

Cobras get ice time

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The net cost of keeping the ice in till mid-May to the township would be \$5,940 according to the Scott report. That does not factor in the cost of \$4,000 lost revenue if an Eastern Star conference on April 14-15 is asked to go elsewhere, plus another \$800 from Northumberland Idol, scheduled for April 21.

In his summary of the financial ramifications, Mr. Scott presented two other options.

The township could attempt to honour all its commitments by installing a floor on the ice for a week or erecting a tent beside the Keeler Centre to house the two off-ice events. That choice increased the costs by almost \$5,000.

The third option was to remove the ice as scheduled and have the Cobras look for ice elsewhere. That option costs the township nothing in the short term. But, the franchise might pick up and move next season.

The Cobras have already been frustrated in attempts to extend the ice season in Coborne, either at the beginning or the end.

On the other hand, the Northumberland Idol competition is an annual event and the Eastern Star conference has the same potential.

The Rotary Room is unavailable for either event as it is already booked.

Mayor Marc Coombs was first to speak on the problem and his preference was clear.

The township has signed with the Cobras; the township wants to grow with them and keep them in Coborne. It seems pointless to support the team until it becomes successful and then tell it to go elsewhere for ice, he said; that's penalizing success.

Mayor Coombs suggested, if council were discussing the need for the local pee-wee team to have

a longer ice season, the council chamber would be filled with supporters.

The playoffs offer a great opportunity to showcase the Keeler Centre and Cramahne Township, he said.

Councillor Tim Gilligan agreed, adding there is no price tag: the Cobras are there to be successful and that is what is happening.

"At the end of the day," commented Councillor Gilligan, "it's an ice rink and we need to maximize the revenue out of it."

The councillor added his concern about the team possibly moving to the new Baltimore arena where overtures have been made.

More than one member at the table expressed optimism the township could work with Coborne Rotary to help it resolve the Northumberland Idol scheduling problem.

Mayor Coombs put forward the suggestion the Eastern Star could have its event in a tent alongside the Keeler Centre.

But, that worried Councillor Pat Westrope who wondered about meal delivery to the conference attendees at the event booked last April.

Putting a temporary floor over part of the ice surface appeared to be the idea that might resolve the commitments most equitably.

Councillor Ed Van Egmund toyed with several possibilities as that idea was bandied about. He later acknowledged that whatever council decided it would be "in front of a firing squad."

The consensus was the Cobras will be accommodated. Mr. Scott will check on the possibility of renting and laying a temporary floor over the ice. He will report back to council in February.

All agreed that a better solution needs to be found for the future.

*COLBORNE CHRONICLE
Booze bottles Feb 1/07*

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Wine tetra paks will be accepted — only if they are intact with the bladder and box together.

Large truck loads of bottles will not be taken locally. They go on to a depot in Belleville or Whitby.

On Jan. 15, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario started advertising the new "Bag it Back"

program which introduces deposits on all wine, spirit and beer bottles. They expect to retrieve 80-million containers a year that now go to dumps.

Starting Feb. 5, LCBO stores will have Bag it Back bags available for customers.

Mr. Cotter expects the first month of the new recycling program will be difficult for everyone as people adjust to the new system.

Female charged after man burned

Northumberland OPP were called to a multi-unit dwelling on Telephone Road in Alnwick-Haldimand Township at 8:50 p.m. Jan. 29. Officers learned a female became angry about comments directed at her. The woman threw lighter fluid on a 66-year-old man, then a lit match. The man's face and hair were burned.

The woman allegedly tried to douse lighter fluid on a second man who avoided contact.

The burned man was treated and released from Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg. He received second degree burns to three-quarters of the left side of his face, had singed eyebrows and hair.

Sophia Olekas, 54, was arrested and charged with aggravated assault. She was being held in custody for a Jan. 30 bail hearing in Cobourg.

Two-year wait likely for creditors of Warkworth Co-op

*COLBORNE CHRONICLE
By SUZANNE ATKINSON Feb 1/07
Special to the Chronicle*

It could be two years before creditors of the bankrupt Warkworth Co-op receive any money.

Though the court-appointed interim receivers, the firm Lawson Fisher, had widely distributed lists of creditors and amounts, a spokesman told about 30 creditors at a meeting in Cobourg Tuesday, Jan. 23, that there is still much verification before amounts are finalized.

More than 600 people — owed amounts varying from hundreds of dollars to tens of thousands to some retired farmers, gathered to hear the news. Some could receive, some lose money.

Details of an employee pension plan are still before the courts; a property case with a Campbellford company and an employee severance package are listed as "contingent or other liabilities."

Former Warkworth Co-op real estate and office furniture sold for \$170,000,

Andy Fisher's preliminary report to creditors stated.

Inventory from the Norwood and Warkworth stores sold for 20 percent of book value, around \$18,000.

Growmark shares are secured by Growmark and negotiations are ongoing with UPI "for the purchase of the trustee's interest in a joint venture between the co-op, Madoc Co-op and UPI."

"It's rare to see a co-op go bankrupt," Andy Fisher said, explaining the protocol at Tuesday's Cobourg meeting. "And, it's rare to see 600 creditors."

He said it was also unusual many of the creditors not only had no idea of how much equity they had in the 50-year-old business, but also no expectation that they would recover any funds.

The Warkworth location of the co-op has been sold to the owners of a similar operation from Stirling.

A committee of five inspectors and two observers, including a dairy farmer and former board member, will oversee the dispersal of the assets of the Warkworth Co-op which filed for

bankruptcy earlier this month. The business had closed in November.

All assets offered for sale were sold, with the exception of the Norwood location, a truck and the forklift.

Mr. Fisher said the matter is further complicated because many creditors had allowed the co-op to keep their records.

In addition, debentures issued by the co-op could be registered in one of two ways under different acts. Andy Fisher told the meeting the debentures "could just be a piece of paper. We don't know. We have to look into it."

A mortgage against the property is held by two people in trust.

"We have not been able to get a list of the trust holders," Mr. Fisher said.

There is no allegation there was any wrong-doing in the running of the business, Mr. Fisher reported.

"Unfortunately, this is the way these things were done and we have to take them as we find them."

It is unlikely any of the directors of the co-op will be held personally liable for financial compensation, Mr. Fisher said in response to a question.