

School reprieve

Castleton gets a new school, village breathes easy

by Ray Yurkowski
THE INDEPENDENT

"IT'S GOOD NEWS ABOUT the school situation," said Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs.

After Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board trustees on March 29 reviewed a 10-year capital needs assessment for submission to the Ministry of Education, they decided Castleton and South Cramahe public schools would be consolidated and a replacement school would be built by 2011.

Two months earlier the school board had announced it was closing two of the township's three elementary schools. Cramahe council immediately passed a resolution in response: "The closure of these schools would have a devastating long-term effect on the economic well being of our community," they said. "Young families wouldn't move into Castleton if their children (would) have to be bused for up to one hour to another community. The resulting loss of tax base would put a heavy burden on the existing residents in the form of higher taxes."

The resolution went on to point out the closure plan "would seem to contradict the provincial government's 'Ontario Rural Plan' which states that 'the role of the school in a rural community is even larger than providing essential education. The heart of the community is often the local school.'"

The resolution was forwarded to Northumberland school trustees Gord Gilchrist and Cyndi Dickson, Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne, Northumberland MPP Lou Rinaldi, Northumberland municipalities and KPRDSB.

It seems somebody listened.

Mr. Coombs said the new school will be located in Castleton.

"The school board told me Castleton is the nicest property they have in their whole school board," he said. "The added benefit is it's on a county road, it's very easy to get to and the Castleton Sports Club field is right there.

"They have soccer fields and ball diamonds that are available to them at no charge along with a canteen and washrooms if they want to hold a big event. It's a great situation."

Mr. Coombs said the school will be built to accommodate 300 students. With the current enrollment of 120 at Castleton,

240 at South Cramahe and 220 at Colborne, students south of Highway 401 will attend Colborne Public School.

"You end up strengthening both schools," he said.

"We would do fantastic in attracting young families into that area with a new school with, finally, a full-sized gym, which is what you want to offset the people who are retiring into the area.

"You want a mix, a nice balance of people retiring

here as well as young families moving in."

Mr. Coombs sees the Castleton school project as being number three on the list of board priorities for schools deemed 'prohibitive to repair' with Apsley Public School already started.

"Brighton is number two and a school in Port Hope is number three. We're sort of at the top of the list and that's a good place to be too."

Three charged with attempted murder

from the hospital that a man, who had been seriously assaulted, was being treated for life-threatening injuries. An ambulance had responded to a call to 278 Union Rd., Cramahe Township.

APR 11/07
Two others charged during OPP investigation into assault of 40-year-old Cramahe Township man

NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

NORTHUMBERLAND - Three people were charged with attempted murder Thursday afternoon, after a 40-year-old Cramahe Township man was assaulted sometime between Saturday, March 31, and Sunday, April 1.

Northumberland OPP responded to a call

police investigation and was taken into custody. Then, on Friday, OPP arrested Sherry Shepherd, 42, of Brighton, and charged her with counselling to commit murder.

All those charged were to appear for a bail hearing on Tuesday, April 10, after the paper's deadlines.

The victim is currently at Kingston General Hospital, where he remains in serious but stable condition.

The investigation is continuing.

If anyone has information about this incident, they are asked to call Northumberland OPP at 613-475-1313 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

THE BEAT GOES ON



STEPHANIE MATHESON PHOTO

Colborne Public School's Red Hot Jazz Band tunes up for a fund-raising concert at the Keeler centre on Sunday April 22 at 2 p.m. The band still needs \$10,000 towards the \$35,000 costs of travelling to Vancouver to enter MusicFest Canada's 35th annual competition.

DEATH NOTICES

Campbell, David Hogg

At the Campbellford Memorial Hospital on Thursday, March 29th, 2007, age 78 years. David Campbell of RR#4 Warkworth and formerly of Toronto, son of the late Robert Campbell and the late Isabella (Rookes). Dear husband of Dorothy (Meyer). Loving father of Sue and her husband Tim Miller of Schomberg. Predeceased by his daughter Caroline Campbell. Sadly missed by his grandchildren, David and Amy Miller. The family received friends at the Walas Funeral Home, 70 Church Street, Warkworth on Saturday, April 7th from 12 o'clock noon. Service was on Saturday, April 7th, 2007 at 1 o'clock. Cremation. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Victorian Order of Nurses, or the Central East Community Care Access Centre, would be appreciated by the family.



Brighton (613) 475-2121
Warkworth (705) 924-2312
www.walasfuneralhome.com

APR 11/07

JNP & P GND GND

1