historically significant buildings. Bob and Sandra Compton, Len D'Agostino and Jirina Morton, Buck and Tass Corbier, Anna Gray and Bruce Bowden, and Marie Prins and Ed Hagedorn are the hosts for this segment.