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Rock, roll or walk to support community

The third annual Rockin' Walkathon is a win-win project for schools and the greater community of Cramahe Township.

Even if you're not up to walking either 3.3 km or 6.6 km the morning of Apr. 28, there are comfy rocking chairs set out at the Keeler Centre where you can opt to literally rock the time away for pledges.

Sponsored by the Castleton Colborne Optimist Club, this year all three township schools — Colborne, South Cramahe and Castleton Public Schools — will be participating. Each school will receive 100 per cent return of the pledges their participants raise.

Refreshments will be available from the 8 a.m. registration at the Keeler Centre in Colborne on to the return of the last walker — or rocker!

Pledge sheets are available at Castleton General Store, Watt's Variety, Downey Guardian Pharmacy, East End Variety and the Keeler Centre. Or, call John and Dale Rutherford at 905-344-7481 or Bob and Louise Rusk at 905-355-3911.

Pledge monies should be collected the same day as the walk, Apr. 28.



A WHITE GLOVE AFFAIR FOR VOLUNTEERS



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

Volunteers were honoured by Cramahe Township with certificates, township pins and free white gardening gloves at the Keeler Centre Monday night.

County pares draft levy to 3.66%

By Valerie MacDonald

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The municipal levy for county taxpayers has dropped to 3.66 per cent from 4.72 — and it could go lower when a final vote is taken later this month.

By comparison, the 2006 Northumberland County levy increase was almost six per cent higher than the 2005 rate.

Some of the areas that have contributed to the year-over-year increase in the \$72-million Northumberland County budget include:

- buying new beds and mattresses for residents of the Golden Plough Lodge retirement facility in Cobourg;
- hiring another finance department employee to help the county manage its mounting accounts receivables and other accounting responsibilities, and;
- using \$775,000 in government funding to undertake energy-saving retrofits to generate money

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Dance to benefit "burn-out" family Apr. 28

COLBORNE CHRONICLE APR. 19/07

BY MANDY MARTIN

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When Val Hadwen arrived home from work Apr. 10, she could barely breathe for the interior smoke. But the old Salem school house was still standing, despite an obvious fire having burned out the pellet stove.

"I was going to open all the doors and windows so the smoke could escape, but the odor was so strong I couldn't get back in the house.

"We had a six-month-old puppy. Luckily, he was at the bottom part of the house where we kennel him when we're away. I grabbed the dog and ran out the back door."

When entry was finally gained, after the fire department and

gone, feet stuck to the floor. Inside, it was difficult to see or breathe — and the smell was unbelievable.

There was an unidentifiable sticky residue coating everything in the house - fixtures, walls, clothing and material goods.

"It's impossible to remove from the clothing and walls - even the porcelain fixtures in the bathroom we'd just finished renovating the Saturday before," Val says.

"Everybody figured it was just smoke damage" after the initial scare. But, it's turned out to be a unique nightmare.

"We do have some insurance, but the contents insurance was somehow lowered at one point," Val, a lifelong Colborne resident

says. "When the people came to clean up, they said they'd never seen anything like it. The one man said he'd never experienced it in 25 years and called his boss in Peterborough to come down. He said he hadn't seen anything like it in his 35 years on the business.

"It's a freak thing."

So now, the entire interior of the house will have to be gutted — and everything on the inside of the house replaced.

"The insulation, the drywall, everything" has to be replaced in what is now being called a "burn out, because nothing is salvageable."

The pellet stove Val and Neil Thornton used to heat their residence for the past eight years

"has never been a problem". The unit can burn wood pellets, or any kiln-dried grain product like corn or grain. The couple have used all the fuels at one time or another. Somehow, on April 10, the interior of the stove caught. It's registered for zero clearance, but even so, articles sitting on top of the stove were badly singed - but did not ignite, a blessing.

Now, it's to be at least two months of living elsewhere for Val, Neil and children Jessica, 17, and Jude, 13, while the shell of their former home is rebuilt. All their belongings, clothes, personal effects are unsalvageable.

The community is hosting a benefit dance at the Colborne Legion Apr. 28 to help the family