

# 'I'm not a rat,' Warkworth man tells judge

NORTHUMBERLAND  
By Peg McCarthy

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**COBOURG** - The impact of a break, enter and theft on a victim and his family was heard in Cobourg's Ontario Court of Justice this week.

Donald Dudley said his family lost their sense of security and that he had medical issues, following the crime at the family's new residence on Old Hastings Road, in the Municipality of Trent Hills.

On Nov. 29, 2005, the home, which was under construction at the time, was robbed of \$15,000 worth of tools and supplies. Some of the items were recovered, and the outstanding items total \$11,707, the victim told the court.

"I just want my stuff back," Mr. Dudley told Crown Attorney Brad Kelneck, adding he was disappointed the police did not pick up the items from where they were dumped for three weeks.

Accused Tyler Hockney, 20, of Warkworth, who pleaded guilty to break, enter and theft and possession of property, was also questioned by the Crown and Defense Counsel Wayne Rumball, before Justice Robert Graydon passed sentence.

When asked, Mr. Hockney would not identify the other person who joined him in the crime.

"I'm not a rat," he said.

Mr. Rumball said the other person was responsible for pawning some of the items after the two men dumped them in a wooded area, and that his client had foolishly become involved in an event that was essentially someone else's idea. Mr. Rumball also suggested the possibility that another party had stolen items before his client and the other man had come on the scene, because of a missing piece of plywood over the bottom of the hole made for the front door.

Justice Robert Graydon told defense counsel his client was a party to the loss incurred, and that the truck used by the accused was capable of holding all the items deemed missing from the residence.

"The other accused remains in the dark like a sneak and a coward," said the judge.

During sentencing submissions, Mr. Kelneck said the accused had no record, and he had no wish to minimize the impact of the crime, especially the safety issue, but noted the Court of Appeal recommends that young first offenders not serve jail time.

Restitution of the \$11,000 plus, "won't make up for the emotional impact," said the crown, who asked for probation for two years and community service.

"Hopefully he has been making efforts at restitution," added Mr. Kelneck.

Defense counsel asked the judge to consider a conditional discharge for the accused.

"The family should not have to feel fear," said Mr. Hockney to the court. "I'm sorry."

To the accused, Justice Graydon said, "I should be sending you to

jail, but I won't be." The judge also expressed disappointment defense counsel had no money in trust for the victim, noting the accused had known he had a financial obligation for more than a year.

Mr. Hockney was ordered to provide a DNA sample, to report to a probation officer for two years, and to live and work where approved, to

not associate with Christopher McGinn or any member of the Dudley family. He was also ordered to repay \$11,710 to the Dudleys, with monthly payments of no less than

\$150.

"If you breach any conditions (of probation), including making payments, you will end up at the Central East Correction Centre."

## Restoration for registry office

### Designated building is a tourism attraction for Cramahe township

by Ray Yurkowski  
THE INDEPENDENT

**C**RAMAHE COUNCIL has become a patron of the arts.

Council approved submitting an application for Ontario Trillium Foundation funding to restore the exterior of the old Registry Office at 51 King St. East in Colborne. As well, plans include installing interior display equipment and upgrades to the art gallery.

The grant application will include a request for capital funds estimated at \$50,000 for the upgrades.

The township has been a partner with the gallery for 10 years to provide a centre for their operations, said Rebecca Goddard-Bowman,

tourism co-ordinator, in her report. The gallery operates as an effective collaboration of artistic talent and is an important part of tourism activity, she said.

"It is the goal of this partnership, and the resulting funding application, to further develop the Colborne Art Gallery as a key tourism attraction for Cramahe Township," she said. "To maintain the designated historic building for continued housing of the gallery is a value to the community."

The application has been submitted for the March 1 intake for Trillium consideration.

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